THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

May 2021

Join us on Sunday, May 9, 2021, as we honor and/or remember OUR MOTHERS





Join us on Sunday, May 31, 2021, as we remember OUR FALLEN HEROES

Stewardship Moment - Become a good receiver from God

Focus scripture: Luke 14:25-35, in which Jesus teaches his disciples (students, including us) the cost of being a real disciple.

In this passage, Jesus says that he isn't interested in half-hearted followers. He's not interested in building up attendance numbers. Rather, he tells us that being a follower is going to be costly. He says we need to "hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself".



Perhaps, Jesus doesn't mean "hate" as in the opposite of "love"; for that would be in opposition to other teachings of Jesus where he commands us to love others, even our enemies. Perhaps Jesus is making a comparison of attention or the way we strive after things.

We admit with our mind that our family is given life by God and that it is God's good pleasure that they are in our life. So, do we to treat our family as people special to us? Or, do we treat our family as people special to God?

Perhaps Jesus is saying that we tend to value family and life more than we value God. Might Jesus be saying that if we are not willing to let go of our hold on family and life, we prove we value them more than we value God?

Perhaps, Jesus is saying that in order to be a true disciple we must be willing:

- to defend the poor and undervalued; at the expense of our own wealth and status
- to stand against customs and practices, in the church and the world, that hurt others; at the expense of hostile stares and personal attacks against us
- to live a life of care for those not in our circles; at the expense of rejection from our circle of family and friends
- to strive towards a living wage for all people, even at the expense of our own comfortable living



"We are a society that encourages greed over giving, hoarding over sharing, and overabundance as a marker of social status over the elimination of poverty. What humans have created, we can eliminate by daily recommitting ourselves to the God who loves compassion, mercy, and justice and hates poverty, greed, inequity, and injustice"

(Mitzi J. Smith, J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga., written on www.WorkingPreacher.org, September 8, 2019).

Message from our President:

Yes, spring is here and Zion has lots of opportunity to show the community the love of Jesus Christ. In Matthew 28 he tells us Jesus met his followers, blessed them and commissioned them to carry on with his work. He also commissions us to tell the good news, speaking words of love, of life and of hope because God is still breathing new life. There is more to do to show God's love with our neighbors and the world. Things are getting better out there with COVID. We are allowed to do more. We need to all participate in doing God's mission. Your council had a workshop April 24th, we asked you to pray for us and pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us to come up with a plan for Zion to do God's mission. This mission needs everyone at Zion. We need to find new ways to serve our community. We need to be here for church events and projects. We need to look for mission opportunities and join in what other folks are doing in our commu-

nity. We need to be those hands of Christ reaching out and offering words and signs of encouragement. So when your council and members of task forces ask for your help, we need to be there. God is asking every one of us to go out and do His mission.

Dear 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. Help 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
Council President



CARING MINISTRY

During the month of March, the Food Pantry served 124 households as follows: seniors (age 60+) 90, adults (age 18 - 59) 133 and children (birth - 17) 74. The total number of people served during March was

297. During March we served 27 additional households totaling 49 additional people than February. The number of adults with minor children decreased by 7 to 60 while the children decreased by 1 to 74. The number of seniors without minor children has increased by 25 to 90, while seniors with minor children decreased by 3 to 0. The number of adults without minor children has increased by 37 to 73. These numbers are similar to January 2021 numbers; however, both the seniors and adult group without minor children have increased. This is a good indication that food dependency has increased among seniors. We now show both seniors and adults without minor children with increased need. We had 51 more clients than last month, and 170 more than March 2020.

March 2021 shows a 57% increase over the March 2020 client level and a 17% increase over February 2021; however, March 2021 is only a 2.4% increase over January 2021. Therefore February was a fluke and the need is not trending down.



May Item of the Month – we would like to collect 65 jars of jelly and 65 laundry detergents

for our pantry families this

month. Thanks to everyone who donated dish soap and toilet paper 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!



Zion's Shared Goods Place (fka Clothing Closet) is always in need of household items such as; bath towels, hand towels, tea towels, dishes, pots, pans, etc. This month we are collecting

new socks for men and women and new underwear in all sizes for men and women

Prayer

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

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107:8-9

G. Scott Gross Caring Ministry Elder

LEARNING MINISTRY







Chain

On Maundy Thursday, LJ Brown, Ben Keith and Drew Keith joined the congregation in sharing holy communion as they received their first communion. Praise God for bringing these children to the Lord's table! A special thanks to Debbie Fox, Susan Whalen, and Pastor William for all of their instruction in preparing these children for their first communion. Also, thanks to Connie Riffle for

teaching the pre-school children. We appreciate all of our Christian education teachers for their commitment to our children.

The next session of Susan Whalen's Bible Study has begun. The class is focusing on the books of Judges and Ruth. Susan's Bible studies are held on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Susan at 330-705-4696 if you are interested in joining her classes.

Pastor William is leading the next topic of Adult Sunday School which is Led by the Spirit: Congregations are energized by what God is doing in their midst. Please come and join the class to understand the true meaning of church vitality.

If you haven't already done so, please join the weekly Bible discussions for an in-depth review of the readings and Gospel for the week. Please let Vicki know if you would like to join in on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. or Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. Teens also have their time on Wednesdays at 4:20 p.m.

Psalm 143:10 – Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.

Janet Slease Learning Ministry Elder

RESOURCE MINISTRY

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! What a glorious start to the new year. The Holy Spirit is alive and well at Zion. We trust you are beginning to enjoy the sunshine and warmer temperatures it brings with hope springing eternal. Similarly, we are enthused about the opportunity to improve the utilization and effectiveness of our designated ministries, and we are especially looking to a more active 2021 slate of activities.

Our March 2021 giving exceeded 2020 by more than 40% and Year-to-Date giving is currently 80% of 2020. All phases of giving are up, and we are especially thankful for your response to our monthly designated giving opportunities. Your outstanding support of Wernle for March, more than \$2400, is very inspiring. WOW! Your giving continues to provide us with a solid foundation to fund our 2021 ministry plans as we begin implementation with potential relaxation of pandemic constraints with vaccine immunizations. God's blessings to you all for this outstanding show of support!

Please stay connected and supportive; praying for responsible solutions to the current health and social emergency's by trusting in God's support and exercising appropriate personal responsibility. God's peace and blessings for you all!

John Rhodes Resource Ministry Elder

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Spring is here! And yes, we are looking forward to being able to enjoy the good weather and to enjoy each other's company (safely) at a few outdoor events being planned at Zion over the summer. Our Community is in great need of some fun in the sun and in great need of some love and peace.



First, "Cruise-In" on Friday June 25th for some food, fun and to enjoy fabulously maintained collector cars. Most importantly, this is a free event for everyone to The proceeds from enjoy. the voluntary raffle go to the

Valor Home which is a local organization that supports homeless veterans. There is a separate flyer in this Newsletter with more information. All safety precautions in place at the time will be followed.

Second, as part of the ELCA's God's Work, Our God's work. Hands day, we will be providing a Fall Festival Our hands. for the community on Saturday, September 11th. Think pumpkins, games,



bonfires, and food with more details to come as we get closer to the date.

Dear Lord, thank you for the many blessings we have in our lives. Open our eyes to see the needs in our community. Help us to feel the love and joy that serving others brings to them and to us. Give us the strength and courage to wake up each day with the goal of building our relationship with you and with others. Show your love to everyone we encounter.

Laura Thompson Social Ministry Elder

WITNESS MINISTRY



Fall Festival—We are planning a Fall Festival for Saturday, September 11th. As part of the

ELCA's Day of Service, we will do God's Work, with Our Hands by providing food and festivities for the Festival free to everyone. We'll need lots of help so please mark your calendar for September 11th. More details to come as it gets closer to the date. All COVID safety protocols in place at that time will be followed.

Used/New Books—We would like to update our resource room with current books or movies for our congregation to have access, to prepare us to



go out to the community and spread God's Love. We are looking for donations of any books/movies that can be used for resources on divorce, health, money, devotions, aging, self-help, Christian Living, etc. There is a box in Luther Hall for your donations. We are looking for all age groups.

Welcome Wagon—The task force is working with various realtors to help us welcome our neighbors to the community. We will drop off a welcome gift from us and information on our upcoming events. We are looking for volunteers to help deliver the packages and get to know our new neighbors. Let me know if you are interested. What better way to share God's love than to let our neighbors know they are welcome.



Main Street Festival—We will be participating with the Main Street Festival on Saturday, August 14th. Please plan to come join us and meet your neighbors. We will need a few

volunteers to help hand out information so please let me know if you are available.

Community Garden—We are looking for someone to be on the task force, who has a **passion** and knowledge for gardening to help start our community garden. We already had someone inquire for a place to grow vegetables for a food pantry. We have a great piece of property to be able to provide this. If you get a chance, drive by the North Canton Community Garden across from the Middle School to get an idea of our vision. (Of course, I would wait until their garden starts growing to get the full

affect). They have graciously agreed to work with us and we will collaborate on various events throughout the year.

We are in the process of organizing more great activities and events so stay tuned for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities

Fall Festival on September 11th
Deliver gifts to new neighbors
Community Garden
Main Street Festival – August 14th

Heavenly Father, open our hearts to ways to be your disciples and to show your love throughout our church and community. Amen

Sue Whalen Witness Ministry Elder



WORSHIP MINISTRY

The Worship Ministry met on April 20th and discussed the following items:

- We reviewed Holy Week Services and concluded that the Worship Services were done with grace and provided spiritual fulfillment.
- We discussed Special Music guidelines (payment and procedures). A final draft will be submitted at our May meeting.
- Special arrangements will be made for our Mothers' Day Service to honor the women of our church. Don't miss this special Service on May 9th.
- Pentecost Service will be officiated by Pastor Watt since Pastor William will be on vacation. Everyone is encouraged to wear red on Wednesday, May 19th and Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd.
- Procedures were discussed for last minute Pulpit Supply when the Pastor becomes unexpectedly ill or unable to lead the Service. Pastor is working on final procedures and these will be shared at our May meeting.
- We will be providing training for Assistant Ministers in early summer.

On April 8, the State of Ohio developed new Covid-19 guidelines. Singing restriction have been lifted for all entities (churches, schools, pub-

lic entertainment, etc,). Starting at our May 2 Service, a hymn will be added to our Service for the congregation to sing. Whenever Stark County is designated as a Red or Purple COVID county, the hymn will be eliminated for that week until the designation returns to Yellow or Orange.

All are welcome to come to our Worship Ministry meetings held at 7pm at church on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. If you would like to have an item on our agenda, please contact Paul Bagocius (paulbagocius@aim.com) by the second Tuesday of any month.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for providing a safe place for us to worship You, Your Son, and the Holy Spirit. We pray our worship is pleasing to you. Amen.

Paul Bagocius Worship Ministry Elder

COMFORT GIVERS



Each quilt sewn, each kit packed is a statement of faith, hope and love. They are a reflection of God's loving presence in a world still rife with suffering. This is one way you can put your faith into action, to be part of God's kingdom bursting into the world.

Our neighbors in Ethiopia have been displaced from their homes because of ethnic conflict in the East African country. About 5,000 have had to leave their homes and live at a



Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp. These mothers and expecting mothers need help so we are going to send baby care kits over this year. We want to provide the basics a family needs to care for their new members. So we are asking for these items to make up the Baby Kits to send to our neighbors across the ocean.

Size ranges 0—18 mos.

- Lightweight cotton T-shirts (no onesies)
- Long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet), can use pajama sets, tops & pants

- Swaddling Blankets 36" to 52" square, medium-weight cotton or flannel or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn.
- Jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood or include a baby cap, can be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits or fleece – button or ties down the front.
- Socks

Thank you for your help in showing, Zion matters to the community by showing the love of Jesus Christ.

Darlene Milavickas Comfort Givers

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN MARCH 2021

March Income	\$ 25,748.63
Income through March	\$ 83,471.07
March Expenses	\$ 34,277.70
Expenses through March	\$100,464.48

We thank you for your generous support!

Children's Easter Program: "Props for Easter"



Kids' Easter Egg Hunt and Pizza Party-A great day of food, fun, sunshine and God's love!!!







Youth & Family News

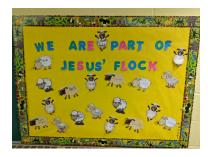
Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

Wednesday, May 5th: Outdoor Casual Services begin again in the Pavilion at 7 pm Wednesday, May 26th: Vitalant Blood Drive 3 – 7 pm in the gym Friday, June 25th: Cruise In 5 -8 pm

Wednesday Evening Sunday School - Pre-K thru 6th Grade

We will continue Wednesday Evening Sunday School classes at 6 pm in May for our kids grades Pre-K thru 6th. We hope to spend some time outside as the weather warms up and will continue to focus on the Bible and familiarizing the children with reading the Bible and how to find the books, chapters and verses in the Bible. All of our Sunday School kids have received their own Bible this year to help them strengthen their relationship with God and His Word. We enjoy our time with the children each week and hope you will join us!







Wernle Easter Egg Tree:



- We collected \$2,400 in cash donations which will cover the yearly allowance for 10 kids at Wernle
- We collected twenty-one \$10 gift cards to either McDonald's, Wendy's, Taco Bell, or WalMart for the kids.
- All of the above were mailed to Wernle April 9th. Chris Parker's comments "You all leave me speechless sometimes. Thank You!"

Thanks be to God for everyone's love and support for the kids at Wernle!

Habitat for Humanity Faith Build 2021 Update

Pastor William and Debbie Fox participated in the Habitat Faith Build Virtual Kick Off Meeting on April 8th by Zoom. This year's Faith Build will be done in NE Canton on 23rd & Maple Ave NE. We got to meet the three families (the Burch family, the Thomas family and the Cundiff family) for whom the three homes are being built, and we also got to meet the representatives from the other Faith Community Partners. There are sixteen Faith Community Partners involved in the 2021 Faith Build. We are guaranteed three work days for Zion volunteers, and we will receive those dates in May. Volunteer work days start in June and go through September. Watch for sign-up sheets and more info to come in this month.

We received an email with the great news that Habitat was able to dig the foundations for two of the homes (Cundiff & Burch families) on April 13th. We are very excited about this opportunity and pray for God's guidance and help in getting these homes built safely and on schedule for the families.









Artistic rendering of the planned 2021 Faith Build:



Meet the Habitat Faith Build Families:



The Burch Family:

Mom - Brittany

Children: Ciarra (age 17) Alexis (14) Alayah (8) Ja'Cier (8 months)

The Thomas Family Mom - Precious Son - Xavier (age 20)





The Cundiff Family

Mom - Tomeka

Children: Jessiah (age 9) Koree (age 3)

Vitalant Blood Drive - Wednesday, May 26th 3pm - 7pm

Our next blood drive will take place this month on Wednesday, May 26th from 3pm – 7pm in the gym. Please consider giving blood if you are able and help save lives. Many of us have friends and loved ones who have needed blood transfusions. Without the amazing people who donate blood, they would not have survived. Please go to http://vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal to schedule an appointment, or contact Debbie Fox at 330-806-5610 or dfox521@sbcglobal.net and she can schedule an appointment for you. The goal for our drive is 20 units – let's see if we can get to 30!

















Thank you to all of our donors that have given blood in our past drives. Our drive in March had 16 people who came to donate and 20 units were collected. The total units collected for all of our past drives is 81 units – thanks be to God! We are so grateful for your donations because they truly are the gift of life. We hope everyone who is able will also give at our future blood drives. Below is the list of future dates:

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

¡Aleluya, ciertamente ha resucitado! (Hallelujah, He is risen indeed!) Hola, compañeros de me vida! (Hello companions of my life!)

One of my recent substitute teaching assignments found me in Spanish classes. Spanish is so fun to learn for English speakers, at least, it is for me. My mother took Spanish in college and had one semester in Cuba. She worked as a translator in Chicago for a while and taught my brother and me some fun phrases. (Our German grandfather taught us "Raus mit you!" but that is another story.)

Creo en Dios (or Creo en Dias, to be fair), in Spanish, means "I believe in God."

Supe la verdad means. "I found out the truth." Pontius Pilot did not know the rea

Supe la verdad means, "I found out the truth." Pontius Pilot did not know the real verdad (truth). What are our perceptions of the truth this pandemic year? At least if you live in the United States, you will know that the pandemic has aspects that either bring people together or split them apart. Together is always better. Hold off on judgement until you have walked in another's shoes. Que la persona entre ustedes que no tenga pecado sea la primera en arrojar una piedra (Let the person among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone...Jesus in John 8:7)

Estimar con exceso and estimar en menos mean to overestimate and to underestimate, respectively. Never underestimate the power of an amabilidad (kindness).

Would it not be wonderful if all people could verbally understand each other? Test your knowledge on the origin of these words (answers found below):

1.rutabega 2.tycoon 3.robot 4.influenza 5.lilac 6.shampoo 7.jeans & demin 8.toboggan 9.ketchup 10.checkmate 11.hamburger & frankfurter 12.orangutan 13.okra 14.kayak 15.sauna

Expresiones de mi parte, Linda Weidenbach

1.Swedish 2.Japanese 3.Czech 4.Italian 5.Arabic 6.Indic 7.French 8.Amerindian 9.Chinese 10.Persian-Turkish 11.German-from the towns of Hamburg and Frankfurt 12.Malayo-Polynesian 13.West Africa 14.Eskimo 15.Finnish

P.S. Look for the list of books for the 2021-2022 book discussion group in the June newsletter. All are welcome! (Todas son bienvenidas!)

Pastor's Ponderings May, 2021

May, it is the time of the year for:



- Flowers after all those April (and March) showers
- Mother's Day which we know is a practice for the June 20th event
- Affirmation of Baptism for those successfully completing a two-year study
- Ascension of Our Lord May 13, 40 days after Jesus' resurrection
- Memorial Day recognizing and giving thanks for those who lost their lives in bat-

With so much going on in May, it got me to pondering; do the worldly events inform our Christian life, or does our Christian life inform the way we recognize worldly events? It is my role to help you make the latter statement a reality.

Since we have no people Affirming their Baptism this year, we'll miss out on the public renewal of our own promises made at our Affirmation of Baptism. So, could this be a time to refresh ourselves and renew our vows?

- To live among God's faithful people
- To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- To strive for justice and peace in all the earth

How are you doing on those promises? We all have work to do on this. The great thing is that living the Christian life is full of grace for the times we come up short on our promises. A Christian's life is full of opportunities to improve our behavior. Yet, as we strive for constant improvement, we are given grace for those times of not-so-stellar-improvement.

Grace and peace to you as you strive to live out your Christian commitment.

I look forward to hearing what you've been pondering.

Graciously, Pr. William





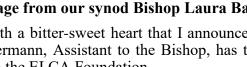
A Message from our synod Bishop Laura Barbins:

"It is with a bitter-sweet heart that I announce that Pastor Karl Biermann, Assistant to the Bishop, has taken a new call with the ELCA Foundation.

So many of you have had your lives touched by Pastor Biermann these last five years as he helped you (in the call process). While he and I have worked together only a short time, I have enjoyed Pastor Biermann's passion for the ministry and his willingness to rethink the mobility process.

As our rite of Farewell and Godspeed reminds us, as we have been blessed, we release him to be a blessing to others."

> We at Zion, wish Pastor Biermann and his family well as they move to a new city, and he engages in a new ministry.







NE OH Synod Edition FY2020 Thank You

MISSION SUPPORT: A DEEP DIVE

Did you know that ELCA members in more than 8,900 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.7 billion in regular offerings annually to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide? When members give through their congregations, about 5.5% of that money is shared with the local synod, which then shares a portion with the national churchwide office. Thank you for your faithful support!

In FY2020, the NE OH Synod shared \$583,865 directly in Mission Support for ELCA churchwide ministries. In the midst of such a challenging year, thank you for your continued commitment to respond to God's call to love and serve as a neighbor, both locally and with the wider church. It is through your faithfilled and financial support that the following ministries are possible. We ARE church together - Thanks be to God!

YOUR MISSION SUPPORT HELPS FUND THE FOLLOWING CHURCHWIDE MINISTRIES:



41% OF MISSION SUPPORT GROWS THE ELCA IN THE U.S.

Thank you for \$239,385 from the NE OH Synod for these ministries!

- Plant and support hundreds of new congregations.
- Enable congregations to renew their ministries and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- Develop and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship.
- Work together with our African-descent, American Indian, Alaska Native, Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latino/Latina leaders and members.
- Invest in technology and communication.
- Grow and sustain financial resources.
- Engage in research and strategic planning.





CLICK ON EACH STORY TO READ MORE!





22% OF MISSION SUPPORT GROWS THE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND ADDRESSES ISSUES AROUND THE WORLD:

Thank you for \$128,450 from the NE OH Synod for these ministries!

- As a member of the Lutheran World Federation, the ELCA is in communion with 147 other churches.
- ELCA synods relate directly to 65 companion churches through a total of 127 official relationships.
- The ELCA accompanies new Lutheran churches, expands ministries and trains leaders and evangelists.
- The ELCA sends missionaries including Young Adults in Global Mission — who are the hands and feet of Jesus around the world.
- The ELCA addresses social issues and works for justice.







37% OF MISSION SUPPORT HELPS DEVELOP CURRENT AND FUTURE LEADERS IN THE ELCA:

Thank you for \$216,030 from the NE OH Synod for these ministries!

- Prepare and implement a system for recruitment and assignment of rostered ministers.
- Identify and provide ministry resources and opportunities to lay leaders for networking.
- Offer events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.
- Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 ELCA colleges and universities.
- Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries.
- Provide governance and leadership.
- Sustain ecumenical and interfaith relations.





Thank you for your ongoing support! For additional resources, go to ELCA.org/SOFIA.



What is that red candle



and what is its purpose?

This article will use some words that need definition (we might find more detail in future articles):

• Sanctuary – that area around the Altar (Lord's Table)

The following are not ECLA practices, but we are exposed to them in discussions and in this article:

- Reserved sacrament consecrated bread and wine left after a communion service
- Tabernacle a box-like or domed vessel where the reserved sacrament is kept

What is that red candle called?

• It is called a Sanctuary Lamp.

When was it first used?

• It all started in the 12th Century with the Roman Catholic Church.

What is its purpose?

• It was placed near the tabernacle to signify and honor the presence of Christ in the elements of bread and wine.

Some additional thoughts and comments:

- The modern Roman Catholic church has changed some things:
 - New church buildings generally do not include the Sanctuary Lamp in the general worship space. The theology is that the primary purpose of the worship space is for the assembly of God's people around Word and Sacrament, not for the contemplation of the reserved sacrament. New church buildings often add a separate chapel or other space which is more appropriate for purposes of contemplating the reserved sacrament.
- Why do non-Roman Catholic churches use this candle? Two reasons are generally given:
 - o To signify the eternal presence of God in the church.
 - Because we've always done it.

A response to both reasons for using the Sanctuary Candle in our congregation:

- "Because we've always done it" has no theological basis and is not helpful. Practices that utilize this thinking might be better eliminated, thus removing the temptation to make them sacred practices without meaning.
- If it represents the "eternal presence of God" because it is lit, what happens when the light goes out or is accidentally extinguished? Does God go away?
- If it represents the "eternal presence of God" why don't we have one of these in our homes? Isn't God eternally present there too?

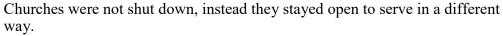
Is this what church is supposed to look like?

People are justifiably cautious and uncomfortable coming back to church as it was in February 2020. Did you know that many congregations have not yet resumed in-person worship?

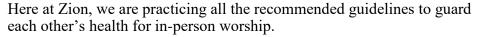


In the pandemic of 1918, this is what churches looked like.

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



Thankfully, this is not yet needed at this time.



On May 5, we return to an outdoor worship service so people don't have to be inside.

We will even transmit on FM 103.7 so people can stay in their cars – note that each of those cars in the picture contains people worshiping 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.





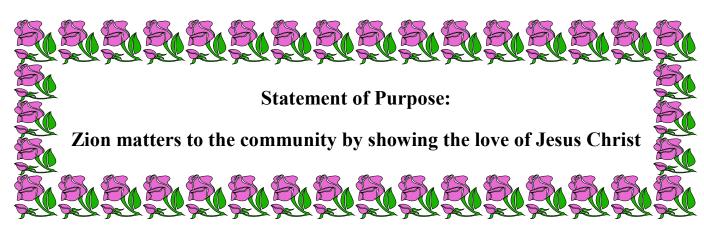
Zion Lutheran Church has received \$1,109 in Thrivant Choice dollars in 2020.

If you have Thrivent Financial products, you may also have Thrivent Choice Dollars available to direct to Zion Lutheran Church or your favorite charity.

To direct you Choice Dollars, please call 1-800-847-4836 or go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

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

Return Service Requested



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: Pastor@zion-nc.com	850-766-5853
Church Council President: Darlene Milavickas	330-412-4336
Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler	330-499-3909
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