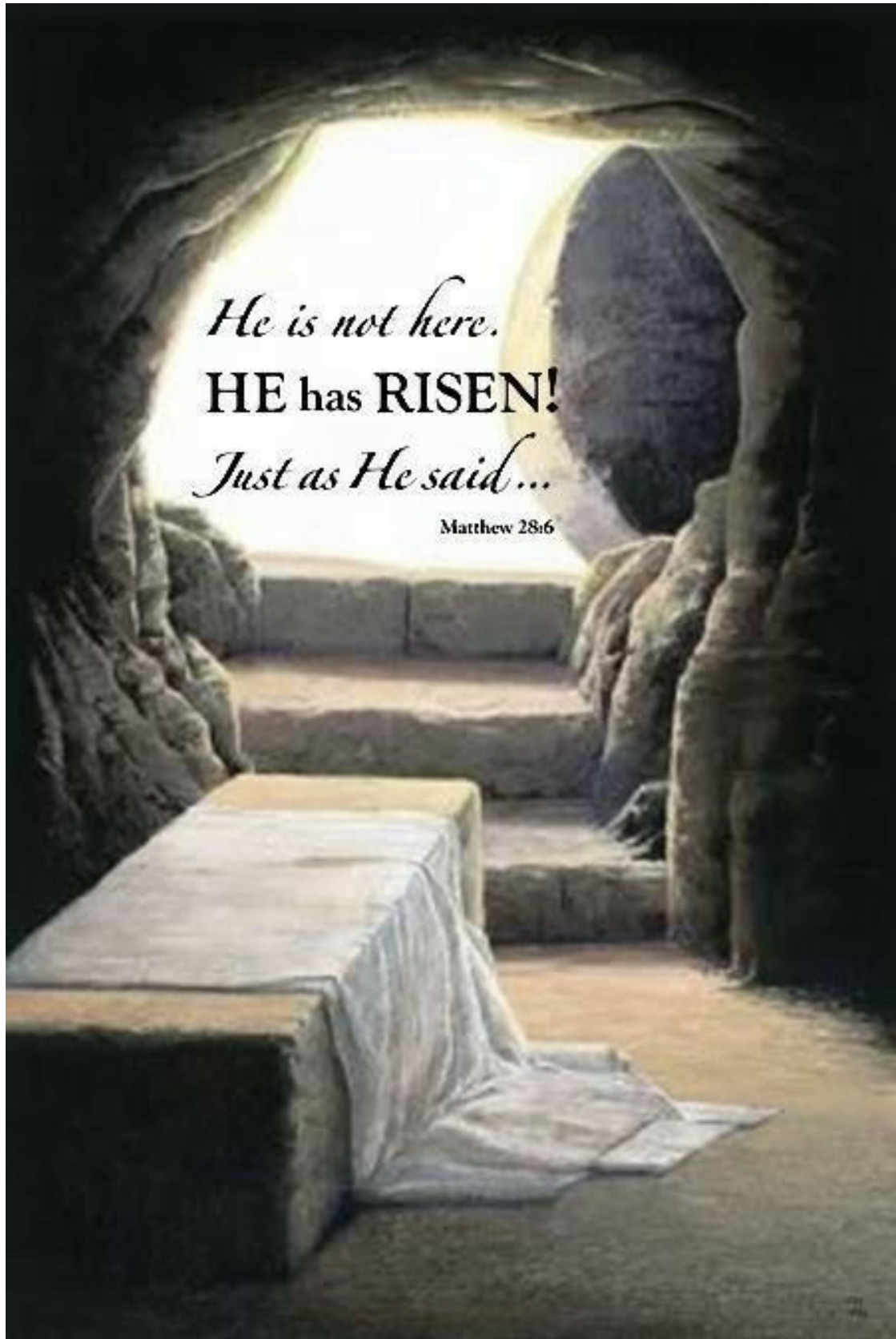


THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

April 2022



Stewardship Moment – Rejoice in God’s Presence

Focus scripture: Luke 15:1-10 the parable of the lost sheep and lost coin.



The church leaders were grumbling against Jesus because he was attracting the “wrong” kind of people – sinners and tax collectors! What’s the matter with Jesus? Did he not know that church was for the perfect people? What was he trying to prove when he had dinner with sinners? Those kind of people were not welcome inside the doors of the church; they stunk up the place.

But wait; are not those the very people to whom Jesus pronounced good news? Jesus said he came to bring good news to the poor, release to the captive, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed.

The church, however, was busy about keeping up appearances in their great buildings, and using the backs of the poor (widows) to do so (Mark 12:40 – 13:2.) It is no wonder that they were upset with Jesus; he was disturbing their church order.



Jesus came to shake things up, to turn the ways of the world on its head, and to demonstrate that God favored those whom society excluded, marginalized, or oppressed.

- ✦ We can rejoice that God provides abundantly – consider there is enough air for all living creatures, and an ecology of interdependence, all created by God.
- ✦ We can rejoice that God has provided for all people, well-behaved and not so well-behaved alike. There is nothing we do to deserve or merit God's provision, it is God's good pleasure to provide for us.



- ✦ We can rejoice that God loves us and seeks us out. We can rejoice with God when the “sinners and tax collectors” are found.

Jesus desires that we welcome in the least of these; the sinners and tax collectors, poor, marginalized, and oppressed. We can rejoice with them as we participate alongside them in God's kingdom. We can rejoice with them in God's presence; for where two or more are gathered, there Jesus is amongst them (us.)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

April is the month of hope and renewal. Spring is upon us and we are enveloped by the promise of the Lenten Season leading up to Palm Sunday and Easter. Given the support expressed by the Congregation, at Meetings in October and February, for the Annual Budget and proposed projects, the Council is proceeding in an expeditious and prudent manner to implement plans concerning the renovation of the kitchen and sale of the parsonage that will leave us better positioned to accomplish Zion's Mission of demonstrating love for our Divine Creator through service to others. We promise to keep the Congregation informed of pertinent developments in a timely manner.

Contemplation of Easter and the sacrifice God made for us leaves us awestruck by God's overpowering, all encompassing, unstoppable, incontrovertible love for each and every creature in the vast universe He has created. God's love for us transcends all boundaries and overwhelms all feeble efforts on our part to reject it. God considers us worthy in His sight even though we may deem ourselves unworthy.

And though we may not love ourselves, all of our efforts to reject His love are futile and fail miserably in the face of His demand that we remain silent long enough to wrap our hearts and minds around His pronouncement that He loves us. He sacrificed His Only Begotten Son to tell us He loves us regardless of what we may think of ourselves and He repeats that assertion of love every single day. He has a neighbor call us if the neighbor does not see us open the window blinds in our home each morning. He has a friend text us each day. He has individuals insist on having lunch with us at least once per week. He has individuals call us to ask for our help in dealing with a matter that they obviously could take care of on their own. And He gives us countless opportunities to volunteer with organizations dedicated to making life better for those less fortunate.

God does not put us to the test He put His Son through. All He asks is that we be people who do whatever we can to aid the victims of war, famine, injustice, abuse, neglect or illness. Simply put, that we strive to do things pleasing in His sight.

Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Son. Make us ever grateful for Your enduring love. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Fidler
Council President

MINISTRY REPORTS

CARING MINISTRY



During February Zion served 31 households with minor children, within this group, 10 clients were seniors and 57 were adults. The combined number of children served was 100. During February, we served 103 households without minor children and within this group, 114 clients were seniors and 79 were adults. Therefore, during February Zion served 134 Households consisting of 360 clients. February accounted for 32 additional households and 76 additional clients over January 2022. As a comparison in February 2021 we served 97 households consisting of 246 clients representing a 38% increase in households and a 46% increase in clients over last year. The need trend is increasing and not decreasing as I thought last month; therefore, we need to assure our

resources are adequate to support an increasing service level. We appear to have a larger number of seniors.

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

Since we feed a large number of clients every month, I find it appropriate to add a meal prayer that my mother taught me as a child. I looked it up and the prayer is a variation of Psalm 145:15-16 depending on the translation:

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and give us thy meat in due season. Thou open thine hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Amen.

FOOD PANTRY—April's items of the month are toothpaste and jelly. 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

Zion is helping the community, clothing the naked and feeding the hungry. The Shared Goods has expanded with all the donations from the community and our parishioners. We had the North Canton Care Teams family come to Shared Goods on Monday, March 14th. It was so great to see all the families with all their children. We had about 10 families. There were new families that were very grateful for all the items we had for them to choose from. We saw a lot of clothes and household items leave Monday evening. It was great. We had another good turn out with the people from the Food Pantry on Tuesday. It was a really great month. So we especially need **young boys clothes now**.

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



G. Scott Gross
Caring Ministry Elder

COMFORT GIVERS



We were able to complete 7 quilts for the month of March. We hope you are enjoying seeing the finished product in Luther Hall. We change them out after each time we meet. Last year the Lutheran World Relief reached 361,225 neighbors in need in 19 countries with 122,400 quilts and 3,230 blankets. They sent over 60,030 personal care kits, 103,880 school kits, 38,850 baby care kits, 915 fabric kits and 31,920 masks. So, if you would like to help increase these numbers, we meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 10 am to 12 pm. You can also help by bringing in items we need for the different kits that we will be putting together.

We have been able to help two more people with prayer lap blankets this past month. We have



included a thank you note from a recipient of a prayer shawl that she received in January. Let Darlene know if you have someone or if you would like to receive a prayer shawl or prayer lap blanket.

The Comfort Givers are going to be putting together baby kits again this year. Here is the list of items we are collecting:

- Light cotton T-shirts - **NO ONESIES**
- Long or Short-sleeved gowns or sleepers **WITHOUT FEET**
- Blankets medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, **MUST BE 36" to 52" SQUARE.**
- Jacket or sweater or sweatshirt with hood, if no hood, include a baby cap
- Socks
- Sizes 6 to 24 months
- I have patterns, if you want to make a Baby Gown from T-shirts or a Hooded Baby Cape.

We sent 12 baby kits last year. We are hoping to send at least 24 this year. There will be more information and reminders about the kits in the coming newsletters and posted in Luther Hall. Thank you all for your support and we pray that it will continue on for these upcoming projects.

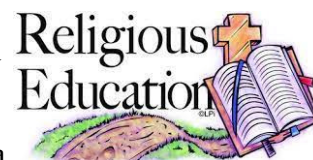
Dear Lord, we thank you for all you provide for us. We thank you for the opportunity to spread Your love by doing for others: by providing people with warm blankets, by providing comfort and love with the prayer shawls and lap blankets, and with the different kits we will be making to send overseas. Amen

Darlene Milavickas

LEARNING MINISTRY

Vacation Bible School

Great News! We have a set a date for VBS – the week of June 27th – July 1st. We are in the planning stages, picking our theme and looking for volunteers for the week. If you are available and interested, please contact Debbie Fox. There are many opportunities and you can volunteer 1, 2 or all 5 days – whatever fits your schedule!



Adult Sunday School

Pastor William will continue to lead the group 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. We will be learning about Lent and Easter this month. On Palm Sunday (April 10th), we will have a special Sunday School lesson at 10:15 am, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and pizza party. All children are invited and welcome to bring a friend! We will not have Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 17th.



Some of the children will be participating in our Fed and Forgiven Communion classes and will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday (April 14th) during service. Please join us at 7 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!

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet at 10:00 am on Wednesdays this month! 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.

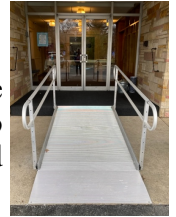
Weekly Bible Discussions

- 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

Dear God, Help us to open our minds, our ears and our hearts to what You are telling us, and to do what You want! Amen

Debbie Fox
Learning Ministry Elder

PROPERTY MINISTRY



- Ramp at the east entrance is to be reinforced with additional support to reduce the small bit of sag noticed when used.
- The recent leaks this past month were attributed to snow and ice buildup pushing up roof vents, resulting in snow melt entering the building. The vents will be re-set and resealed.
- New adjustable tables have arrived and being used by the Comfort Givers. The new tables are lighter, easier to adjust, and replace the need to use the blue blocks to elevate the tables.
- Several classroom floors have been stripped and re-waxed.
- The parsonage task force has been formed. We have identified two realtors, who have been scheduled to walk through the parsonage. Following the walk through, the realtors will present their marketing plans for the parsonage. The marketing plans will be evaluated on transactional costs, approach, and alignment with the council's direction to the task force. Following this a summary will be prepared with a recommendation to council from the task force.

George Miller
Property Ministry Elder

RESOURCE MINISTRY



[Spring is in the Air! The sun is shining, the weather improving, and it is a glorious time to be alive and see what God is blessing us with every day.](#)

I trust you are staying safe in this Lenten Season and finding positive examples of God's blessings each day and sharing them with others. May the Lord's countless blessings shine upon you and grant you Peace!

I really wish I had a positive message about our 2022 giving results year-to-date in this start to the Lenten season but I don't. Financially, February 2022 Giving followed our disappointing trend

started in January. Our Giving was 44% less than February 2021 and 13% less than January. The combined results indicate we're approximately \$2,000 / week less than the level needed to support our operating budget which was approved at our October congregational meeting, resulting in a significant deficit to start 2022.

Our budget was developed on assumption that each member would contribute at a rate which would at least equal their 2021 giving level. Everyone's contributions are important, and each will be at a different amount, but it is obvious from the results to date that as a congregation, we are giving at much less than 2021 levels. Individually, you each know your giving rate and where you stand on positively contributing to our operating budget. We need your recognition and acknowledgement that sharing your financial resources are the foundation for our church operations and 2022 ministry functions. Positive 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

Hey you guys:

Our group is continuing to grow in numbers as we progress through the new year. As I stated last month, those who were present at our first meeting, decided that we would establish the "last" Saturday of each month, to gather together. Obviously, we may have to change or forgo the "last" Saturday in May (since it is Memorial Day weekend) and probably skip the December date, due to the holidays. Those options will be decided as we near those dates.

Currently, our meetings have been concentrating on Bible Study, and I know how difficult it is for

most men to find enough "inspiration" to attend a function they are not comfortable with. A lot of men consider Bible Study as "outside their Comfort Zone". Let me assure you that our discussions are VERY **informal**, and hopefully more informative, than they are intimidating. In an attempt to give it a more relaxed atmosphere, I refer to them as BS Sessions. (We men would rather b.s. than get too serious about religion.) So far, our sessions have been focused on the elements necessary for discipleship.

Although our emphasis right now is on Bible Study, we are hoping to do other exciting events and/or projects, and we continue to explore various ideas. Hopefully, the more men who attend, will provide more ideas for discussion.

One other item we did discuss was a name for our group of men. It was discussed that it may be better if we do **NOT** call ourselves, "Men of Zion", so as not to discourage a non-member from attending. As an example, I had mentioned that I was aware of a group of men from Bethel Lutheran Church (in another state) who called themselves The MOB. (**Men Of Bethel**). Then I proceeded to challenge those present with creating a new acronym for our group. One man has suggested that we call ourselves **GIFTS**:

[Gentlemen In Fellowship To Serve]

You can choose to vote for this suggestion, or you can accept the challenge and present other suggestions.

Remember, our next meeting will be on **Saturday, March 26. 8:30 – 9:30**. Be aware that the ladies will also be meeting, but we will assemble in the Sunday School class-room, and the ladies will start their meeting in the sanctuary. We will NOT be meeting with them

If April's newsletter's publication is like March's, you **may** be able to read this BEFORE our next meeting. Reminder invitations will be given out prior to the March's meeting. Please make an effort to join us. You wouldn't want to miss out on something, would you???

PS. If you are reading this AFTER March 26, our next meeting will be April 30.

Ken Reinoehl



We held our Spring Gathering which was at Zion on March 26th from 8:30 am -1:00 pm. At this writing we had 20 women who planned to attend from various area churches.

We served a continental breakfast and a soup and salad lunch. Rev. Erin Burns presided over our worship service and communion. Our speaker was Beth Hubbard from Whole Latte Love Cafe in North Canton (1308 South Main St, North Canton) where they train people with disabilities with on the job training allowing them to lead a more independent life. We all participated in making a Lutheran Rosary (I'll bet you didn't know Lutherans have one!) and along with that Cindy Bagocius gave an explanation of how Lutherans use it (different from Catholics).

The money that we collect from registration and offering will go in part to NEOSWO's Katie's fund which financially helps female seminarians, part will go to Whole Latte Love Cafe plus the canned goods brought by the participants will go to our food pantry. I will relay a total in my next article.

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME ALL THE TIME GOD IS GOOD

Ruth Reinoehl

Laura Thompson
Social Ministry Elder

WITNESS MINISTRY

Community Garden



We are now taking applications for the community garden at the church. If you are interested in purchasing a spot, please fill out the application and send it with check or cash to the church.

We have 12 spots to fill. The cost will be \$25 for a 4x8 and \$15 for a 4x4. If you have any questions, please let me know. There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer if you do not want a space but would like to help in some way or would like to make a donation. Please let me know. Application and guidelines are on pages 18 and 19.

Thank you God for this opportunity to provide a place for the community to join and have fellowship. Please keep our eyes open to more possibilities.

Susan Whalen
Witness Ministry Elder

WORSHIP MINISTRY

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



- Sunday Evening Lenten service on 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.

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.

We are ready to have a training session for volunteers to work the audio and/or the video portions of our Sunday worship service. The only thing missing is YOU!! Consider volunteering to help in these important areas--no prior experience is needed. Commitment is about once a month at the controls (sitting beside someone who can assist when needed). Want more information, contact Paul Bagocius at 330-329-4678.

Paul Bagocius
Worship Ministry Elder



ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN FEBRUARY 2021

February Income	\$18,827.43
Income through February	\$40,228.80
February Expenses	\$36,804.88
Expenses through February	\$67,515.56

We thank you for your generous support!



To Our Church Family,

The Cignetti Family wants to express our gratitude for the love and comfort shown to us on the death of our son. This church is about real Christians. Thanks to Pastor William, the ladies, and Dave for the wonderful lunch, all the cards, and condolences. God Bless You,
Nick & Juanita Cignetti



Kitchen and Freezer Renovation:

Yes it is really happening! The Kitchen renovation has begun. The new Task Force, includes Mary Humbert, Darlene Milavickas, Dave Palumbo, Doug Roman and Brian Walters, met Tuesday March 15th with Brian St. Jean, who is a contractor with Infinity Homes and Remodeling Company. We will keep you all updated as we progress.

Darlene
Chairperson



Place your Springtime order! Choose one Equal Exchange coffee, one tea, and one candy bar to arrange in a bright, cheery felt basket. The cost is \$15, but the price is priceless as a gift. Let Cindy Bagocius know of your interest to set aside a basket. Call 234-207-3638 or e-mail cindy.bagocius@gmail.com.

Day of Prayer Vigil for Ukraine

On Thursday, March 17th, Christians all over the world held a 24 hour prayer vigil to pray for Ukraine. Zion Lutheran Church had 20 individuals who participated in this prayer vigil.

Prayer was focused in five areas: families, leaders, God's power, churches, peace.

We prayed for country leaders to be filled with compassion, wisdom, calm, and a strong desire for peace.

We read scripture, Psalms 27 & 31, and thought about its meaning.

We prayed for the soldiers and their parents, wives and children.

And we boldly reaffirmed that Jesus is the only source of hope, peace, safety, truth and freedom.

A big thank you to Cindy Bagocius for initiating, organizing and preparing for this important day of focused prayer for peace. And another thank you to Cindy for the table and its contents honoring Ukraine.



On returning to Zion after a two-year absence, the changes that may have happened slowly to you are quite amazing to me. The physical changes are large and small. A window in a door; a door through a wall; the beautification of Luther Hall, all point to changes in the atmosphere at Zion. There are a few newcomers to Zion, but I still know most everyone. The biggest change I see (or feel) is the difference in the atmosphere! Members seem more connected to the church and there is a greater feeling of participation and service to the community. It's more of a family feeling and I'm so happy to be back with my Zion family!

Carol Rossbach

Pastor's Ponderings

April, 2022

While taking a look at our Sunday gospel readings for April, here is what I've been pondering:

- On April 3, the last Sunday in Lent, we will look on as Mary anoints Jesus in anticipation of his heading to Jerusalem and the cross. Judas criticizes Mary for using “costly perfume” that could have been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus responds, “You will always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.” Jesus is right, we get side-tracked, we do not always have Jesus in our hearts or actions, and so we ignore our duty to serve God by serving the poor.
- On April 10, Palm Sunday, we will walk alongside the crowd as they welcome Jesus into town shouting Hosanna! (save us!) Like his disciples, we too do not understand these things at first. But, when Jesus is glorified on the cross and the empty tomb, we too understand about this God who loves us so much he sent his Son to repair the rift between us. Thanks be to God!
- On April 17, Easter Day, we will walk with the women early in the morning as they go to the tomb and are amazed to find the stone rolled away and Jesus gone. Along with them, we will be “perplexed.” Along with them, we will be reminded of his words to us that he would be raised on the third day. Along with them, others will not believe us when we tell the story of this amazing God who loves us; loves us to death.
- On April 24, the second Sunday of Easter, we will be with the disciples as they are locked away for fear of what will happen to them. We, too, will tremble in fear when the risen Jesus stands among us. We, too, will embrace the peace that Jesus gives to them. We, too, will hear Jesus' words of sending us out to tell others about this God who conquered the stranglehold of death so that they could be free and engaged in good works.



And so, I ponder; are we willing to do our part of elevating the poor? Are we crying to God to save us so that we can protect others? Are we remembering Jesus' words of love, acceptance, and life that were meant for all people? Are we welcoming the risen Lord into our lives and then sharing that with others? Or, are we content to sit back and selfishly hoard all that Jesus did as if it was just for us?

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



Vitalant Blood Drive Update – Sunday, March 20th

Please see the following thank you email from Vitalant:

Debra,

Thank you so much for allowing Vitalant to come back out to Zion Lutheran Church yesterday for another amazing blood drive!! 23 individuals presented to donate and we were able to collect 22 units of lifesaving blood. These generous gifts will be used to sustain or save the lives of up to 66 patients in need! Woo hoo!

8/23/20 collected 20
 10/18/20 collected 22
 1/17/21 collected 19
 3/28/21 collected 20
 5/26/21 collected 11
 9/15/21 collected 16
 11/14/21 collected 15
 1/16/22 collected 25
3/20/22 collected 22



Total: 170 blood donations and 510 lives sustained or saved!!!!

Our next blood drive is scheduled for May 18, 2022.

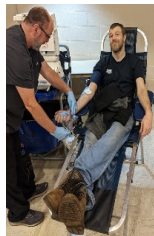
On behalf of Vitalant and the patients receiving these amazing gifts of life, I sincerely thank you and all of the wonderful blood donors at Zion Lutheran Church for your time and continued support.

You are all truly heroes!

Katy

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.**

Thank you to everyone who came out to donate blood on March 20th!
 Well done good and faithful servants! Thanks be to God for all who donate!

Here are the 2022 dates for our scheduled drives:

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

Please note the date change to July's Blood Drive.



Happy Earth Day! Friday, April 22, 2022

We celebrate Earth Day on the March equinox (around March 20). An equinox in astronomy is that point on time (not a whole day) when the sun is directly above the Earth's equator. The first (and original) Earth Day began in the U.S. in 1970. Every year has a theme and the theme for this year is "Invest in Our Planet."

What better way to get in touch with and appreciate (and invest in) the earth on an individual basis than to grow a sustainable garden?

I asked Sue Whalen what inspired her to spearhead Zion's community garden. She answered, "I like the idea of reaching out to the community where there is a need. Other gardens in the area are at capacity. I like seeing a seed or small plant grow, the beauty of the foliage, and seeing what the gardeners will do with their plants."



Recently, I came across this prayer for before a meal (by Sedonia Cahill) which talks about gardening and gratitude:

*I send prayers of gratitude to all
that has given of itself this day.
The strong beans and the hearty grains,
the beautiful leafy green plants and sweet juicy fruits.
I thank the sun that warmed and vitalized them,
just as it does me,
and the earth that held and nourished them, as it does me,
and the waters that bathed and refreshed them, as they do for me.
I thank the fire that transformed them,
just as I wish to be transformed by the fires of Spirit,
I thank the hands that grew and prepared this food,
just as I thank those that have touched me in so many ways.*

Psalms 104 talks beautifully about God's continuing hand on God's creation.

I co-garden with Pastor William and it continues to provide lessons on the care of plants and the balances in nature. I receive renewed appreciation for clean water every year (Ohio has 45 watersheds- areas of land that contain a common set of streams and rivers that all drain into a single large body of water). I marvel at the large garlic cloves. There is nothing better than fresh green beans. Making compost is *so* satisfying – a way to turn "trash" into fertile soil.

If you are a gardener, please send me some facts and inspirations you have received from this earth-friendly practice. I will share them (anonymously, if you like) in next month's newsletter. Lindakjw@gmail.com.

Submitted by Linda Weidenbach



Stark County Humane Society Update

Thanks be to God for everyone that supported our mission project in February. Because of everyone's love and generosity, we collected 4 large bags and 7 smaller bags of puppy and kitten food, 3 cases of canned dog & cat food, 13 bottles of bleach, towels & blankets, lots of toys & treats, 13 x 9 cake pans for their enrichment programs, thick slip leads and more for the Stark County Humane Society. Thank you to those who donated cash instead of shopping. We matched the amount donated from the Youth Fund and delivered a check for \$400 along with the donated items. Our Zion family is always so generous, and we are grateful for all your 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 a list of needed items on the webpage if you would like to continue to help them out and pictures of all the animals who need a forever home! Thank you for sharing God's love with those who are unable to speak for themselves.



Easter Egg Collection for Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center

We are supporting Wernle Youth and Family this month with an Easter Egg Collection!

There are Easter Egg Tags located on the closet doors in Luther Hall next to Equal Exchange. The tags have items and \$10 gift card that we are collecting to support the kids at Wernle. Please bring in all donated items by then end of April and put them in the collection bin by the closet doors. Thank you for sharing God's love with the Wernle kids!

Here are the tag items we are collecting:

Shampoo for teen girls and boys

Body Wash

Men's Deodorant

Women's Deodorant

Women's Boyfriend Underwear (S-XL)

\$10 McDonald's Gift Cards

\$10 Wendy's Gift Cards

\$10 Burger King Gift Cards

\$10 Taco Bell Gift Cards

\$10 Wal-Mart Gift Cards



Habitat for Humanity Canton Faith Build 2022

Debbie Fox participated in the Habitat Faith Build Virtual Kick Off Meeting on March 8th by Zoom. This year's Faith Build will be done in SE Canton on Crestmont Ave SE. We got to meet the two amazing families that the two homes are being built for, and we got to meet the representatives from the other Faith Community Partners during the Zoom meeting. We will be guaranteed three work days for Zion volunteers, and we will receive those dates this month. Volunteer work days are planned to start April 23rd and go through July 23rd. Watch for sign-up sheets and more info to come in this month.

We are so blessed and excited to be part of this incredible project and to partner with Habitat.

How can you help? Volunteer to work on site – no experience necessary! Prepare and deliver lunches for our work days! Pray for the volunteers and families throughout the build!

Artistic rendering of the planed 2022 Canton Faith Build:



Site A - 433 Crestmont Ave SE, Canton, OH 44707

Site B - 427 Crestmont Ave SE, Canton, OH 44707

Pryorfamily



Tessica • Kyan (11) • Kashtan (3) • K'mya (3)

Family and Current Housing

Tessica can't wait to give her family a permanent place to call home.

She and her children live in a rental house that they share with another family member – a housing situation that only was ever intended to be temporary.

Tessica previously lived in government housing and then, after her income increased, she moved to an income-based apartment. As she worked hard to continue to increase her income, her rent also rose, making the two-bedroom apartment less affordable for her growing family. The property also was too small and had several issues that made it unsafe – namely, ongoing crime in the neighborhood.

Because of those problems, Tessica began looking for a new place to move during the pandemic, but she struggled to find something within her budget. While the current rental home she shares is more affordable, it still is located in a neighborhood with occasional shootings and other crime activity, and it is still overcrowded for the number of people who are living in the house.

Tessica originally applied to the Habitat program several years ago but complications with her pregnancy prevented her from completing the process. Now that she's back to work at her job as housing manager for a group home, she feels ready to take on the responsibility of homeownership. 🏠

A Bright Future

Since joining the Habitat partnership, Tessica has taken classes to prepare her to be a first-time homeowner, including courses about financial success and home maintenance.

She's excited to be able to provide her children with some stability by giving them a forever home. Once construction is complete, the Pryor family is looking forward to having a safe place to spend time together where they can do the things

they love, like play outside, watch movies, and visit with family.

Tessica says her new Habitat home will make a huge difference in her life by giving her more peace of mind. She won't have to worry about her children living in an unsafe house where she has limited power to fix problems, and she can give them a place they finally can call their own. 🏠

We build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter.

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Fennellfamily



British • Navia (12)

Family and Current Housing

For British and her daughter, having a decent place to call home is going to be life-changing.

Currently, the Fennell family lives in a government-owned duplex that has significant plumbing and flooding issues. When someone uses the bathtub, the water runs down the walls of the duplex and into the living room. The water also has damaged the master bedroom, and the walls in the apartment are cracking. The flooring crumbles whenever it's mopped, and there's a drainage issue that leads to sewage backups in the tub and laundry. British also has concerns about her daughter being safe when she goes outside because of the amount of drug-

related activity in their neighborhood.

British learned about Habitat from a friend who built with Habitat out of state, and she loved the idea of not only getting to help build her own home but getting to help build other families' homes, too. She wanted to apply for the program, but she was concerned about being accepted because she had been working as a temp for a company for two years. She talked with her supervisor about being hired into the company, and now she's on staff at a plastics company in Canton and ready to own her own home.

"Everything came together at the same time," British said. 🏠

A Bright Future

Since joining the Habitat program, British has begun taking classes that will prepare her to be a first-time homeowner. She said she's excited to be able to purchase a home with Habitat because of the peace of mind she knows it will bring. It will be a different feeling being responsible for making repairs on her own – and being confident in her ability to do that – and not having to wait on someone else.

When British pictures life in her new Habitat home, she imagines putting family pictures up on the living room walls and being able to paint and decorate however she'd like. Her daughter, Navia, gets a big smile on her face when she talks about being able to cut their own grass in their own yard, plant things, and decorate the outside of their home. 🏠

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AT-YOUR-TABLE SUPPER CLUB

Purpose Statement: To meet and fellowship with other church members in an at-home setting, getting to know them beyond just a Sunday greeting. Groupings are not necessarily formed to meet with prior friends, but to meet different people attending Zion.

Guidelines:

Couples/singles are grouped to form a party of 5 or 6.

This party will meet once a month for 3 months (Summer: May, June, July).

Each couple/single will prepare and host one at-home dinner during their designated month.

Dates, times, and month of hosting of these dinners are mutually agreed upon by the group (party).

No dinners during the 4th month (August), at which time registration will take place for a new round of Supper Club to begin the following months (Fall: Sept., Oct., Nov.).

Registration required. Supper groups formed by Paul and Cindy Bagocius from sign-up lists. Questions? Call 330-329-4678

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At-Your-Table Sign Up

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Return form or call 330-329-4678 by Sunday, April 24.

The following article appeared in the North Canton City School District Newsletter. Thank You, Debbie for serving others.

North Canton CAREs Corner

Sue Oryszak sue.oryszak@northcantonschools.org or (234) 978-2024
Orchard Hill Intermediate, Greentown Intermediate



Each year, the Family Support Specialists working on Care Teams all over Stark County hold an Appreciation Luncheon to celebrate those we consider our champions in serving families and students in our local communities. This year, the North Canton City Schools Family Support Specialists have selected Debbie Fox as our champion. Debbie is part of Zion's Food Pantry and Shared Goods Team.

The team at Zion's work with the Shared Goods Place has been integral in allowing us to fill clothing and household needs. They structure the hours to allow both daytime and evening visits and will even accept private appointments from our families as needed. It is our "go to" as families or students experience needs. The team is warm and welcoming and often goes above and beyond, noting family interests and saving sizes or items they know a special someone will love. They also provide emergency food to our families from Zion's Food Pantry at almost a moment's notice.

Zion is always up for activities held at the Shared Goods Place to engage families. Our Back to School supply night, Fall Scavenger Hunt, Holiday Shop and upcoming Bunny Hop all serve to add a bit of joy and fellowship.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is located at
349 Lindy Lane NW North Canton, OH 44720
330-499-3909
www.zion-nc.com

Zion's Shared Goods Place is open the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. The location will also be open on these Mondays in 2022 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.: March 14th, April 18th, May 16th, June 20th, July 18th More dates can be seen at www.zion-nc.com

Zion Lutheran Food Pantry is open for Food Distribution from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
(first and third Tuesdays monthly): March 15th, April 5th and 19th, May 3rd and 17th, June 7th and 21st, and July 5th. More dates can be found at www.zion-nc.com



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.

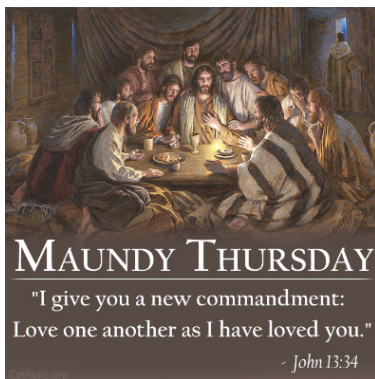
Palm Sunday, Wednesday April 6 at 7:00 pm and Sunday April 10 at 9:00 am



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.

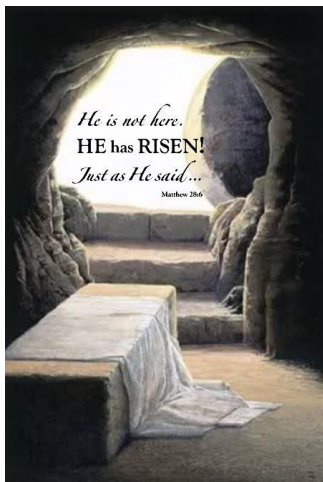
Good Friday, April 15 at 7:30 pm



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 17 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
NORTH CANTON COMMUNITY GARDEN
2022 SEASON
GARDENER APPLICATION**

Gardener: _____

Gardening partner: _____

Gardener Address: _____

Gardener Phone: _____ Partner Phone: _____

If you are a new gardener, would you like an experienced gardener to help you? Yes ___ No ___

If you are an experienced gardener, would you like to help a new gardener? Yes ___ No ___

Photo Permission: From time to time, gardeners, garden leaders and the media will take photos of the garden. Please check here _____. If you do not give permission for your photo to be published. If you do not give your permission, please let photographers know when you encounter them at the garden.,

Phone and email: All gardeners are required to share their phone number and email address with garden leaders. In addition, a gardener phone and email list is shared with all gardeners. Please check here _____ if you do not give your permission to share your phone number and email with all gardeners.

By signing below, I agree that I have read and understand and will abide by the Gardener Guidelines. If any of the guidelines are violated, I understand that I will be contacted by phone or email and have 10 days to address the violation. If the violation has not been remedied, I may lose my gardening privileges and my plot may be forfeited without refund or compensation.

I understand that neither the garden group nor owners of the land are responsible for my actions. I therefore, agree to hold harmless the garden group and owners of the land for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with use of the garden or play area by me or my guests.

Signature

Date

Date Application received: _____ Fee pd \$ _____ Rec'd By: _____

Plot Assigned: _____ Yes. _____ No. Plot # _____ Site _____

Notes: _____

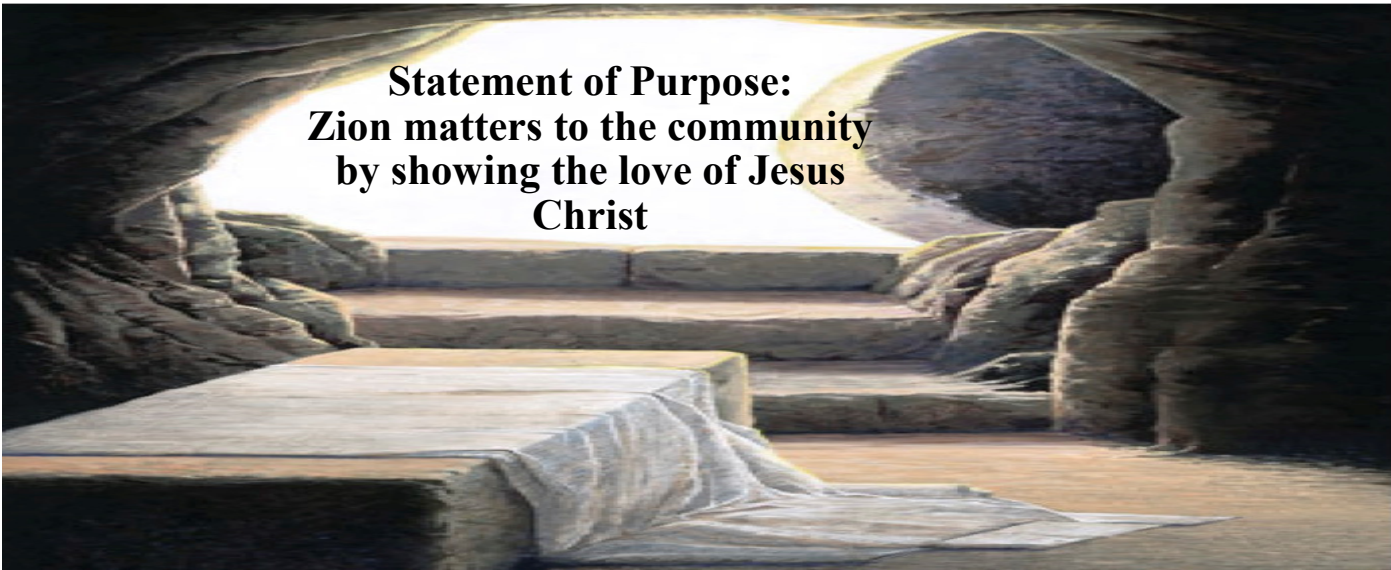
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH NORTH CANTON COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES

The following guidelines have been established and accepted by the members of this garden. Please read the guidelines and direct any questions or comments to the garden leader.

1. All gardeners are required to complete an application form. A non-refundable plot fee of \$25.00 for 4'x8' or \$15 for a 4'x4' are due with application.
2. Garden meetings and work parties are scheduled throughout the season. Plan to attend to get to know your fellow gardeners and help with garden upkeep and special projects. All gardeners are expected to participate. Please refer to the garden calendar for more information.
3. Keep your plot and the adjoining pathways tended. If your plot appears to be untended for a period of 2 weeks, and you haven't contacted the garden monitor, you will be contacted and your plot may be assigned to another gardener.
4. Call the garden monitor, Sue Whalen at 330-705-4696.
 - If you need help or if you will be out of town for an extended period of time.
 - If you plan to discontinue use of your space, let the monitor know as soon as possible so that your plot can be assigned to another gardener.
5. Plant tall plants and vines in places where they will not interfere with your neighbor's plot. Planting marijuana, illegal or invasive plants is strictly prohibited.
6. At the end of the gardening season, all dead plants and non-plant materials (string, wire, wood, metal, plastic, etc.) must be removed and disposed of properly and all gardens left neat and tidy. If your garden is not cleaned up by the designated date, you could lose your gardening privileges for the next season. If you know you will keep the same plot next season, you may plant perennial vegetables., However, you MUST pay for the 2023 season by October 31, 2022.
7. Pick up litter when you see it.
8. Please put weeds and dead plants into the trash bin provided. Do not leave them in the pathway.
9. This is to be an organic garden. Using chemical fertilizers such as Miracle Gro, weed killers, like Round up or Weed Be Gone or insecticides are prohibited.
10. Do not pick anything from another person's plot without their express approval.
11. Please do not leave the water on unattended. When finished gardening for the day, return tools to the shed and lock the shed up before leaving the garden. Make sure garden gate is closed to prevent animals from getting inside.
12. Smoking and chewing tobacco is not allowed. Gardener agrees to no hazardous materials including but not limited to, flammable materials or liquids, fireworks, pyrotechnic devices, explosives, poisonous materials or plants, strong acids or caustics or ANY animals be brought onto the premises or used in any way in or around the Garden,
13. Drugs, alcohol, radios, boom boxes and fires are not allowed. There is "Dog Parking" outside the garden gate to clip your dog while you garden. Please clean up after your pet.
14. Supervise children in the garden and surrounding property. Please be cautious of the play area. The church is not responsible for any liability that occurs in connection with the play area. Use at your own risk.
15. Report theft, vandalism and unusual activity to the garden monitor and the North Canton police.
16. Use common courtesy, be considerate of your gardening neighbors and enjoy.

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.

Pastor's E-Mail:

Church Council President: Jim Fidler

Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler

Church Office Secretary E-Mail:

Christian Ed. Director: Debbie Fox

Chancel Flowers: Vicki Givler

Church Office Fax Number

Prayer Chain: Kay Davis

Prayer Chain: Email

850-766-5853

Pastor@zion-nc.com

330-494-7839

330-499-3909

Office@zion-nc.com

330-966-2433

330-499-3909

330-499-0801

330-456-0724

Prayer@zion-nc.com

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

