

The Zion Herald

Proclaiming Good News

December 2022



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Sunday Evening, December 4: Advent 2

Light dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by Service at 6:15 p.m.

Sunday Evening, December 11: Advent 3

Light dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by Service at 6:15 p.m.

Sunday Evening, December 18: Advent 4

Light dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by Service at 6:15 p.m.

Saturday Evening, December 24: Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Space

Sunday Morning at 9 a.m., December 25

Wednesday Evening at 7 p.m., December 28

Guest Pastor: The Rev. Jim Kulma

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

December is the month in which we celebrate our Savior's birth. The Christmas Season is one of hope, of joy, of reflection on our blessings. It is also a time of introspection about ourselves and contemplation of the state of affairs in our community, our country and our world. We see suffering, tyranny, poverty and hunger. We see hatred, violence and conflict within and between countries. But what we also see is that so many of our fellow beings from all walks of life are striving in their own way to address and conquer those evils. We see people building houses for those who otherwise would not be able to enjoy home ownership. We see people providing meals for the hungry, clothing for the impoverished, and shelter for abused and abandoned animals. We see people in law enforcement and our judicial system fighting to keep us safe and ensure justice for all. We see our military men and women serving all over the world to preserve our freedom. And we see people striving for ways to comfort those who find themselves grieving at what is supposed to be a joyous time of the year.

In essence, we see imperfect human beings demonstrating that social interdependence expected of us by our Divine Creator. Zion's Congregation lives that human interdependence. We realize that relating to others makes us stronger and is essential to fulfilling our obligation to love one another.

As Christians we understand the significance of service to others and that Christ's promise is not a world without pain and grief but one in which, through faith, we are equipped to confront those evils. Because of Jesus's sacrifice for us, even death can be conquered.

Lord, thank You for making us people who understand that service to others is how we demonstrate our love for You, in Jesus's Name we pray. Amen.

Respectfully submitted
Jim Fidler
Council President

Ministry Reports

CARING MINISTRY

Supporting Teams:



Visitations – Please consider your participation.

Transportation – Team Leader needed, please consider.

Prayer Chain – Contact Kay Davis and add your name to the chain, Kay will E-Mail you with prayer request.

Funeral Reception Meals – Contact Darlene Milavickas to volunteer.

Handyman Services—Leader- Ken Reinoehl Volunteer and Request forms are available on the bulletin board across from Pastor's Office.

Feed a Friend – Laura Thompson:

Blood Program Team Leader, Debbie Fox.

Comfort Givers – Darlene Milavickas.

Food Pantry

During the month of September the Food Pantry served 160 households consisting of a total of 367 people. As a comparison, 155 households with 400 people were served during August 2022. September served 14 additional seniors, 22 less adults, and 25 fewer children than August. The decrease in September adult and children numbers shows the August increases were tied to the back to school supplies being offered by our Shared Goods Ministry. During September 2021 we served 131 households with 312 people. This September represents an additional 28 households and 55 additional clients over last year. With the upcoming Holiday Season, I expect we will experience high numbers based on current food costs. September numbers already show an increased need from our seniors.

Greeting Cards – Consider donating supplies or volunteering.



Shared Goods – Team Leader, Darlene Milavickas.

Staple Items for Food Pantry
These items are always needed

because we try to give them out at each Pantry distribution. Many times, it is hard to purchase these items from the Food Bank, or the cost is very high. Please add one or more of these items to your grocery list – it is greatly appreciated by our Food Pantry friends!

- **Soup – Chunky, Hearty or Creamy**
- **Boxed Cereal/Instant Oatmeal**
- **Spaghetti Sauce**
- **Jelly**
- **Peanut Butter**
- **Toilet Paper, Paper Towels or Tissues**

ZION'S SHARED GOODS PLACE is in need of household items such as tea towels, dishes, pots, pans, etc. We need little girls clothing, sizes 4 to 16 and children's coats in all sizes. We are collecting new underwear for men and women in all sizes. For Christmas we would like to give each family a bath towel set which includes a bath towel, hand towel, and wash cloth. We will be collecting these items from now until December 11, 2022.

Thanks to all the Caring Ministry volunteers and supporters.

O Lord, You have shown us perfect love, lead us to love and serve others without thought of self. Amen.

G. Scott Gross
Caring Ministry Elder

LEARNING MINISTRY

Adult Sunday School

Pastor Weidenbach will continue to lead our adult group on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am this month. Join us for an engaging and worthwhile discussion each week! **Please note, there will be no Sunday School on December 26th.**

Sunday School - Pre-K thru 6th Grade

Join us at 10:15 am on Sunday mornings for Sunday School! We will be having lessons about Advent and Christmas this month that will include some fun surprises. We look forward to seeing the kids each week! Their enthusiasm and contributions are so wonderful! **Please note, there will be no children's Sunday School on Sunday, December 26th.**

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will continue thru December 22nd at 10 am on Wednesday mornings, as we continue to study of the books of Haggai and Ezra. The next session will begin Wednesday, January 5th and will be a 4 week session on the book of Titus. Please contact Sue Whalen at witness@zion-nc.com if you are interested in joining the Women's Bible Study.

Weekly Bible Discussions

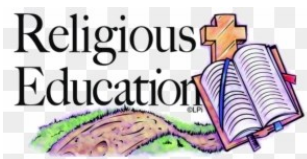
- Discussion of the current week's Bible lessons including the Gospel Reading
- Teen only Zoom meeting Mondays from 5 – 5:30 pm
- Zoom meeting Wednesdays from 5 – 6:00 pm
- Zoom meeting Thursdays from 9 – 10:00 am
- If these times don't work, contact Pastor William to set up a time that does
- In person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

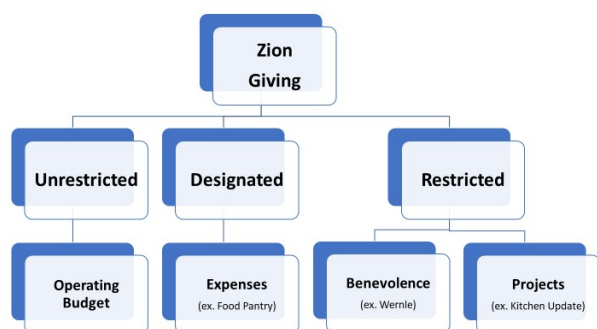
Debbie Fox
Learning Ministry Elder

RESOURCE MINISTRY

May the Lord's countless blessings shine upon you and grant you Peace! Freezing temperatures, falling leaves and those pesky snowflakes are all evidence that Winter is just around the corner; I hope you are prepared. This fall season has provided Zion multiple opportunities to show we matter to the community by showing the love of Jesus. The Art Show, Craft Show, Trunk or Treat and activity surrounding Thanksgiving with our Food Pantry patrons allowed us to involve the community and positively impact their lives. Your enthusiastic physical and financial support enabled these events to become the successful community impact ministries we envisioned. We trust we can count on your continued resource sharing to make the year-end holiday schedule of ministry events as fruitful and memorable.

First, let me express our thanks from the Council for your enthusiastic support and approval of our proposed 2021-2022 operating budget during the October Congregational meeting. We have plans for an aggressive, yet responsible schedule of ministry events planned and this endorsement, combined with your anticipated financial support, will allow us to successfully execute them. Again, **THANK YOU!**





Financially, October Giving was a dramatic improvement over September and a substantial increase over 2020 levels. The increases in Unrestricted or General Giving, combined with significant Designated Giving to produce a much-needed surplus for the month and satisfy our 2022 commitment for Habitat for Humanity Faith Build. This monthly surplus helped reduce our YTD deficit and puts Zion in position to end the year with a balanced budget providing our November and December results are comparable to 2020. You can help us make this a reality and we look forward to your generous holiday Giving since we have much to be thankful for.

We are thankful for your continued support and Giving to continue the “Good News” with our operations and community ministries. It is also im-



portant to remember that If you are planning to utilize Advance Giving in your tax strategies, these contributions need to occur before the end of the year.

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

John Rhodes

Resource Ministry Elder

WITNESS MINISTRY

COMMUNITY GARDEN



The community garden is almost ready for next Spring. We just need to put the fence up. I would like to personally thank Pastor William, Dave Palumbo and Linda Smith for their hard work in helping me along with Sue Hicks and Vicki from the North Canton Community Garden. We spent two days getting the beds built and filled and ready for next Spring. We already have a waiting list of people who are interested in getting one of the spots. If you or someone you know in the community is looking for a place to plant a small garden, let me know. I will add you to our list. I will be posting further information on pricing and sign-up sheets closer to Spring.

New website launched in October - welcome to <https://www.zion-nc.com/>!

The witness ministry is thrilled to announce the launch of the new website, providing a better on-line experience with Zion Lutheran Church. It was a team effort to develop the navigation and content criteria, then contracted with The Webfactors of Canal Fulton to build the site.

Below is a short list of these enhancements:

- Look and feel, with easier navigation and more pictures
- More content, richer & more compelling
- Calendar functionality for events - enhanced over previous where visitors can view by month, or week
- Enhanced Pastors' Message
- Shopping Cart functionality, with credit/debit card processing capabilities, which we will continue to grow into

- already using for Thanksgiving Donations and poinsettia orders - <https://www.zion-nc.com/christmas-flowers/>
- and Equal Exchange, <https://www.zion-nc.com/shop/>
- Meet the Team section - great big thank you to all for pictures & bios
- Enhanced marketing capabilities on the site - home page sliders to promote upcoming events

Please type in the full URL for the site to ensure your browser goes out to the internet and fetches the NEW site, versus loading a cached copy of the old site from your device. That URL is, <https://www.zion-nc.com>

If you have bookmarks to the old site, deeper than the home page, these will have to be resaved once you visit the new site. Your patience & understanding is appreciated! We will be conducting - "Meet the Website" presentations during regular church services in the month of December, so watch your bulletin for this info. The site will continue to grow and evolve over time, so please send any enhancement requests to the Witness ministry at witness@zion-nc.com.

Heavenly Father. Thank you for the many opportunities you have presented us with ways to reach out to the community. Please open our eyes to see those opportunities and our hearts and minds for ways to provide their needs. Amen

Susan Whalen
Witness Ministry Elder

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Large Print Bulletins--Starting Dec.1, large print bulletins will be available for both the Wednesday and Sunday services. Please ask for one as you enter the service.

Advent Services--This year will return to a more typical Advent service (Scripture readings and Christmas songs). No videos will be shown as in the previous year. The Parish Life Ministry has agreed to prepare a light supper at 5:30 pm (THANK YOU!), with the Advent service beginning at 6:15 pm. This will be in addition to the regular 9 am Sunday morning service. The organist or music leader that does the morning service will play for the evening Advent service. Dates: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Dec.19. Please join us for a meaningful and spiritual

experience as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming celebration of Christ's birth.

Women of the ELCA



Choir--It's not too late to join our church choir as they prepare for their de-

but on December 24 for the special music portion of Christmas Eve service at 7 pm and during the Christmas Eve service itself at 7:30 pm. They practice every Wednesday at 7:45 pm in the Choir Room.

Christmas Services--With Christmas falling on a Saturday this year, we will have both a Christmas Eve service on December 24 (Special Music service at 7 pm followed by the traditional Christmas Eve service at 7:30 pm) and a normal Sunday Service on December 26 at 9 am. Please plan on attending both.

Wednesday Evening Service Change--Due to the Christmas season, there will **NOT** be a Wednesday evening service on Dec. 22. Wednesday evening services will resume on Dec. 29.

Paul Bagocius

Worship Ministry Elder

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN OCTOBER 2021

October Income	\$ 49,467.98
Income through October	\$293,875.23
October Expenses	\$ 32,461.47
Expenses through October	\$312,788.00

We thank you for your generous support!
SOCIAL MINISTRY

A HUGE thank you to Pastor William and Vicki Givler for their support in putting together our very first Women of Zion Thankoffering service on November 21, 2021.

Also thank you to all the women who participated and who helped in any way. I love seeing our young "women" such as Hannah participate! It's great!

Our reception in Luther Hall was very well attended and thanks to your generosity we raised over \$500.00. The money will be used to support the mission of the Women of the ELCA at the local and national level. We cannot thank you enough! And of course this all happens because Christ is our King. This event is a way to say thank you God for all the blessings you give to us so that we may pass them on to others who need help.

Yours in Christ,
Ruth Reinoehl

I hope you will take a few minutes to read the article found on page 6 from Bishop Eaton entitled "God has Given us a Mission".

Did you catch the word “us”? It doesn’t say God has a mission for them, or God has a mission for the Pastor. It says “us”.

Why you might ask? Why do we need a mission? We go to Church regularly, we work hard, we pay the bills. “Because the world deserves to hear the Gospel.”! As our Bishop says, “There are so many people who do not know that they need to know Jesus”!

For many of us reading this, at least at this point in our lives, we are the 99 sheep that didn’t go astray. We are the older brother who stayed home and worked hard. We have benefited from living in the love of Jesus for many years. At times we have felt the Spirit working within us, we have been brought to tears by Jesus’ forgiveness and love. It’s so good, how can we not share this with others? It won’t be easy, it may not be quick, they may not want to know. It may take 99 of us to bring in one lost sheep,

but it will be so worth it.

Laura Thompson
Social Ministry Elder



December 2	Larry Genera
December 3	Anna Erbland
December 3	Arnold Givler
December 3	Ben Keith
December 5	Doug Roman
December 11	Margaret Van Scoy
December 12	Mabel Kolarik
December 14	Carol McKimm
December 15	Drew Heller
December 19	Linda Lancashire
December 20	Hannah Venable
December 23	Gary Horton

December 23	Lester Brown
December 24	Robert Henderson
December 25	Shirley Cary
December 25	Peggy Ingalls
December 28	Linda Tvorik
December 30	Grace Haga
December 31	Dave Palumbo



December 15	Donna & Jerry Roan
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Tree of “Thanks and Giving”

Thank you to everyone who filled out leaves of thanks and took tags from our tree this year! We collected \$1,100 to go towards the purchase of 116 gift cards to Acme. We served 99 households on Tuesday, November 16th during Food Pantry and that each received an Acme gift card along with their food! It was a very busy day, and a big thank you to all of the volunteers that shared God’s love with these families that day. There was so much gratitude expressed by the families as they shared how much the gift card and food helps them to be able to pay their rent, utilities, medical or other bills because they don’t have to spend money on groceries, especially at this time of the year! A big thank you to the Sunday School children, Kat Milek, the Sunday School leaders and Renee Keith’s 2nd grade class for decorating the bags for our Pantry families to receive their food.

We delivered 20 bags of food and Acme gift cards to our Siffrin friends on Monday, November 22nd. The adorable bags were created by our Sunday School children and put a smile on the face of all who see them. The children also filled the bags with delicious food items to help our Siffrin friends who are alone and have no family support. To learn more about Siffrin and how they help our community, check out the bulletin board in the hallway by the restrooms where there is an article from the Canton Repository about Siffrin’s new CEO and their future plans.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Thanksgiving projects this year from food and monetary donations, to decorating, filling and delivering the bags of food to all of our Pantry and Siffrin friends. Thanks be to God for the love and generosity of everyone!



Christmas Giving Tree

Our Christmas Giving Trees are up – one in Luther Hall and one in the Narthex. There are many families and individuals in need this holiday season, please help us share God’s love with a few of these people!

Our Giving trees have the following tags:

- Monetary donations to help with the purchase of Acme gift cards for our Pantry families and those we are sponsoring.
- Gift card ideas for the children at Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center.
- Gift card ideas for other families and individuals we are supporting.
- Gift ideas for the families and individuals we are supporting.

Please note the dates on each of the tags because we have different delivery dates for each group we are supporting. Please take a tag or two and share God’s love this holiday season!

This year we are supporting families from our Food Pantry friends, the North Canton Cares Team and Habitat from Humanity. We are also supporting five individuals from Siffrin and the kids at Wernle. Courtney Brown from Habitat shared the following with us about the two Habitat families -

“That's great news about the help this Christmas for 2-families! Speaking with our mortgage manager, she has been in communication with a couple of our homeowners who have had some recent struggles. I think these two families would be beyond blessed to receive some help this season.

Titnasha Robinson - her son recently suffered from a spinal injury

Adriane Driver-McGhee - her adult daughter recently passed away and now Adriane is raising her grandchildren

Let me know if you would like more information about the families. Isn't it amazing how the Holy Spirit works? These two women are in the middle of some challenges and at the same time God has put them on the hearts of His people. God makes a way!

Thanks for your continued partnership.

Much Love,
Courtney

This is why we do what we do at Zion! We are moved by the Holy Spirit to help those in need our community! Thanks be to God for everyone and your support this holiday season!

Shared Goods Place

We will have our Santa Shop on December 7th and 21st starting at 1 pm for our Shared Goods Place friends. The Santa Shop is a room with new items like clothing, hats, scarves, gloves, personal care items, toys, small gifts, etc. People who come to the Santa Shop will have a chance to pick from these new items for Christmas gifts. It is just a small way to help our friends at the holidays. Thanks for everyone's donations!

Trunk or Treat 2021

- 25 cars participated in handing out candy to the children this year – our best year to date!
- There were over 350 people that attended – over 200 children and over 150 adults (again our biggest year to date)
- Pastor shared the following from a family he talked with at Trunk or Treat:

“My daughter and I came to your Fall Festival and met someone who is in my daughter's class. We chatted and started getting together; now my daughter has a friend at school and our families have formed a friendship. Because of your church, our two families came together. What you guys are doing here is so wonderful.”

That my siblings in Christ is why we do what we do! God is doing great things through you.

- There was such a great energy that day, and it was so wonderful to see our parking lot, pavilion and playset full of people! Thanks be to God!
- Many, many thanks to Doug Roman, Pastor William, Darlene Milavickas and Shirley Horton for feeding all of the families. They served hot dogs, coney sauce, chips/pretzels, cookies, donuts, water, cider and hot chocolate.
- A huge thank you to everyone who participated and donated candy. Thanks be to God for all of you!
- Finally, thank you to Texas Roadhouse for donating 200 Free Kid's Meal cards to pass out to the kids.





Vitalant Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who came out to donate blood on Sunday, November 14th. Vitalant was able to collect 15 units of lifesaving blood from this drive! These generous gifts will be used to sustain or save the lives of up to 45 patients in need. To date Zion has hosted seven blood drives which have collected 123 units which will help up to 369 people!!! Thanks be to God for all of you that have donated the gift of life!



Our next drive will be Sunday, January 16, 2022 from 10am - 2pm (gym). You can schedule an appointment online or contact Debbie Fox, and she can schedule your appointment.

Here is the complete schedule for 2022 - please mark your calendars and help Vitalant save lives by donating during our drives!

Sunday, January 16, 2022
Sunday, March 20, 2022
Wednesday, May 18, 2022
Wednesday, July 27, 2022
Sunday, September 25, 2022
Sunday, November 20, 2022

***Sundays from 10am – 2pm**
Wednesdays from 4 – 7pm



For more information about blood donation, please visit www.vitalant.org.



Come Reflect With Us

Our Book Discussion Group will meet Friday, December 2, 2022, at 10am at Zion, in the Adult Sunday School room. We always welcome new members. Current members have chosen the reads for the 2022-23 season which ends in June, 2023. On December 2nd, we will be discussing The Authenticity Project, by Claire Pulley. If you have questions or comments, please contact Linda Weidenbach at 850-766-5640.



Glad Tidings:

Hidden Word Puzzle for

CHRISTMAS

ANGELS
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
CAESAR AUGUSTUS
CENSUS
CITY OF DAVID
FLOCKS
FRANKINCENSE
GALILEE

GABRIEL
GLORY TO GOD
GOLD
GOOD WILL
GOSPEL
HEROD
HOPE
HOST
IMMANUEL
JESUS

INN
JEWS
JOSEPH
JOY
LIGHT
LUKE
LOVE
MANGER
MAGI
MARY
MESSIAH

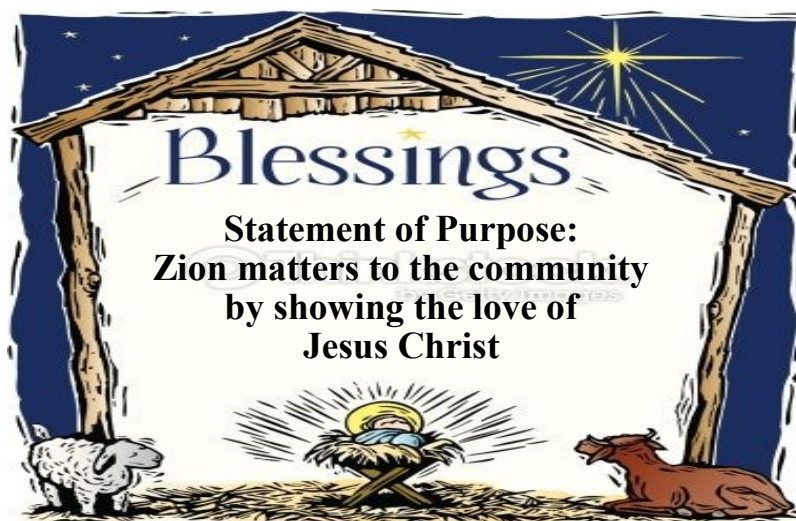
MIRACLE
MYRRH
PEACE
ROOM
SHEPHERDS
SON
STABLE
STAR
SWADDLE
TAX
WISE MEN

G	G	C	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	M	T	S	O	H
S	L	I	O	H	O	P	E	A	C	E	L	A	I	S	O	N
U	O	T	Y	L	I	G	H	T	S	I	X	N	N	V	U	M
T	R	Y	C	E	N	S	U	S	T	A	G	G	N	G	X	Y
S	Y	O	J	U	M	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	J	A	E	R
U	T	F	B	N	L	A	J	E	W	S	U	L	A	B	S	R
G	O	D	I	A	H	E	R	O	D	O	K	S	X	R	U	H
U	G	A	R	M	A	P	P	Y	S	U	E	H	G	I	S	I
A	O	V	T	M	A	G	I	S	L	E	C	E	O	E	U	S
R	D	I	H	I	R	A	T	S	O	I	P	P	O	L	S	W
A	S	D	R	R	C	L	E	J	T	G	H	H	D	O	N	A
S	F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	C	E	W	V	E	D
E	I	L	K	L	E	L	B	A	T	S	A	R	I	E	C	D
A	N	G	W	I	S	E	M	E	N	F	U	D	L	O	G	L
C	R	O	O	M	O	E	F	L	O	C	K	S	L	L	I	E

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

Return Service Requested



Worship Services

Sunday Morning: 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 p.m. Casual Service

Church Office Hours

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

Pastor: The Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.

850-766-5853

Pastor's E-Mail:

Pastor@zion-nc.com

Church Council President: 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

330-456-0724

Prayer Chain: Email

Prayer@zion-nc.com

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