

THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

September 2020



Sunday School classes for Pre-K thru 6th grade will begin on Wednesday, September 9th from 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. Classes will be held outside on Wednesdays in the pavilion as long as weather permits.

Middle School and High School youth will have classes on Sundays starting September 13th at 10:15 am following service. We again invite all of our kids in this age group to join us and bring a friend.

Adult Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 10:15 am.

Women's Bible Study begins on Wednesday, September 16th at 10:00 am.

“Just for Teens” Bible discussion on Thursday afternoons time to be determined. Adult Bible discussions on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. or Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. All of these discussions are held via Zoom meetings.



Let's get one thing straight; stewardship is NOT about money.

You might need to re-read that sentence. Let it soak in. Let it forever block out what you associate with the word stewardship.

Can you handle another one? What you have is not a *gift* from God.

That's a lot to unpack. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for further information on these two ideas.

Message from the President:

I can't believe it is September already. We started serving lunch for the food pantry clients. Marco's Pizza, in North Canton off Main St., gave us large pepperoni and cheese pizzas at a reduced price, which really help us to serve everyone lunch. We gave them a slice of pizza, a fruit cup with a spoon, a bag of chips, an energy bar and a bottle of water for their lunch. It was really great delivering the lunches to their cars and seeing how happy and thankful they were. They were able to enjoy a light lunch while they waited to get their groceries. We also have opened the clothing closet for them, having 2 to 4 people at a time wearing mask and gloves. They are so happy with all the new items we have received for them to choose from. We want to thank everyone for all your donations and for getting the word out to other people that are now donating. We have expanded the amount of clothes and household goods so we can serve more people. We have opened the clothing closet to those in need in the community and not just to the food pantry clients.

I thank God for all He has provided for us and that He has entrusted us to take care of His church, not just the building but the "whole church". We are so blessed during this COVID-19 time to be able to have in-person service, and we have members that feel comfortable and want to come to worship in-person. We are truly blessed that we have a pastor eager to preside over in-person worship, because there are many local churches that are not having in-person in door services or any services at all.

Zion is a place that matters to the community by sharing the love of Jesus Christ. In order for Zion to fulfill this mission we need everyone's help and support. We need everyone's prayers for the Holy Spirit to guide us in what we need to do for the community and to spread God's Love and Word.

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

WE ARE A COMMUNITY

CARING MINISTRY

During the month of July the Food Pantry served 89 households as follows: seniors (age 60+) 64, adults (age 18 - 59) 57, and children (birth - 17) 26. The total number of people served during July was 147. During July we served 24 additional households consisting of 30 more people than June. The number of adults increased by 19 and the children increased from 15 to 26. The seniors remained constant at 64, while the number of adults with minor children increased by 12. Therefore, our client mix has increased among adults with and without minor children. We have 30 more clients than last month, but 6 less than a year ago; however, the category numbers for July 2020 are similar too July 2019.

As we continue forward dealing with COVID 19, remember the three **WWWs**:

Wash your hands!
Wear your face mask!
Watch your distance from others!

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, hearty/chunky soup, and creamed soups of all kinds.



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 clothing for infant, toddler, pre-teen, teen and adult.

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



Dear Father, we pray that we may have the spirit of gratitude, and that we may gratefully receive thy blessings. Amen.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

G. Scott Gross

LEARNING MINISTRY

Welcome Back to Adult Sunday School! We are so thankful that we will be meeting again to study God's word and discuss interesting topics. After reviewing the questionnaires concerning options for Adult Sunday School, we will be meeting for our first class on Sunday, September 13th, at 10:15 a.m. in the Adult Sunday School room. This room has been set up for appropriate physical distancing and masks are encouraged. Pastor William will start up the first session with the topic of: Our Lutheran Liturgy - Raising a Shout for its Bible Roots. Jeff Hissong will also provide special topics at some time in the future. If anyone is interested in leading a session, please contact Debbie Fox.



Susan Whalen is starting a Women's Bible Study on Wednesday, September 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the Adult Sunday School room, starting with the Gospel of Mark. Please see Susan's write-up in the Witness Ministry for more details and how to contact her if you haven't already done so.

All teens are welcome to join Pastor's "Just for Teens" Bible discussion on Thursday afternoons (exact time to be determined since school is starting back up). Pastor also holds adult Bible discussions on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. or Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. All of these discussions are held via Zoom meetings. If you would like to join any of these, please let Pastor or Vicki know and they will add you to the invitation for the Zoom meeting.

Praise God for the many ways we are providing everyone to study God's word. Please consider joining us in prayer and fellowship. We are keeping your safety our first priority.

We pray that we can strengthen our church and community with ways to bring us together to share in the love of Christ and help others.

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



RESOURCE MINISTRY

God's peace and love be with you, today and always. It has been joyful seeing those that have returned to in-person services on Wednesday or

Sunday. We also look forward to staying in touch with all who have yet to be comfortable with attendance utilizing our safe protocols. Please let us know what we can do for you.

Zion's July giving rate increased 36% compared to July 2019 but was 31% lower than our peak 2020 level in June. This reverses our four-month positive trend of very steady increases since March. Our YTD giving rate remains 40% increase vs 2019. The detrimental economic aspects of the pandemic combined with vacation season produced this momentary reversal. Overall, our trends are positive and will enable us to operate in a fiscally responsible manner to help Zion address and adequately support our ministries. Your continued support will make this happen!

While we are trending up in our giving, it still does not meet our financial needs for the budget you approved this year. Meaning; giving is less than outflow. We are hopeful that giving will continue to increase as we all recognize what we have been entrusted to our care by a generous God.

FYI: Our established electronic giving options continue to operate successfully, accounting for approximately 10% of total July giving volume. If you are not currently using this option but would like to try it, you may get started using the link on the Zion-NC.com website for On-Line giving

By trusting in God's blessings and exercising appropriate personal responsibility, we know that we can address the current health and social crisis's. 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 successfully utilized to support our worship ministry.

Please stay connected and supportive! God's peace and blessings for you all!

Faithfully yours,
John Rhodes
Resource Ministry



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Good news, bad news. Bad news - Summer is ending, good news - our Fall Charity FUNdraiser is coming soon! Saturday September 19, 5 - 9pm.

Our purpose is to raise money to support the Stark County Domestic Violence Project.

It's free to everyone - pumpkins, music, bonfires, games, food, crafts - all done with a goal of meeting or exceeding physical distancing rules from our Health Department. We are blessed to have such a large piece of property to spread out on. This Newsletter contains a full page with more details.

We would love to have you join us in service that evening (September 19) as well. Sign up sheets will be in Luther Hall (which is just inside the main back door) two weekends before the event. Please save the date. Your service, in this event, is part of Zion's support for the ELCA's church-wide day of service in September - we will wear our ELCA "God's Work, Our Hands" yellow shirts. The sign-up sheets will ask for your shirt size.

Please pray for those that aren't able to join us yet at Zion for church services since the pandemic. Let them know that we love them and miss them, and hope and pray that they will join us again soon. Please pray that Zion members can find ways to safely serve our charities and our communities.

Laura Thompson
Social Ministry

WITNESS MINISTRY



Fall Festival - I am so excited about the festival. I think it will be a fun night. We will have food, music, crafts and s'mores. I am also planning a few surprises. This is open to the community so invite your family, friends and neighbors to come out on Saturday, September 19th. The fun will begin at 5:00. Bring your chairs and blankets. We encourage everyone to follow the CDC guidelines.

Women's Bible Study - I will be doing a women's bible study on the Book of Mark. Our first class will be Wednesday, September 16th



at 10:00 a.m. in the adult Sunday school room. You will get your workbook packet that day. If you are interested in participating in the class, please e-mail me at Susanw61@neo.rr.com or call or text at 330-705-4696 to reserve your booklet. This bible study will be like nothing you have done before. We will be studying the Book of

Mark in depth. I guarantee you will be happy you did this study. This is open to the public so please bring a friend, family member or your neighbor. Everyone should know God's word.

We pray that we can continue to provide for the community and share God's love and that he opens our hearts and minds to be followers of Christ.

Susan Whalen
Witness Ministry

WORSHIP MINISTRY



We are doing well with people watching our recorded services. Since February 1, 2020 we have had more than 1,100 views to date!

That means people are becoming more aware of what we offer here for worship and the great messages that Pastor William brings to us. We have had 74 views this month. Since these videos are mostly accessed through our website and our Facebook page, it also shows that our community is becoming more aware of how we share the love of Jesus.

We are looking to incorporate special music into our Sunday worship. It is our plan to find musicians in and outside our congregation who are willing to offer their talents through video recordings that we can share on our projection screen and in our Sunday worship recordings. This will make sharing their talents COVID compliant. These recordings will also be available on the Sunday recordings.

We discussed what to do with our outdoor, Wednesday evening service as the weather becomes less accommodating. We also discussed Advent and Christmas worship services. We will be sending out a survey to get your input regarding the level of interest in these services to make sure we can accommodate everyone in a COVID safe environment. Please stay tuned for that.

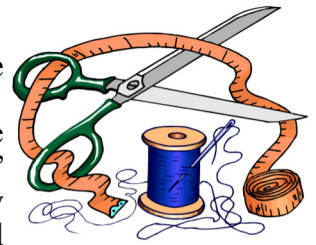
Holy God, thank you for the opportunities to share your love with our community. Please give us wisdom and guidance in ways to share your message and forgiveness. Help us to remember it is your work Lord, and our hands, that make it possible to help others. Amen.

Brian Walters
Worship Ministry

WOMEN OF ZION

Comfort Givers—"Come and See"

Comfort Givers continue "to make new from old" and recycle the window drapes from Luther Hall and church offices into beautiful comforts. The drapes have been laundered, cut to size, re-matched, and sewn. Colorful tops prepared and joined with batting between by our "chattering knotters". The finished comforts are sewn by our special male sewer. The large comforts, that previously hung in the gym, will be given to the needy in the community or possibly resized for the homeless street people.



We appreciate all the work and time (at home or at church) each has contributed. Thank you to all our sewers, Darlene, Debbie, Kay R., Cindy, Kay D., Helen, Linda W., Linda L, Linda S. and Dave.

A survey is being taken by Lutheran World Relief as to the Fall shipment. Due to the greater outbreak of the virus pandemic, there is a question of church participation and transportation from different areas. More information later.

"Whatever you do, do it all for the Glory of God."
(1 Corinthians 10:31)

Begin the day with friendliness.
Keep friendly all day long.
Keep in your soul a friendly thought—
In your heart a friendly song.
Have in your mind a word of cheer
For all who come your way,
And they will greet you too, in turn—
And wish you a happy day.

In His Service,
Betty Tracy

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN JULY 2020

July Income	\$ 35,719.17
Income through July	\$171,896.13
July Expenses	\$ 37,976.58
Expenses through July	\$191,690.38

We thank you for your generous support!

We had a gentleman come to church after worship in great need of help. Because of your generosity, through the Pastor's Discretionary fund, we were able to fill up his empty fuel tank, get oil and antifreeze for his old engine, and provide a bag of food from our food pantry. Thank you for giving from your abundance so we can assist those in need – you are serving Christ when you serve Christ's children (Matthew 25:39-40). Graciously, Pr. William

Stewardship Moment – Part 1



Is this what you think of when you hear the word Steward?

No, we do not mean that they are now called Flight Attendant or Cabin Crew.

We are talking about something entirely different. You see the etymology of steward is from the Old English word *stigweard*. *Stig* meaning hall/pen. *Weard* meaning guard. So, steward means one who guards the hall/pen.

Want something a little more graphic? What is kept in pens? Pigs.

So, quite literally, a steward is one who guards the pigs.

Let us consider that the person who owned the pigs hired someone to guard them. Now, we have the true meaning of steward: One who guards that which belongs to someone else.



Looking at it biblically:

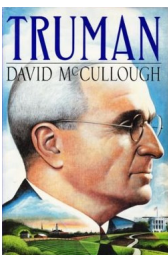
1. The steward had a position of high authority – Pharaoh said to Joseph; from now on, you're in charge of my affairs...only as king will I be over you. Genesis 41:40 The Message
2. The steward was not the owner – Joseph was appointed by Pharaoh to be governor over the land of Egypt. Genesis 42:6 NRSV
3. The steward is responsible for benefiting the owner and those who depend on the owner – see the parable of the three slaves who were given talents to invest. Matthew 25:14-30.



My Zion Family, Thank you guys for everything over the years. You guys have been with me every step of the way. From my days in the nursery all the way up until now. I have been nothing but supported and for that I am truly blessed and grateful. You guys are the best. **Marcus Rhodes**

Thank You for all of your love and support over these last years, I truly appreciate everything everyone has done for me. I'm excited to use my new quilt as a reminder of that in this next chapter of my life! I wish you all the best!!

Chrissy Nicholson



Book Discussion

The October book discussion group will meet on Friday, October 2nd, at 10 am. We will meet, in-person, at Zion Lutheran Church. We will be discussing "Truman" by David McCullough. For further information contact Linda Weidenbach at lindakjw@gmail.com.

Pastor's Ponderings September, 2020



Your Letter of Call was nicely framed by our Synod and hangs to the right of my desk. It is always in my peripheral vision so that it is constantly on my mind. Your Letter of Call implores me to do many things, but what has been most on my mind these many months of pandemic-instituted isolation and upheaval is;

to speak for justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed.

Complaints by people who think having to wear a mask makes them an oppressed people are in the news (and on some of my family members' Face Book posts). So it got me to pondering: Are the oppressed for whom you called me to speak those who...

- ...feel uncomfortable protecting the health of others?
- ...feel harmed because they can't socially engage like they used to?
- ...feel mistreated because their sporting events are canceled?

You are Christian in every sense of the word, so those examples are not right; because you do nothing from selfish ambition but in true humility regard others as better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3). So, perhaps you want me to speak justice on behalf of the real poor and oppressed who...

- ...no longer have a job and can't find work of any kind
- ...find it difficult to feed their family because of the rising cost of food
- ...are treated differently because our skin color is different from theirs
- ...are shunned because we don't accept their piercings/tattoos/dress



You can trust that I take your Letter of Call seriously, and I pray that you will enthusiastically respond on behalf of the poor and oppressed.

You asked for it, Jesus commands it.

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

Graciously, Pr. William



News from the Zion Sunday School

Wednesday, September 9th & Sunday, September 13th: Start of the 2020-21 Sunday School Year
Saturday, September 19th: Zion's Fall Charity FUNdraiser
Saturday, October 24th: Fall Charity Craft Show 10 am – 3pm

A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR

Sunday School classes for Pre-K thru 6th grade will begin on Wednesday, September 9th from 6:00 – 6:45 pm. Classes will be held outside on Wednesdays in the pavilion as long as weather permits. We invite all of our kids to join us on the 9th and bring a friend for the start of a great new year!

Middle School and High School youth will have classes on Sundays starting September 13th at 10:15 am following service. We will follow all safety protocols with mask and distancing for these classes. We again invite all of our kids in this age group to join us and bring a friend.



We are always looking for new volunteers to help with leading our Sunday School classes and activities, especially at the High School level. It is always great to have new and fresh ideas for our program. If you are interested in being a teacher, a classroom helper or a substitute for any of our grades (Pre-K thru 12), please contact Debbie Fox at (330)966-2433 or dfox521@sbcglobal.net. It is such a rewarding and enjoyable opportunity to share God's love and His Word with Zion's Youth!

ACME RECEIPTS

It's that time of year again! We are collecting Acme receipts again this year to support Zion's Youth. This year Acme's Community Cash Back Program has already started and runs from August 6, 2020 through December 26, 2020. A collection jar is located outside the worship space and in Luther Hall. Receipts can also be mailed to the church or dropped off during office hours throughout the week. Please bring in your Acme receipts dated between August 6th and December 26th. Last year we collected \$276 for our Youth! Thanks for your support!!!

Vitalant Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated blood on Sunday, August 23rd. There is such a great need for blood right now, especially due to the pandemic. We had 20 donors who were able to give the gift of life by donating their blood. If all 20 of the blood donations are viable, Vitalant will donate \$300 on Zion's behalf to the Domestic Violence Project, Inc (serving Stark County). We plan to continue hosting blood drives on a regular basis at Zion to share the gift of life and God's love with our community. We give thanks to God for the workers who make the blood drives happen, and all the donors who are willing to give their blood. We pray that everyone continues to have the courage and health to donate on a regular basis. Amen!

Collections for July & August – Many, Many Thanks

Thank you to everyone who donated items to help the Stark County Humane Society. We delivered a large load of items in August to the Stark County Humane Society in August, and they are very grateful for all the support received from Zion. To find out more about the Humane Society, adopting a pet, volunteering

or donating items, please go to www.starkhumane.org.

Thank you to everyone who donated a plethora of school supplies for the Food Pantry families, area school teachers and Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center. These items were greatly appreciated by all!

Finally, thank you to everyone who donated money to our Sponsor a Teacher Project. We collected \$200 which will be matched dollar for dollar from the Youth Fund. This allowed us to sponsor 2 teachers for \$200 each with gift cards to help them with classroom expenses for the school year. We sponsored a teacher, chosen by their respective principals, from Clearmount Elementary and Orchard Hill Intermediate Schools in North Canton. We also provided these schools with some basic supplies for the teachers' classrooms like Kleenex, hand sanitizer, post it notes, markers, etc.

Thanks be to God for the generosity and support of our Zion family!!!

September's Mission

During September, we will be doing a special collection for the Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center. Chris Parker from Wernle will be visiting us in October, and we would like to present him with a special gift from Zion. Please consider adding an extra amount marked "Wernle" in your giving this September. We will match dollar for dollar up to \$500 from the Youth Fund for donations to Wernle in September.



FALL CHARITY CRAFT SHOW NEWS

Looking ahead to October, we are still planning to have the Craft Show this year with all COVID 19 safety protocols and physical distancing in place. Everyone's health and safety are our first priority. We are putting together raffle baskets from the Sunday School classes and anyone in the congregation that would like to donate items. This year's themed baskets are: ***Ohio State Fan Basket, Sweet Treats Basket, and Lottery Ticket Basket.*** Our youth will receive these basket themes on Wednesday, September 9th & Sunday, September 13th during Sunday School. All donated items for the baskets need to be dropped off at church by Sunday, October 11th. Tickets for these baskets will go on sale in October before and after our services. Anyone who donates an item will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of the baskets or one of the raffle items at the Craft Show. We are very grateful for any and all donations for these baskets.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we will not be selling German dinners at this year's Craft Show. We will still have limited concessions and baked items so you won't go away hungry!

The Craft Show will take place on Saturday, October 24th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. All proceeds from this year's show will go to Habitat for Humanity. This is a great event at Zion, and we need lots of help to make it a success. There will be sign up sheets in Luther Hall in late September for volunteers and items we will need. We encourage everyone to help out if possible. Thank you in advance for your support!

We pray for God's guidance and support as we move forward with our Craft Show!

Is this what church is supposed to look like?

People are justifiably cautious and uncomfortable coming back to church as it was in February. Did you know that many congregations are not planning to open until 2021... at the earliest!



In the pandemic of 1918, this is what churches looked like.

They were used as hospitals (the word comes from *hospitality*: which the church found to be a core value).

Churches were not shut down, instead they stayed open to serve in a different way.

Thankfully, this is not yet needed at this time.

Here at Zion, we are practicing all the recommended guidelines to guard each other's health for in-person worship.

We also started an outdoor worship service so people don't have to be inside.

We even transmit on FM 103.7 so people can stay in their cars – note that each of those cars in the picture contains people worshipping in the safety of their physically distanced space.



More than ever, we need to come together:

- If you aren't comfortable coming to Sunday inside worship; how about Wednesday outdoors?
- If you aren't comfortable being around people inside or outside; how about staying in your car?

We get your apprehension, really we do. What can we do to help you? We want to know what you need to come back – God misses you and so do we.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

349 Lindy Lane NW, North Canton 330-499-3909

Date: *Saturday October 24, 2020*

The Craft Show: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fall Charity Craft Show

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

In accordance with Public Health Orders, all safety protocols will be followed.

Including, but not limited to:

- Masks/Facial Coverings are required
- 6ft Physical Distancing
- Hand Sanitizing Stations

Prize Drawings

Limited Concessions Area

"Themed" Basket Raffle

Crafter space is available for \$35.00 per 8 foot table



Stewardship Moment – Part 2



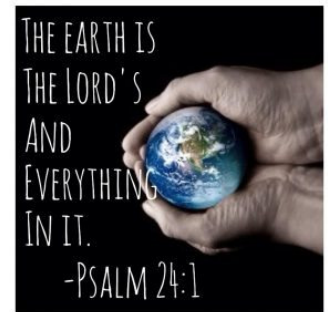
What we have is not a *gift* from God. Hmm, that's interesting.

In the words of Pastor Harry Wendt, president of Crossways International; God doesn't give gifts, at least not in the way we use the word *gift* (quoted in Charles Lane's book, *Ask, Thank, Tell*, p21).

A gift is something that is given – once given, it no longer belongs to the giver and the giver no longer has any control over how the gift is used. The recipient is the new owner and can do what they want with it.

But, God gives us everything we have; right? Nope, God entrusts it to our care. Let's look at this biblically:


- Psalm 24:1 tells us that God owns everything.
- If God *gifts* something to us, that would mean it belongs to us.
- Thus, the gift would no longer belong to God.
- Therefore, either the Bible is wrong, or our understanding is, well, not correct.



Oh, you say, “But I worked for what I have, nobody gave it to me.”

The Bible tells us about that too; “Do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.’ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth” Deuteronomy 8:17-18.

Charles Lane tells us; “There is not a transfer of ownership. God the creator is still God the owner.” (*Ask, Thank, Tell*, p25) So, everything you have has been entrusted to your care, it's not yours to do with as you please.



Zion Lutheran Church's Fall Charity FUNdraiser

**Saturday, September 19
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**All proceeds will benefit the Domestic
Violence Project, Inc. serving Stark County**

- **HOT DOGS**
- **S'MORES by the FIRE**
- **PHYSICALLY DISTANCED
ACTIVITIES & CRAFTS**
- **RAFFLE**
- **PRIZES**
- **CARAMEL APPLES**
- **PUMPKIN DECORATING**



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

**All current safety protocols
will be followed, including
but not limited to:**

- **Masks/Facial Coverings**
- **6 ft Physical Distancing**
- **Hand Sanitizing Stations**

**Bring your
blanket & chair!**

349 Lindy Lane Ave NW, North Canton

Charity Cruise-In shut down by Stark County Health Dept.**By: Pastor William**

Some of you heard the Charity Cruise-In was shut down, but might not have been able to be in church on August 23rd to hear the full story, so here goes:

I received a phone call from the Stark County Health Department on the morning of the cruise-in stating that someone complained to them about the event and that we needed to shut it down. I expressed that we publicized and intended to follow all safety protocols; masks, physical distancing, groups smaller than ten, and food handling and distribution safety measures. The official stated that because there would be more than ten people in attendance we were in violation of the governor's and health department orders; therefore, we needed to not have the event at all.

I challenged him that we planned nothing different from other Cruise-ins that were taking place, and we actually enacted stricter guidelines. His comment was that these other Cruise-ins were instructed to cease operations, but they did not comply.

While I did not agree with his order, not following the law is not an option; especially for a church. The way we challenge that with which we do not agree is to consult with those in authority to institute a change in the law or make it clearer how the rules can apply in different manners. To that end, we will be in communication with the governor's office and health department.

Additionally, I inquired about our Wednesday Outdoor Worship, expressing that, while we follow all health protocols for that too, more than a total of ten people attend. I asked; will that be shut down next? His reply was that because it is a religious event it does not fall under the ten person limit and that we can continue to gather in that manner.

It is confusing to me how for one of our events the ten person rule prohibits the event, but it does not for another of our events. That will be the basis of our further communication.

The health department is in an un-enviable position; trying to keep all of us safe and dealing with the public that complains about what they are doing. It is my desire to fully support what is being done to keep us safe.

What I challenge is the arbitrary use of the law – it must apply to all or be changed. In my personal opinion, I think that if nobody had complained we would not have gotten the call or the order to shut down. I am confident we followed all health protocols and were not in violation, but for the ten person rule – which I think was used only as a means of appeasing one public complaint.

In times long ago, the church was looked to as the moral compass of society. Those days are gone and we are seen in a much less favorable light by society. Therefore, while we must always speak up for the oppressed, speaking up for ourselves should not be as loud a clamor as the voice we use to speak up for others. Yes, we need to speak up, but primarily we need to speak up on behalf of those much more oppressed than how we feel at this moment.

Graciously, Pr. William

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

Non-Profit Organization
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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	

