THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News June 2021

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."
Proverbs 22:6

*"I will be a **father** to him, and he'll be a son to me."*
2 Samuel 7:14

Message from the President:

First of all, I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president of council. I have truly enjoyed working with all the great people on council and all of you in this congregation. The Holy Spirit is here with us and guiding us to do Jesus work. You are making a difference in our community. I have been blessed to be a part of this. I am excited to continue showing our love of Christ by loving everyone and helping them. Zion has done and is doing great things. We need to keep it going. We need to support our leaders by helping them in any way possible. We need a hundred percent participation. There is always something you can do. You can pray for your council, members of the church, neighbors, and the world. If you have a phone you can call a member or a neighbor that is home bound or lonely. You can send cards, etc. I thank God for putting me here at Zion. You have all been here for me, teaching me, supporting me, and being an example of how to live our faith. As Pastor William says, "It's not easy to be a Christian." It is hard work, but it is worth it. I may not be president any more, but I am always here for you. I am just a phone call away. I am here to support our leaders and our congregation in any way I can. I am going to use another quote from Pastor William, "**Jesus loves you and so do I**".

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

MINISTRY REPORTS

CARING MINISTRY

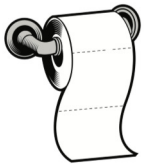
During the month of April the Food Pantry served 121 households consisting of a total of 290 people. As a comparison, 124 households with 297 people were served during March 2021. The adult and senior groups with and without children remain high. In April 2020 we served 89 households with 159 people; therefore, we have increased our Ministry by 35% more households and 45% more people respectively over last year

The Caring Ministry is looking for a Team Leader for the Transportation team. This person would receive calls from shut-ins or nursing home residents for rides to church; therefore, the leader would find a team member to pick up the resident that Sunday.

We are also forming a Return Home Team that would provide a hot meal for a family when a family member returns from the hospital. This would also involve providing a hot meal occasionally for a shut-in, just to check on them and show we care. I am looking for a Team Leader and members interested in joining this team.

Anyone interested in filling any of these positions, please contact me at ggrossjr@neo.rr.com and I will get back to you.

June Item of the Month – we would like to collect 65 rolls of toilet paper and 65 cans of hearty/chunky soup for our pantry families this month. Thanks to everyone who donated jelly and laundry detergent 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 boy's clothing, sizes 5 to 18. We are collecting new socks, men's & women's all sizes.

PRAYER CHAIN

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

Lord, thank you for providing the people that currently lead and work our Supporting Teams. Help us to expand these teams with new members and leaders as we move forward from COVID-19. Amen.

G. Scott Gross
Caring Ministry Elder

RESOURCE MINISTRY

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! What a glorious time of year; sun is shining, temperatures are improving, and flowers and shrubbery are blooming for God's creation. The Holy Spirit is alive and well at Zion and we are especially looking forward to the execution of our slate of 2021 community activities.

With your generous support, our April 2021 giving exceeded 2020 by more than 30% and Year-to-Date giving is currently up 70% versus 2020. All phases of giving are up, and we are especially thankful for your response to our monthly designated giving opportunities. Your giving provides a solid foundation to fund our 2021 ministry plans as we begin their implementation with relaxation of pandemic constraints. God's blessings to you all for this outstanding show of support!

Lord, thank you for the inspiration and the necessary resources to do your work at Zion and in our community. Help us to recognize the needs and to appropriately respond to them. We do this in honor of your name, Amen.

Faithfully yours,

John Rhodes
Resource Ministry Elder

SOCIAL MINISTRY

We are all looking forward to growing our relationship with Jesus Christ and growing our relationship with our community. And doing these together is even better. It looks like we will be able to be in person this summer.

First, "Cruise In" Friday June 25th to benefit The Valor Home which is a local organization that supports homeless veterans. There is a separate flyer in this Newsletter with much more information. See you there!

Second, as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) God's Work Our Hands day, we will have a Fall Festival for the community on Saturday, September 11th. Pumpkins, games, bonfires, and food, more details to come. We'll need your help and support, so please save the date.

Not only is there a place for you in this church, there is a great need for your time and skills for doing God's work in the world. Everywhere you look, there are opportunities to share God's love and serve our neighbor. This is work we do together and in the name of Jesus Christ here and throughout the world. Did you know that many Zion members not only serve at our church but also are on the boards and volunteer committees of many local organizations like the Stark County Humane Society, Akron Zoo, Habitat for Humanity, Akron Canton Food Bank, Hoover and Jackson Academic, Sports and Music associations and many, many other organizations? At Zion, we will continue to provide you visibility to opportunities here and at local organizations but feel free to find more! There is a great need for your time and skills for doing God's work in this world.

Dear Lord, thank you for the many blessings we have in our lives. Open our eyes to see the needs in our community and to see that we have the ability to matter in the lives of our neighbors. Give us the courage and strength to take action. Amen.

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.

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 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.

SMALL GROUPS

Do you have a passion for a certain hobby or have a talent you would like to share? Maybe your passion is art or crafts. How about sign language or learning a new language? Or even cooking or reading. If you have an interest in learning something or have something you would like to share, please let me know. We would like to start a few small groups in the fall that would meet throughout the year. It is a great way to get to know a member better and also share the same interest.

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. I will need a few volunteers to help hand out information so please let me know if you are available.

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

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Heavenly Father. Help us to stay focused to ways we can help our brothers and sisters and to show your love. Amen

Sue Whalen
Witness Ministry Elder

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Our Worship Ministry is busy in providing you a meaningful and spiritual worship experience every week:

- Starting June 2, the Governor will lift all Covid restrictions in Ohio. At Zion Lutheran, we take everyone's health safety seriously and will proceed with caution. At their June 9 meeting, our Church Council will be asked by the Worship Ministry to review our Covid precautions and may modify them with safety and current CDC (Centers for Disease Control) recommendations as our guiding standards. After Church Council's meeting on June 9, our procedures will be posted on our website (Zion-nc.com) and our Facebook page.
- Special Father's Day recognition will be made at our June 16 (Wednesday) and June 20 (Sunday) services to the men in our congregation. Come and hear God's plan for the men of our church and for all men everywhere.
- All Church Council members (new and returning) will be installed at our Sunday, June 27, service. Their responsibilities officially begin on July 1.
- Our July 4th Sunday service (and Wednesday June 30 service) will recognize God's blessings to our nation through music. Join us for this special time as Americans celebrate our birth as a nation.
- Nursery supervision for children at our Wednesday services began on May 19 and will continue throughout the summer. This supervision will be provided for our Sunday service when children begin to return for Sunday worship.

Our Worship Ministry meets at church on the third Tuesday of every month. Zion members are invited to join us. If you have a special request for our agenda, please notify Paul Bagocius (paulbagocius@aim.com or 330-329-4678) by the

Tuesday before.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for providing us at Zion with the opportunity to worship You, Your Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let us use this opportunity to guide us to do Your work within our lives and within our community. Amen.

Paul Bagocius
Worship Ministry Elder

COMFORT GIVERS

People are looking at our website. We had a lady who saw, on our website, that we were making prayer shawls and blankets to give to those who are in need of prayers and support. She contacted us through the website. Here is her message:

Hi, my name is Kimberly and I am terminally ill in hospice but at home with my parents and caregivers. I am bedfast and on oxygen 24/7 and have a bad heart, and drop foot and will never walk again. Please send me a prayer shawl, it would really cheer me up. Please pray for me that I will not suffer very much longer, and I will see Jesus soon. I have been a Christian 27 years. She sent this thank you note: *I want to thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. I appreciate it so much. God Bless you. Have a Blessed Day! Kimberly.*

I texted Kimberly today and she answered: *Darlene thank you so much I loved the shawl. I am doing a lot worse, please keep me in your prayers. God Bless you, Kimberly.*

Please send Kimberly a card, which would show that we are here to support her and show her that God loves her and so do we. Here is her address: Kimberly Rankin, 212 West Hill Street, Oak Hill, Ohio 45656.

We have prayer lap blankets and shawls available for anyone who needs one. Please contact Darlene if you know of someone.

Dear Lord, help us to reach out and help those in need. Help us show them Your love and that You are always with them. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Darlene Milavickas

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN APRIL 2021

April Income	$26,190.45
Income through April	$109,661.52
April Expenses	$29,257.22
Expenses through April	$129,721.70

We thank you for your generous support!

News from Zion's Youth

Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

Wednesday, June 2nd: Summer Sunday School - 6 pm
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 this summer for our kids grades Pre-K thru 6th. Starting Wednesday, June 2nd, we will be doing group activities outside (in the gym if the weather is bad) that include short lessons, service projects, games and more. Join us for fun, learning and sharing God's love!

Vacation Bible School

With the changing protocols and guidelines from the Governor, CDC and Health Department, we are looking at the possibility of having VBS this summer. We need to determine if we have enough volunteers and a date that will work. If you are interested in teaching, helping in a classroom or rotation, leading crafts, leading music or leading outdoor games, please contact Debbie Fox at dfox521@sbcglobal.net with your interest and availability. Stay tuned for more details. We will communicate our plan as soon as we have one. Please pray for God's guidance in helping us to do His will for the children in our community.

Vitalant Blood Drive Schedule Update

Due to a staffing issue, Vitalant has had to cancel the Blood Drive scheduled for Wednesday, July 21st.

Below is the list of Blood Drives scheduled for the rest of 2021:

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 3pm - 7pm (gym)
Sunday, November 14, 2021 10am - 2pm (gym)

Again, you can schedule appointments online at http://www.vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal for any of the above drives or contact Debbie Fox, and she can schedule your appointment.

Virtual Hunger Walk Update

Thank you for everyone's support and donations for the Virtual Hunger Walk. A check was sent to the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank for $370 ($185 in Congregational donations and $185 in matching funds from the Youth Fund). Let's continue to fight hunger for all the families in our community who are experiencing food insecurity.

Summer Service Project

We will collect items for the four North Canton elementary schools and Early Childhood Center in North Canton throughout the summer. These items will help the teachers and staff members throughout the next school year as they educate our youth. We will also collect monetary donations to provide $100 gift cards for at least one teacher in each

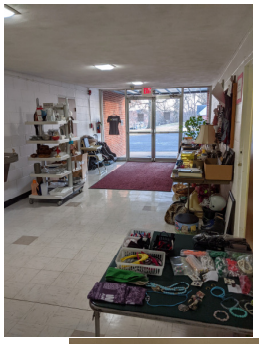
building. We will match the first $500 in donations from the Youth Fund for this project. The principals have told us that they many times choose new teachers who are beginning to build their classrooms with educational material and our help is greatly appreciated. Last summer we helped a teacher build her leveled reading library. Let's keep helping our educators as they make such an impact on the lives of the children.

Collection bins and lists of needed items will be posted in Luther Hall this month. Thank you in advance for your support. Let's show our schools God's love in action with this project!

Shared Good Place (FKA the Clothing Closet)

Starting in June, we are changing our evening hours for the Shared Goods Place. Zion's Shared Goods Place will be open on the following Mondays - June 14th, July 19th, August 16th, September 20th, October 18th, November 15th and December 20th from 6 – 8 pm. This is in addition to the first and third Tuesday of every month from 1 - 2 pm.

Our Shared Goods Place is growing every month. As many have noticed we have items in the back halls and three rooms right now. We also set up tables in the gym when we have an abundance of items. We just want to say thank you for all the donations we receive that have helped so many. Many of the people who "shop" each time are thrilled with the items they find. One woman, while waiting to pick up her food, was so excited to share with us that she was wearing a whole new outfit that she got the last time she was in the Shared Goods Place. She even commented that her jacket still had tags. Others have shared that they do their Christmas shopping and other gift shopping and really appreciate being able find items for gifts. Another gentleman was so overwhelmed when he learned about the Shared Good Place on his first Food Pantry Visit. He just could not believe he could go in and get items for free. Thanks be to God for everyone's generous donations of your gently used items that help so many. We can also use volunteers to help set up, sort through clothes and to help during the times we are open. Please consider helping out!



The Picks Are in for the 2021-2022 Book Discussion Group

The book discussion group will kick off our 2021-2022 season on September 3rd with a discussion of the book *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard J. Foster. Foster (born 1942) is a Christian theologian and author in the Quaker tradition.

Celebration of Discipline examines the ***inward*** disciplines of prayer, fasting, meditation, and study in the Christian life, the ***outward*** disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission, and service, and the ***corporate*** disciplines of confession, worship, guidance, and celebration. Foster says (chapter 1) that, "God has given us the Disciplines of the spiritual life as a means of receiving his grace. The Disciplines allow us to place ourselves before God so that he can transform us."

On October 1st, we'll be discussing veterinarian James Herriot's 1972 book *All Creatures Great and Small (*subsequent books are called *All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Things Wise and Wonderful, Every Living Thing, The Lord God Made Them All).*

The complete list of books for the season is posted on the church bulletin board. We meet the first Friday of the month, September through June, at 10am, in the Adult Education room. All are welcome, for one book discussion or for all. Please let Linda Weidenbach know if you are coming so we can plan for physical distancing.

Linda Weidenbach's email is lindakjw@gmail.com and her phone number is 850-766-5640.

EQUAL EXCHANGE at Zion is always looking for new ways to feature the all-around good (!) products available for purchase. There were Easter-time baskets and Mother's Day teacups and now, there is an opportunity to become the owner of a "KitchenAid" coffee bean grinder along with a 1# bag of CONGO PROJECT COFFEE. (At the present, this is the only whole bean product on our shelves. All other coffee choices are drip grind or single serve.) A payment of $5.00 for this $28.00 VALUE will buy 6 tickets. Put your contact information on each and drop into the collection basket. The drawing will be Father's Day--Sunday, June 20th.

VIA de CRISTO—If you would like to increase and/or strengthen your faith and walk with God then I highly recommend spending a three day weekend with like minded fellow Christians and possibly the best time of your life. Via de Cristo is a mountain top experience that you will remember for the rest of your life. There are women's, men's, and couples weekend to attend. If you are interested, there are a few flyers on the bulletin board with more of an explanation or you may contact Ruth Reinoehl at 330-284-6080.

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Seminary Scholarship Golf Outing will be Saturday, July 17, 2021.
Shot gun start at 9 am.
Open to Everyone
Proceeds to benefit Men & Women entering the ministry
Location—The Pines Golf Club, 1319 N. Milbourn Road, Orrivlle, Ohio 44667

June 30th deadline for reservation and payment.
Contact Bernie Bresson @ LMM6bres@gmail.com
Phone: cell—330-704-3449 home—330-875-2362

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

Habitat for Humanity Faith Build 2021 Update

We received our three volunteer work dates for the Habitat Faith Build:

Saturday, June 5, 2021: 8:15am – 12 pm

- Location: Site B – The Thomas Family
- Task: Deck
- Number of Volunteers: 6-8
- Minimum Age: 18
- Lunch: Deliver 12 lunches between 10:30am-11:00am

Saturday, June 12, 2021: 8:15am-2:30pm

Location: Site C – The Cundiff Family

- Task: Exterior Walls
- Number of Volunteers: 6-8
- Minimum Age: 18
- Lunch: Deliver 12 lunches between 11:30am-noon

Saturday, July 10, 2021: 8:15 am – 2:30 pm

Location: Site A – The Burch Family

- Task: Siding
- Number of Volunteers: 5-7
- Minimum Age: 18
- Lunch: Deliver 11 lunches between 11:30am-noon

Sign-up sheets for the above dates are located in Luther Hall. Please sign-up as soon as possible because spots are filling up. We would like to have as many different people sign up as possible. If you are unable to volunteer on site, there is an opportunity to prepare and deliver lunches to the site for each of our work days. Lunches need to be bagged with all items individually wrapped. You can also sign-up to help with lunches in Luther Hall.

We are so excited to get to building for these families and pray for God's help and guidance. We also pray for everyone's safety and that the builds stay on schedule for these amazing and patient families who have had to wait an additional year for their homes due to the pandemic.

Artistic rendering of the planned 2021 Faith Build

Impact Story #1

ELCA COVID-19 relief grants

We are church together!

In 2020, all aspects of congregational life were upended by COVID-19. Worship, education, fellowship, and outreach all had to be hastily adapted and sometimes greatly restricted, for the safety of members, staff, and neighbors. And as unemployment increased and families struggled financially, so did many of our churches. In an effort to help those congregations with the greatest need who also provide vital services to their surrounding communities, the ELCA created the COVID-19 Response Fund.

The ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund provides grants to congregations and local ministries serving communities with the highest health risks or economic impacts from the pandemic. The grants allow these churches and ministries to continue paying staff, and providing food, water, shelter, or health care to people in need. And they're only possible because of YOUR mission support. Thank you for sharing your gifts to provide life-changing opportunities across our Church.

Advent Lutheran also provided COVID-19 testing last summer.

Advent Lutheran Church in Cleveland serves a community with high unemployment and high infant mortality rates. Advent's Pastor Leonard Killings reports that, thanks to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, the congregation was able to continue operating its Lee Miles Hunger Center, fill holiday food baskets the congregation provides annually to needy families, and purchase winter coats for needy children. The congregation incurred both financial losses and additional expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic, but this support from the wider church helps Advent continue its life-saving ministries. The people of Advent are grateful to receive the ELCA COVID 19 Response funds.

In the coming months we'll be sharing more stories like these – examples of how your mission support funds vital synodical and churchwide ministries. If you have a story of how Mission Support funds have benefited a ministry near or far, please share it with us at *info@neos-elca.org.*

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

Return Service Requested

Statement of Purpose:

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

Worship Services
Sunday Morning: 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
Wednesday Evening: 7:00 p.m. Outside 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***

Website: www.zion-nc.com Like us on Facebook @zionnorthcanton