

The Zion Herald

Proclaiming Good News

January 2022

*As we begin this new year let's take a moment to remember
who we are and what has been given us.*

*"See what love the Father has given us, that we should
be called children of God; AND SO WE ARE!" (1 John 3:1)
Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!*



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

January begins a new secular calendar year. It is a time when Zion's Council and Congregation reflect upon the past year's trials and tribulations and contemplate the challenges and opportunities presented by the coming year.

At this time of year we ask ourselves if we are firmly poised to fulfill Zion's Stated Purpose to matter to the community by showing the love of Jesus Christ. Answering the question entails much more than assessing our financial resources. It requires our Ministry Elders to honestly and conscientiously review how we are utilizing our assets and talents to ensure they are being used to further Zion's Mission. It requires diligent efforts to identify those conditions which might be impeding or inhibiting accomplishment of that Mission. It requires effective communication between the Council and the Congregation. And it requires that the Congregation be receptive to proposals made by the Council when those proposals are supported by facts and clearly presented.

At the Congregational Meeting in late February the Council, inter alia, will be asking the Congregation to approve recommendations concerning the kitchen, the Parsonage, and candidates for Council and other leadership positions. It is the Council's responsibility to present these recommendations clearly and concisely. The Congregation is respectfully asked to courteously and fairly consider them.

Lord, strengthen our resolve to work together to find ways to serve others and demonstrate our love for You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Respectfully submitted
Jim Fidler
Council President

MINISTRY REPORTS



CARING MINISTRY

During the month of November the Food Pantry served 175 households consisting of a total of 408 people. As a comparison, 125 households with 295 people were served during October 2021. The adults without children have increased by 37 people, while the seniors without children added 9 people. The seniors with minor children have basically remained the same, while the adults with minor children have increased by 35. The number of children served in November also increased by 35. In November 2020 we served 163 households with 341 people; therefore, we have increased our outreach by 7% more households and 16% more people respectively over last year. The November numbers are reflecting the annual Thanksgiving increase which will continue through Christmas. An additional explanation for these numbers comes from a Food Bank Seminar which identified our zip code 44720, as one of the neediest in our area.

The blood supply is currently critical in our area. Our next church drive is Sunday January 16th, 2022. Please contact Debbie Fox for scheduling or

help scheduling if you cannot schedule on the Vitalant site.

Now that the holidays are over, our community outreach continues. Many of our team members and leaders cover multiple teams and ministries; therefore, if you are not currently involved with one of our teams or ministries, please consider helping.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of all our Caring Ministry Teams.



soups, jelly (except grape), pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, and

FOOD PANTRY—January's items of the month are jelly, laundry detergent, and creamed

soup. We always need our staple items – peanut butter, creamed



boxed cereal or instant oatmeal because these items are given out regularly. Thanks for your support!

CLOTHING CLOSET is in need of household items such as; bath towels, hand towels, tea towels, dishes, pots, pans, etc. We are collecting **new underwear and socks in all children and adult sizes.** We need all sizes of winter coats.



PRAYER CHAIN

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



Lord, thank you for your unfailing love and wonderful deeds for mankind, giving us the means to provide: lunches, food, drink, and shared goods. Please strengthen us to continue our community outreach during 2022. Amen.

G. Scott Gross
Caring Ministry Elder

RESOURCE MINISTRY



May the Lord's countless blessings shine upon you and grant you Peace!

The weather hasn't been very wintry, but the good tidings and positive energy around Zion have been very

rewarding with multiple opportunities to show we matter to the community by showing the love of Jesus. Throughout this newsletter you will find examples; our Food Pantry patrons, North Canton Cares families, the children at Wernle and our Zion family have all benefited from your spiritual, physical and financial support to positively impact their lives and provide joy in this holiday season.

Financially, November Giving was positive and comparable to 2020, producing a surplus against our frugal expenses helping reduce our YTD deficit. The November YTD Budget deficit is in comparable position to 2020 heading into December. The anticipated budget surplus for December puts Zion in position to end the year with a balanced budget which is an additional blessing considering the significant increases in Designated and Restricted Giving which you have provided. **THANK YOU** for your generous support!

The final piece of "Good News" for our operations this month is the report and recommendations from

the Kitchen Renovation Task Force which were presented and approved in our December Council meeting. You will be hearing more about this next month in anticipation of our February Congregational meeting. We look forward to your support of this important action to improve our efficiency and capability to support our community ministries.

Lord, we are humbled by the resources you continue to make available to do your work at Zion and the inspiration you provide to recognize needs in our community and to appropriately respond to them. We do this in honor of your glorious name, Amen.

John Rhodes
Resource Ministry Elder

SOCIAL MINISTRY

We are excited to be reviving this important women's group at Zion and



hope that our future endeavors not only serve God and community but also are a wonderful form of fellowship amongst the women of Zion and those in Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization (NEOSWO) and beyond. We will begin planning a spring gathering soon. We hope to have a great turn out, more information to come.

At the local level - Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Chagrin Falls is initiating 1. SACRED GROUNDS, 2. a mini retreat in February and 3. a Fall retreat! More information can be found in "The Dawn" newsletter which is posted on Zion's bulletin board in the hallway AND if you would like to receive The Dawn via email see Ruth Reinoehl, Cindy Bagocius, Sue Whalen or Darlene Milavickas and we will get you on the list to receive it.

On the national level: we have the Triennial Convention/Gathering in Phoenix Az in July of 2023. That may seem like a long ways off but it will be here before you know it!

Yours in Christ
Ruth Reinoehl

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We are looking forward to taking advantage of several things coming to Zion. Our kitchen renovation will allow us to safely serve our community at Zion and outside of Zion. Many thanks to the Task Force members for their time

and dedication in moving this forward. As we know with any renovation and current “supply chain issues”, it will take time and it will get a little messy but it will be a much needed improvement to allow us to fulfill our mission.

Even in this crazy world with not much going as planned, no matter where you find yourself this new year, you are never without a savior. Even in chaos and hard times, no one can stop Jesus from coming to you. God’s work goes on bringing us light and love. God always shows up no matter what the circumstance.

Dear Lord, thank you for always being with us no matter what is happening around us. Guide us to be people who comfort and help others in need. Let Zion be filled with hope and love so that we can make a difference in our community. Amen.

Laura Thompson
Social Ministry Elder

WITNESS MINISTRY

It is here. The North Canton Community Zion Lutheran Garden is up and ready for the Spring. If you get a chance check it out. This garden will be for anyone in the church or community who would like to have their own little garden. If you are interested in getting one of the plots, let me know. We will have more details in coming newsletters.



Heavenly Father. Thank you for the many opportunities you have presented us with ways to reach out to the community. Please open our eyes to see those opportunities and our hearts and minds for ways to provide their needs. Amen

Sue Whalen
Witness Ministry Elder
WORSHIP MINISTRY

Large Print Bulletins--Starting Dec. 26th large print bulletins will be available for both the Wednesday and Sunday services. Please ask for one as you enter the service.

Paul Bagocius
Worship Ministry Elder

COMFORT GIVERS

We hope you are enjoying the quilt/comforters that



we display over time in Luther Hall. We are having a great time making them for our friends in need overseas and here. We want to thank Linda Lancashire for working with Thrivent. They gave us \$250 for buying material. Of course the ladies had a great time shopping for the material. We are always looking for volunteers to help, sew, cut, put the quilt/comforter together and tie knots. We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 10 am to Noon, with a break of coffee and treats. We hope to see you at our next session.

God’s Blessings,
Darlene Milavickas

SHARED GOODS PLACE

Shared Goods Place is doing well. The word has gotten out to the community that we are here and what we are trying to do. The donations have been great, but we are still in need of household goods, and new socks and underwear for men, women and children. We opened the Santa Shop during the last two pantry days Dec. 7th, and 21st. We also paired with the North Canton Cares Team with their Christmas give away and had the Shared



Goods open two extra times for them. We served 120 households over the days we were open. The North Canton Cares Team people were very grateful for all the things we



had available for them and that there was no limit on what they could have. We have heard some of the places limit the people to one or two items. It is

awesome that we have such a great supply so people can take as much as they need.

With all the items that we have donated, we could use people to sort and display the items. We usually work on Monday morning and the Tuesday we don't have pantry. If there is other times that work for you, just contact Darlene or Debbie, we are usually around and working on it or something else and can work out a time that works for you.

God's Blessings be with you and may He help to guide us in doing His work in our community and all over the world.

Darlene Milavickas



ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN NOVEMBER 2021

November Income	\$ 25,001.01
Income through November	\$318,876.24
November Expenses	\$ 22,058.71
Expenses through November	\$334,846.71

We thank you for your generous support!

LEARNING MINISTRY

Adult Sunday School

Cindy Bagocius will lead our adult group at 10:15 am on Sundays, January 2nd and 9th while Pastor is on vacation. Pastor William will lead the rest of the month when he returns. Join us for an engaging and worthwhile discussion each week!

Sunday School - Pre-K thru 6th Grade

Join us at 10:15 am on Sunday mornings for Sunday School! We will start our new lessons from Simply Loved this month. We look forward to seeing the kids each week!

We hope everyone enjoyed this year's Christmas Program, "A Traditional Christmas Pageant". The program reminded us what this season is supposed to be about – Jesus, the greatest gift ever! The kids did a wonderful job telling the story of Jesus' birth. We so enjoyed their enthusiasm and hard work to put this program together in such a short amount of time! They are an awesome group of kids! Thanks be to God for them and everyone that helped with the program!



Women's Bible Study

With the holidays, there was a schedule change with Women's Bible Study. The next session will begin Wednesday, January 5th at 10:00am and will be a 6 week session on the books of Haggai and Ezra. Please contact Sue Whalen at witness@zion-nc.com if you are interested in joining Women's Bible Study.

Weekly Bible Discussions

There will be no weekly Bible Discussion during the week of January 3rd while Pastor William is on vacation. Bible Discussion will resume with the following schedule during the week of January 10th.

- Discussion of the current week's Bible lessons including the Gospel Reading
- Teen only Zoom meeting Mondays from 5 – 5:30 pm
- Zoom meeting Wednesdays from 5 – 6:00 pm
- Zoom meeting Thursdays from 9 – 10:00 am
- If these times don't work, contact Pastor William to set up a time that does
- In person Bible Discussions are also possible

Christmas Giving Tree Update

Thank you for everyone's love and generosity this year! We were able to help so many people this Christmas, and let them know that God loves them and so do we!

We helped 13 families this year with Christmas gifts which included 32 people! What an amazing way to share God's love! We supported two Habitat for Humanity families, five Siffrin individuals, five North Canton Cares families and one Food Pantry family. We also gave 92 families Acme gift cards to help with their Christmas meals during our December 7th Food Pantry distribution. Everyone was so grateful and appreciative for what they received letting us know how much our support helped them through this holiday season!

Here is a wonderful story that was shared with us:

A young man who is living with a family that took him in was so happy to receive the gift of a black leather jacket, he cried. The coat had fallen out of the gift bag while unloading the car, and the "mom" was so excited and overwhelmed she had the young man open it early right in their driveway. This young man was so happy, he asked the person who delivered the gift to take a photo of him wearing it. This also opened a first dialogue with the support person who delivered the family's gifts. This young man felt the love of God through this simple gift and knew he was cared about!

This is our mission at Zion! We matter and help those in need in our community and share God's love! Thanks be to God for everyone and your support this holiday season!



Acme Receipts Reminder

The Acme receipt program ended December 25th. We have to turn in our receipts by February 5th. Please bring in your receipts dated between August 5, 2021 and December 25, 2021 by January 30th to give us time to process and submit them! We will receive 5% of the Community Cash Back amount on the bottom of the receipts. Thank you for your support!

Good News from the Food Pantry

December was a very busy month for the Food Pantry! On December 7th, we served 91 families and on December 21st we served 67 families! We distributed Acme gift cards on December 7th and shared a container of homemade Christmas cookies on December 21st with each family. Thank you to everyone who baked the 112 dozen Christmas cookies. We had enough to share with our Habitat families and Siffrin friends that we sponsored for Christmas.

We received many Christmas cards and thank you notes from our Pantry families expressing their gratitude and appreciation. They tell us that receiving the food frees up money to pay other bills like rent, utilities and medical expenses so they can continue to see their doctors. It is a reminder of how important it is for us to share God's love and help our community. The food and support that we are able to give makes a big difference in the lives of many!

Thank you to everyone who volunteers each week to keep our pantry running smoothly and serve those who are hungry! We so appreciate everyone's hard work and time commitment to make it all possible! We pray that God will continue to guide us in this ministry during the new year!



Kitchen Renovation Update



Our mission at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is to matter to our community by sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

We have a long history and a passion for “feeding the hungry” at Zion. Our goal is to further our impact in the community by renovating our kitchen.

We have developed detailed plans and have great pictures to show you. We will go through details and answer your questions at our February Congregation Meeting where we will ask for your approval.

As many of you know - getting hot water is a long process so we’ll update the plumbing as well as replace the floor, counter tops, lighting and cupboards. We will also eliminate several old stand up freezers scattered around the church, with one large walk in freezer near the kitchen.

When you think about it, almost everything we do involves using our kitchen.

- Food Pantry distribution
- Craft Show fundraiser
- Advent/Lent Services
- Vacation Bible School
- Receptions/Funerals in Luther Hall
- Other community events - Fall Festival, Car Show

More details to come but this is a very exciting step for us as we share the love of Jesus Christ by feeding the hungry.

Please pray for us to have courage and stamina to fulfill our mission, as we work through this process.

Pastor's Ponderings

January, 2022

Yes! A new year! A time to put the past behind us and look ahead to what could be a great year. What, I ponder, might the new year hold for us here at Zion? Here are four powerful cornerstones I hope you too will ponder:

1. Church Growth

Might this be the year we see some *more people participating in the life of this congregation outside of the worship hour*? Might we see more children and adults in Sunday School, expanding their relationship with God and each other? Might more of our neighborhood community see us as an integral part of their life and participate in our community events.



2. Sign, sign, everywhere a sign



What are the signs of this congregation? Signs point to, or identify something; its location and purpose. What do our signs tell our community? Do they send a message of love and a place where they will be protected and valued? To us, the cross represents love, grace and inclusion; *how do we send that message to our community?*

3. Somebody ought to...

Often we see something amiss, or notice that something didn't get done and say; Somebody ought to fix that, or pick that up, or do that differently, or... , the list is endless. Perhaps it might be better for us to ask; *How might I be part of the solution?* What might I do to bring excitement and enthusiasm to worship? What might I do to encourage and support the people already doing so much here? How might I participate in some small way to share and show the love of Christ?



4. The 80/20 Rule



It is often said that 80% of the work in a congregation is done by 20% of the people. But we are fortunate; we have about 44% of the people doing God's work with their hands. They are preparing and serving congregation meals, organizing and serving at our community events, building quilts, sending cards, setting up and cleaning up the chancel, organizing and serving the Shared Goods place, setting up and serving the Food Pantry, and taking leadership roles on Task Forces, Ministries, Council, worship assistants, sound/video technicians, and music leaders. They go above and beyond; *might you make the time to let them know you appreciate the work they do to make this a vital congregation?*

Christians are called to not be conformed to this world's ways, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, for the sole purpose of discerning God's will (Romans 12:2.) How will you renew your faith this new year?

I look forward to hearing what you've been pondering.
Graciously, Pr. William





The Twelve Days of Christmas

In another *I Didn't Know That*, we'll take a look at what the church means when it refers to the Twelve Days of Christmas, but for now let us consider the song by that name.

First, some brief myth busting information:

1. This is not a Christian song written in a time that it was unlawful to be a Christian. The earliest known printed version dates back to the late 18th Century children's book *Mirth Without Mischief*. In this time period, it was not unlawful to be Christian. Certainly, there were clashes between the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches in England, but both of them were Christians with very similar tenants; particularly the common symbolism attributed to the song.
2. This was not written to be a method to memorize Christian symbolism – just look up the various meanings associated with some of the items (see below.) The symbolism is all a bit confusing for something designed to help one memorize something.



Now that I burst your bubble about the false Christianity of the song, here is some common held symbolism:

Partridge in the Pear Tree = Jesus

Two Turtle Doves = Old and New Testament

Three French Hens = Faith, Hope, and Love/Charity, or Holy Trinity, or Three Gifts of Magi

Four Calling Birds = Four Gospels or Four Evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

Five Golden Rings = Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible)

Six Geese A-laying = six days of creation

Seven Swans A-Swimming = seven sacraments (though some Christian denominations have only two) or the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might/fortitude, knowledge, fear of the Lord, and piety (Isaiah 11:2-3, though piety is not mentioned specifically)

Eight Maids A-milking = eight beatitudes (but, there are nine in Matthew 5:3-11, and only four in Luke 6:20-22)

Nine Ladies Dancing = nine fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22, NRSV)

Ten Lords A-leaping = ten commandments (though we know there are actually 613)

Eleven Pipers Piping = eleven faithful apostles (we could argue Judas' faithfulness, and what about Matthias who replaced Judas, and what about Paul who claimed apostleship?)

Twelve Drummers Drumming – twelve points of doctrine in The Apostles Creed (quick, name all twelve)

Bottom line; if this song helps you feel joyful at Christmas; OK, just don't let it replace good old fashioned knowledge about the Bible.

Vitalant Blood Drive – Sunday, January 16th at 10:00 am – 2: 00 pm

Our next blood drive is Sunday, January 16th from 10 am – 2 pm in the gym. Please give if you can and schedule an appointment to help sustain or save the lives of others in need. Enjoy a light meal and treats after you donate. Contact Debbie Fox and she can schedule an appointment for you, or schedule your own appointment by following the options below.



To schedule your own appointment:

Go to: vitalant.org/ohiodonorportal

Click on “Make an appointment”

From here there are 3 ways to search for a blood drive:

Change the date to January 16th and scroll down until you see Zion Lutheran Church

Click on the location to make an appointment for to highlight it and click on “Select” below the box with blood drive listings.

Click on appointment time

Click on “New Donor” to register or “Existing Donor” if you already have an account

2. In the next box down you can search by zip code and radius for a blood drive.

Click on the location you would like to make an appointment for to highlight it and click on “Select” below the box with blood drive listings.

Click on appointment time

Click on “New Donor” to register or “Existing Donor” if you already have an account

Or Go all the way to the bottom of the page to search by Group Code.

Zion Lutheran Church’s Group Code is: 1525

Click on location to highlight and then hit “Select”

Click on appointment time

Click on “New Donor” to register or “Existing Donor” if you already have an account

Here are the 2022 dates for our scheduled drives:

Sunday, March 20, 2022: 10 am – 2 pm

Wednesday, May 18, 2022: 3 pm – 7 pm

Wednesday, July 27, 2022: 3 pm – 7 pm

Sunday, September 25, 2022: 10 am – 2 pm

Sunday, November 20, 2022: 10 am – 2 pm

Please mark your calendars!



BLOOD DRIVE



Experience
the wonder

Zion Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, JAN. 16
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
GYM
349 LINDY LANE NW
NORTH CANTON

Please eat before you
donate.

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

At this time masks are required.
Please make an appointment and earn
reward points at:
vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal
Group code: 1525



GIVE BLOOD TODAY | vitalant.org

Eligibility questions? Call 877.258.4825

vitalant 



"Miracle on Acme Road"

It was a time for miracles this past October, as the annual Lutheran World Relief Ingathering for the Northeastern Ohio Synod brought forth an unexpected turnout of donations. Held at Jerusalem Lutheran, Seville, donors from sixty-three congregations throughout the synod exceeded the expectations for kits and quilts. "It felt like a last-minute miracle," beamed Pastor Tina Crog, the pastor of Jerusalem Lutheran, "...normally, we receive enough donations to fill up half a semi, and this year, we received enough to fill an entire semi!" That demonstrated great significance due to the current supply chain crisis. According to Pastor Crog, if the semi had only been half-full as it usually was, they would have had to wait until the following week for kits to go out. "The semi would have had to go to another pick-up site, then come back for our kits. That is because of the current lack of semis. We would have had to load then unload our kits and keep them somewhere until the truck came back." Thankfully, due to the generosity of donors, they were able to get kits to people in need much faster than planned.

Phyllis Kreider, the receptionist for Jerusalem Lutheran, also commented on this year's amazing ingathering, "Things went quite well. We've been doing this for thirty years, and people are always so grateful to have a place to bring things." This year especially, due to the pandemic, the ingathering seemed to carry out a little more importance than in previous years. For instance, there was a church that had over two years of things to bring because they didn't get to participate last year. Ms. Kreider noted, "I'm sure that our synod wasn't the only one who experienced something like this. It is times like this, we certainly feel we need to keep doing this as long as we can."

To learn more about the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering, be sure to check out their website (a link to the site will show up here).





Thank you for your gift of blessing others. Your ministry is so appreciated.

A Food Pantry Friend

I just want to thank you guys so much for all you guys do for families. You guys have helped us so many times, especially when we had lost everything. You sent me to others in the church to help too. You guys are amazing. Thank you so much & God Bless You All!! Merry Christmas & Have a Safe and Happy New Year.

A Food Pantry Friend

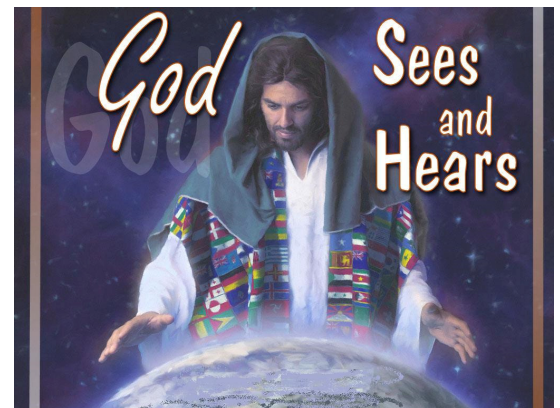
Thank you ALL!! For all you do!!

A Food Pantry Friend

Dear Brothers & Sisters,
I've a heart full of gratitude for you, your kindness, love, & grace. Each time I've been to the Food Pantry and every time I think of all, Thank You and God Bless you all!! In Christ,
A Food Pantry Friend

Thanks to everyone for everything. The kids drawings made me smile and it was very generous of the Church Family for the gift card.

A Food Pantry Friend



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

Return Service Requested



Statement of Purpose:

Zion matters to the community by showing the love of Jesus Christ

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.

850-766-5853

Pastor's E-Mail:

Pastor@zion-nc.com

Church Council President: Jim Fidler

330-494-7839

Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler

330-499-3909

Church Office Secretary E-Mail:

Office@zion-nc.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

Prayer@zion-nc.com

Website: www.zion-nc.com Like us on Facebook [@zionnorthcanton](https://www.facebook.com/zionnorthcanton)

