

# THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

March 2021





You are **chosen**.  
You are **loved**.  
You are **forgiven**.  
- God

this. Some ideas that we have is first to replace the sink with a commercial three division sink, get a tank-less water heater, paint the cupboards, lighting and paint the ceiling, flooring etc. We want to hear your ideas for the kitchen. You can call me at 330-412-4336 or email [Indmilavickas@earthlink.net](mailto:Indmilavickas@earthlink.net).

I close with a prayer I came across. Prayer is one of the best gifts we can give or receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards with prayer.

*"Lord, Thank you for each and every day You have blessed us here on earth. Thank You for Your tender mercies. Thank you for giving us friends and family to share these joys with. I ask You to bless Your community and Your world. Where there is joy, give them continued joy, Where there is pain; give them Your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence. Where there is need, fulfill their needs. Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings and their comings. Helps us Lord to love everyone as You love us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

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

## CARING MINISTRY

During the month of January, the Food Pantry served 122 households as follows: seniors (age 60+) 94, adults (age 18 - 59) 128 and children (birth - 17) 68. The total number of people served during January was 290. During January we served 31 fewer households, and 60 fewer people than December. The number of adults with minor children stayed at 62, while the children increased by 1. The numbers in the category: seniors without minor children decreased by 6, while seniors with minor children dropped by 1. The number of adults without minor children decreased by 54; however, this category shows who are most affected by the pandemic. We had 60 fewer clients than last month, and 122 more than January 2020. Pre-COVID client numbers were 42% less than current numbers based on January 2020 and 2021 results. The need remains great, especially among the adults.



**March Item of the Month** – we would like to collect 60 rolls of paper towels and 60 cans of hearty/chunky soup for our pantry families this month. Thanks to everyone



who donated tissues and body wash last month. We always need our staple items – peanut butter, creamed soups, jelly (except grape), pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, and 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 need all sizes of

toddlers, girls and boys clothes and jackets. We are also in need of men's jeans in all sizes and shoes.



**PRAYER CHAIN**—Remember to contact Kay Davis at [Prayer@zion-nc.com](mailto:Prayer@zion-nc.com), if you have any prayer requests.

*Dear heavenly Father, make us thankful for our many blessings. Teach us to share them with others who are in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

G. Scott Gross  
Caring Ministry Elder



## LEARNING MINISTRY

**First Communion Class:** The children began their First Communion class in February. They are preparing by learning from the "Fed and Forgiven" study. Their First Communion will be given on Maundy Thursday at our evening service.

**Women's Bible Study:** Susan will be starting the study of Judges and Ruth on Wednesday, April 7, at 10:00 a.m. in the Adult Sunday School room. If you are interested in joining the Bible Study, please contact Susan at 330-705-4696.

**Adult Sunday School:** During Lent, one of the topics of discussion will include an article "On Giving Up and Taking On." Lenten practices of old, "no pain, no gain" mentality, disciplines to habits, "Six Marks of Discipleship," and other options that might aid us in "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" will all be discussed. All are welcome to share their thoughts and ideas in this engaging, upbeat, and enlightening fellowship.

**Bible Discussions:** These are very informal discussions which provide a greater understanding of the readings and Gospel for the week. If you are interested in Pastor's Bible Discussions, please contact Vicki. The discussions are held via Zoom on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. The teen Bible Discussion is held on Wednesdays at 4:20 p.m.

*I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you – Psalm 32:8*

Janet Slease  
Learning Ministry Elder

## RESOURCE MINISTRY

**God's blessings to you all!** January has been a continuation of our strong 2020 spiritual and financial performance. If you have been in church in February, you have seen evidence of additional positive changes occurring in our infrastructure. The new coffee bar/exchange area in Luther Hall has been christened and we have implemented the Equal Exchange Ministry which will support it as well as the congregation. In addition, an access door has been installed in the gym to improve efficiency for storing tables, chairs, etc when not in use in gym or other locations. We will continue to upgrade our facility to improve the effectiveness of our designated ministries.

Revisiting 2020 after some year-end adjustment, Zion's December giving rate increased 77% from November and was 13% greater than December 2019 which was an outstanding month. This continued our 2020 trend of significant positive increases in spiritual energy and financial support, **THANK YOU's are in order!** Our 2020 year-end result provided a 34% increase vs 2019. This support will allow us to continue to operate in a fiscally responsible manner while enabling Zion to address and support our expanding portfolio of community outreach ministries.

Our restated December budget results generated a very significant positive impact to our year-end results insuring a breakeven condition. Your support enabled us to eliminate the predicted and authorized 2020 budget deficit, assuring we have left 2020 on a solid financial basis.

January 2021 exceeded 2020 by 56% keeping our total giving on par with the stronger non-December months of 2020. This gives us solid base to fund our ministry plans when we are to begin implemen-

tation with relaxation of pandemic constraints.

We are so happy and inspired to have your support for Zion's ministries and to know that we can address the current health and social crisis's by trusting in God's blessings and exercising appropriate personal responsibility.

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

John Rhodes  
Resource Ministry Elder



## WITNESS MINISTRY

The witness ministry is working on new ways to reach out to the congregation and the community to share God's love.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Task Force met on Monday, February 22, 2021 and discussed how to go forward to start our garden in the Spring. More details will be provided so get your bulbs and seeds ready to go.

## WEBPAGE

We have the emails working and are in the process of finalizing the content for the webpage. I hope for this to be up soon.

*Heavenly Father. Show us creative ways to be your disciples to our church family and our community. Help us to show how much you love us. Amen*

Susan Whalen  
Witness Ministry Elder

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

This is my last report as I will be resigning from Church Council, but I will continue to serve in other ways. I want to thank Paul Bagocius for stepping up and taking over this ministry. Paul is a great guy with a strong sense of the Lord's spirit and enthusiasm. He is a retired Elementary Principle and a former member of St John Lutheran Church in Canal Fulton. Paul is also a member of the Lions Club in Canal Fulton and between he and his wife Cindy, they have raised four children and are blessed with seven grandchildren. Please make Paul feel welcome and offer your ideas and support for the Music and Worship Ministry.



We had a great turnout for Ash Wednesday service in spite of the frigid weather. The extended live



video projection of our service in Luther Hall where people could remain physically distanced was well attended by those who normally attend our Wednesday evening service.

The new Information and Coffee Bar area is coming along nicely and should be a great place to gather with friends and provide a comfortable place to offer a warm greeting, a beverage and information to visitors as well as regular members. New furniture will be coming in a few months to complete the area.

We are blessed with the opportunity to extend our ministry to the farmers in South America through the new Equal Exchange program brought to us by Cindy and Paul Bagocius. This program offers us coffee, cocoa and chocolate bars for purchase as well as we will be serving these items from the new Coffee Connection and Information area. So, everyone will get the opportunity to try them as well.

#### **Prayer:**

*Lord, it is through your spirit that guides us to try new ways of reaching out to those in need and to show them your love. Be with us as we endeavor to share your word with our community and beyond. Amen.*

Brian Walters  
Worship Ministry Elder

#### **ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN JANUARY 2021**

January Income	\$24,557.35
January Expenses	\$31,890.05

***We thank you for your generous support!***

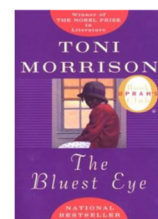
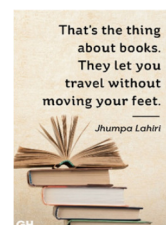
#### **BOOK OF THE MONTH:**

Are you thinking of joining our book discussion group? We would love to have you, anytime you'd like to attend. We meet on the first Friday of every month, autumn through early spring, at 10am in the Adult Sunday School room.

Our next read is *The Evening and the Morning*, by Ken Follett. I'm 137 pages into this 900 pager and, if nothing else, it's educational about life in England in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. (Need to read more before I say more!) That group meets on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> we'll be talking about a much shorter book – Nobel prize winner Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*.

And then, on May 7<sup>th</sup>, we end the season with a new mystery. Come on May 7<sup>th</sup> to help us choose books for the 21-22 season. Refer questions to Linda Weidenbach @lindakjw@gmail.com or 850-766-5640.





### THANK-YOU MAGGIORE'S DRIVE THRU

Thank you, as always, to Maggiore's in North Canton! They provide the wine for communion and have done so for many years. We appreciate their generosity and are so thankful for their donation. If you get a chance, please stop by and thank them for their support.

## Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

**Wednesdays - March 3, 10 & 17<sup>th</sup>: First Communion Classes at 6 pm**

**Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>: Rehearsal & Recording of the Children's Easter Program**

**Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>: Vitalant Blood Drive 10 am – 2 pm in the gym**

### Sunday School Pre-K thru High School Grade

We will continue our Wednesday Evening Sunday School classes at 6 pm during March for our kids ages Pre-K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade. As a reminder, Wednesdays, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>, we will have First Communion classes during Sunday School. The kids will be learning the Fed and Forgiven curriculum. There will also be regular Sunday School classes for those children whose parents do not feel they are ready for First Communion classes.

**We will be rehearsing and recording this year's Easter program on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The recorded program will be played as part of Easter Sunday service.**

### Stark County Humane Society Update



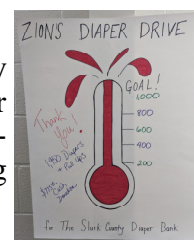
Thank you to everyone that supported our mission project in February. Because of everyone's love and generosity, we were able to donate a large amount of dog & cat food, puppy & kitten chow, leashes, bleach, dish soap, towels, blankets, copy paper and so much more to the Stark County Humane Society. We also thank everyone for their cash donations – we collected over \$1,000. Our Zion family is always so generous, and we are grateful for all your support of our monthly mission projects! If you would like to learn more about volunteering or giving a pet a forever home, please visit the Stark County Humane society's website at [www.starkhumane.org](http://www.starkhumane.org). There is also a list of needed items on the webpage if you would like to continue to help them out. Thank you for sharing God's love with those who are unable to speak for themselves.

### ACME Receipts – Thank you!

Thank you for everyone's support of this year's Acme Receipt Program. We had one of our best year's yet! Our receipts totaled \$7,419.43 in Community Cash Back dollars and will receive 5% of that total. This year's check from Acme will be for \$370.97 and will go to the Youth Fund to support the Youth Missions.

### Diaper & Dollar Drive Update and Thanks!

Thank you for everyone's support of our Diaper & Dollar Drive for the Stark County Diaper Bank. Zion came through in such a big way in helping out our community! Our goal was to collect 1,000 diapers and pull ups and we almost doubled that goal by collecting 1,950 diapers and pull ups. We also collected \$775 in cash donations, again exceeding our goal! Thanks be to God for everyone's generosity and support of the community!



## March's Missions

### Easter Egg Tree for Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center



We will be supporting Wernle Youth and Family this month with our Easter Egg Tree.

There are eggs on our Easter Tree with monetary amounts of \$5 and \$10. The money collected will go to Wernle's program to sponsor a child's allowance. The kids at Wernle receive a \$5 weekly allowance that they can use or put into their private account. Our goal is to sponsor the yearly allowance for at least two kids which totals \$480 (yearly sponsorship is \$240 and 6 months is \$120).

There are also eggs with \$10 gift cards to Wendy's, McDonalds, Taco Bell and WalMart that are given to the kids at Wernle.

If you are unable to come to church and take egg tags from the tree but would still like to help out, you can drop off or mail a cash donation or \$10 gift card to the church.

**A note from Debbie Fox:** Wernle is near and dear to mine and Dean's hearts. We have both spent time there along with our son, Jeremy, and have seen all the good they do for the kids who have had some terrible and heart-breaking life circumstances – things we can't even imagine. These kids are given a second chance and taught self-worth and shown so much love. Jeremy and I have even had the pleasure of meeting some of the kids and having a meal with them during a weekend mission trip. After the meal, Jeremy and a couple of Zion's other youth got to play basketball in the gym at Wernle. The trip we took made a lasting impact on Jeremy and the other kids. We all realized how blessed we are and how important it is to give back and help in any way we can, no matter how big or small, because it really makes a difference. Dean and I hope that you will consider helping Wernle this month. If the congregation reaches the goal of sponsoring two kids' allowances, we will match a third kid's annual allowance.

### Vitalant Blood Drive – Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 10am – 2pm

Our next blood drive will take place on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm in the gym. We hope you will consider giving blood if you are able to help save lives. Many of us have loved ones who have needed blood transfusions, and without the amazing people who donate blood, they would not have survived. Please go to [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org) to schedule an appointment, or contact Debbie Fox at 330-806-5610 or [dfox521@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dfox521@sbcglobal.net) and she can schedule an appointment for you.



We have also set up a schedule of blood drives for the remainder of 2021 so please mark your calendars:

- Sunday, March 28, 2021 10am - 2pm
- Wednesday, May 26, 2021 3pm - 7pm
- Wednesday, July 21, 2021 3pm - 7pm
- Wednesday, September 15, 2021 3pm - 7pm
- Sunday, November 14, 2021 10am - 2pm





# 2020 Network Partner Report

PREPARED BY THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK FOR

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH (NORTH CANTON)/PANTRY

STARK COUNTY AGENCY REF P628



### WHAT WAS YOUR PROGRAM'S IMPACT IN 2020?



**42,482**  
Pounds of Food

**YOUR PROGRAM**

**9,234**  
Produce Pounds of Food

**9,096,427**  
Pounds of Food

**YOUR COUNTY**

**1,735,021**  
Produce Pounds of Food

### HOW DID YOUR PROGRAM SHOP IN 2020?

**56.3%**

**FREE FOOD**

**23,932**  
Pounds of Free Food

**34.6%**

**REDUCED COST**

**14,685**  
Pounds of Reduced Cost

**9.1%**

**AMAZING VALUES**

**3,865**  
Pounds of Amazing Values

**FREE**

Free Food Menu Cost

**\$1,999**

Reduced Menu Cost

**\$4,254**

Amazing Values Menu Cost

**FREE**

Average Cost Per Pound

**\$0.14**

Average Cost Per Pound

**\$1.1**

Average Cost Per Pound

### YOUR PROGRAM'S BENEFITS IN 2020

Average Cost Per Pound

**\$0.09**

Total Your Program Paid

**\$2,863**

Retail Value of Food Received

**\$49,770**

Value of Grant Support

**\$2,533**

Pounds of Government Support

**26,876**

Value of Government Support

**\$27,511**

**CONFIDENTIAL REPORT FOR PARTNER USE ONLY** All data reflect January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Questions may be directed to the Network Partners and Programs Department at 330.535.6900.



Pastor's Ponderings  
March, 2020



- ♣ March, will it come in like a lion or lamb?
  - ♣ March, will there be madness (basketball pun intended)?
  - ♣ March, will St. Patrick's day be more about being green or being Christian?
- With March being the month of Lent (three of the five Sundays) and Palm Sunday, those are some of the things I'm pondering. So...

- ❖ Lion or lamb – It is said Jesus was lead to the cross like a lamb to the slaughter. What a terrible image! The king of the world acting like a little lamb. But, isn't really more about Jesus' innocence than his meekness? Christ's life was lead so others would be given life. The apostle Paul tells us we are to be little Christs; how then, do we live so others have life?



- ❖ March Madness – It is absolute insanity to triumphantly welcome the king of the world into Jerusalem, begging him to save us (Hosanna), and then pushing him toward the cross (crucify him). Do our actions exhibit this March Madness? Do we proclaim Christ our King on Palm Sunday and then go about our day-to-day life as if he doesn't exist? Could we do a better job of demonstrating our connection to Christ in our daily life?

- ❖ Green Rules – It is said that everybody is Irish on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The wearing of the green is big on this day. All kinds of people show their solidarity and keep from getting pinched by wearing green. What might it look like if we had the same enthusiasm for being Christian? What color might we wear? White? (Rev 7:14) Is it acceptable to have fun with the wearing of the Christian color?



Is Sunday School just for kids? Nope, as adults who Affirmed their Baptism (some of us long ago) we remember our promise to continually live as faithful people, always striving to deepen our faith – Sunday School will help do that. And, don't let the name scare you; there are no tests, grades, or homework to turn in. Come and have fun with us after church on Sunday; we're finished in time for you to go to your favorite place for brunch. Come be fed in Christ first.

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



**Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center**

2000 Wernle Road  
P.O. Box 1386  
Richmond, IN 47375-1386  
p. 877-336-8333  
f. 765-962-4210



1/6/2021

Zion Lutheran Church  
349 Lindy Lane Ave NW  
North Canton, OH 44720

Greetings Pr. William & Congregation,

2020 was a very difficult year for all of us. Our faith is what keeps us positive and moving forward. Your gift is always extremely important but never more so than in this past and strange year of 2020. Churches and businesses are shutting down again. Things are tough and yet you have not forgotten the children here at Wernle. From every child here and every staff member, we thank you for your gift. May you and all your loved ones have a safe and blessed Advent and Christmas.

Thank you for your most recent gift of \$1,605.00. You are part of a 141-year-old mission to help children in need. The torch has been passed to us and so we carry it on.

Please visit us on our new and improved Facebook page and don't forget to visit our website often, [www.wernle.org](http://www.wernle.org), to learn more about our current needs and special events.

Blessings,

  
Chris Parker

Church Relations Officer

cparker@wernle.org Office 765-939-4598 Cell 765-967-8435

*Your support of the boys and girls here at Wernle is awesome and heart warming! Happy 2021!*

**Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven**

**-Henry Ward Beecher**

*CP*

**Wernle is a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency. Your gift is deductible according to current tax laws and regulations. Please allow this letter to serve as your receipt.**



Those of you 70 ½ or older know that you are required to make a minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA each year.

But, did you know, you could have your RMD come directly from your IRA to Zion and it won't be taxable to you?

- ✓ Any portion of your RMD is appropriate
- ✓ You won't have to pay taxes on that distribution
- ✓ You don't have to write a check
- ✓ Your IRA custodian does all the work

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

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 Service***

***Church Office Hours***

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

***Pastor: The Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.***

***Pastor's E-Mail:***

***Church Council President: Darlene Milavickas***

***Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler***

***Church Office Secretary E-Mail:***

***Organist: Jack Brannen***

***Christian Ed. Director: Debbie Fox***

***Chancel Flowers: Vicki Givler***

***Church Office Fax Number***

***Prayer Chain: Kay Davis***

***Prayer Chain: Email***

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

***850-766-5853***

***[Pastor@zion-nc.com](mailto:Pastor@zion-nc.com)***

***330-412-4336***

***330-499-3909***

***[Office@zion-nc.com](mailto:Office@zion-nc.com)***

***330-966-2433***

***330-499-3909***

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***330-494-6267***

***[Prayer@zion-nc.com](mailto:Prayer@zion-nc.com)***

