

The Zion Herald

Proclaiming Good News

March 2022



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

March is the month of transition, taking us from Winter into Spring. The season which began with the Winter Solstice on December 21st ends with the Spring Equinox on March 20th. We think of Winter as giving us dark, dismal days and cold nights. What we forget is that there is a clear sign of hope to be discerned from the fact that the amount of daylight actually starts to increase incrementally on a daily basis beginning on December 22nd. And although the early days of March have that Winter feel, we are buoyed by the brighter skies, longer days and that unmistakable aura of better times to come. It is a time when we start to experience the exhilaration of confidently planning events that facilitate that interaction with each other that is undeniably part of the Divine Plan.

This year, March ushers in the Lenten Season with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd. As we reflect on the promise of Lent and its culmination in the Greatest Sacrifice ever made for the human race we are truly struck by a sense of Awesome Wonder. We see the Holy Spirit at work at Zion in the constantly ongoing efforts of its members to find innovative and effective ways to meet the needs of the community and demonstrate our love for Him by serving others. The Council, with the enthusiastic support of the Congregation, evaluates and allocates extensive resources to ensure we fulfill our mission to serve the community. We are a Congregation that truly takes joy in serving Him by serving the least of us. And we are Blessed to be a Congregation whose members care for each other and all of God's creatures.

Lord, thank You for loving us. Make us people who continue to find joy in serving others. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Fidler
Council President

MINISTRY REPORTS

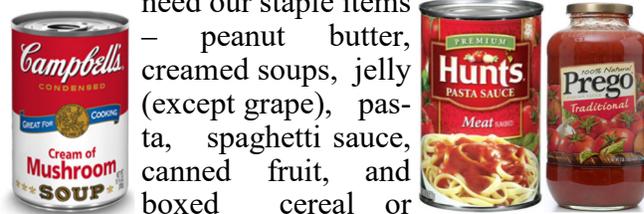
**CARING MINISTRY**

During the month of January, the Food Pantry served 102 households consisting of a total of 262 people. As a comparison, 159 households with 386 people were served during December 2021. The adults without children dropped by 44 while the seniors without children, fell by 27. The seniors with minor children have dropped by 4, while the adults with minor children have dropped by 24. The number of children served in January dropped by 25. In January 2021 we served 122 households consisting of 290 people; therefore, our Ministry has decreased by 16% less households and 10% less people respectively over last year. Our January client numbers are 32% below the December

Christmas numbers. Past trends show January client numbers drop; however, I hope the trend is a sign people are getting jobs and being able to support their families.

FOOD PANTRY—March's items of the month are spaghetti sauce 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 SHARED 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.**





PRAYER CHAIN—Contact Kay Davis at Prayer@zion-nc.com, if you have any prayer requests.

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

Father, in our weakness we look to you, for you alone will make us conquerors through Him who loves us. Amen.

G. Scott Gross
Caring Ministry Elder

LEARNING MINISTRY

Adult Sunday School

Pastor William will be leading the group in a session about Lent this month. Join us for an engaging and worthwhile discussion each week at 10:15 am after service on Sunday!



Sunday School - Pre-K thru 6th Grade



Join us each Sunday morning at 10:15 am after service as we continue to learn about how much God loves us and how we can share that amazing love with others. The “Simply Loved” lessons are fun and engaging, and the kids are doing an awesome job! The kids are welcome to invite a friend – the more the merrier!



Women’s Bible Study

The next session of Women’s Bible Study will begin Wednesday, March 16th at 10:00 am. Details are being finalized about this session’s topic and format! If you are interested in joining Women’s Bible Study or have ideas for what to study, please contact Sue Whalen at witnessministry@zion-nc.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

RESOURCE MINISTRY

May the Lord’s countless blessings shine upon you and grant you Peace! Mother Nature has certainly been very fickle.



In February giving us sun, rain, freezing rain, sleet and snow...potentially all in the same day! It is a glorious time to be alive and see what God is blessing us with each day in Northeast Ohio. I trust you are staying safe and finding positive examples of God’s blessings each day and sharing them with others.

I would like to congratulate you for the positive interaction and support during the February 27 Congregational meeting to address the Kitchen Renovation and Parsonage; two important topics affecting the short-term operations and long-term viability of Zion’s ministries. It is important that you are active participants in the process to align Zion resources with our strategic activities. **Thank you** for your support!

Financially, January 2022 Giving was very disappointing, especially considering the positive December Holiday response. Our Giving was 16% less than January 2021 and 45% less than December. The combined results were approximately \$2,000 / week less than the level needed to support our operating budget which you approved in October, resulting in a significant deficit to start 2022. On the positive side, Giving was more than 90% Unrestricted so we had maximum flexibility to satisfy expenses. There may be many possible influences for this unsatisfactory “post-holiday” Giving performance, but they need your recognition of need for significant

improvement and acknowledgement that sharing your financial resources are the foundation for our church operations and ministry functions. Corrections are needed and we look forward to your generosity for resolution. We know that we can count on you and Thank You in advance for your support!

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

✝ Men of Zion ✝

Hey you guys:

Men of God,

Zion Lutheran Church once had a very active Men's group. But decreased in size over the last few years, culminating with the pandemic. Consequently, the group stopped meeting, altogether. I am NOT pushing for Zion to become 'officially' part of Lutheran Men in Mission, although we could easily participate with some of their activities.

There is so much that a men's group can accomplish **within** the church, within the group as well as within the community. I am attempting to reactivate this worthwhile body at Zion, for Bible Study, companionship, fellowship, accountability and maybe even discipleship.

We have had two meetings so far, which have been sparsely attended. I had hoped they would be more in the way of organizational in nature, but due to their sparseness, group discussion was not practical. My aspirations may have been jumping the gun, putting the cart before the horse; and trying to run before we walk. (Aren't I good with clichés? 😊)

I once watched a movie, where a group of men gathered to eat once a month, and they called

themselves, "ROMEO's", (Really Old Men, Eating Out). That was the original purpose of their regular get-togethers. However, they soon discovered, that not only did they become good friends, but they found that they could confide in each other; also, they began to help each other with problems; they kept each other accountable; as well as assisted others in need.

I firmly believe this type of organization is what the **church** is for, and is also in dire need. This type of get-together is not just for men, but the women, the youth and even couples and families.

Those men who attended the January meeting agreed to meet for Breakfast, regularly, on the LAST Saturday of each month (with the possible exception of May - Memorial Day weekend, and December.)

[Our February meeting was on the 26th, after this newsletter went to the copier, and the next will be on Saturday, March 26, 8:30 – 9:30 am.]

Mark your calendars so you will not accidentally schedule something else, and don't hesitate to bring a friend or neighbor. If you miss a meeting, you may be missing out on a whole lot more!

Women of the ELCA

The Zion Women of the ELCA will be hosting a Spring Gathering on March 26, 2022 from 8:30 am to 1 pm at Zion Lutheran Church in North Canton.

Our theme is a Whole Lotta...

The President of Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization (NEOSWO) is scheduled to preside over worship and communion.

There is a \$5.00 registration fee and we are asking everyone to bring a canned good with them for our food pantry. Soup & salad will be served at lunch time.

Please RSVP to Ruth Reinoehl at rebrowning5@gmail.com by March 11, 2022

Laura Thompson
Social Ministry Elder

WITNESS MINISTRY

COMMUNITY GARDEN

As I am sitting here with the windows open enjoying the 50 degree weather and smelling the

fresh air it makes me think of Spring and the flowers blooming and gardens.

Calling all gardeners! Our Community Garden is getting ready for spring planting. We are offering 8 – 4x8 plots for \$25 and 4 – 4x4’s for \$15. If you are interested in an application for one of our plots, please let me know. The garden is open to the community so please share with your neighbors and friends.



If you are not interested in having a garden space but would like to help in some way, we are looking for donations of the following items:

- Deck Box
- Hand tools
- Shovels
- Rakes
- Watering cans
- Hoses
- Wheelbarrows

Any donations are welcome. Please keep these items in mind when cleaning out your garages or sheds this spring.

Dear God, thank you for leading us to ways we can reach out to our community and help provide for their needs. Amen.

Susan Whalen
Witness 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 6:15 pm. Sign-up sheets to provide soup/chili or a dessert are in Luther Hall.
- 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 is every Wednesday at 7:45pm in the Choir room. Come and join this vibrant group of singing worshipers under the direction of Suzanne Walters. New members are welcome. Add your voice of praise to our Holy Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Our Green Hymnals are looking for a new home. All of our service hymns are now coming from the newer Red Hymnals and Blue Hymnals. If you would like to take the Green Hymnal copy that was given to the church in memory of a loved one, they will be available in Luther Hall during the month of March. Name plates are behind the front cover of each hymnal. Starting April 15, for any remaining Green Hymnals, they will be available to any person/family that would like to have one for their personal use. By May 1, all the Green Hymnals will be removed from the church. These hymnals have served a valuable spiritual purpose to our church, but are now ready for a new home.

Paul Bagocius
Worship & Music Elder

COMFORT GIVERS



Reminder, we have 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



Acme Community Cash Back Thank You!

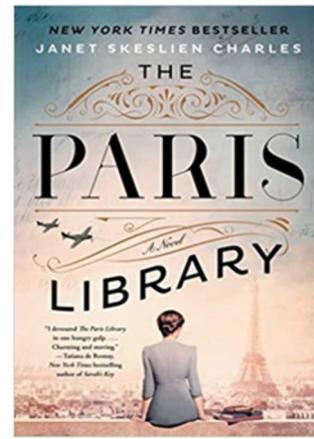
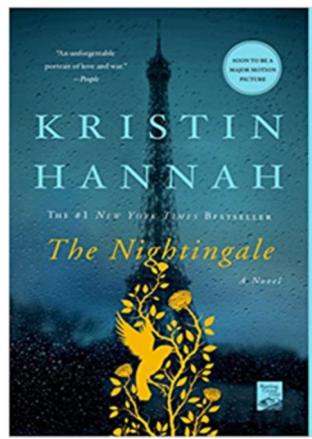
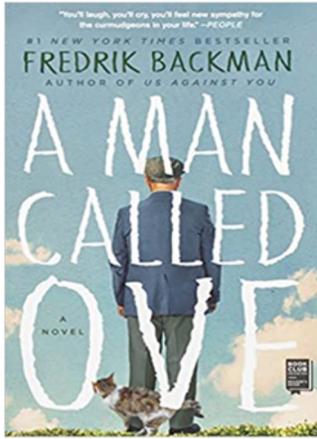
Thank you for everyone's support of this year's Acme Receipt Program. Our receipts totaled \$4,553.62 in Community Cash Back dollars, and we will receive 5% of that total. This year's check from Acme will be for \$227.68 and will go to the Youth Fund to support the Youth Activities.



**ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN
JANUARY 2022**

January Income	\$ 21,401.37
Income through January	\$ 21,401.37
January Expenses	\$ 30,710.68
Expenses through January	\$ 30,710.68

We thank you for your generous support!



Book Discussion Group Dates

Our discussion group met on Friday, February 18 to discuss the story of *The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah. It is a fictional account based on a true story of a woman in the French Resistance in WWII.

On March 4, at 10am, at Zion, we will meet to discuss *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman. Ove is a fictional Swedish man and the story tells of his life in Sweden. It is dark in places yet it shows the value of how love can change lives.

On April 1, we meet at 10am at a yet undisclosed venue, to discuss *The Paris Library*, by Janet Skeslien Charles. Another book based on a true WWII story (like *The Nightingale*), it tells of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris and shows the power of literature to bring us together.

On May 6 and June 3, we meet to discuss *Where'd You Go Bernadette*, by Maria Semple, and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, by J.K. Rowling.

Please join us on any or all of these dates. In May, we will be choosing books for the 2022-23 season and we would love your input for diverse selections! If you have questions please call or email Linda Johnson-Weidenbach at: 850-766-5640/lindakw@gmail.com.



Our very own Equal Exchange Shoppe, whose one-year anniversary coincides with Zion's Congregational Meeting this month, is counting on your continued purchasing power even though **PRICES WILL GO UP** with the next order.

The drip grind coffees will now be \$7.50 per bag--up from \$7.00. Decaf drip grind coffees will be \$8.50---up from \$8.00.

Single serve coffee packages will remain at \$7.00. Nor is there a change in the pricing of the teas. They remain at \$3.50 per 12-bag box.

Keep a roll of quarters handy because the \$2.50 candy bars will now be \$2.75 each.

What is presently in stock carries the "old" price tag. Stock up!

Pastor's Ponderings March 2022

Here is what I've been pondering lately:

- March 6 we'll hear how Jesus was sent by the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tested by the devil. Why would the Holy Spirit do that? Well, the reason becomes clear when we understand the purpose of testing; that is, to check the quality or strength. Like a modern-day bridge inspector tests the quality and strength of a bridge, Jesus was inspected; and he was found to be up to the task ahead. How boldly do we cross the bridge of Jesus into a life of selfless living? 
- March 13 we'll hear how the Pharisees act to protect Jesus from Herod's intent to kill him. Jesus is not concerned; he has work to do and can't be bothered with the wrath of those who oppose him. How confidently do we trust Jesus to get us through trying times as we strive to do God's work?
- March 20 we'll hear Jesus reminding his followers that he has some manure to spread so that his work can be done in the midst of those who seek to do harm. How does Jesus spread manure in us so that we can blossom and bloom in God's kingdom here? Or, are we afraid to get a little dirty and smelly? 
- March 27 we'll hear the famous story of the Prodigal Father. Some erroneously name it as the Prodigal Son, but when we understand the recklessness of the father we see our Father in action too. For God's love, compassion and forgiveness is for all people; even those who don't believe it or want it. Aren't we called to spread that love, compassion and forgiveness around? Might it not be considered the manure we heard Jesus speak about on March 20?

And so, I ponder; are we trusting God to work in us? Are we welcoming the manure of life that strengthens us for selfless living? Are we open to bringing about the Kingdom of God for others? Are we willing to do the difficult work? Or are we sitting back and selfishly accepting all that our Prodigal Father gives us and relishing in our own good fortune?



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



Vitalant Blood Drive – Sunday, March 20th 10:00 am – 2: 00 pm

Our next blood drive is Sunday, March 20th from 10 am – 2 pm in the gym. Please give if you can and schedule an appointment to help sustain or save the lives of others in need. Enjoy a light meal and treats after you donate. Contact Debbie Fox and she can schedule an appointment for you, or schedule your own appointment by following the options below.

To schedule your own appointment:

Go to: vitalant.org/ohiodonorportal

Click on “Make an appointment”

From here there are 3 ways to search for a blood drive:

1. Change the date to March 20th and scroll down until you see Zion Lutheran Church
 - Click on the location to make an appointment for to highlight it and click on “Select” below the box with blood drive listings.
 - Click on appointment time
 - Click on “New Donor” to register or “Existing Donor” if you already have an account
2. In the next box down you can search by zip code and radius for a blood drive.
 - Click on the location you would like to make an appointment for to highlight it and click on “Select” below the box with blood drive listings.
 - Click on appointment time
 - Click on “New Donor” to register or “Existing Donor” if you already have an account
3. Or Go all the way to the bottom of the page to search by Group Code.
Zion Lutheran Church’s Group Code is: 1525
 - Click on location to highlight and then hit “Select”
 - Click on appointment time
 - Click on “New Donor” to register or “Existing Donor” if you already have an account



Here are the 2022 dates for our scheduled drives:

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!



BLOOD DRIVE



Make every
day awesome

Zion Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 20
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
GYM
349 LINDY LANE NW
NORTH CANTON

At this time masks are required.
Please make an appointment and earn
reward points at:
vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal
Group code: 1525

Please eat before you
donate.

Bring a photo ID and a
list of any medications
that you take.



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 April 6 at 7:00 pm and Sunday April 10 at 9:00 am

On this day, united with Christians around the world, we mark Jesus' triumphant entry into 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 14 at 7:00 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.



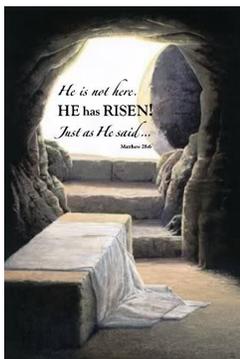
Good Friday, April 15 at 7:30 pm

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 bow 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 24 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!



¹Evangelical 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

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