## THE ZION HERALD

**Proclaiming Good News** 

February 2023

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.



#### **Message from our President:**

February is a month that challenges us not only physically in dealing with bitterly cold and inclement weather, but emotionally as well, as we continue to engage in the daunting process of attempting to discern and act upon God's will. This year we will celebrate Ash Wednesday, which ushers in the Lenten Season, on February 22. Contemplating Jesus's days in the wilderness, unfaltering embrace of His mission, death on the Cross to take away the sin of the world, and Resurrection as the Risen Christ with His promise of Eternal Life, simultaneously inspire us with awe, trepidation, wonder and gratitude.

February is also the month in which we in the United States celebrate Presidents' Day. As we at Zion strive to conform our actions to our stated purpose of "making Zion matter to the community by showing the love of Jesus Christ" and endeavor through humble and sincere efforts to ascertain what God would have us do, we may take some solace in the words of our greatest president, Abraham Lincoln: "I find that when the Almighty wants me to do or not to do a particular thing, He finds a way of letting me know it." When President Lincoln was asked if he believed God was on the Union's side during the Civil War, he replied that the proper question to ask was; "Is what we are doing putting us on God's side?"

Zion's Council members are continually exerting their best efforts to determine if what we are doing with all of the resources God has placed in our care is in keeping with His will. At a Council Retreat on January14, we met to evaluate the impact of recent developments at Zion and prayerfully contemplate a future course of action intended to strengthen Zion's ability to establish goals that genuinely address identifiable needs in the community. At a Meeting immediately following our Worship Service on Sunday, February 26, 2023, we'll be respectfully asking the entire Congregation to join in this discernment process by, inter alia, electing Zion's Elders for the term beginning in July, 2023.

Lord, thank you for Your sacrifice for us and promise of always standing by our side. Make us people who are constantly asking if what we are doing is pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus's Name we pray. Amen.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Fidler Council President



February 22, 2023 is Ash Wednesday this year and marks the beginning of Lent.

Ashes will be given out during the Worship Service at 7:00PM.

The Lenten Dinner & Worship Service will begin on Sunday, February 26, 2023. Dinner at 5:30PM and Worship Service at 6:15PM. This will continue each Sunday during Lent.

Please come and bring a friend!



#### **Caring Ministry**

Welcome to February 2023, this year we have new requirements for financially support-

ing our Teams. By action of Church Council, if you are not a self-funding team, please place your funding request in the Caring Ministry Mail Box across from Pastor's Office for approval. Some request could fall under a Tax-Exempt status; therefore, please check with the Church Office for the correct form for the required purchase.

#### **Supporting Teams:**

Handyman Services,

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

**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.

**Feed a Friend** – Laura Thompson: Request forms available in the office.

**Blood Program**—Team Leader, Debbie Fox. The next Blood Drive will be 1/29/23 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Comfort Givers – Darleen Milavickas. The Comfort Givers are currently working on comforters for the residents at Refuge of Hope. The group will continue making comforters for Lutheran World Relief.

#### **Food Pantry**

During the month of **December** the Food Pantry served 144 households consisting of a total of 323 people. As a comparison, 177 households with 407 people were served during **November 2022**. December served 33 fewer households consisting of 84 fewer people than November. Also, 27 fewer children were served in December. During December 2021 we served 159 households consisting of 386 clients. December 2022 had 15 fewer households and 63 less clients than last year. Our total outreach for November & December was 321 households and 730 clients. Thank you to all the supporters and volunteers that made this Holiday Season a success.

**Greeting Cards** – We have a new volunteer to support our current card senders. Consider donating supplies or volunteering.

**Shared Goods** – Team Leader, Darlene Milavickas.

Shared Goods had a clearance event in January of all clothes and household items.

Thank you to all the Caring Ministry volunteers and supporters, without your continued support, this Ministry is not possible.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be obedient children. Make us kind and devoted. Give us a good heart and a willingness to serve. Amen.

G. Scott Gross—Elder

#### **LEARNING MINISTRY-** Debbie Fox



#### Sunday School - Pre-K thru 6th Grade

Our Sunday School lessons from Whirl will continue this month at 10:15 am after service! There will be Bible lessons, service projects, crafts, games and snacks each week. Please join us on Sunday mornings for our 9am worship service and Sunday School after! Our classes made special Valentines for our troops on January 15<sup>th</sup> that will be sent to Stow, Ohio as part of a project called Operation Valentines for Troops. Iraqi War veteran, Jeremy McIntire, is on a mission to get handwritten Valentine's Day cards into the hands of our troops to brighten their day and let them know how much they are appreciated. Thank you to Janet Slease for organizing this important project, and thank you to our kids for the beautiful cards they made to share God's love with our troops.

#### **Adult Sunday School**

The discussion of *Chuck Knows Church; The Committee*, will continue in the worship space this month on Sunday mornings at 10:15am. Come be part of a humorous and poignant series that uses real world topics to look toward a preferred future for the church. Coffee is provided.

#### **Confirmation & High School Classes**

These classes meet Sunday morning at 10:15 am following service. We meet in the Coffee Exchange area after service and then head to class. See you on Sundays!

#### Women's Bible Study

The group will finish their discussion of Rachel Held Evans' book, *Searching for Sunday:* Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church, this month. The last session will be either Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3 pm or Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

Stayed tuned for details on the next session! Please contact Sue Whalen at <a href="witnessministry@zion-nc.com">witnessministry@zion-nc.com</a> with any questions, or if you are interested in being a part of this group.



#### **Weekly Bible Discussions**

- ◆ Bible discussions for adults are on Thursdays at 9 am by Zoom. Please contact Tina Taylor in the church office if you would like the Zoom link to be part of this discussion.
- The weekly lessons and Gospel message are discussed during this session
- If this time doesn't work, contact Pastor William to set up a time that does.

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 us to! Guide us in our pursuit of furthering our education into your Word. Amen

#### **QUIET PRAYER TIME**

#### **Witness Ministry**

Every Sunday from 8:15 to 8:45 am, the Adult Sunday School room is open for anyone who would like to have quiet prayer time or just to read your Bible. I know how busy our lives can be so this may be the time to have no distractions and peace and quiet to strengthen our time with God. There will also be a prayer board to post any special prayer requests you may have for the week. Prayer is so important. There is strength in numbers so let's all gather and pray together.

Dear God, You instructed us to love each other as you love us. Always and in all ways. Open our eyes to the many opportunities that come before us. Amen

Sue Whalen-Elder



#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

**AVAILABLE** 



Please notify the main office of any changes in your information such as name, address, phone number, email, marital status etc., so that we can keep our records up to date.



Mark your 2023 Calendars with the rest of Zion's Blood Drive dates for 2023:

Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 10am - 2pm Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 4 - 7pm Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 4 - 7pm Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 10am - 2pm Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 10am - 2pm

Thank you to everyone who comes out to donate! It is a true blessing to share the much needed gift of life with so many that need it!





Stop by for an overstock special on French Roast Decaf & Love Buzz coffee, Black teas and Candy Bars!!

Need a special something for that special someone come Valentine's Day?

Shop at Equal Exchange for a 7 bar box of "Cross Atlantic Chocolate Collection" and your choice of tea for only \$25.00!!!



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Chancel Flowers are available in memory or honor of your loved one (s) and are used in the Chapel for any Sunday Service of your choice.

They are only \$20.00 each and you can order as many as you wish!

You also get to take them home after the service and enjoy their beauty and your memories!!

We currently have February Sundays avaílable. Arrangements can be made in the front office.

## Spotlight



Dick Seeton came out of retirement and joined our work force on July 30, 2018. Dick retired from Faith Methodist church where he worked for 21 years in the position of head custodian. Before he was a custodian Dick worked in construction. With his background in construction he brings a lot of knowledge to his work.

He has always helped us with projects throughout the years. He is always going around fixing things and making improvements on this old building. He has helped Zion save a lot of money on repairs and electricity by changing to LED lights. He has changed the wiring in the ceiling lights to accommodate LED's.

Dick has helped us in the Shared Goods by putting up clothes racks on the walls. He came up

with the plan for the storage closet to clean up Memorial Hall from having to be cluttered with the chair racks and tables. He came up with the space for the walk in freezer and got the initial quote from Whisler Plumbing to get our project going. Dick has always gone the extra mile for us, and we recently advanced Dick to the position of Property Manager.

In addition to all his custodial duties, he now oversees the lawn and snow removal companies and getting businesses to make repairs that are needed. He will be helping on the different Task Forces with the remodeling projects in the church, getting quotes from different business and overseeing the work. He has been helping us with this all along so we made it official. Zion thanks him for keeping our space (our home) in wonderful condition. Debbie and I give him a big thank you for all the help he gives us with all of Zion's projects. Thanks Dick! We are blessed to have you in our family here at Zion. We also thank Sherri for being so gracious when Dick is called on his off hours and has to come in for some reason. Congratulations on your new position.

Article by: Darlene Milavickas

## **ZION'S SHARED GOODS PLACE** – Team Leader, Darlene Milavickas

January has been a time for cleaning at the Shared Goods Place. We have truly been pleased with all the donations from you and the community. We sorted through the racks of clothes and had a large number of boxes that we took to Refuge of Hope in Canton. We also took some dressier items to the Casimir Career Closet in Kent. They help students with the proper clothes for job interviews and working in the work place. Thanks everyone for their help in sorting through the clothes, tagging new items and putting them out. It is so wonderful to see this ministry grow and provide for so many different groups.





We can always use help with this ministry. We have the Shared Goods open every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 12pm to 2pm and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 6pm-8pm. We also have work days on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 10am-12pm. If these times don't work for you, let me know

what does and we can work something out. There are always things to do in the Shared Goods.

Dear Lord, You asked us to cloth the naked. Help us see how and what else we can do for your children in need. Keep us focused on showing Jesus' love to everyone in all the things we do. In Jesus name

we pray. Amen.



#### Let's Talk About Words

"I kept always two books in my pocket, one to read, one to write in."

Robert Louis Stevenson (Scottish novelist, poet and travel writer, most noted for writing Treasure Island, Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde)

The power of words is often underestimated. And yet, really think about how the words you use have an effect on others: The easiest way to prove this to yourself is to improvise on the "How are you?....Fine......How are you?" common discourse. The latest great line I have heard was in the movie *Jingle Jangle: Following the law is just the beginning.* In some aspects, this can be viewed as a summary of the Bible! We read a lot of words in the **First Friday at 10am Book Discussion Group** (generally one book per month and the participants choose the books). Even if you don't care for the book, articulating (in words!) *why not* and how the book may be improved is a source of growth for all.

#### We finish up this season's readings with:

Anxious People, by Fredrik Backman February 3, 2023
The Elephant Whisperer, by Lawrence Anthony March 3, 2023
The Girl with the Louding Voice, by Abi Dare, April 7, 2023
The Weight of Ink, by Rachel Kadish May 5, 2023
She's Come Undone, by Wally Dare June 2, 2023

If you have questions, please contact Linda Weidenbach at lindakjw@gmail.com or phone #850-766-5640.

"If we understood the power of our thoughts, we would guard them more closely. If we understood the awesome power of our words, we would prefer silence to almost anything negative. In our thoughts and words, we create our own weaknesses and our own strengths.

Our limitations and joys begin in our hearts. We can always replace negative with positive."

-Betty Eadie



#### Pastor's Ponderings

February, 2023

In just a few weeks, Lent begins with the day we recognize as Ash Wednesday. They day we come to terms with our own mortality and contemplate our relationship with God and what that means to us. So, I got to pondering:

#### Our discipleship

As a congregation, are we focused enough on learning about God? Do we provide enough and varied opportunities for meaningful education? Do we positively encourage one another to continually grow in our Christian faith and love? The reason I ponder this is because I notice that roughly 70% of the people who come to worship do not participate in any of the Christian education opportunities offered at this congregation. What will it take to have 100% participation? What will it take to have you participate?



#### Our beliefs

As a congregation, what do we believe about God and what God wants for and from us? Do we offer a safe enough environment that people can ask the tough questions about life and God that they are holding inside? Are we interested enough to hear their questions without judging them? How can we encourage people to ask tough life and faith questions in this Christian setting? How can we encourage you to open up?



#### Our practices

As a congregation, how do we live out our faith? Do our daily actions more closely reflect the function of life in the USA, or life in the kingdom of God? Do our conversations resonate with worldly concerns or kingdom concerns? Are our congregation's activities designed to meet our needs or the needs of those who don't know the love of Christ? I've noticed that much the same people participate in all our activities. What will it take to get some of the other Wednesday/Sunday worshippers involved? What will it take to get the community involved? What will it take to get you involved?



Everyone can do something. Some can physically participate. Some can prayerfully participate. Some can financially participate.

All can do something, and that is what we are called to do as Christians.

Jesus calls us to spread the kingdom of heaven here on earth.

What new way will you make that happen this year? God is counting on you.

Connect with God, pray for loved ones, remain present with people you encounter, and treat one another gently and with the love of Christ.

I look forward to hearing what you've been pondering. Graciously, Pr. William  $_{10}$ 





#### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 4 Kenadi Medina February 14 Mary Humbert February 15 Donna Roan February 15 Rick Riffle February 19 Rowan Medina February 26 Darlene Dague



Mark and Laura Thompson February 23





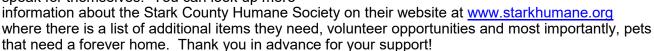
Our "Tree of Love" is up in Luther Hall this month to help the animals and staff at the Stark County Humane Society. The tree has heart tags and sweet treats for all to take. The tags will have items that are needed most at this time by the Humane Society, and the sweet treat is a small thank you for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

We will collect items through the end of February.

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

- 1. Canned Cat & Dog Food
- 2. Dry Cat & Dog Food
- 3. Bleach
- 4. Blue Dawn Dish Soap
- 5. Leashes

Please help us help the animals who cannot speak for themselves! You can look up more



Watch the bulletin and our Facebook page for information about a volunteer Saturday at the Humane Society in February or March. It will be a great opportunity to help out and meet some of the animals that are currently at the Humane Society.

## ITEMS FOR THE SHELTER'S ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

- Logs of Cheese
- Cream Cheese
- Chicken Broth
- Peanut Butter
- Audio Books
- Radios with Tape/CD Option
- Cat Toys
- Straws
- Cotton Balls

#### WINTER WISH LIST

- Canned Cat & Dog Food
- Dry Cat & Dog Food
- Dry Kitten & Puppy Food
- Bleach
- Copy Paper
- Gallon Size Freezer Bags
- Liquid Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap
- Spray Bottles
- Squeegees
- Mop Heads
- Mop Buckets
- Rubber Gloves
- Plastic Gloves
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Clothe Towels
- Hoses
- Hose Nozzles
- 9x13" Cake Pans
- Dog & Cat Dishes



Peace and God's blessings be with you all; today, tomorrow, and for the entire New Year 2023! Celebrating our saviors' birth culminated a joyous Christmas season at Zion. Don't let January's dismal weather negatively impact your daily interactions. Look for, and take advantage of, every opportunity to model the way and share the "Good News" as we utilize our resources with the Zion community. It was such a pleasure to see the smiles on faces and animated discussions taking place during the Holiday's; it will be especially rewarding for it to continue into the new year. Excellent work good and faithful servants!

December celebrations included the much-anticipated completion of the kitchen renovation and installation of the walk-in freezer. They have been well worth the wait and have already been operational for some of the Advent and Christmas activities. They are already a main stay of our Food Pantry ministry, and will be constantly used to support our planned 2023 ministry activities. Special thanks to all the Zion brothers and sisters who have diligently supported these projects and pushed them to a very satisfying conclusion.

Our December giving results were substantially improved over November (35%) and December 2021 (10%). This is the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of improvement. Thank you for continuation of this very positive response! This response improved our YTD Giving to 15% greater than 2021. It also allowed us to post a significant positive monthly Net Income when accounting for adjusted expenses from the Kitchen Renovation and to reduce YTD Net Income deficit to approximately \$49,000. The deficit is greater than our 2022 budget plan due to investments in technology and building maintenance to support our ministry developments.

Our Stewardship campaign, "Building a Culture of Generosity" will continue to be a point of emphasis throughout 2023 and beyond. We will be monitoring and providing feedback on our achievements relative to execution of Intent Card commitments, sharing the abundant provisions God has provided for us. Your spiritual, physical, and financial support is critical for us to accomplish Zion's ministries and share the good News with our community. Faithfully honoring these commitments will ensure that we accomplish our ministries in a fiscally responsible manner. We are encouraged by the increasing trajectory in our giving pattern and your continued support to make this possible.

Opportunities abound for us to make 2023 a safe, happy, and healthy year of sharing our resources to positively impact our community. Your individual contributions will ensure it happens.

**Prayer:** Lord, we continue to be humbled by the resources you 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—Elder Resource Ministry

		December 2022	Full Year 2022
r	Income	\$114,365.76	\$638,820.86
	Expenses	\$47,310.09	\$475,709.94
	Net Income	\$67,055.67	\$161,110.92



- Contact your recycler to establish the rules for recycling.
- Identify a location to store your recyclables.
- Find yourself a few recycle totes to separate your materials. Do your best with the space you have.
- · Start recycling!
- Remember to rinse out your recyclables. There should be no food or liquids inside your recyclables.
- Visit timetorecycle.org to find a location nearest you.
   Take your recycling to your nearest drop off.
- Happy recycling knowing you're doing your part for saving our beautiful planet!!

### SERVE OTHERS AND SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

#### PLEASE RECYCLE!

We are fortunate to have many local opportunities where we can drop off our recycling. Or have it picked up at our curb. But like any good thing, what and where to recycle can be complicated. For example, Stark Tuscarawas Wayne Recycling District cannot take shredded paper even if it is in a paper bag.

Why? Because shredded paper cannot be separated from other paper at the recycling facility, it becomes a contaminate. Recyclers need clean, dry sorted paper to recycle it. Please make the extra effort to find out the specifics of recycling in your area. Thank you for serving others and your community!



#### **WORSHIP MINISTRY**

Our Ministry is actively working toward having the first two Sunday services of each month feature "Song Leaders" to lead the singing with more contemporary praise songs. The last two Sundays will continue to be traditional hymn music. All Sunday services will maintain the traditional Liturgy. More details will be forthcoming as plans begin to take place. Reason for this new venture: To strike a balance for those who prefer praise hymns and those who like traditional music--God reaches different people through different means! Right now, attendance precludes having two services on Sunday like we had pre-Covid.

Plans are being finalized for the Easter season. Ash Wednesday will be on February 22 at 7pm(no dinner), followed by five Sunday evening services for Lent (dinner at 5:30pm with service at 6:15pm). Maundy Thursday on April 6 (7pm with no dinner), Good Friday on April 7 (7:30pm with no dinner), with the joyful celebration of Resurrection Sunday (Easter) on April 9 (9am)! (Please note, there will not be a Wednesday evening service on April 5, the Wednesday before Easter.)

For our Sunday services, a Childcare notice has started to be printed up front in our bulletin to inform visitors with small children of this service. If you see visitors with small children, please let them know about our Childcare.

Dear Holy Father, thank you for giving us the people to plan and implement the joyful gathering of your people to voice and sing your praises each Wednesday and Sunday! Amen

Paul Bagocius—Elder 1600 Chadford Gate SE North Canton, OH 44709 330-329-4678



Easter Sunday choir rehearsals begin March 1 and each Wednesday thereafter at 1pm.

Come join this robust group and be a part of making a "joyful noise" that will surely please our God!

#### Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center

2000 Wern'e Road PC: Pax 1866 Richmond IN 47575-1886 p. 677-525-8333 f. 745-942-4210



January 3, 2023

Zion Lutheran Church 349 Lindy Lane Ave NW North Canton, OH 44720

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you! Wernle is blessed to have you as a friend.

Thank you for your most recent gift of SB10.00, to support the Wernle girls and boys.

May the Lord biess you and your family during this upcoming year of 2023.

Please visit our website www.wemle.org and check out Wernle on Facebook.

Bleseings,

Chris Parker

Church Relations Officer

cparken@wernle.org, Off.ce 765-939-4598, Cell 765-967-6435

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s here. Though

Cell 765/96/-6435

The potential possibilities of any child are the most intriguing and stimulating in all creation. -Ray Wilbur

Wernle is a 5D1(c)3 conprofit egency. Your gift is ceductible according to current tax laws and regulations. Please allow this fetter to serve as your receipt.









To our dearest-friends at Bion Liberan, Thank you for generously providing gifts for our families this Christmas, in addition to all of the other support your offer. We just acrist thank you enough! We are truly blessed to have such we loving and supportive community a loving and supportive community to take come of our families needs to take come of our families needs sod bless each and every one of you!

Your support of all the different fundraisers and activities does not go unnoticed!!!

Bless you all for your continued generosity and giving spirit!

## FREE FOR THE TAKING!

## 1ST COME 1ST SERVE!!

Available at the church. Stop in to view items. Taker responsible for removing.



## February 11th—4pm



Open to everyone. Come and join the fun!! Sign up sheets in hallway.





# WE WELCOME TROOP 12 BOY SCOUTS AND CUB SCOUTS TO ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH!!

Beginning January 2023 the scouts have found a new home here at our parish, having weekly meeting and events.



This year's Scout Sunday activities at Zion Lutheran Church include the Sunday Worship Service on February 5th at 9:00am.







