

# The Zion Herald

Proclaiming Good News

February 2022

For God

so loved the world

that He gave His

only

begotten

Son so

that whosoever

believes

in Him shall not

perish but have

eternal life.



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John 3:16

# Sunday, February 27, 2022

## Important Congregational Meeting following the 9 am Worship service.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

February is the month that is the most challenging in many ways. It constitutes the middle of winter and brings us more wet, snowy, icy, cloudy, gray and overcast days than any other month. Uncertainty about the weather makes us reticent about planning events designed to bring us together to celebrate each other's company and acknowledge that human interdependence that is such an integral part of God's plan.

But February is also the month where we vow to strengthen our resolve to carry on Zion's Mission to make a difference in the community. At the Congregational Meeting following the Worship Service on Sunday, February 27, 2022, the Council, *inter alia*, will be asking the Congregation to approve recommendations concerning the parsonage, kitchen renovations and candidates for leadership positions. We ask that the Congregation fairly and thoughtfully consider whether the proposals are consistent with utilization of our resources to fulfill Zion's Mission.

If I may be excused for paraphrasing John Wesley, founder of Methodism, the Council is trying to ensure that Zion remains in a position "To do as much good as we can, for as many people as we can, in as many ways as we can, as well as we can, for as long as we can."

Lord, strengthen our resolve to always be of service to others, thereby demonstrating our love for You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Fidler  
Council President



### CARING MINISTRY

During the month of December the Food Pantry served 159 households consisting of a total of 386 people. As a comparison, 175 households with 408 people were served during November 2021. The adults without children dropped by 6 while the seniors without children, fell by 19. The seniors with minor children have basically remained the same, while the adults with minor children have increased by 4. The number of children served in December remained at November's 107. In December 2020 we served 153 households consisting of 350 people; therefore, we have increased our Ministry by 4% more households and 10% more people respectively over last year. The December client numbers are 6 % below the November Thanksgiving numbers.

Past trends show January client numbers will continue to drop.

The blood supply is currently critical in our area. If you were not able to donate at our January 16<sup>th</sup> drive, Please consider donating at Vitalant's Canton Location: 4119 Tuscarawas Street W. To credit our account, our ID number is 1525.

**FOOD PANTRY**—February's items of the month are kleenex, jelly, and creamed soup.

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 SHRED GOODS PLACE** is in need of household items such as; bath towels, hand towels, tea towels, dishes, pots, pans, etc. We are collecting **new underwear and socks in**

**all children and adult sizes.** We need all sizes of winter gloves.

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



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

*O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry. When I have work, help me to remember the jobless. When I have a home, help me to remember the homeless. Amen.*

G. Scott Gross  
Caring Ministry Elder

## LEARNING MINISTRY

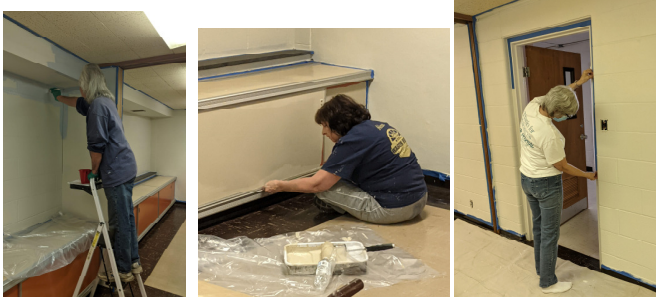
### Adult Sunday School

Thank you to Cindy Bagocius and Carol Rossbach for leading our Adult Sunday School group while Pastor William was on vacation in January. There was great feedback on the topics covered, and we so appreciate their willingness to lead the group. Pastor William will lead the group during the month of February. Join us for an engaging and worthwhile discussion each week!

### Sunday School - Pre-K thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

We started our new Curriculum, Simply Loved, in January, and things are going well! Join us at 10:15 am on Sunday mornings for Sunday School for fun and learning. We truly look forward to seeing the kids each week!

We are sprucing up our classrooms during the first couple of months this year with paint, floor cleaning & buffing and a little bit of decorating! Because of this, the kids will meet by the Coffee Bar each Sunday morning and then head off to class because class location may change temporarily while we do the work!



## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study group will finish their study of Haggai and Ezra on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The next session will start Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Stay tuned for details on what we will be discussing next! If you are interested in joining Women's Bible Study or have ideas for what to study, please contact Sue Whalen at [susanw61@neo.rr.com](mailto:susanw61@neo.rr.com).

## Weekly Bible Discussions

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

God, please help and guide us we further our education into your Word. Help us to open our minds, our ears and our hearts to what You are telling us, and to do what You want! Please help us to serve our community's and congregation's needs. Amen

Debbie Fox  
Learning Ministry Elder

## PARISH LIFE

Our seasonal Advent dinners were well received with approximately 35 members attending each week. All enjoyed an evening of hardy food and fellowship prior to the fulfilling worship service.

A heartfelt thanks to all those who volunteered their time and/or cooking talents for a wonderful variety of soups and desserts for our advent meals. A special thank you to Dave Palumbo, Darlene Milavickas and Debbie Fox for their delicious sandwiches and for taking the lead on those Sundays!

*Dear Lord, may these advent dinners be the foundation upon which we grow in fellowship and love as a parish in the new year. Amen*

Tina Linz  
Parish Life Elder



## RESOURCE MINISTRY

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

Winter has arrived and in over-whelming fashion, I trust you were prepared! The weather has supplied ample opportunities for our Zion Team to show we matter to the community by showing the love of Jesus assisting in the difficult times. Also, your support of the Vitalant Blood Drive on the 16<sup>th</sup> was a shining example of going above and beyond in our commitment of giving the gift of life to those in critical need. This continues your generous support of our holiday ministries who benefited from your spiritual, physical, and financial support to positively impact their lives and provide joy in the holiday season.

Financially, December 2021 Giving was very positive and comparable to 2020 accounting for seasonal bias. The percentages of our giving for Unrestricted / Designated / Restricted categories were appropriately balanced in favor of Unrestricted to support our church operations without penalizing Designated/Restricted desires. **THANK YOU** for your generous support and recognition that Unrestricted giving provides Zion the maximum flexibility to utilize our financial resources to satisfy our operational and ministry functions!

Our December Income Statement reflects a transfer of unutilized Designated or Restricted giving to the Balance Sheet consistent with Fund Accounting principles. Since we had several months where Designated/Restricted giving was dis-proportionately high at expense of Unrestricted, we end the month with deficit budget. Our expenses were under control but our giving habits from earlier in year had to be resolved. Similarly, December year-end results reflect a budget deficit due to the noted giving proportions executed. Our Total Giving was very good, but not in correct proportions to support the budget as intended.

For your information, our Merrill Lynch investment account performed very well this year,

enjoying more than 20% appreciation for the last 12 months. This account provides a very strong base for our Balance Sheet for 2022 and beyond and combining with our Bank Checking Account balance provides the resources to execute our 2022 Budget plans as long as the planned giving is realized. Your continued support will make this happen!

In preparation for our February Congregational meeting, you will be receiving information on two topics: the proposed Kitchen Renovation and recommendations for the Parsonage. Please review them closely and come prepared for discussions about council recommendations for each. They are both important topics to improve our efficiency and capability to support our community ministries and we look forward to your input and support for each of them.

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

Faithfully yours,  
John Rhodes  
Resource Ministry Elder

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

LOVE ♥ is in the air! Yes, St. Valentine's Day is in February. But I was thinking more of the love of Jesus that we share when Zion friends and families come together for worship and service to others.

We love you ♥ for choosing to help with the many services Zion provides to our members and to the community. We love you ♥ for all the hundreds of administrative, support and maintenance needs that you volunteer for around the church. That is sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Keep it up! Keep showing up when it's cold, when there are many other things you can do. Keep choosing to show up even when you don't have to. Knowing that it's not about what you get, but what you give.

Your heart ♥ will get even bigger!





Ruth Reinoehl asks that those interested please hold the date of March 26th for the Women of the ELCA's Spring gathering. More details to come but the event will run from 8:30 to 1 pm.

## ✝ Men of Zion ✝

When I became a member of Zion a year ago, I indicated that I intended to get the Men of Zion reactivated. Not necessarily with Lutheran Men in Mission, (although that is hoped for), but I believe the most important thing is to get the men TOGETHER on a regular basis. I started a 'regular' Saturday breakfast on Saturday, January 29th. I begin these meetings with a simple continental breakfast, allowing everyone to participate, rather than having someone miss the meeting cleaning up the kitchen.

Our next meeting will be at 8 am on Saturday, February 26th. *(unless the men at our 1/29 meeting change the time and date)*. There are various agendas for us to embrace, but I believe that should be determined as a group, after discussion.

**MEN**, Please, find time to come out to breakfast. Have a talk with friends, and colleagues of Zion.

God will be there, and I hope you will too!!!

Ken Reinoehl

Laura Thompson  
Social Ministry Elder



## WORSHIP MINISTRY

Time to put these important Easter related dates on your calendar:

- Ash Wednesday, March 2nd service at 7pm.

**NO CASUAL Wednesday evening service on March 2nd.**

- Sunday Evening Lenten services on March 6th, March 13th, March 20th, March 27th, and April 3rd. A light dinner at 5:30 pm and evening services at 6:15pm.
- Palm Sunday Services on Wednesday evening, April 6th and Sunday morning on April 10th.

**There will be NO CASUAL Wednesday evening service on April 13th.**

- Maundy Thursday Service on April 14th at 7 pm.
- Good Friday Service on April 15th at 7:30 pm.
- Easter Morning Service on April 17th at 9 am.

Choir practice begins again on Wednesday, February 2nd at 7:45pm in the Choir room. Come and join this vibrant group of singing worshipers under the direction of Suzanne Walters. No prior experience needed, just a desire to praise our God through song!

Paul Bagocius  
Worship & Music Elder

## COMFORT GIVERS

We were able to help three people this month with our Prayer Shaw and Prayer Lap blanket ministry. It feels so good when we can send someone a prayer shawl or blanket to give them comfort and support knowing someone has said a prayer to help them in their time of need. If you know of anyone who we could help with this ministry, please let us know. We have shawls and lap blankets that we have prayed over and they also have a prayer card attached to them. You can contact Darlene (330- 412-4336) or any other comfort giver.



*Dear Lord, We thank you for all you have given us. We pray you would help open our eyes and hearts to those in need. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*

Darlene Milavickas



### ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN DECEMBER 2021

December Income	\$ 18,905.45
Income through December	\$337,794.01
December Expenses	\$ 38,761.60
Expenses through December	\$373,608.31

*We thank you for your generous support!*

### KITCHEN RENOVATION

I would like to thank everyone who served on the Kitchen Task Force: Randy Cizek, Randy Elsass, Mary Humbert, Dale Jacobs, George Miller, Dave Palumbo, Brian Walters, Pastor Williams and myself. It was wonderful to work with all of you on this task. We presented our recommendations to council on December 14, 2021. We had a few delays with my brother's illness and death and a few scheduling issues, but all in all it went fairly fast. Everyone helped investigate different issues that were brought up. Dale was able to join us by phone and give us his expertise on the needs of the kitchen. Everyone gave us their support with their ideas and research.

This is a great way to serve our Lord and the congregation. The council will ask for a task force to do a specific project. When the project is completed that task force is over. You are not serving a long time, as for example on a ministry. In the past it seemed like if you volunteered for something it was for life. For a task force that is defiantly not true. So when you read or hear that the council is looking to form a task force and you would be interested please step forward and volunteer for it. We are not mind readers. Or if someone comes up to you and asks you to serve on a task force please consider it and say yes. This is a way that everyone can get involved in doing the Lord's work at Zion. We pray every service that we would be disciples who grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and support and encourage those in our congregation that are servants at Zion. So help by being one of those servants.

*Lord, we thank you for the many people of this congregation that help with their time and talents that you have given them to spread the love of Jesus throughout Zion and our community. Keep showing us the way we can do this. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*

God's Blessings,

Darlene Milavickas  
Leader of the Kitchen Task Force



## EQUAL EXCHANGE

The month of February puts us in mind of famous love pairings throughout history—Antony and Cleopatra, Romeo and Juliet, King Arthur and Genevieve, Popeye and Olive Oil . . . the list goes on. In the Bible, there are Adam and Eve, David and Bathsheba, Samson and Delilah. But beware. Each of these pairings had its own set of complications.

I'm here to say there are NO such complications with the Chocolate 'n Coffee Pairings recommended by members of the Equal Exchange Chocolate Supply Chain and Quality Control Team. Here are some of the suggested tasting pairs:

### CHOCOLATE

\*Organic Milk Chocolate  
 Very Dark Chocolate  
 Extra Dark Panama Chocolate  
 \*Orange Dark Chocolate  
  
 \*Mint Chocolate w/ Delicate Crunch  
 \*Dark Chocolate Almond & Sea Salt  
 \*Chocolate with Coconut Milk  
 Total Eclipse 92% Dark

### COFFEE

Mexican Vienna Roast  
 Bolivian Full City Roast  
 \*Breakfast Blend & \*Love Buzz  
 \*Mind, Body, & Soul; Guatemalan Medium  
  
 \*French Roast  
 \*Mind, Body, & Soul; \*Breakfast Blend  
 Ethiopian Full City  
 \*Midnight Sun & Ethiopian Full City

(\*Denotes products we have on hand.)

In order to get the full taste experience, roll that sip of coffee around in your mouth. Let it settle on the center of your tongue. Move it to the sides and the back and then back to center. Consciously determine whether the taste is sweet, sour, bitter, or salty. Be ready for the BITE or SNAP. Don't forget to give the "aftertaste" time to appear.

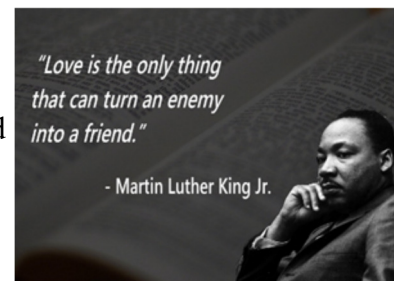
Now take a bite of chocolate to break it up into smaller pieces. Let one of those small pieces dissolve on the center of your tongue. Again, consciously determine its characteristics.

Are you ready to put the two together? Write what you discovered on the blackboard in the Equal Exchange Shoppe in Luther Hall!

## Pastor's Ponderings February, 2022

Here is what I've been pondering lately:

- February 6 we'll hear how Jesus called the first disciples and their response was to leave everything to follow him. Jesus calls us to that same kind of action – yes, really! Are we willing to put aside our wants and desires to follow Jesus; or will we follow only when it is convenient for us?
- February 13 we'll hear how a great multitude came to hear Jesus teach. Sunday morning is like that. We put away our fear of missing out on something else going on to come hear Jesus teach us. What has he got to say to you? Come and see!
- On February 20 we'll hear Jesus give his most dismissed directive; Love your enemies. Or, as Jesus goes on to say; How hard is it to love those who love you; even non-believers do that. How will people know we are Christians? By our love; by our love of those who don't love us.
- Transfiguration ends our month, and precedes the beginning of Lent. This isn't a day to celebrate the history of Jesus being transfigured, it is a day to begin a new life of following God's command; This is my Son, listen to him! Shouldn't listening to Jesus make us behave differently from the rest of the world?



In January, we were reminded of Paul's admonition to the church in Corinth (and us) that we are all part of the body of Christ and that each of us has a role to play in using our gifts for the common good of all. There are many of you who devote time to doing God's work in this place, both physically in the church building, and outward in the community. However, there are even more of us who do little more than show up for worship on Wednesday or Sunday (a good start.) Let us each ponder how our actions enhance the greater common good of all people. Not everyone can do everything, but everyone can do something.



Ask not what others can do for you. Ask what you can do for others.

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

Graciously, Pr. William





## Our Tree of Love for The Stark County Humane Society

We need your help this month! Our “Tree of Love” will be up in Luther Hall this month to help the animals and staff at the Stark County Humane Society. The tree has heart tags and sweet treats for all to take. The tags will have items that are needed most at this time by the Humane Society, and the sweet treat is a small thank you for your love of pets. Please take a treat and tag or two from the tree and place your donation under the tree. We will be collecting through the end of February.

The following is a list of the items that are included on the heart tags:

1. Canned Cat & Dog Food
2. Dry Puppy & Kitten Food
3. Bleach
4. Dog & Cat Toys
5. Thick Slip Leads
6. Towels
7. Cake Pans – 13 x 9



Please help us help the animals who cannot speak for themselves! You can look up more information about the Stark County Humane Society on their website at [www.starkhumane.org](http://www.starkhumane.org) where there is a list of additional items they need, volunteer opportunities and most importantly, pets that need a forever home. Thank you in advance for your support!

### A thank you email from Habitat for Humanity’s Courtney Brown with some photos:

Debbie and the whole Zion Lutheran Family,

Thank you all again for being a blessing to two of our Habitat homeowners, Adriane and Titnasha, who have been going through some challenges this season. They were filled with gratitude when they saw all those gifts, but beyond the material aspect of the presents, they were overwhelmed at your thoughtfulness towards their families.

#### Three pictures are attached:

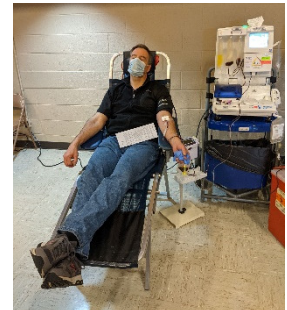
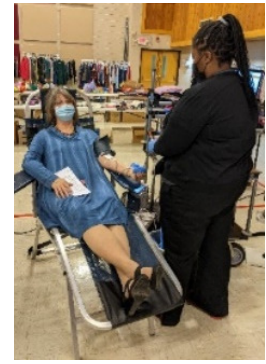
- Adriane and two of her grandkids
- Titnasha
- Santa's Elves



Merry Christmas to all of you,  
Courtney

**Courtney Brown**  
Director of Family + Faith Partnership





**Vitalant Blood Drive – Sunday, January 16th**

Thank you to everyone who came out to donate blood on January 16<sup>th</sup>! Our drive collected 25 units of blood which will help sustain or save the lives of 75 people. To date, Zion's eight blood drives have collected a total of 148 units which will help sustain or save 444 lives! Well done good and faithful servants! Thanks be to God for all who donate!

**Here are the 2022 dates for our scheduled drives:**

Sunday, March 20, 2022: 10 am – 2 pm  
Wednesday, May 18, 2022: 3 pm – 7 pm  
Wednesday, July 27, 2022: 3 pm – 7 pm  
Sunday, September 25, 2022: 10 am – 2 pm  
Sunday, November 20, 2022: 10 am – 2 pm

Please mark your calendars!

**Here is a thank you email from Vitalant:**

Debbie,

Thank you for having another life saving blood drive at Zion Lutheran Church. 25 individuals presented to donate, and we were able to collect 25 units of blood. These generous gifts will be used to save the lives of up to 75 patients in need. Our next blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We will be in touch before the drive. Our staff enjoyed all of the delicious food!

On behalf of Vitalant and the hospitals we serve, I sincerely thank you and all of the wonderful blood donors for your time and continued support.

Happy Tuesday,

**Katy Neff**

Donor Recruitment Representative

d 330.489.1076 | x 2172877

c 330.324.5237

Canton, OH

**Because of you, life doesn't stop.  
Donate blood.**



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

Return Service Requested

**Statement of Purpose:**  
**Zion matters to the community by showing the love of Jesus Christ**

**Worship Services**

Sunday Morning: 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Wednesday Evening: 7:00 p.m. Casual Service

**Church Office Hours**

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

Pastor: The Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.	850-766-5853
Pastor's E-Mail:	Pastor@zion-nc.com
Church Council President: Jim Fidler	330-494-7839
Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler	330-499-3909
Church Office Secretary E-Mail:	Office@zion-nc.com
Christian Ed. Director: Debbie Fox	330-966-2433
Chancel Flowers: Vicki Givler	330-499-3909
Church Office Fax Number	330-499-0801
Prayer Chain: Kay Davis	330-418-0067
Prayer Chain: Email	Prayer@zion-nc.com
Website: <a href="http://www.zion-nc.com">www.zion-nc.com</a> Like us on Facebook @zionnorthcanton	

