

# THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

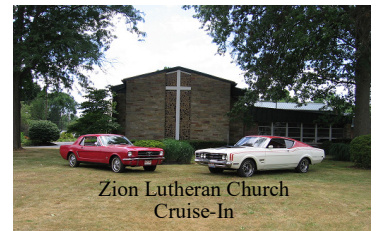
August 2020

## HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ZION



August 20, 2020—Craft Night 6:30 pm

August 21, 2020—Cruise-In Night 5 pm to 8 pm



August 23, 2020—Blood Drive 10 am to 2 pm

September 13, 2020—Sunday School Begins



September 19, 2020—Fall Festival 5 pm

### Message from your President:

Jesus has given us a job! In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says: *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.* The word disciple means student and follower. So everything we talked about at the council retreat had to fit with making disciples of the community.

Your council had a fantastic retreat Saturday, June 18. We worked on how we can comply with His command. With the help of your prayers and the presence of the Holy Spirit we were able to come up with a few ways that we can start to carry out this order for Zion. We came up with a new vision statement which is: *"Zion matters to the community because we share the love of Jesus Christ."*

We did a lot of big dreaming and brain storming. Here are some of our short (1-2 years) and long (3-5 years) works. Short works are: different types festivals for the community, a backpack program for the area children, dinners for the less fortunate, partnering with other organizations, after school programs, and informal worship (community orientated). Some long works are: coffee shop open to the community (Mon.-Sat.), adult day care, creating a recreational center, vocational training, and affordable child care. There are more, but we want to hear from all of you. If you had total control, every one's support and plenty of money to fund your dreams, what would you want Zion to do? Please let us know we value your opinion.

We left the retreat filled with the Holy Spirit, excitement and hope for our future of spreading the Word of God and His Love. All of this is great, fantastic and wonderful, but the council and pastor cannot do it alone. Yes, we have the Holy Spirit with us and all things are possible with God, but we need everybody to help. Everyone needs to get involved in some way for us to do God's work. Everyone can pray. That is our most powerful tool. So please help your council members carry out some of these things. Keep the communications open, and tell us your dreams.

### Prayer from Thom S. Rainer:

*Lord, let me see my church with honesty and open eyes. Help me to grasp where we have gotten out of balance with inward and outward ministries. And give our church a vision to make a difference in our community. Even more, God, use me to be a catalyst and instrument for the changes that must take place in our church. And give me the courage and strength to make those changes, even those changes that will be very painful. Amen.*

God's Blessings, Darlene

## MINISTRY REPORTS



### CARING MINISTRY

During the month of June the Food Pantry served 65 households as follows: seniors (age 60+) 64, adults (age 18 - 59) 38, and children (birth - 17) 15. The total number of people served during June was 117. During June we served 5 fewer households and 19 less people than during May. The number of adults dropped by 14 and the children dropped from 24 to 15. The senior numbers increased by 4, but still remain relatively constant, while the number of adults with minor children decreased by 11, looking more like before

the pandemic. Therefore, our client mix has decreased among adults with minor children, but stayed about the same among adults without minor children. However, we have fewer clients than last month and a year ago. I think stimulus checks might have affected these drops; therefore, as the checks stop we may see a return to previous client numbers.

As we continue on, I expect our new food distribution procedures to continue for the foreseeable future. Please wear your mask and stay as safe as possible. The Food Pantry dates for August are the 4th and 18th.

*Dear Lord, give us the will and perseverance to maintain our practice of social distancing and mask wearing during the next thirty days, which will be critical in preventing increased infections and remaining open to serve our community. Amen.*



**Food Pantry Needs**

**FOOD PANTRY** needs cereal, spaghetti sauce, crunchy peanut butter, jelly (any flavor except grape), canned fruit (especially canned pineapple), variety pack of flavored instant oatmeal, and soups of all kinds (except tomato).

**CLOTHING CLOSET** is in need of household items such as; bath towels, hand towels, tea towels, dishes, pots, pans, etc.



### 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

Amelia Milek's Affirmation of Baptism was held on Sunday, July 19, with a reception after church. We pray for God's blessings for Amelia and her family. She is such a vital part of our youth and her participation in activities is such a blessing to Zion.



Susan Whalen is excited to start up a Women's Bible Study at Zion. She has included a survey in this newsletter to gauge interest and depth of study of the Bible. Please take a few minutes to fill this out and either drop it off at the church or mail it to the office.

Pastor has added a "Just for Teens" Bible Discussion on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. Be sure to join in Pastor's Zoom Bible Discussions, which are held Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. or Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. These discussions provide a great way to understand God's word for the readings and Gospel for the upcoming worship service. If you

would like to join any of these discussions, please let Pastor or Vicki know and they will add you to the invitation for the Zoom meeting.

I mentioned in an earlier newsletter article that you can sign up for a complementary email subscription for "Christ in our Home" daily devotionals. Augsburg Fortress originally scheduled this to end on June 30, but they have extended this free subscription to September 30. This is one of the best resources to keep up with our scripture readings and includes such inspirational messages. The July-September booklet is available at the church. If you would like the daily readings sent electronically, you can sign up by going to [www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/CIOH-EMAIL](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/CIOH-EMAIL).

Jeff Hissong has passed along this writing for inspiration. Domenicos Theotocopoulos "El Greco" (1541-1614) is considered to be one of Spain's greatest artists. Although he painted for Spain, he was a Greek born on the island of Crete. One of his greatest religious works is that of St. Paul holding a letter/epistle. Among the meanings of this impressive painting is that of Paul and the many epistles that he authored. The longest of Paul's letters/epistles is that to the Romans. In this epistle written from Corinth, Paul sends comfort and hope to the new Christian in Rome during a very difficult time. This is clearly expressed by Paul in Romans 15:13. Please take a few moments to consider this verse. It is truly a message for all times.

Romans - 15:13

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

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

### SOCIAL MINISTRY

Do you believe we are already in the month of August? Where did June and July go? I know it's hot but we still have plenty of good weather left to enjoy some more outdoor activities. We have planned an event for you and everyone else in our community. It's the "Cruise-In" Friday night at Zion on August 21st. Social distancing rules will be in place for



everyone's benefit along with other festivities. It's Free and it's for you and all our other friends in our neighborhoods. This Newsletter has a whole page of details on the event so please put it on your refrigerator and help us spread the word.

## God's work. Our hands.



September 19th we will have a Fall Festival at Zion. Lots of fall fun for the whole family! More details to come. Please consider

volunteering to help that day by signing up to show the love of Jesus by doing something for others in our community. We'll celebrate "God's Work Our Hands" by joining together to make this a fun event for everyone. Our community needs us and we want to show the love of Jesus Christ in action! Signup sheets will be laid out in Luther Hall in early August.

Please pray for us as we take actions to serve our neighbors. Help us to share hope, love and fellowship with our actions. Keep us diligent in creating a safe environment in which to show God's grace and peace.

Laura Thompson  
Social Ministry

## WITNESS MINISTRY



I have been working on some fun things for us to enjoy with the community the next few months. Hope you are able to bring your friends and family and participate in these events.

**Community Garden** - We are in discussions with Sue Hicks from the North Canton Community Garden to get ideas and suggestions to start our own Community Garden in the Spring. We are working on all the details that are needed to get it started. I am looking for anyone who has a tractor that would like to volunteer to dig out the garden for us. I am also in need of a couple strong volunteers to put up a fence around the garden. If you know of any boy scouts that are looking for a badge opportunity, let me know. I have a few projects they can do.

**Fall Festival** - Mark your calendars for September 19th starting at 5:00 p.m. Invite all your friends and family and come enjoy a night of fun, music, crafts, food and cooking s'mores around the fire. We may have a few surprises as well. What better way to bring in those cool evenings and enjoy the beautiful colors of Fall. We will need volunteers for food donations and helping that day keeping things at a social distance and adhering to regulations.



**Craft Night** - The Sass on Glass craft night is August 20th at 6:30 pm. Come and enjoy a night of relaxation and fun and paint two wine glasses to take home. The fee of \$30 will get you your glasses, instructions and all supplies you need to get your creative juices flowing. The money will be due that evening. Please call or text me at (330) 705-4696 by August 16th to place your reservation. I will need to get a final count to make sure we have enough supplies.

**Kindergarten Breakfast** - This event has been cancelled due to COVID 19.

**Calling all Women** - I would like to start a women's bible study this fall. In order to make it available to the majority of women, please fill out the form that is in this newsletter and return it to the church or drop it off in Luther Hall on Sunday. You may also call, email or text me the information. Let's learn together what God wants us to know about his word.

Susan Whalen  
330-705-4696  
susanw61@neo.rr.com

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

It is great to see so many back at worship services. The option for outdoor as well as Sunday mornings seems to be well attended.

The average attendance for the Sunday service has been 50, the outdoor services has averaged 30 and we have had 105 views of our recorded services over the past month. We have finally received our FM transmitter; with the help of John Long it is working. I want to thank John for stepping in and





helping to set up the PA equipment for the Wednesday evening service.

Many people still are watching and seem to enjoy our recorded services as well. Linda Weidenbach and Chris Thompson have both been trained how to create the recordings and have done an excellent job of the last four Sunday morning services. John Long has also shown interest in helping with this as a back-up. I want to thank all three for offering their time and talents to share God's work.

I have put together a few ideas for an Information Station/Coffee Bar in Luther Hall for our Church Council to consider. This was an idea born from a conversation within the Worship and Music committee. We see it as a positive way to use the space as a gathering place for discussion. It provides an ideal opportunity for us to show our hospitality to visitors and give them a small gift and information for joining our service.

Beth Shaheen and I also met on signage and way-finding inside and outside the church. It is our goal to have a complete plan by early this fall or sooner. So stay tuned for more information to come.

Prayer:

*Dear Lord, thank you for the opportunity to share ideas. For ways to show others how important it is to care for one another especially in this time of social distancing. Please be with all of us as we learn new ways to engage with one another. Please keep everyone safe and healthy, and let us be able to share your love as we are meant to share. Amen.*

Brian Walters  
Worship Ministry

## ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN JUNE 2020

June Income	\$27,488.26
Income through June	\$136,076.96
June Expenses	\$23,820.24
Expenses through June	\$155,496.79
<b>June Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 3,668.02</b>
<b>2020 YTD Deficit</b>	<b>-\$ 19,419.82</b>

*We thank you for your generous support!*

**To My Zion Family,**

Thank you very much for the graduation recognition, the quilt, and the gift bag. It made this year's challenging graduation even more special.

Thank You,  
**Justin Dague**

**Zion,**

Thank you all for the graduation gift! I am so blessed to be apart of and to have grown up in such an amazing and supportive congregation. I love you all!

**Jeremy Fox**

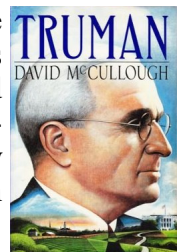
### Book Discussion Forum, by Linda Weidenbach

Here is an update on our autumn through winter Book Discussion forum.

Last spring, a member of our group suggested our first book for the season, on October 2nd, be *Truman*, a history of our 33rd president, by David McCullough. We had just read *The Pioneers* (also by McCullough), a history of Ohio in the past two centuries, and we agreed on *Truman*, in light of our upcoming presidential election.

Now, *Truman* is a long.....book.....992 pages!!! If you start reading on August 1<sup>st</sup>, you can finish by October 2<sup>nd</sup> by reading 16 pages per day J.) I am on page 191.

McCullough has been thorough so far, covering Truman's ancestors and his upbringing. He served in World War I and the book includes a letter Truman wrote from Europe about his concern for his family and others during the then-ongoing influenza pandemic. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. Although there is not universal consensus regarding where the virus originated, it spread worldwide during 1918-1919 (Ref. CDC). By this time in the book (page 191), Truman has entered politics. Pictures from the era show men and women wearing more hats than we see people wearing now (not including caps ☺).



I've looked ahead in the book at the 1948 election to find differences and similarities between then and now. Certainly, mail-in ballots will be more popular considering the pandemic. However, my gleaning brought up more similarities than differences in the challenges faced between these 72 years (1948-2020). The leaders of our country and all countries face many of the same problems. And whoever will lead in 2021-2025 will need our prayers.

Join us on October 2<sup>nd</sup> even if you don't read the book. We would be glad to have you. The meeting format (in person, zoom, etc.) is to be determined. Our discussion forum is open to ideas from all genres and subjects, fiction and non-fiction. Ongoing dates include: November 6<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup>, January 1<sup>st</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and March 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Pastor's Ponderings



August, 2020

Did you feel that?

What just happened?

Oh yes, we made it one year together as pastor and congregation!

Thinking about this milestone got me to pondering:

### ➤ How we've grown together...

- ...giving more emphasis to what others need
- ...recognizing that focus and mission needed revitalization
- ...embracing the challenge to; let go and reach out
- ...putting others first by asking; "What can we do to help?"



### ➤ How we pray more...

- ...in Ministry reports and newsletter articles
- ...for Council during meetings and retreats
- ...asking God to lead us and guide us
- ...listening to what God wants from us
- ...moving in the direction God sends us



What will happen in our second year together? Will we...

- ...reach worship capacity of 80% (160 people) so we have to add a second Sunday service?
- ...become known in our community for the benefits we give to them?
- ...freely and gladly give of our money and time so that:
  - our operational costs are covered?
  - we can give more to the needs of the community?
  - more of God's work gets done with our hands?

I'm looking forward to what we can do together. Are you?

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



**News from Zion's Youth****Happy Birthday to:****Upcoming Events at Zion – Mark your calendars!**

**Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> Vitalant Blood Drive 10 am - 2 pm in the gym**  
**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> Start of 2020—2021 Sunday School Classes**  
**Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> Fall Festival**

**Sunday School – Pre-K thru 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Just a reminder - There are no Sunday School classes this summer. We will start up again in September on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to a great year!

**Blessings & Good Luck to our kids!**

We wish all of our Zion kids good luck as they head back to school this month. We know this is a difficult and uncertain time for all, and school will be new and different for them this year. We pray that God helps to calm their fears, guides them as they navigate through the school year, and blesses them with a year full of wisdom and knowledge. Amen.

We also congratulate our High School Graduates – Justin Dague, Jeremy Fox, Cassie Frank, Chrissy Nicholson, Emma Parkomaki, Jacob Parkomaki, Marcus Rhodes and Casey Walters one more time! We are so proud of you and have enjoyed watching you grow up! We wish all of you the best of luck with your future endeavors, especially in these uncertain times. Good luck with your next adventures – college, jobs, the Navy – and remember that God is with you wherever you go, and will guide you if you just listen! We pray that God guides and protects each of them on their new adventure and that they are filled with the Holy Spirit in all that they do. Amen.



Donate blood. Experience the wonder.



## Zion Lutheran Church

**SUNDAY, AUG. 23**

**10 A.M. - 2 P.M.**

**349 LINDY LANE NW, NORTH CANTON**

All donors will receive a Vitalant t-shirt.

For donor & staff safety, to adhere to social distancing requirements, appointments are preferred. Make an appointment & earn hero points at [vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal](https://vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal)  
Sponsor code: zion

Donate blood. We'll let you know if you have the antibodies to help patients battling COVID-19.

Please eat before you donate.

Bring a photo ID & a list of any medications that you take.



**GIVE BLOOD TODAY | [vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org)**

Eligibility questions? Call 877.258.4825

**vitalant** 



**ELCA Foundation**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

*at a glance*

## QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)



### WHAT IS A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION?

A **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** is a wonderful way to support the life-giving ministries of the ELCA and receive key tax benefits.

#### Here's how it works:

Recent changes to the law have raised, from 70½ to 72, the age at which you are required to withdraw from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) a certain amount of money known as your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). These distributions are taxed as they are withdrawn. Despite this change in the law, a QCD continues to allow taxpayers over age 70½ to donate to charities directly from their IRA, which would allow you to avoid federal income tax on this money while supporting the ministries of the ELCA.

### DO I QUALIFY TO GIVE A QCD?

YOU QUALIFY IF YOU ARE:

**70½**  
YEARS OLD



Giving to a  
public charity



An owner of  
an IRA



Are at any  
income level —  
QCDs have tax  
benefits for low-,  
middle- and  
high-income  
taxpayers.

## *at a glance* QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)

### WHY SHOULD I USE A QCD?

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- QCDs are tax-exempt
- Because these distributions aren't added to your income, you may qualify for lower Medicare premiums and Social Security tax rates.
- They count toward your RMDs if you are 72 or older.\*
- You don't have to change your will or trust.
- The transactions are simple to record on your 1040 form.
- Your gifts immediately support ELCA programs in need.

### RULES TO KEEP IN MIND:

<b>MAXIMUM GIFT</b>	<b>\$100,000</b> PER PERSON EACH YEAR (up to \$200,000 for married couples)	<b>GIFTS MUST</b>	come from an <b>IRA, NOT A 401(K)</b>
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### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Find your regional gift planner at [ELCA.org/foundation](https://elca.org/foundation) or call 800-638-3522.

The examples and information provided are for illustrative and educational purposes only and should not be considered tax or legal advice. Please consult with your tax or legal advisor about proceeding with your gift plan.

\*If you contribute to a traditional IRA and take a tax deduction, that contribution amount is excluded from the QCD that can be used to offset your RMD. Please consult your tax advisor to learn how this may affect you.



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

Non-Profit Organization  
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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	

