

# THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

July 2020

## Be A Summer Hero

*Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.  
1 Timothy 4:12*



**Even though we can't meet in person  
for Vacation Bible School, you can  
still be one of God's Heroes!!**

## Message from the President:

It is so wonderful to be back at in-person services and seeing everyone. It has truly been a blessing having the recorded services to help us be close to God during this pandemic. This is a time when we need to be there for others and each other. We will get through all this with God's love and support.

We thank God for sending Pastor William and Linda to our congregation. We want to thank Pastor William for all he has done for us in the last ten months. He has opened our eyes and hearts to look outward. He has reminded us of Jesus command to do for others and love everyone as He has loved us. We are now thinking and doing for others in our community. Pastor came up with ways that we can serve others and keep in touch with everyone during the stay at home period and even now that we can do services with restrictions. We have zoom Bible Studies, recorded and in person Sunday service and an outside service on Wednesday nights. Pastor William and Linda truly live their faith and in doing so supports us in what we are doing. Linda has jumped in full force with going door to door in the neighborhood and she started volleyball for the community to join, a book club, with other members she does knitting of prayer shawls and lap blankets for people. Brian is teaching her and others to run the recording equipment to record our Sunday services. These are just a few of the hats that she wears.

We have also been taking care of God's physical church and property during this time. We have painted, put new flooring down, cleaned the carpets, organized rooms etc. The outside has been weeded, bushes and trees trimmed, and mulched. The parking lot has been patched and sealed to add a couple of more years to it. The roof is scheduled to have some needed repairs and maintenance done on it.

As you read on in the Herald you will learn of many upcoming events and projects the different ministries have scheduled. Of course all things depend on what is safe for everyone. We will follow the governor's mandates.

***Dear Lord, open our eyes to the needs of others. Show us how to live more like Your Son, who always put other's first. Help us to see how we can help stop the turmoil in this country, and in our own community. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.***

God's Peace and Blessings be with all of you,  
Darlene Milavickas

## MINISTRY REPORTS

### CARING MINISTRY

Please pray the following prayer:



*O Lord, help us to extend our caring to all people regardless of race and gender. Give us strength and grace that we will combat unjust behavior as it occurs in our everyday lives Amen.*

The Zion Food Pantry client numbers have decreased by 19 households in May. This reflects a decrease of 17 adults, without children over April. The number of children dropped from 30 to 24. However, it still appears we are servicing new families with children. The total number of adults served indicates some of our regulars are still not coming. I am attributing this decrease to the stimulus checks and extra unemployment benefits and expect these people to return when these programs end. During May we served 136 people

from 70 households. The May client breakdown was as follows: 24 children (0-17), 52 adults (18-59), and 60 seniors (age 60+).

As we open up, I expect our new food distribution procedures to continue for the foreseeable future. Please wear your mask and stay as safe as possible. Your chances of getting the virus with a mask are around 4% as compared to 17% without.

**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, chunky soup, 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 pre-teen, and teen girls and boy's clothes and jackets. We are also in need of men's big and tall shirts, sweat-shirts, pants, sweatpants, and jeans.

**PRAYER CHAIN** Remember to contact Kay Davis, Prayer@zion-nc.com, if you have any prayer requests.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

G. Scott Gross

### LEARNING MINISTRY



If you haven't already done so, please consider joining one of Pastor's Bible Discussions – 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening or 9:00 a.m. on Thursday morning. The Wednesday evening discussion is growing in the number of participants which is great to see! Discussing the readings for the week is both comforting and inspirational, especially in these times. If you would like to join either of these discussions, please let Pastor or Vicki know and they will add you to the invitation for the Zoom meeting.

There will be no on-site Vacation Bible School this summer. Debbie Fox is planning to continue with some service projects for the kids and everyone to contribute to since the focus of Vacation Bible School has always been about helping others.

Pastor held a discussion via Zoom and telephone with LJ, Ben, Drew and Hannah. Pastor and the children enjoyed this time together. Another get-together will be planned to spend time with the children. The kids love to spend their special time with Pastor!

Since Jeff Hisson spent so much time in his class studying Paul and his epistles, he would like to pass along these Bible verses.

*Philippians 4:6-7*

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will*

*guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

God's Peace Be with You,  
Janet Sleese, Learning Ministry

### RESOURCE MINISTRY

God's peace and love be with you, today and always.

### Thanks are in order for one and all!

Considering the current economic climate, your support enabled Zion May financial results to improve significantly. Our May giving rate increased 51% compared to 2019, and our YTD giving rate has improved by 33% vs 2019. May's rate was 21% greater than April, with both being substantial improvements over our 1<sup>st</sup> quarter results. These trends are very positive and are enabling us to operate in a fiscally responsible manner to help Zion address and weather this health crisis while continuing to adequately support our ministries.

Considering this rate of giving and our budgeted expenses, May results produced an operating income of \$3,226.75; a welcome sign compared to our previous 2020 monthly deficits. This OI reduced our YTD budget deficit to \$23,087.85, when offset by 2019 surplus of \$7,646.18 produces 2020 YTD Net Income of -\$15,441.67 (deficit). This result is in alignment with our approved 2020 budget projections, but we anticipate that it will continue to be reduced as the giving trends continue.

Our resumption of in-person worship on June 7 was a very welcome event and gave you an opportunity to observe the various church infrastructure improvements which were accomplished during the stay-at-home time frame. Similarly, we want to assure you that Zion will also continue to function in a virtual manner and we will continue to support our expanding ministry functions. We encourage your continued financial support to accomplish these objectives and count our blessings that you can assist to the extent that you have demonstrated you can manage.

**Update:** Our newly established electronic giving options continue to operate successfully, now accounting for 20% of total May giving volume. If you are not currently using this option but would like to try it, you may get started using the following links based on your desired electronic connection. There is also a link on the Zion-NC.com website for On-Line giving



For giving using a PC <https://abundant.co/zionlutheranchurch/give>

For mobile giving from a smartphone <https://abundant.co/zionlutheranchurch/mobilegiving>

*Or you can use the QR code attached.*



By trusting in God's blessings and exercising appropriate personal responsibility, we know that we can address the current health and social crisis. The pandemic has forced us to improve Zion's infrastructure and enhance our capability for virtual worship when "face-to-face" contact has been restricted. We will continue to refine and improve these capabilities; they will continue to be utilized to support our worship ministry.

Please stay connected and supportive! We have enjoyed our weekly calls with you and we wish God's peace and blessings for you all!

**Faithfully yours,  
John Rhodes  
Resource Ministry**

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**



Summer is finally here! It's wonderful to be outside more often. I am so thankful that Zion has such a large building and outdoor space. This has provided

us several opportunities to continue our mission while observing social distancing. My family has been attending the Sunday 9 a.m. worship service. We feel very comfortable. I am so proud of all of us - we follow the social distancing rules but we remain focused on the love and peace of worshipping God. It seems that the key to moving forward is to understand that we are each coming from a different place on how we feel about going back out again and what makes us comfortable. I am so thankful for Pastor William, Brian Walters, Darlene Milavickas, Jack Brannen, Dick Seeton and many others for providing us worship service options (Wednesday 7pm outdoors, Sunday 9 am in church and the recorded service) to make us comfortable as we worship.



Our "Cruise-In" night has been changed to August 21th. As social distancing rules continue to be refined for outdoor events like this - we need a little more time to collaborate with the organizer on the protocol for the evening. More to come!

We continue to plan for the ELCA's dedicated day of service for God's Work Our Hands day on September 13th. It's likely that our day will include Caring for Creation elements from our Earth Day celebration we had hoped to have last April. More details to come!

**God's work.  
Our hands.**



Please pray that we have compassion, understanding, patience and love in our hearts as we build relationships with each other and our community. Help us to remember who God is and how much he loves us so that we can be delivered from our fears.

Laura Thompson  
Social Ministry

## **WITNESS MINISTRY**

I have been busy planning a few events that we can safely do with the community. Mark your calendars for the following:

### **August 20, 2020**



Need a night out? How about a craft night? Come and have fun at a "Sass on Glass" party. For \$30 you get all the instructions and supplies you need to paint 2 wine glasses to take home with you. It will be a fun night of laughs and relaxation. Money will be due the night of the event. Please make your reservations by August 16th by calling or texting me at 330-705-4696.

### **August 25, 2020**

Do you or someone you know have a kindergartener or preschooler starting school? We all remember what that first day of school was like when we had to watch our "babies" go off to school by themselves. Well, plan on coming to the church after you drop them off to school and

**breakfast**

have a breakfast and make new friends. You can find your own support group and laugh and cry together. This is open to the community so let your friends know. Further details to follow.

### September 12, 2020

We are planning a Fall Festival with food and a bonfire. We will roast hot dogs and make s'mores. Keep a lookout for more information on this event. I promise you won't want to miss it.

Susan Whalen  
Witness Ministry



information and small gift to remember us by.

*Lord, thank you for keeping us safe and healthy as we make the transition back to worshiping together at church. Please watch over all the people who are inflicted with Coronavirus and all those who are being oppressed or discriminated against. May the riots and violent protests, as well as, this pandemic pass, so we can embrace each other and offer comfort to those in need. In Jesus' name we pray.*

Brian Walters  
Worship Ministry Elder

### WORSHIP MINISTRY



**IT IS GREAT TO BE BACK AT CHURCH!** And I believe everyone who has ventured out to join us on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings for our outdoor services will agree. It

has been a strange and lonely time sheltering in place, but I want to thank everyone who has been keeping up with our services online. For those who have not been able to join us yet, we will continue to record our services and post them on our website. We will also continue to offer and follow the protective protocols that are offered by our synod and the Governor to keep everyone healthy and safe. Thanks to everyone for being considerate and following the temporary restrictions until restrictions are lifted.

We have a few new things planned for this summer. On Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating two new members, Paul and Cindy Bagocius. We will have a reception in Luther Hall following our 9:00 morning service. We are so glad to have them join us. Please stop by to welcome them and enjoy some cake and coffee.

We are looking to add a new coffee and visitor center inside Luther Hall with an inviting space that includes a service bar, information about our church and of course coffee and possibly soft drinks. I will be putting together designs and estimates for us to consider. This area is intended to offer people a place to meet, enjoy conversation, and provide a place where visitors can easily inquire about our church while receiving

### ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN MAY 2020

May Income	\$ 26,596.47
Income through May	\$108,588.70
May Expenses	\$ 3,589.61
Expenses through May	\$131,676.55
<b>May Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 3,226.75</b>
<b>2020 YTD Deficit</b>	<b>-\$ 23,087.85</b>

*We thank you for your generous support!*

Pastor's Ponderings  
July, 2020

## THE TURTLES HAPPY TOGETHER

B/W LIKE THE SEASONS WW244



So happy together. Being back together in worship and ministry makes me want to jump out in song. Specifically, The Turtles and their song Happy Together from 1967. While the song is about a woman one loves, we could easily apply it to our siblings in Christ:

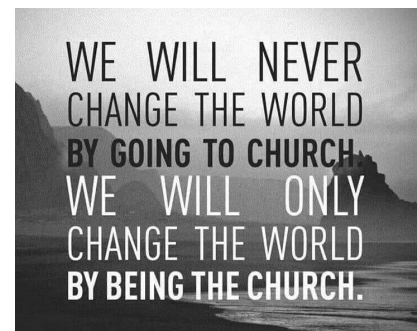
**Imagine me and you, I do  
I think about you day and night, It's only right  
To think about the (people) you love  
And hold (them) tight  
So happy together**

While we have a way to go before we can hold each other tight, we are together again. Thanks be to God! And that got me to pondering:

- If you've been at Sunday services, how has it been for you?
- If you've been to Wednesday outdoor casual service, how has it been for you?
- If you've not felt safe enough to come out yet, how are recorded services going for you?
- If you've not been to church because you work on Sunday, how about trying Wednesday?
- If you've started going away for the weekend again, how about trying Wednesday?

Did you see the recent post to Zion's Facebook page by a thoughtful congregant (see it to the right)? It got me to pondering:

- What would we like to see changed in the world?
- What is bothering our neighbors for which they need help?
- How can we speak love and peace to negative, offensive and hurtful things being said in the world?
- What motivates us to step up to be there for others?



Let us remember; a worship service is supposed to bring us closer to God and strengthen us for service to others; otherwise, it isn't a worship service, it is a worship serve us.

Hmm, what will we ponder next time?  
Graciously, Pr. William



## News from Zion's Youth

Happy Birthday to:



Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

**Week of July 13 - 17: Vacation Bible School has been cancelled for 2020 due to pandemic**  
**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>: Start of 2020-21 Sunday School Classes**

### Sunday School Reminder – Pre-K thru High School

As a reminder, we will be taking a break this summer from Sunday School. There will be no Sunday School classes this summer. We will start up again in September when classes resume on Sunday, September 13, 2020 with everyone's health and safety being our first priority.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: BE A HERO THIS SUMMER AT HOME**

**WE ARE UNABLE TO HAVE VBS IN PERSON THIS YEAR AT HERO HEAD-QUARTERS (HHQ), BUT YOU CAN STILL READ THE BIBLE STORIES AND PUT THE LESSONS INTO ACTION AT HOME AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**

You can still pick up a music CD with printed words, a coloring book and a packet with craft ideas, service ideas and game ideas to use at home. These items are available in the office from 9 am – 3pm Monday thru Friday.



**1Timothy 4:12 - *Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.***

**Heroes...**

**Do the Unexpected, Take Action, Step Out on Faith, Save the Day and Stand for Truth.**

In this year's lessons the kids will meet people in the Bible who were everyday, ordinary people that God chose to use as heroes – a servant girl, some smelly shepherds, a Roman Centurion, a young boy and Paul's nephew. These lessons teach the children that God uses people like us to do great things for him, and that no matter how young or how old someone is, and no matter how big or small the deed, God uses all of us as his heroes to do his work.

### **HERO HEADQUARTERS LESSONS:**

**Monday: Heroes do the Unexpected**  
**Bible Lesson: 2 Kings 5:1-14**

A servant girl was captured from her home, taken to a foreign country and forced to serve Naaman. Instead of having hard feelings toward her captors, the servant girl **did the unexpected** and told Naaman's wife how to have Naaman's leprosy cured. The young girl trusted in God's power to heal and spoke up because she wanted Naaman to be healed.

**Tuesday: Heroes Take Action**  
**Bible Lesson: Luke 2:1-20**

It's Christmas in July! The shepherds **took action** and went to see the baby Jesus after the angels told them of the birth. When the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they were so excited and went to tell everyone about the birth of our Savior Jesus and praised God.

**Wednesday: Heroes Step Out on Faith**  
**Bible Lesson: Matthew 8:5-10, 13**

A Roman Centurion went to Jesus to ask him to heal his servant who was very ill and suffering. The centurion **stepped out on faith** and told Jesus he knew Jesus could heal his servant without Jesus actually seeing him. Jesus praised the centurion's faith and healed his servant.

**Thursday: Heroes Save the Day**  
**Bible Lesson: John 6:1-13**

A young boy was willing to share his meager lunch of five loaves and two fish. Jesus used this boy's lunch and performed a miracle. This lunch was used to feed more than 5,000 people, and everyone had as much fish and bread as they wanted. This young boy **saved the day** by simply sharing his food

**Friday: Heroes Stand for Truth**  
**Bible Lesson: Acts 23:12-24**

Paul's nephew **stood for truth**. Paul's nephew overheard a group of Jewish men who were plotting to kill Paul while he was in the Romans' protective custody. His nephew quickly went to Paul and told him of the conspiracy. Paul sent him to tell the Roman commander what he heard. Because of his nephew's willingness to tell the truth, Paul was moved and saved.

**You can also be heroes in service this summer, and all year long! How? Here are a few suggestions:**

- At Zion, we are always collecting food for our Food Pantry, gently used clothing & household items for our Clothing Closet, pet supplies for the Humane Society, and school supplies for the community and Wernle Youth & Family Treatment center.
- Support local charities financially
- Help a neighbor in need (maybe with yardwork, getting them food or groceries, visit with them outside)
- Do chores or help your parents, grandparents and friends
- Write notes of encouragement to people
- Make cards for people who are sick or are in nursing homes
- Write thank you letters to our military, police, EMS, firemen, doctors and nurses
- Make no sew blankets and scarves for people



**Check out these websites with service/volunteer opportunities:**



**Super Cooper  
Says "go out  
and serve"!**

Stark County Humane Society: [www.starkhumane.org](http://www.starkhumane.org)  
 Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank: [www.akroncantonfoodbank.org](http://www.akroncantonfoodbank.org)  
 Habitat for Humanity: [www.habitatco.org](http://www.habitatco.org)  
 Meals on Wheels: [www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org](http://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org)  
 Stark County Diaper Bank: [www.starkcountydiaperbank.org](http://www.starkcountydiaperbank.org)  
 Domestic Violence Project: [www.dvpi.org](http://www.dvpi.org)  
 Operation Gratitude: [www.operationgratitude.com](http://www.operationgratitude.com)  
 Samaritan Purse: [www.samaritanpurse.org](http://www.samaritanpurse.org)  
 Refuge of Hope: [www.refugeofhope.org](http://www.refugeofhope.org)  
 State Farm Neighborhood of Good: [www.neighborhoodofgood.statefarm.com](http://www.neighborhoodofgood.statefarm.com)  
 VolunteerMatch: [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)



## Vacation Bible School Spotlight



I ♥  
VBS

## SERVICE AT ZION

**We are collecting items on these lists during July. We are also sponsoring at least one teacher this year to help with school supplies for the school year. All monetary donations up to \$300 will be matched by the Youth Fund.**

**Items can be left in Luther Hall on Sundays, in the pavilion on Wednesday evenings, or in the office during the week from 9am – 3pm.**

### School Supply List

Crayons  
Markers  
Dry Erase Markers  
(different colors)  
Colored Pencils  
Scissors  
Backpacks  
Notebooks  
Notebook paper  
Binders & Folders  
Pens & Pencils  
Glue (bottles & sticks)

### Food Pantry List

Pasta Sauce  
Instant Oatmeal  
Jelly (any except grape)  
Chunky, Hearty Soups  
Crunchy Peanut Butter  
Canned fruit (especially  
pineapple)



### Stark County Humane Society

Dry Puppy Food  
Dry Kitten Food  
Blue Dawn Dish Soap  
Toys for Dogs & Cats  
Cat Litter  
Bleach

### Help Sponsor a Teacher

Dry Erase Markers  
(different colors)  
Grading Pens  
Sticky Notes  
Antibacterial Wipes  
Kleenex  
File Folders  
Scotch Tape  
Monetary donations for gift  
cards and supplies

**Thanks for your support!**

## Recommended

## Reading

**Part 3**

Have you read parts one and two? Was your curiosity piqued?  
 Did you do anything in response?  
 Did you do anything to be part of the solution?

Let us begin this month in prayer, using the Prayerful Commitment from Chapter Four

*God, give my church and me a heart for our community. Let me see the people through your eyes. And give me the courage and the wisdom to let go of this church, so that others who best reflect hits community can lead us and teach us. Amen. p29*

Let go of this church? Let those in the community lead what this church does? In a word; Yes! Our author posits that “God called the church to look outwardly.” Occasionally, a congregation will reach out to the community and ask the residents to come to the church. But, why don’t people from the community come flocking in? You see, many of them don’t feel comfortable coming into a church because they feel like their ideas and needs will not be heard or accepted – especially, if it’s different from what’s going on in the church already. They observe that there is almost never any effort by the church to go into the community, instead the church expects the community to come to it.

*Does your church try to reach and minister to its community, even to the point of giving up authority to better reach the people? How? or Why not? P30*

Chapter five discusses one of everyone’s favorite topics in a church – money. Our author states; “For where the money of the church goes, so goes its heart.” Look at the budget of a church; on what is the money spent? Well, there’s the mortgage, utilities, office supplies, Sunday school supplies, staff and pastor wages, and building repairs. All typical expenses for running a church. But wait, there’s more! Where are the costs of service to those outside the church? In other words; How much of the church’s budget is for internal verses external uses? Too many churches no longer ask how the church can make a difference for the Kingdom of God with the money.

*Does your church spend more money on keeping the building and staff functioning or on going out to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)? What are some ways your church can move its use of funds from predominantly an inward focus to more of an outward focus? P36-37*

At the end of each chapter, the author, offers a Prayerful Commitment. Perhaps we are willing to start there – prayer. Please join your Council and Pastor with this Prayerful Commitment from Chapter 5:

**PRAY,  
LISTEN,  
OBEY.  
REPEAT  
AS NEEDED.**

*Lord, help me to grasp that all the money I think I have is really yours. Help me to grasp that all the money our church has is not the church’s, but yours. Give us healthy giving hearts to use these funds according to your purpose. Amen. P36*

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Canton, Ohio  
Permit No. 2094

Worship Services

Sunday Morning: 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Wednesday Evening: 7:00 p.m. Casual Outdoor Service

Church Office Hours

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

Pastor: The Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.	1-850-766-5853
Pastor's E-Mail:	Pastor@zion-nc.com
Church Council President: Darlene Milavickas	330-412-4336
Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler	330-499-3909
Church Office Secretary E-Mail:	Office@zion-nc.com
Organist: Jack Brannen	
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	Prayer@zion-nc.com
Website: www.zion-nc.com	

