

# THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

March 2020



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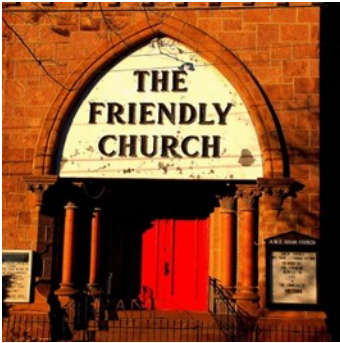
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Pastor's Ponderings  
March, 2020

In another book I was reading, I came upon the chapter titled; *"The Myth of the Welcoming Church"*. Aren't all churches welcoming? Aren't all churches filled with nice people?

Of course they are! So what's up with this "myth" stuff? Well, according to the author;



"Churches perceive they are a friendly church because the members are friendly to one another."

So I reflected on my personal experience visiting churches. Hmm, I've never been to a church where the people were not friendly. In fact, they were quite friendly with each other as they caught up on the happenings of the week and inviting each other to lunch after worship.

But, they weren't being friendly with me. Well, not entirely true. The people handing out bulletins paused their conversations long enough to hand me a bulletin. And when I approached people during the Passing of the Peace they smiled and shook my hand. Some even asked me if I was "new here."

But before and after worship they were busy being friendly with each other. It just seemed that it would be rude of me to interrupt them. They just didn't have time to be friendly with me. I came and left without much notice. Nobody ever invited me to lunch afterward.

You see, says the author, "most church members have forgotten what it's like to be a first-time guest. They now have established relationship in the church. They love their church. They just forgot what it's like to be an outsider."

So, I ponder, how well do we do at being friendly to guests:

- Do we invite guests to join us for a meal after church?
- When we speak with a guest is it more about them being "new here," or is it a genuine interest about making a new friend?
- Are we more concerned about what a guest means to us, or what we can do for them?



What do you ponder? What are your thoughts about the above? Please share them with me. I really want to hear from you. Bring your enthusiasm and ideas, for we will do great things through God who strengthens us.

Graciously,  
Pr. William

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hi everyone, I hope you had a great February. Did you help spread God's Love, the **greatest love of all**?

We need to continue to spread God's Love. I believe churches are meant for praising God and so much more. We are also to praise God in our car, coffee shops, the gym, conversations with friends and strangers, etc. Don't let a building confine your faith because we will never change the world by just going to church; we need to be the church. The church by definition is a body of believers who function for the greater good of the congregation, the community.

We have to be willing to change the building, the way we do things, and everything for the greater good. We have a great facility to share with our neighbors and all of the community close and far. We have the means to also do a lot for Christ's people. We need to really look deep and hard at what we do and why we do it. Is it because we have always done it that way? That is not a good reason. We are considering making some changes in our building, in the signs inside and outside to make coming to Zion more friendly and clear. We want to reach out to the community by doing more for them, which in turn is doing

something for us. In 1 Corinthians 12 he states: We are members of the body of Christ. We do not exist to serve ourselves; instead, we exist for the greater good of the body.

We have taken one of these steps by moving the Adult Sunday school class to a beautifully decorated and furnished class room in our Sunday school area. This makes it easier for members and visitors coming into the church not to feel bad that they interrupted the class or that they feel they are in the wrong place. I really want to thank everyone for all their hard work on this project and everyone for making the move.

We are going to be involved in a lot more of these kinds of projects. You will read in the ministry reports all the different projects we have coming up. Please, everyone consider helping in some way on these projects. Please don't sit back and then say I would have helped but nobody asked. Or I was just waiting for someone to ask me. We are not mind readers. We know not everyone can do the physical labor items but there is always something that can be done, like making calls to find out info, or letting people know things, or maybe purchase some items. More importantly, everyone can pray for the mission or project. So let us know what you can do to help. At the congregational meeting council gave you an update of all the things that we are presently considering. Additionally, this information is contained in the ministries' articles in the Herald. Please help us to spread God's Word and Love and to fulfill our mission: **to Grow in Love and Service by Grace.**

I am adding this prayer. It comes from a book Pastor William has asked the council to read.

**“Lord, open my eyes to the needs of others. Show me how to live more like Your Son, who always put others' interest first. And especially show me that attitude as I serve in my church. Amen.”**

God's Peace and Blessings be with you all.

Darlene

## MINISTRY REPORTS

### CARING MINISTRY



As expected, Zion Food Pantry client numbers dropped by 41 people in January. One of our clients has expressed a concern about losing his Food Stamps. I do not know how many clients this may affect; therefore, please keep supporting your food pantry and all our clients. During January we served 168 people from 105 households. The January client breakdown was as follows: 22 children (0-17), 74 adults (18-59), and 72 seniors (age 60+). This information comes from the required Monthly Statistical Report for Akron Canton Regional Foodbank.

The dates for the March Food Pantry and Clothing Closet are the 3rd and the 17th. Set up time is at 9:00 am with the doors opening at 1:00 pm.

**FOOD PANTRY** needs cereal, **spaghetti sauce**, crunchy peanut butter, jelly (any flavor except grape), canned fruit (especially canned pineapple), canned vegetables, hot cereal such as individually packaged flavored instant oatmeal, and creamed soups of all kinds (no tomato soup).

**CLOTHING CLOSET** is in need of household items such as; bath towels, hand towels, tea towels, dishes, pots, pans, etc. We need all sizes of infant, toddlers, pre-teen, and teen girls and boy's clothes and jackets. We are also in need of men's big and tall shirts, sweatshirts, pants, sweatpants, and jeans.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Remember to contact Kay Davis, [stitchandsewk810@sbsglobal.net](mailto:stitchandsewk810@sbsglobal.net), if you have any prayer requests.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**  
G. Scott Gross

### LEARNING MINISTRY

A very special **Thank You** to all those who helped with the move of the Adult Sunday School to the double classroom. The new paint, carpeting, and furniture look great! Thanks to Laura Thompson, Debbie Fox, Dave Palumbo, Clarence Givler and Dick Seeton. The first class was held on February 16 in the new room – it's such a nice, refreshing room for all to gather together!



A reminder that Pastor William has a bible study every Wednesday and Thursday morning at 6:00 a.m. at the Cracker Barrel in North Canton. This discussion provides a good review of the lessons and gospel for the week.

We are also looking into adding another bible study in the future under the direction of Susan Whalen. More details will be coming out about this in the coming months.

These are all ways for everyone to get involved in studying the Bible and growing our spiritual journey by learning God's word.

The First Communion Class will meet beginning March 8 for four weeks during the Sunday School hour to study the sacrament and prepare for the First Communion, which will occur at the Maundy Thursday service on April 9 at 7:00 p.m.

God's Peace be with you,  
Janet Slease

## RESOURCE MINISTRY

Zion finished 2019 having five months operating budget including Pastor William as our catalyst. We finished the year with our Operating Income ("OI" = Revenue-Expenses) of more than \$8,000 after operating the first half of the year at a deficit. Great job! The Council is very encouraged with this performance as it sets the stage for improved confidence of 2020 operations and our ability to fund the desired level of enhanced operating ministries we all desire.

The year ended with total giving increasing 16% over 2018. We experienced four consecutive months of double-digit, month-to-month increases culminating in December being 67% greater than November and 57% greater than December 2018; what a positive and welcome result! Thanks to you and thanks be to God for this excellent response.

As you recall, our approved 2020 Budget, which was developed based on continued frugal utilization of our available financial resources, identified a potential significant budget deficit of \$58,280. An average weekly giving rate of \$4,000 will support this budget, but our real objective is to eliminate the deficit for the year. Our target to eliminate the deficit is a weekly average greater than \$5,000. Monitoring the giving rate for the last months of 2019 indicates that this is possible, but we need to insure it is sustainable and dependable. We will be monitoring our giving very closely to

confirm performance against these goals and potential risk to our budget attainment.

Our giving results for January were at a level which produced Operating Income of -\$5,430.89 which indicates a shortfall against our budget planning. This is a concern after our 2019 five consecutive months of increases, but not unexpected given the very strong level of giving for December. The first two weeks of February indicate a return to the end of 2019 levels. Positive things are happening at Zion, our ministries are expanding their activities and we look forward to your continued contributions to make these activities possible. Thank you for your support.

Our investment account at Merrill Lynch had very strong performance in 2019, increasing in value by 23%. This financial resource is our potential funding for capital projects which may be recommended to support Zion's strategic plan which will be the subject of on-going council and congregation planning activity to support our mission.

Council has approved the recommendation of Finance Committee to utilize ACS Abundant as our vendor to implement electronic giving. This implementation has progressed in February and is preparing to undergo trials to insure that the software is appropriately enabled to allow all desired methods of giving and device connectivity. We expect trials to be complete and preparations to be in place to "go live" with congregation connectivity during March for those desiring to utilize this form of support. We welcome your participation.

We know we can insure that Zion is on solid financial footing to accomplish our desired ministerial plans with your efforts, God's support and the Holy Spirit to inspire us all. We see "positive signs" everywhere we look in Zion's activities; help us turn them into realities of community ministry.

Faithfully yours,  
John Rhodes, Resource Ministry

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

In addition to all the other things you have seen going on at Zion in this Newsletter - I would like to highlight two more!

The first is our Earth Day Celebration with the





community on April 19th at Zion Lutheran Church. See separate advertisement in the Newsletter for all the details. Come and learn how you might do a few things different. Recycling can be confusing and recycling contamination is a very big problem. We might think we are doing something good for the environment when in fact we are doing something bad. There will be plenty of demonstrations, starter kits and fun ways to learn more about recycling, reuse, and reduce. Bring the whole family! There will be a dedication to our Community Garden as part of the celebration as well.

If you would like to help plan the event or have an idea for a learning station, please contact the church office at 330-499-3909.

And second, we will be holding a Cruise-In on July 24th. All are welcome. More details to come but mark your calendar for July 24th.

In addition, members of Council continue to work as part of task forces to address some of the needs of the Church and the community. We have task forces set up to address signage needs on the property for example. We are all very familiar with where to pull in and park and where to go once inside the building - but if you look at it from someone else's view, it's not that easy and it may not feel welcoming. Nothing has been decided or even reviewed at this point, but we wanted to make you aware of some of the other things we are discussing as your Council.

The Council also continues to discuss and reflect upon what our mission is at Zion Lutheran Church. How do we serve those in need? How do we welcome all? We don't have all the answers and there is plenty to do. Please pray for our church as we "Go"!

Laura Thompson  
Social Ministry

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

This is going to be an exciting year, I can tell. First of all, we have a charismatic new pastor, opportunities to change our worship with new music, we are developing a new website and we will soon have the ability to offer our worship services to a larger audience through the new camera/switcher system for video recording.



Lenten evening services will follow the format of "A Dinner and A Movie". We are reviewing different films for us to watch and we will soon have a decision on which film. Based on the success of last year, I believe the experience of watching a dramatization of Christ's teaching and sacrifice can have a strong emotional impact. Each segment of the video will last about 45 minutes with time left for discussion at the end.

As we continue to change our 10:30 service, with Suzanne Walters leaving us, it opens new opportunities to possibly select a replacement musician and new voices to lead our singing. I believe our committee should continue to enhance our outreach to the community through events and possibly music programs to share God's word and to invite more people to experience what Zion has to offer.

We have discussed making our church appear more welcoming by opening the Portage Street gates, creating a new area with inviting seating and surroundings for relaxing with a cup of coffee in Luther hall. We are always open to more ideas. Please share your ideas with our committee and let's give Zion a fresh new start!

Brian Walters  
Worship Ministry

## WOMEN OF ZION—COMFORT GIVERS



The sewing group will need some help to continue making mission quilts. We are making a plea for bed sheets, any size, light weight drapes, fleece, and polyester material to prepare backs for the quilts.

If you received new sheets at Christmas, pass the good used ones on to us. If you shop at Goodwill, check out this area for used sheets at a reasonable price. Color or design does not matter. Please check with other family members or neighbors and ask for support for our quilting project. Invite them to join in the fellowship that we enjoy. We are thankful for all helping hands and hearts.

*"Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of LOVE."*

The April news letter will reveal a much loved new project which will be introduced by Linda Weidenbach and Linda Lancashire. Looking

forward to this project with helping hands and heart for service.

In His Service,  
Betty Tracy

### ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN JANUARY 2020

January Income	\$17,492.14
Income through January	\$17,492.14
January Expenses	\$22,923.03
Expenses through January	\$22,923.03

**January Deficit** -**\$5,430.89**  
**2020 YTD Deficit** -**\$5,430.89**

*We thank you for your generous support!*

### MARCH SENIOR BIRTHDAYS

March 3	John Rhodes
March 17	Dan Wilson
March 22	Corlene Coulter
March 31	Betty Boettler

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 20	Sue & Al Whitmer
March 21	Gail & Joe Vogt

### BOOK OF THE MONTH:

Our last book discussion for the season will be Friday, March 13th at 10 am. We will discuss “*Before We Were Yours*”, by Lisa Wingate. We will also talk about books for the next season, October 2020—March 2021. For more information, please contact Linda Weidenbach at 850-766-5640 or e-mail at [lindakjw@gmail.com](mailto:lindakjw@gmail.com).



### TUTORING

Linda Weidenbach will offer one-on-one tutoring in half hour slots between 3pm and 5pm at Zion on Sunday, March 15th and 29th. It is for community children - all ages and subjects. If you are interested, call Vicki Givler at the Zion church office by Thursday for the upcoming Sunday.

### VOLLEYBALL

Our last volleyball for this season will be on Thursday, March 12th from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. For more information, please contact Linda Weidenbach at 850-766-5640 or e-mail at [lindakjw@gmail.com](mailto:lindakjw@gmail.com).



## News from Zion's Youth



**Happy Birthday to:**

**LJ Brown - March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>: Youth and Youth Leaders will host Lenten Dinner**

**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>: Service Event - Akron Canton Regional Foodbank 8:30-11:30 am**

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>: Zion's Easter Egg Hunt for the Community 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> (Easter): Children's Easter Program at the 10:30 service**

**Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>: Earth Day Celebration 12 – 2 pm at Zion**

**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>: AAIC Hunger Walk at Community Christian, Registration begins at 2 pm**

## Sunday School Pre-K thru High School Grade

During March, our Sunday School classes will continue to meet at the regularly scheduled time - 9:15 am. During the Sunday School hour, our K thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be having Communion classes on March 8, 15, 22, & 29<sup>th</sup> studying the Fed and Forgiven curriculum. The Confirmation and High School classes will continue with class time, service projects and begin practice for the Easter program on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please join us!

This year's Easter Program will take place on Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, at the 10:30 am service. Look for more details about the program, rehearsal, and our pizza party in next month's newsletter.

## Youth Lenten Dinner

The youth will help host the Lenten Dinner on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. The menu will be a variety of delicious soups, along with sandwiches and fabulous desserts. We will be contacting our youth and their families closer to the 1st with more details and a list of needed items.

## Stark County Humane Society Update



Thank you to everyone that supported the Youth's "Tree of Love" in February. Because of everyone's generosity, we were able to donate a large amount of dog and cat food, cat litter, paper, towels, blankets, cake pans, freezer bags, gauze, dog and cat treats and much more to the Stark County Humane Society. The response was so great that we made two deliveries! We would also like to thank everyone for their cash donations. Our Zion family is always so generous, and we are grateful for all of the support for the youth and family projects! If you would like to learn more about volunteering or adopting a pet, please visit the Stark County Humane Society's website at [www.starkhumane.org](http://www.starkhumane.org). There is also a list of needed items on the webpage, if you would like to continue to help them out.



Also, thank you to the great group of volunteers who went to the Humane Society on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had 17 people in our group and were able to walk the dogs, play with the cats, make treats for the animals in the enrichment program, read books to the animals and do some general tasks that helped with the daily operations at the Humane Society. It was a beautiful day and we all had a great time!



**Volunteer Opportunity at the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank**

**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** - We will be going to the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank to volunteer. We will leave from the church at 8:00 am sharp to head up to the Foodbank. We will volunteer from 8:30 to 11:30 am then head back to the church for pick up. We are hoping to take a group of 15 people. Youth, 10 years & older, and any adults are welcome to join us. Transportation will be provided for those who need it. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex for anyone interested and able to join us.

**Vacation Bible School: July 13 - 17<sup>th</sup>**

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School will be the week of July 13 - 17<sup>th</sup> this summer! Our youth who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up are invited to help during the week. The schedule will be similar to last year, and we plan to have great lessons, great games, great crafts, great guest speakers, great service projects and a lot of fun and learning! We will need plenty of volunteers for the week! Please consider joining us one, two or all five days. It truly is a rewarding and enjoyable experience with a great group of kids! If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please call Debbie Fox at 330-966-2433 or email at [dfox521@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dfox521@sbcglobal.net). There will be much more information to come in the following months, and we will have registration packets ready in May. We hope you will join us!

**ACME Receipts – Thank you!**

Thank you for turning in your ACME receipts and supporting Zion's Youth. This year we collected receipts totaling \$5,525.05 in Community Cash Back amounts. Of that total we will receive 5% - a check for \$276.25 to support our Youth Program. We are so grateful for everyone's support!

**Easter Egg Hunt for the Community – Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 12:00pm**

Zion will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for the community on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 12 pm. This event will take place rain or shine! We would like everyone to invite family, friends, neighbors, and anyone you see out in the community to bring their children to this event.

- Easter Egg Hunt is for toddlers through 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- The hunt will be done by age groups at different times
- There will be games, crafts, and some other fun surprises
- The Easter Bunny will be there – so bring your cameras
- We will have hot dogs, snacks, treats and drinks at 11:30 am

We will need lots of volunteers to make this event a success! If you are able and interested, please contact Susan Whalen, 330-705-4696 or Debbie Fox, 330-806-5610. We also need plenty of candy and small toys to fill over 2000 eggs for the hunt. Candy and small toy donations can be dropped off in the church office by Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. The youth of Zion along with our youth leaders will be filling the eggs throughout the month of March.

We are excited about this new event and hope everyone will join us! Thank you to Susan Whalen for heading up the event!







## Youth Spotlight – More Favoites

### What is your favorite TV Show?

Carli Brown – Sesame Street

LJ Brown – Sponge Bob

Ben Keith - Big City Greens

Drew Keith - Puppy Dog Pals

Justin Dague - Impractical Jokers

Jeremy Fox - The Ranch

Cassie Frank - Greys Anatomy

Amelia Milek - The Office

Weston Milek - The Office

Chrissy Nicholson - The Fosters

Marcus Rhodes - Prison Break

Chris Thompson - Seinfeld

Casey Walters - The Mandalorian



### What is your favorite movie?

Carli Brown – Elmo & Grover

LJ Brown - Despicable Me 3

Ben Keith - The Mask

Drew Keith - Home Alone

Justin Dague - The Great Outdoors

Jeremy Fox - Wolf of Wall Street

Cassie Frank - Finding Dory

Amelia Milek - The Heathers

Weston Milek - The Matrix

Chrissy Nicholson - The Choice

Marcus Rhodes - The Sixth Sense

Chris Thompson - Moana

Casey Walters - Star Wars



## LENTEN SERVICES

### MARCH 1: THE 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

- ✧ 8 & 10:30 AM Worship Service
- ✧ 5:30 PM The Youth of Zion will host our Sunday Evening Lenten Dinner
- ✧ 6:15 PM Video Series “Jesus; His Life—Mary: The First Miracles”

### MARCH 8: THE 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

- ✧ 8 & 10:30 AM Worship Service
- ✧ 5:30 PM The Men of Zion will host our Sunday Evening Lenten Dinner
- ✧ 6:15 PM Video Series “Jesus; His Life—Caiaphas: The Raising of Lazarus”

### MARCH 15: THE 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

- ✧ 8 & 10:30 AM Worship Service
- ✧ 5:30 PM The Council will host our Sunday Evening Lenten Dinner
- ✧ 6:15 PM Video Series “Jesus; His Life—Judas: The Betrayal

### MARCH 22: THE 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

- ✧ 8 & 10:30 AM Worship Service
- ✧ 5:30 PM The Chancel will host our Sunday Evening Lenten Dinner
- ✧ 6:15 PM Video Series “Jesus; His Life—Pilate: The Trial”

### MARCH 29: THE 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

- ✧ 8 & 10:30 AM Worship Service
- ✧ 5:30 PM The Funeral Luncheon Ministry will host our Sunday Evening Lenten Dinner
- ✧ 6:15 PM Video Series “Jesus; His Life—Mary Magdalene: The Crucifixion”



Zion Lutheran Church  
349 Lindy Lane NW  
North Canton, OH 44720  
An ELCA Congregation

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Permit No. 2094

**Worship Services**

Sunday Morning: 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Sunday Morning: 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Blend

**Sunday School Classes**

(Adult Discussion) 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.  
(Classes: All Ages) 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

**Church Office Hours**

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pastor: The Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr. 850-766-5853  
Church Council President: Darlene Milavickas 330-412-4336  
Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler 330-499-3909  
Church Office Secretary E-Mail: [vicki.givler@yahoo.com](mailto:vicki.givler@yahoo.com)  
Christian Ed. Director: Debbie Fox 330-966-2433  
Chancel Flowers: Vicki Givler 330-499-3909  
Church Office Fax Number 330-499-0801  
Prayer Chain: Kay Davis 330-494-6267  
Prayer Chain: Email [stitchandsewk810@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stitchandsewk810@sbcglobal.net)

***[www.ZionEvangelicalLutheranChurch.org](http://www.ZionEvangelicalLutheranChurch.org)***

