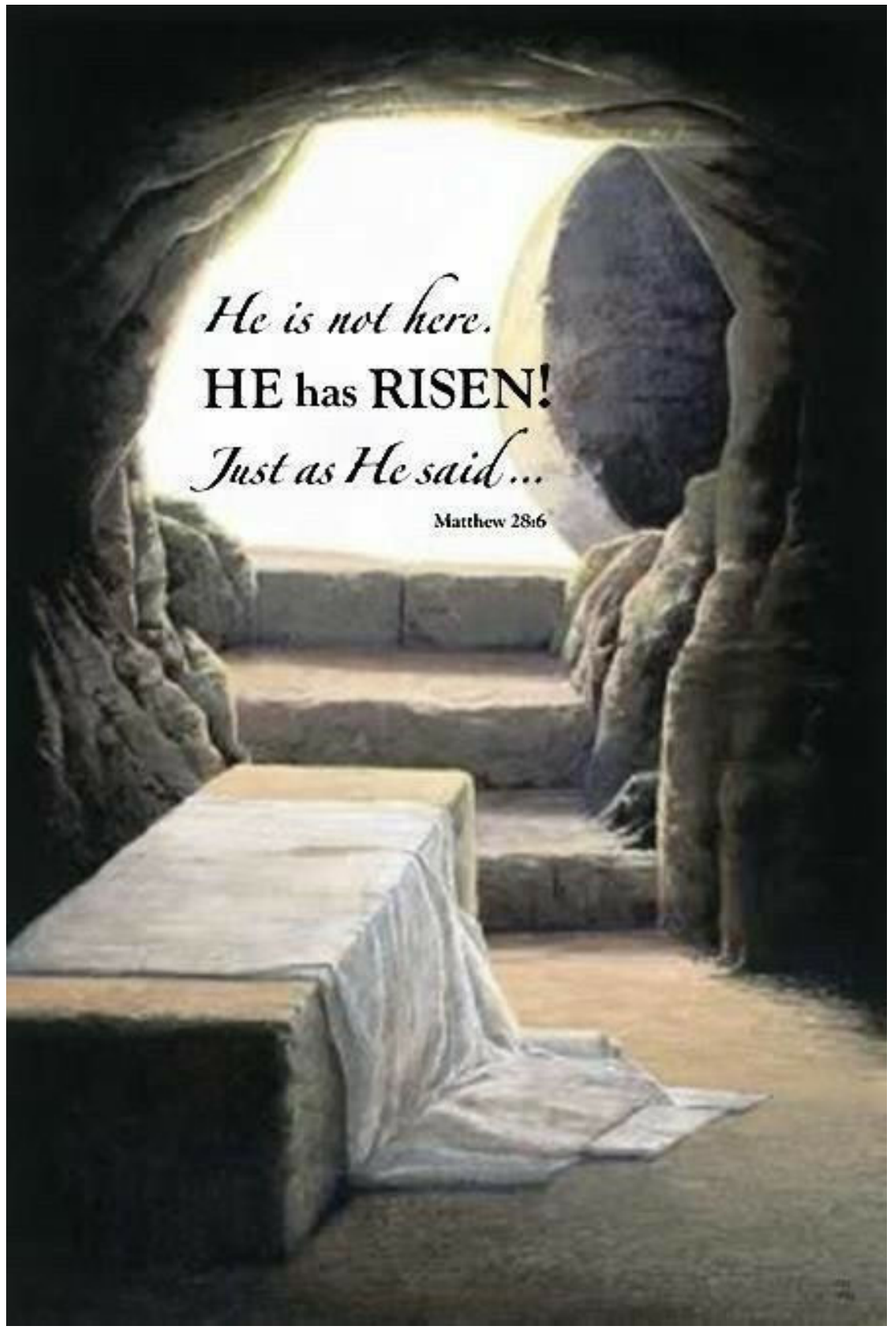
THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News April 2021



Stewardship Moment – Live in God's Relationship

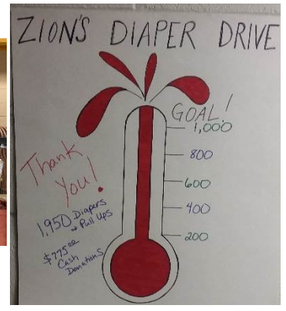
Focus scripture: Luke 10:1-11, in which Jesus teaches his disciples (students, including us) how to pray and to persevere in prayer.

In this Lord's Prayer, Jesus says to pray "Your kingdom come." Jesus isn't telling us to get ready to enter God's kingdom at death, he is saying to pray that God's kingdom happens here and now; in this place and at this time.

This isn't the rapture that we hear some others speaking about. No, this kingdom come thing is something much deeper, much harder to imagine, much more in our hands to bring about. You see, the kingdom happens whenever and wherever God's will is done (see the same pray expressed in Matthew 6:9-14, specifically verse 10.)

So, God wants to be present with us – always and now. God isn't waiting for us to die so we can be together. We can have God's presence with us now. We get that presence when we are in relationship with God. Much like earthly parents desire a relationship with their children, so too, God desires a relationship with us. Much like earthly parents who have benevolent desires for their children, so too, God's desires are for our good. Much like earthly parents who are better able to relate with us when we acknowledge their good direction upon our life, so too, God is better able to relate to us when we acknowledge God's leadership.

Jesus continues by telling us to ask, and it will be given us, so that we may have everything we need to do God's will and make God's kingdom come. It is God's good pleasure to provide for us that which we need to do God's will in our lives. Remember after all, Jesus said; Just as you saw a stranger hungry, or thirsty, or naked, or imprisoned and did something, you did it to me (Matthew 25:31-46.)



That's kingdom come, that's the work for which God is waiting to provide us all we need. That's how we build relationship with Jesus – by welcoming and serving him.

Now, go help bring in the kingdom of God – here – now – for everyone! There is much that remains to be done.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Spring is here finally. The most important time for Christians has happened, our Lord's resurrection. Jesus tells us that "whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also". It is time for us to gear up to go out and share the Good News of Jesus love for everyone. As you read through the newsletter there are many opportunities to join in and spread the word. We need each other to grow in God's Love and Word. If you can't physically join us, you can support us in other ways. We welcome any ideas and suggestions of things we can do - you can let anyone on council know. We have started a task force for the kitchen renovations and you will be getting updates in the next couple of months.

"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. 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

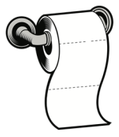
MINISTRY REPORTS

CARING MINISTRY

During the month of February, the Food Pantry served 97 households as follows: seniors (age 60+) 68, adults (age 18 - 59) 103 and children (birth - 17) 75. The total number of people served during February was 246. During February we served 25 fewer households, and 44 fewer people than January. The number of adults with minor children increased to 67, while the children increased to 75. The number of seniors without minor children dropped to 65, while seniors with minor children increased to 3. The number of adults without minor children decreased to 36; however, the adult group still remains the most affected by the pandemic. We had 44 fewer clients than last month, and 109 more than February 2020.

February 2021 was an 80% increase over the February 2020 client level. The numbers are lower than December and January, but still show great need. The seniors always stay within one or two each month going back from when I started this report; therefore, they are locked into an income level controlled by inflation and food stamp availability. We will know the economy is getting better as the adult group drops to pre COVID levels. February could have had fewer because of the cold.

April Item of the Month – we would like to collect 60 rolls of toilet paper and 60 bottles of dish washing soap for our pantry families this month. Thanks to everyone who donated paper towels and hearty/chunky soup 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 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, if you have any prayer requests.

Dear heavenly Father, we are thankful for our comfort givers, pantry workers, and supporters. Give them strength to work at a high level during this time of extreme need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

G. Scott Gross
Caring Ministry Elder

COMFORT GIVERS

We have some very talented artists who have created and continue to create prayer shawls and lap blankets for people whom you sense can use them. Life is challenging and sometimes the challenges, often in the form of illness, become overwhelming. A beautiful, handmade source of warmth, created with loving prayers for the unknown receiver can be a wonderful gift.

I can say from my own experience, the prayer shawl was a wonderful comfort when I was recovering from my cancer surgeries. I used it so much I wore it out. If you know someone who could use this kind of comfort, whoever and for whatever reason, please come and take one of our prayer shawls and/or blankets. You can contact me at 330-412-4336 or Linda Weidenbach at 850-766-5640.

Comfort Givers meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 10 am to 12pm. We have some people on the sewing machines, some putting materials together to sew, and others who are not as handy with the sewing, putting the finished top quilt together with batting and a bottom sheet by pinning, and then threading yarn and tying knots. Most of the quilts are sent overseas, but we are doing some for local agencies too. We enjoy great fellowship while doing this and the joy of helping people. We would love to have you come join us. We can use people to cut material, thread yarn, tie knots, and sew.

We are possibly looking to do baby care kits, in addition to school kits and health care kits to send overseas this year. We will have more details to follow to the congregation in the upcoming newsletter and news page.

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

LEARNING MINISTRY

Please be sure to join Pastor at the Adult Sunday School session on Easter Sunday as he leads the class in looking at all four Gospels to analyze their different versions of Resurrection Sunday. During April, Pastor will be introducing the topic of *Led by The Spirit; Congregations are energized by what God is doing in their midst.*

From *Led by The Spirit*— Joel Rothe, pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Denver, and youth greet Delores Arndt during their December Las Posadas procession, which entailed participants visiting homes in the neighborhood, singing and commemorating Mary and Joseph's journey.

There is still time to sign up for the next session of Women's Bible Study. Susan Whalen is beginning the new Bible study on Wednesday, April 7, at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Susan at 330-705-4696 if you are interested in learning more about the books of Judges and Ruth.

The children who have completed the Fed and Forgiven First Communion class and are ready to receive their first communion will do so at the Maundy Thursday service. The children will continue with their Sunday school classes on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

The weekly Bible discussions continue to focus on the readings and Gospel for the week. These in-depth discussions truly help in understanding the meaning of God's word. 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.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. – Psalm 25:5

Janet Slease
Learning Ministry Elder

RESOURCE MINISTRY

Peace be with you! We trust you are beginning to enjoy the sunshine and warmer temperatures it brings with hope springing eternal. Similarly, things are evolving at Zion with the completion and introduction of The Coffee Bar Exchange welcoming area in Luther Hall which we are

supporting with products from Equal Exchange. The congregation has embraced Equal Exchange as an external ministry, and we now have a very successful process in place to support its usage. Your support and feedback are greatly appreciated. We will continue to upgrade our facility to improve the utilization and effectiveness of our designated ministries, and we are especially looking to more active 2021 slate of activities.

Our February 2021 giving has exceeded 2020 by more than 100%. This was a function of February 2020 being the first month of pandemic impact with tremendous uncertainty; however, February giving rate was also up 34% versus January so we have had an excellent start to 2021. God's blessings to you all for this outstanding show of support! This gives us a very solid base to fund our 2021 ministry plans as we begin implementation with relaxation of pandemic constraints with vaccine immunizations.

We are elated and inspired to have your show of support for Zion's ministries and to know that we can address the current health and social emergency's by trusting in God's support and exercising appropriate personal responsibility.

Please stay connected and supportive; praying for responsible solutions! God's peace and blessings for you all!

Faithfully yours,
John Rhodes
Resource Ministry Elder

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Spring has sprung! And yes, we are looking forward to being able to enjoy the good weather and to enjoy each other's company at a few outdoor events being planned at Zion over the summer.

- "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 enjoy and the proceeds from 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 (page 13) with more information. All safety precautions in place at the time will be followed.
- As part of the ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands day, we will be providing a Fall Festival 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.

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

Dear Lord, thank you for the many blessings we have in our lives. Help us to see the love and joy that serving others brings to them and to us. Give us the strength and courage to show your love to everyone we encounter.

Laura Thompson
Social Ministry Elder

WITNESS MINISTRY

Community Garden
We are in the process of gathering information for the community garden. Our goal is to have this available to plant in the Spring of 2022.

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.
Please stay tuned for some more exciting adventures.

Heavenly Father. Guide us to ways to be your disciples to our church family and our community. Help us to show each other how much we are loved. Amen

Susan Whalen
Witness Ministry Elder

WORSHIP MINISTRY

The Worship Ministry is busy planning current worship services under Covid, yet still planning for the future:

- Holy Week Services are planned and ready for you to worship in a meaningful and spiritual way. Join us for Maundy Thursday (7:30 pm on April 1), Good Friday (7:30 pm on April 2), and Easter Sunday (9 am on April 4). Similar to Ash Wednesday, Luther Hall will be set up with a live video relay of the Worship Space in the church for each of these Services (except for Palm Sunday since the Wednesday Service before will have palms) so those wanting more space around them can worship in confidence. When appropriate, communion will be served by Pastor to those in Luther Hall. There will be NO Wednesday evening service (March 31) during this week. Wednesday indoor evening services will resume at 7pm on April 7.

- Our Worship Ministry began discussions on post-Covid church services. While many changes needed to be made due to Covid, these changes will be re-evaluated for continued safety and also for a meaningful Sunday Service experience. Considerations include re-establishing Choir and Bell Choir components, and re-establishing two services based on need (Traditional and Contemporary) or possibly establishing a Blended Service (with both traditional and praise hymns).

- The Wednesday Service is planned to continue through this summer and then re-evaluated in the fall based on need and number attending. (In the meantime, indoor Wednesday Services will continue with OUTDOOR Wednesday Services beginning on May 5.)

- Discussion on developing a policy for paying for Special Music during church service. A sliding scale of payment was discussed based on the following considerations: type of service (Easter, Christmas, Regular Sunday); music requiring extra practice with organist or stand alone music; number of people playing/singing; vocal vs. instrumental; following good stewardship procedures while being fair to all parties. Other churches will be contacted for their policy.

At our April monthly meeting, we will continue to work on the above items. Also, our Ministry will discuss Mothers' Day and Pentecost Services, develop procedures for a last minute Pulpit Supply need (due to illness); and the dismissal procedure at the end of Sunday Services.

Paul Bagocius
Worship Ministry Elder

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN FEBRUARY 2021

February Income	$32,462.42
Income through February	$57,722.44
February Expenses	$34,472.71
Expenses through February	$66,186.78

We thank you for your generous support!

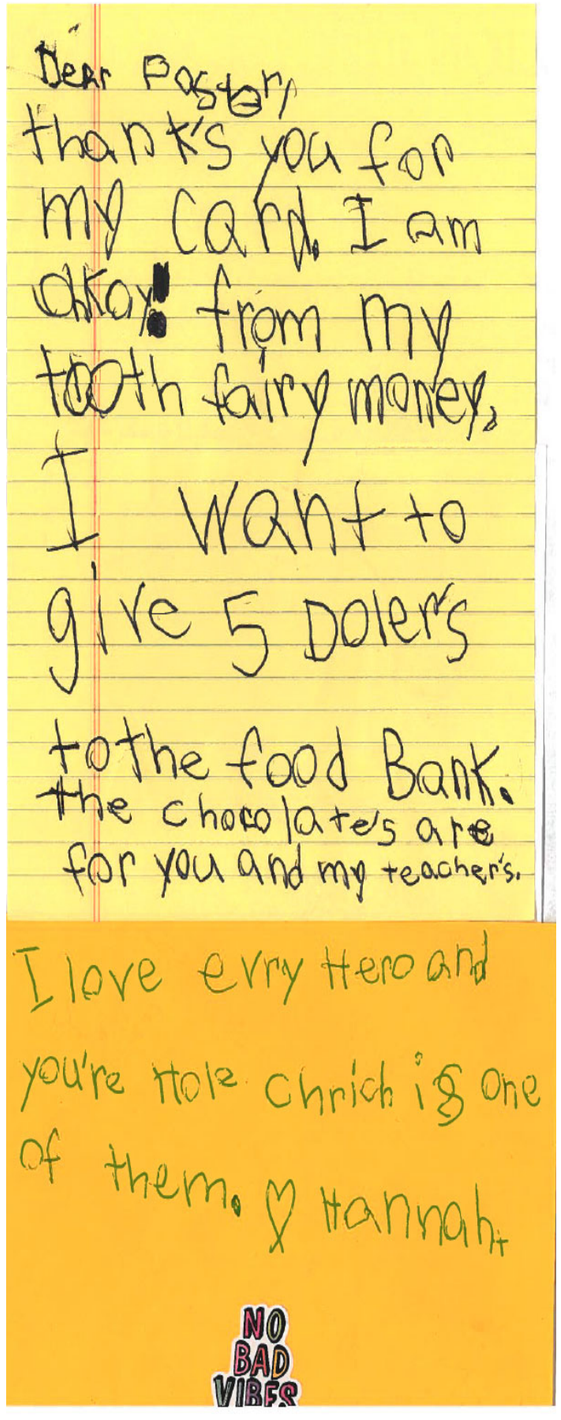
April	7	Sondra Elsass
April	7	Renee Keith
April	9	Lorraine Weinman
April	16	Johanna Henderson
April	18	Weston Milek
April	20	Beth Heller
April	22	Jane Fairman
April	22	Chuck Danner
April	23	Chris Thompson
April	26	John Long
April	26	Cindy Bagocius
April	29	Clarence Givler
April	29	Jeff Frank

April 5	Susan & Robert Heyard
April 16	Vicki & Clarence Givler
April 18	Linda & Ron Tvorik
April 20	Anna & Melvin Erbland
April 20	Melanie & Chris Whalen

Dear Members of Zion,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Learning Ministry elder. It has been such an honor to be a member of Council and a privilege to work with the other Council members. I will miss serving in this capacity, but I am looking forward to other opportunities. I am so blessed and grateful to be a member of this congregation as we move forward to serve the Lord and our neighbors. The gift cards are very much appreciated.

Peace be with you,
Janet Slease



ANNOUNCING THE NEXT EQUAL EXCHANGE MAKE IT & TAKE IT EVENT ! ! !

WHO: Tea lovers for Mothers' Day
What: A TEACUP Buffet
When: Sunday, May 2nd after 9 a.m. Service
Where: Zion's Luther Hall
Why: Mothers' Day coming up!
How: Fill a teacup with an assortment of TWELVE teabag flavors. Wrap in netting and tie with a bow. COST: $5.00

Sign up by 4/25 to reserve a teacup!

A Prayer for the Twelve Equal Exchange Easter Baskets assembled on Sunday, March 14th.

Twelve is a good number, heavenly Father. Your Son lived closely with twelve people long ago who ultimately advanced Your Living Word. Our prayer is for each basket--packed with the fruits of land, labor, and love--to bless its giver and its recipient this Easter Season and beyond. Amen.

What is the difference between the Christ Candle and the Paschal Candle?

Christ Candle

- A white candle that some congregations place in the center of the Advent Wreath
  - It is not an ELCA established practice
  - There is no historical purpose – used by some congregations for their own purpose
  - There is no liturgical purpose
- It is lit on Christmas Day (not Christmas Eve) and during the weeks of Christmas when the Advent Wreath is used
- There is no provision for use outside being part of the Advent Wreath

Paschal Candle

- It represents Christ's triumph over the darkness of sin and death.
- It is renewed each year at the Vigil of Easter (Saturday before Resurrection Sunday):
  - which begins in darkness, symbolic of the darkness of the sepulcher that held the crucified Christ
  - where a new fire is kindled, representing the Risen Christ, the Light of the World
  - it is lit from this new fire
- It is used:
  - during 50 days of Easter; the period from Easter Sunday through the Day of Pentecost
  - at Baptisms (placed near the Baptismal Font), the candle presented to the baptized is lit from the Paschal Candle
  - at Funerals (placed near the head of the casket) as a reminder that "In our Baptism we have already died and been raised with Christ." (Romans 6:3-5)
  - after the Day of Pentecost, the unlit Paschal Candle is placed near the Baptismal Font as a visual reminder that in our Baptism we are crucified and resurrected with Christ.

Youth & Family News

Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

Thursday, April 1st (Maundy Thursday): First Communion during 7:30 pm Service
Sunday, April 4th (Easter): Recorded Children's Easter Program at the 9 am Service
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 during April for our kids grades Pre-K thru 6th. We will be focusing on the Bible and familiarizing the children with reading the Bible and how to find the books, chapters and verses in the Bible. Each week we will focus on a Bible Lesson and reinforce the lesson with crafts, games and snacks. We look forward to seeing the children each week!

The children who completed Fed and Forgiven First Communion classes in March will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday during service. Please join us at 7:30 pm for service and support these children as they receive this important gift of grace in their Christian education journey. Praise and thanks be to God!

Children's Easter Program

This year's Easter Program, Props for Easter, will be recorded and played during service on Easter Sunday. Watch as the kids discover their Easter baskets on Easter morning only to find they are not filled with chocolate bunnies and other goodies like they expect. What they find are items that explain what Easter is really about – the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Thank you to our talented kids and their families for their flexibility, time and commitment, and thanks be to God for His grace, mercy and most importantly Jesus who died for us and was resurrected on the very first Easter!

Mission Updates:

April's Projects

Stay tuned for more details about April's service project. We will be supporting the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank in April. We usually collect food & funds for the AAIC Interfaith Hunger Walk that takes place the first weekend in May, but this walk is again virtual this year. All proceeds from this walk support the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank. We are looking at some fun ways we can have our own walk at Zion, raise some money, collect some food and volunteer at the Foodbank in April. Check our website, Facebook, bulletin announcements and your emails for more information that will be coming soon.

We also have our virtual kick off meeting on April 8th for the 2021 Habitat for Humanity Faith Build. We will share all that we learn about the families and future volunteer opportunities for the Faith Build after the meeting. We pray for God's help and guidance in this very important project.

Stark County Humane Society Second Update

Thank you again to everyone that supported our Humane Society Collection in February. We received additional donations of needed items and cash after our first delivery and made a second trip to drop off the additional items and a check for $1,115 (total cash donations). We are so grateful for everyone's support! 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. There is also a list of needed items on the webpage if you would like to continue to help them out. Thanks be to God for everyone's love and generosity!

A note from Jim Fiddler:

The Stark County Humane Society (SCHS) is a private, 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to rescuing stray, sick, abused and abandoned dogs and cats, restoring them to physical health, and securing their adoption into loving homes. It receives no funds from any governmental agency and relies totally on the generosity of the community through memberships, donations, bequests and fundraisers.

The SCHS continues to be a lead shelter in the entire country in terms of number and percentage of successful adoptions, animals successfully rehabilitated, and having one of the lowest euthanasia rates in the United States. Despite the problems created by the Coronavirus Pandemic, the SCHS improved its shelter infrastructure, enhanced its veterinary capacity and utilized modern technological tools and imaginative use of social media to continue to successfully help those animals in need.

Its success is due to the support of the community and the hard work of dedicated staff, veterinarians, employees and, until the advent of COVID-19 restrictions, volunteers. Zion Lutheran's Congregation has for several years supported the SCHS through financial and in-kind contributions, through its response to the Society's published "Wish List" and through volunteer work, which it is hoped will be resuming in the next few months. Zion Lutheran expects to one day soon see the return of our furry friends to Zion's Vacation Bible School and other events as Zion continues to support efforts "To Speak for Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves".

Vitalant Blood Drive Schedule for 2021

Thank you to all of our donors that have given blood in our past drives. We are so grateful for your donations because they truly are the gift of life. We hope everyone who is able will give at our future blood drives. Below is the list of future dates:

- 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

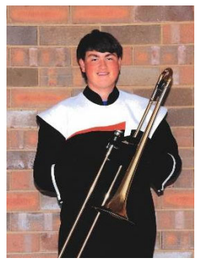
Additional information about blood donation is available at www.vitalant.org. You can also schedule appointments online for any of the above drives or contact Debbie Fox, and she can schedule your appointment.

Youth Spotlight

Amelia Milek

- 8th Grader at Oakwood Middle School
- Is doing remote learning this year
- Enjoys trying new recipes and baking at home
- Enjoys family hikes on the Stark Parks and Hoover Trails

Christopher "Chris" Thompson



- Junior at NC Hoover High School
- Studies Honor English, AP PreCalculus and AP Chemistry
- Has been playing trombone since 8th grade and earned first chair his sophomore year
- Earned a position on Hoover's Marching Band, Symphonic Band, the Traveling Ensemble and Honors Band all three years of High School
- Takes trombone lessons with Mr. Dennis Sarver
- Participates in a tennis league at North Canton Racquet Club
- Inducted into National Honor Society this year
- Member of Zion's Tech Team

Weston Milek

- Junior at GlenOak High School
- In the Engineering Program at school
- Enjoys playing basketball with his friends in his free time
- Works at Jimmy John's

Pastor's Ponderings
April, 2021

Easter is coming. Will we be ready? Will we be open?
It seems like forever ago, but you may recall that last Easter we had only virtual worship services. It was new, it was exciting, it was better than not being in church at all. Over this past year of pandemic, many people have worked diligently to make virtual connections a reality so that you can continue to be a disciple (student) of Christ, worship and give thanks to God for all God has done for your, and encourage one another in our walk following The Way.

How have you been doing on your end? Are you fully utilizing all that is made available to you?

- Weekly in-person worship – Sunday in the worship space and Wednesday in gym with even more physically distanced seating
- Video recordings – available in several formats:
    - published on our website: Zion-NC.com
    - posted on our Face Book account: @zionnorthcanton
    - saved to CDs and DVDs to be mailed to those who don't have internet
- Bible Discussion via Zoom – we currently have two, but if neither time works for you, get a couple people together and let us know what does work. No internet available to you? Maybe a conference phone call will work for you. Same thing, get a few people together and let us know.
- Prayer chain – offering daily prayer for our siblings in Christ who are in need. It is initiated by email, but you can be a part if you just have a phone – we'll call you with the names of those for whom to pray.
- Face Book – a good communication tool (if you use it) to be in touch, see what's happening, see/hear my weekly articles: Psalm Paraphrase, Gospel Message, and Stewardship Moment, and maybe even have your mood lightened by a church joke or two.

So, what are you waiting for, an invitation? Well, here it is: You are invited to be part of the life of Christ here in this place and time. Need something more? Let us know what it is, we like to hear your ideas, we love to have your help. We are in this together.

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

FREE ADMISSION!
Zion Lutheran Church
Cruise-In
Friday
June 25, 2021
5:00pm - 8:00pm
Rain Date 7/02/21
For more information contact
Darlene at: (330) 412-4336
Music by "Spikeman"
5 Awards
Pastor's Choice Award
Dash Plaques,
Door Prizes, Food
50/50 Drawing
to benefit
Valor Home
Helping Homeless
Veterans
349 Lindy Lane Ave., North Canton

PRESIDING BISHOP

GOD *will* TRANSFORM THIS CHURCH

By Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. That's our name. At least two parts of our name, "Evangelical" and "Church," are either misunderstood or an outright stumbling block for a significant percentage of the American population.

Pew Research reports that over one-fifth of the U.S. public—and a third under 30—are religiously unaffiliated. These are the "nones." The religiously unaffiliated, whether never churched or dechurched, don't have a favorable impression of church. They see it as extremist, full of hypocrites, judgmental, anti-science, anti-intellectual, dogmatic, overly concerned about other people's morality, naïve and out of touch. Ouch.

In the eyes of the nones, the ELCA gets lumped in with everyone else. Though we aren't perfect, and some of the characteristics of church apply to us at various times, we have a theology based on a liberating gospel of Jesus Christ that is the ***euangelion***—the good news. The "Evangelical" in our name points to the transforming love of Jesus, to reconciliation, to freedom, to grace. It's expansive, for everyone and all creation. It doesn't require our effort or our merit, only our trust in God's promise.

It's not naïve. Scripture, Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and others were clear-eyed about the reality of human sin and brokenness and the devastating consequences for individuals, groups of people and creation that result. There is judgment, but it is God's, not ours. Our evangelical understanding of God's word is that it is both law and gospel, judgment and promise. We aren't an everything goes, antinomian church.

I remember the light bulbs going off in my catechism students' heads when learning about grace. Does it give us license to do anything we want? Paul had to address the same line of thinking in the letter to the Romans. No. Grace makes it possible to be honest with ourselves and face our sin because the Spirit grants us the space, time and desire to turn from our sin to the source of life.

Our evangelical witness is full of paradox—we are simultaneously saint and sinner. Yes, there is hypocrisy in the church—welcome to humanity! But there is also beauty and love poured by the Spirit into sometimes stubborn and broken hearts. There is law and gospel. We are at once perfectly free and lord of all and bound and servant of all (Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian*).

Our evangelical witness is that God called the creation good; that we have been given the gift of curiosity that compels us to study the natural world, to engage in scientific research. The more we know about creation, the closer we draw to the Creator. We aren't anti-intellectual—Luther was a college professor after all.

I happen to know some millennials who had conversations with their none neighbors. These conversations were open and engaged. The none neighbors carried the above-mentioned perceptions of church, but they also knew that their millennial friends served as Young Adults in Global Mission and were active in their congregation. The nones were trying to reconcile their perceptions of church with their experience of actual Lutherans—one of whom is a scientist. Without that relationship, the nones would never have known a true evangelical witness to the liberating good news of Jesus.

In this issue you have read about Future Church (page 20). God is calling us into this exciting mission, and the Spirit will activate each of us to invite people to know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. The ELCA can hold up our evangelical witness, which is an alternative face of Christianity—not for institutional survival, but so that more people will experience the deep love of Jesus, be transformed and liberated by that love and "work for justice and peace" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Holy Baptism).

This mission will take all of us, and it means actual relationships with real people led by an incarnational God. I believe that God will transform this church. †

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Her email address is **bishop@elca.org**.

Living Lutheran (March 2021).
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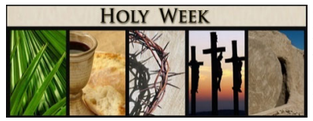


Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and proceeds through the four days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday. This is the defining season of Christianity and you are encouraged to grow closer to your Savior by fully participating in all four worship experiences.

Palm Sunday, Wednesday March 24 at 7:00 pm and Sunday March 28 at 9:00 am
On this day, united with Christians around the world, we mark Jesus' triumphant entry in to the holy city of Jerusalem to complete the work of our salvation. We follow his footsteps as we enter the church, our Jerusalem, acclaiming the one whose throne was the cross.

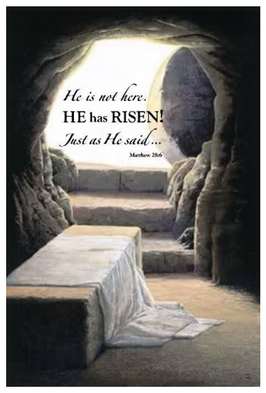
Worship Pattern: we gather with palms and joy to hear the reading of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Worship continues in the usual pattern.

Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:30 pm
On this night we begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life. The Maundy Thursday service includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (*madatum*, from which *Maundy* comes) to love one another. On this night in which Jesus was handed over to death we also gather around the Lord's supper. At the service conclusion, the altar area is stripped of furnishings as a sign of Jesus' abandonment.[1]

Worship Pattern: we gather in the gym to experience the Living Last Supper and join with First Communicants in receiving Christ's body and blood. Service concludes with silent procession to the worship space where we sing *Were You There,* followed by the solemnity of stripping the chancel as Psalm 22 is chanted.

Good Friday, April 2 at 7:30 pm
On this night, the journey continues through the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. At the heart of this service is the passion reading according to John, which celebrates Christ's victory on the cross. As Jesus draws all people to himself, we pray for the whole world for which Christ died. Finally, we honor the cross as the sign of forgiveness, healing, and salvation. With all God's people we are invited to before this mystery of faith. Christ has died, so that we may live. [1]

Worship Pattern: we gather in silence, pray for one another, hear God's Word, glorify the cross, and ponder what Christ did for us and the whole world.

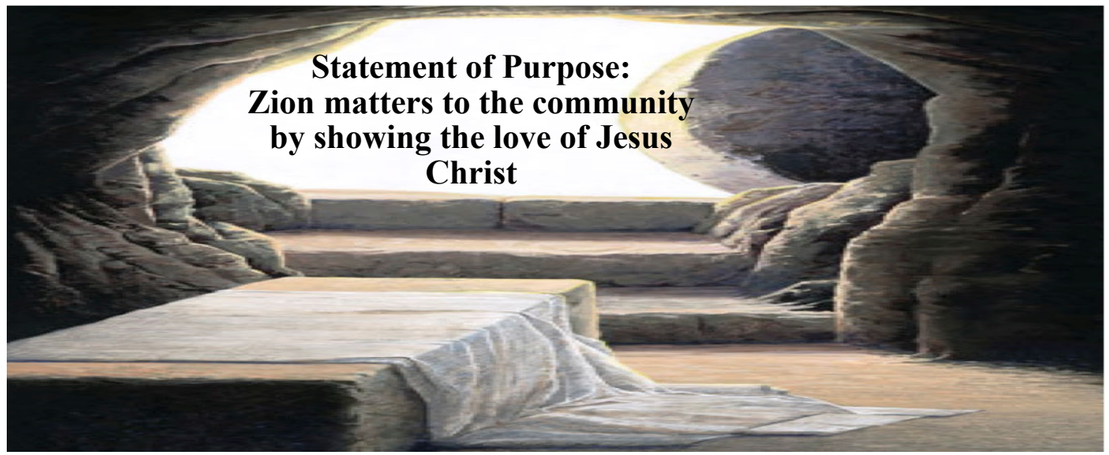


Resurrection Sunday, April 4 at 9:00
Every Sunday in worship, the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On this day, we rejoice anew. Easter is the day of all days. The tomb could not keep Jesus. As Christ is risen, we too shall be raised. Come, join with all the faithful across the world as we raise our voices in triumphant song and share the meal of Holy Communion which Christ set before us. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He's Risen indeed! Alleluia!

[1]Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Leaders Desk Edition, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2006

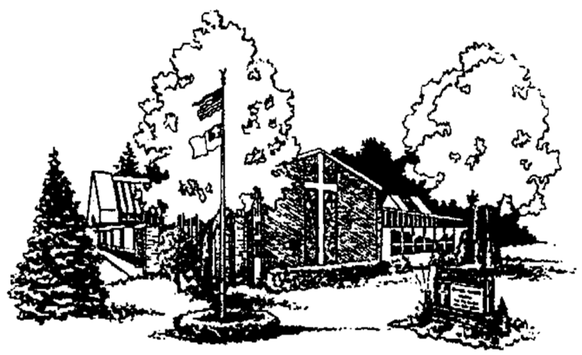
Zion Lutheran Church
349 Lindy Lane NW
North Canton, OH 44720
An ELCA Congregation

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.	***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***

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