

# THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

January 2023

Psalm 65:11 *"You crown the year with your goodness; your paths overflow with rich food."*



Photo by Sonyuser Courtesy of Pixabay

**The Good News:** *God always wants our future to be bright, and His intention is to surround us with abundance and blessing. Have faith in that intention as you go forth into this new year.*

## Message from our President:

The month of January ushers in a new secular year and is a time when many of us make New Year's resolutions which, for the most part, we will fail to keep. We make the mistake of looking inward and erroneously conclude that if we redefine ourselves physically or intellectually we will somehow discover the key to figuring out what our "purpose" in life is. Looking inward heightens anxieties about our own abilities. It generates a crippling fear that we lack the personal strength needed to successfully pursue a certain course of action.

To eliminate this emotional turmoil we need only to look outward and view the world around us through the lens of the Church calendar year. This is a time of transition between Christmas and the Season of Advent and the Lenten Season culminating in the Crucifixion of Jesus and His Resurrection as the Risen Christ. This is a time when we reflect on the life of Jesus, Who never saw the need to make New Year's resolutions. We are filled with awe by the incomprehensible magnitude of God's Love for the human race. A Love so all encompassing that He sacrificed His Only Begotten Son to wash away our sins and give us the promise of eternal life. From the beginning-the very beginning- Jesus' life was an irreversible, unalterable, unstoppable march to the Cross. Though repeatedly tested and tempted by Satan; constantly abused and scorned by the ignorant and the powerful; and knowing full well His followers would desert Him at Golgotha; He persevered in spreading the message of love and service to others. He taught us that everything in this world belongs to God and that God has placed in our care all the resources needed to accomplish the mission of service to others. By His Crucifixion and Resurrection He brought salvation and hope to our world.

This month Pastor William and our Councilmembers will be participating in a Retreat during which we will explore ways to continue to serve our community by showing the Love of Jesus Christ, while seeking God's continued guidance to ensure our continued use of the resources entrusted to our care in a manner consistent with His wishes.

Lord, thank You for Your all encompassing love for us. Make us continually aware of the interdependence of Your created beings and people who want to follow Your plan of service to others. In Jesus' 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. Request forms available in the office.

**Blood Program** - Team Leader, Debbie Fox. The next Blood Drive will be 1-29-2023.

**Greeting Cards** - Consider donating supplies or volunteering.

**Comfort Givers** – Darlene Milavickas - See article.

**Food Pantry** - Debbie Fox-See article.

*O God, enliven your obedient servants to continue to make lives better in 2023, with your help all things are possible, Amen.*

G. Scott Gross

**LEARNING MINISTRY– Debbie Fox****Adult Sunday School**

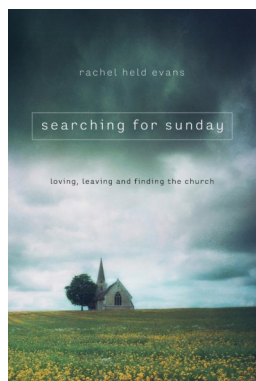
The group will continue with *Chuck Knows Church; The Committee*, in living color in the worship space this month on Sunday mornings at 10:15 am. Come be part of a humorous and poignant series that uses real world topics to look toward a preferred future for the church. Coffee provided. **Please note, there will be no Sunday School on January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

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

Our regular Sunday School schedule will resume on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:15! There will be Bible lessons, crafts, games and snacks each week so please join us! Please join us on Sunday mornings for our 9am worship service and Sunday School after.

**Confirmation & High School Classes**

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

**Women's Bible Study**

The ladies are finishing their study of *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church*, by Rachel Held Evans. The remaining dates for this session are Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3- 4 pm.

Please contact Sue Whalen at [witnessministry@zion-nc.com](mailto:witnessministry@zion-nc.com) 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.
- ♦ 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 -Sue Whalen – Witness Ministry**

Every Sunday from 8:15 to 8:45 am, the Adult Sunday School room will be 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 just 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*



# Women of the ELCA

## SOCIAL MINISTRY—Ruth Reinoehl

## OPPORTUNITIES



## AVAILABLE

On December 3rd the ladies of Zion got together for a cookie exchange. We sat down to tables decorated like Christmas packag-



es. There were eleven ladies in attendance and 21 dozen different cookies!! Each person was able to take home three dozen cookies to share with family and friends. We ate some of our holiday treats along with the Christmas traditional Wassail to drink. We enjoyed listening to stories of favorite ornaments and also stories about different cookie recipes



that have been handed down through families. We hope to make this an annual event.

Also we hope to in conjunction with St. Jacob (North Canton) help supply cookies every other month to Ronald McDon-

ald House in Akron. Stay tuned for more details.



## COMFORT GIVERS—Darlene Milavickas

Happy New Year! I am so excited to see what the new year is going to bring. How can we show our love for Christ to our neighbors? We are always looking for new ways to spread Christ's Love. We are starting to make comforters for the residents at Refuge of Hope as one of our new projects in 2023. One of our other wants for 2023 is to get some new people to join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month for making things for the community, for fellowship, coffee and treats.



You don't need to be able to sew, though sewers are always needed. If you can pin, thread a needle or tie knots, you can help make a comforter. Making something that will keep someone warm is such a wonderful feeling. I pray that you would consider coming and helping with our ministry. See you Thursday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10AM.

*Dear Lord,*

*We thank you for all you given us and for being there for us. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in all that we do. Open our eyes and our hearts to ways that we can help our neighbors. Amen.*



## WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

The Worship Ministry recently presented a gift basket to Terry at Maggiore's to show our gratitude for donating the wine for communion. The basket included Cheryl's cookies, Heggy's candy and nuts. If you're in the neighborhood of Maggiore's on Portage Street, be sure to stop by and thank Terry for his generosity thru the years.

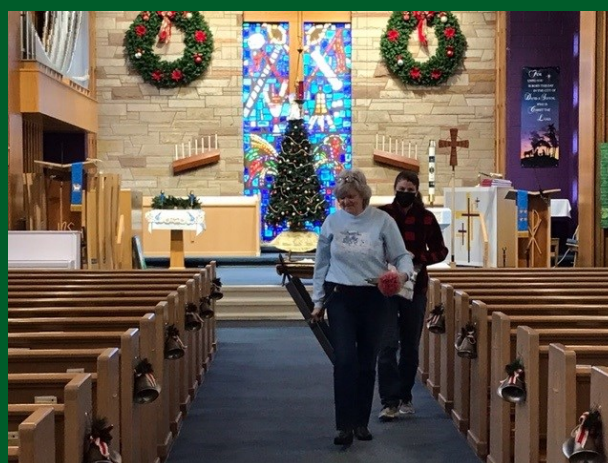


Connie Riffle, Terry-Manager at Maggiore's and Janet Slease

## HARDWORKING ELVES DECORATE THE CHAPEL FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



Debbie Fox and Darlene Milavickas





### Children's Christmas Program

This year's Children's Christmas Program, *A Capital CHRISTMAS*, was recorded on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. We hope everyone enjoyed our great group of kids who did a fantastic job! The video of the program was played during service on December 11<sup>th</sup>, and you can view it from our Facebook under the videos section.

The children used the letters of CHRISTMAS to go on an alphabetical journey that tells the Christmas story. Each Letter has a rich meaning based on a key word from the biblical account. The letters and their meaning are: **R – Root of Jesse, C – Caesar Augustus, T – Traveler, I – Innkeeper, S – Shepherds, A – Angels, M – Manger, S – Savior, H – Holy night.** At the program's conclusion, the children spell "Christmas" as an original poem highlights each letter's meaning.





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

We had a pretty good December. We had 6 new families come for our North Canton Care Teams friends. We were able to help them with clothes, toys, books and household items. Thanks to Cindy Bagocius and her elves for setting up and working in the Christmas Shop. It was wonderful to be able to help the people get a couple of Christmas gifts for their loved ones. The families were so grateful for the Christmas Shop and all the items we had for them. We are looking for new ways to improve what we have and for whom we will be providing help in 2023. Thank you for your support in 2022 and we look forward to being here for the community in 2023 with your help. We can use volunteers to help sort and tag clothes, sort household goods etc.

We have work days on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10am. If this time doesn't work for you, call me at 330-412-4336 to make arrangements for another time that works for you.



Dear Lord,  
You asked us to cloth the naked, help us see how and what else you want us to 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:**

**The Hope Chest, by Carolyn Brown January 6, 2023**

**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](mailto: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

January, 2023

Happy New Year! Yippee! It's time for something new! We've longed for a new year, a new chance for relationships to be better, and maybe even a new healthier body. The possibilities are endless.



But, wait a minute, don't we hate new things? Oh no, silly one, that only applies to church. The rest of the world changes and we hope bad years will change into good years, but change in the church is to be avoided at all cost – or so the saying goes.

What might happen if we thought about all of this as improvement – the same way we do for all other aspects of New Year hopes and dreams? What can we improve about church this year? Can we improve our participation, not just in showing up for worship, but participation in the life of church?

- Our service to the community at the many events and projects throughout the year: Blood drives, Habitat for Humanity Faith Build, Humane Society Day of Service, Community Garden, Wernle Youth and Family Treatment Center Easter Egg Collection, North Canton Cares Network Back to School Program, Cruise-In for Charity, Main Street Festival, Community Vacation Bible School, North Canton Police Bike Rodeo, North Canton Jaycees Safety Town, End of Summer Community Party, Community Trunk or Treat, and others. How did you participate in, pay for, or pray for these events?
- Our feeding the hungry and clothing those in need. Providing hot meals and groceries at our twice monthly Food Pantry. Freely giving clothing and household goods at our Shared Goods Store. Did you contribute clothes, goods, or food? Did you show up to help sort or distribute? Did you hold the participants in prayer?
- Our caring for the sick and homebound. Sending cards, making check-in phone calls, or taking communion. Did you passively ask how people were doing, or did you care enough to reach out to these people, inviting pastor to join you in a visit?

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





## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



January 4	Carli Brown
January 5	Nathan Fox
January 11	Verle Elsass
January 14	Juanita Cignetti
January 15	Randy Cizek
January 15	Eli Seitz
January 19	Drew Keith
January 20	Gail Vogt
January 20	Laurel Venable
January 20	Randy Elsass
January 20	David Panzarello
January 21	Casey Walters
January 21	Liam Medina

*Happy Anniversary!*

*Verle and Ruth Elsass  
Robert and Johanna Henderson  
Rev. William and Linda Weidenbach*



## COMMUNITY CASH BACK

EARN 5% **COMMUNITY CASH BACK** On These Acme Fresh Market Store Brands:









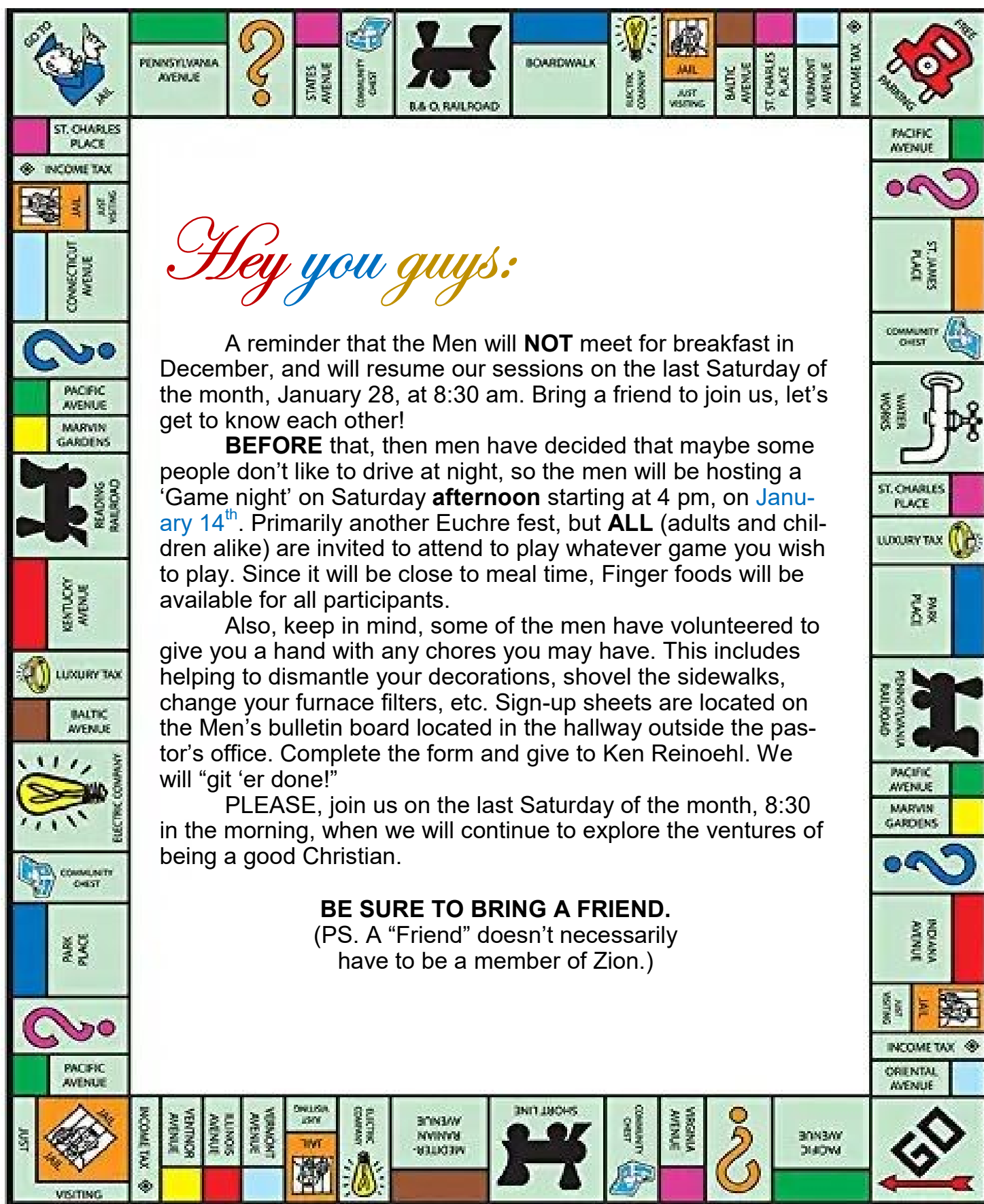




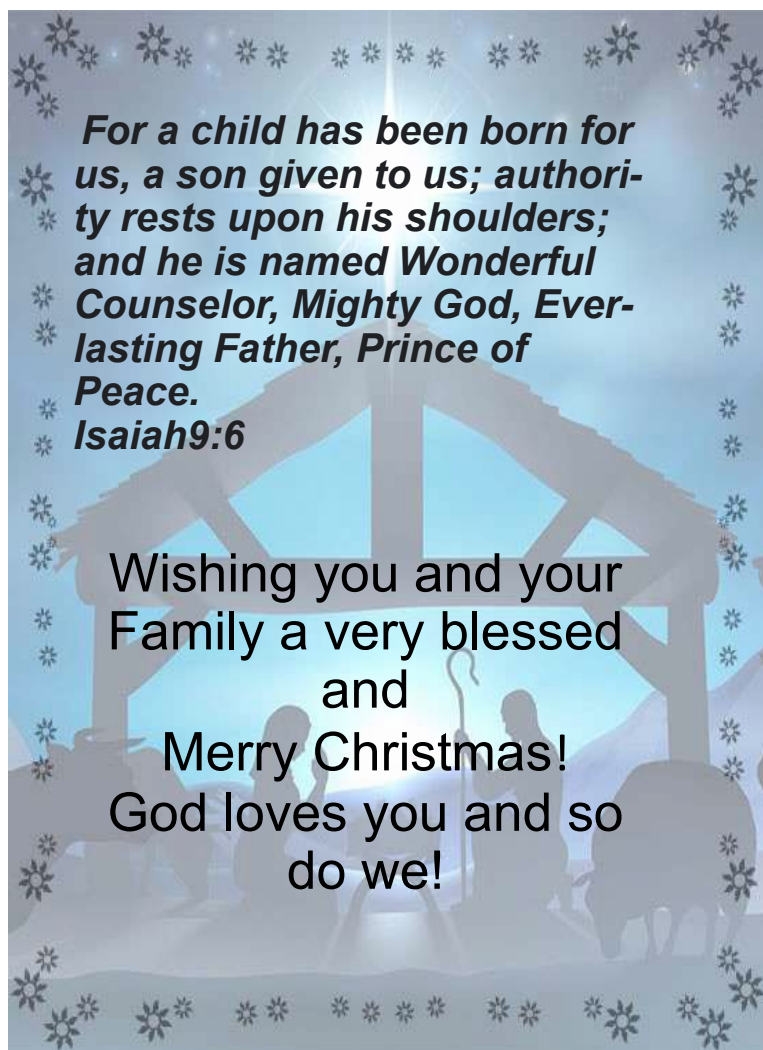



### Acme Receipts Reminder

The Acme receipt program ended December 24<sup>th</sup>. Please bring in your receipts dated between August 4, 2022 and December 24, 2022 by January 29<sup>th</sup> to give us time to process and submit them! Zion will receive 5% of the Community Cash Back amount on the bottom of the receipts. Thank you for your support!







Debbie Fox, Tina Linz and Janet Sleese volunteer to sign the Christmas cards (as seen above) that are included in the packages for the Food Pantry Give away.



**Good News from the Food Pantry—Debbie Fox**

December was a very busy month for the Food Pantry! With our two food distributions during December, we served 145 families which included 327 people. The need is so great right now, and we are very grateful for all of the food donations and volunteer hours put in to make our Food Pantry run so smoothly! Throughout 2022, we have had over 50 volunteers help with the Food Pantry and Shared Goods Place. Thank you so much for your hard work, time and love for our community and thanks be to God for filling us all with the Holy Spirit to do his will!



There were many hugs, smiles and words of gratitude shared on our Pantry distribution days from our pantry friends. They are so appreciative of the food we give them because it helps free up money for other important expenses. They also really enjoy and appreciate the hot lunch they receive while waiting for the food distribution to start. On December 20<sup>th</sup>, we added a coffee cart as an extra treat! It is a constant reminder of how important it is for us to share God's love and help our community, especially now with the cost of groceries. The food and support that we are able to give makes a big difference in the lives of many!



A big thank you goes out to everyone that donated towel sets and Christmas cookies for our Pantry families. We exceeded our goals on both collections! On December 20<sup>th</sup>, we were able to give every family at least a dozen Christmas cookies and a new bath towel set along with a Christmas card to let them know how much they are loved by God and their friends at Zion.



As we remember *Matthew 25:35-36*

*"for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing",* we pray that God will continue to guide us in our Food Pantry and Shared Goods ministries throughout the new year!







## Christmas Giving Update—Debbie Fox

Thank you for everyone's love and generosity this Christmas season! We were able to help so many people and let them know that they are loved and cared about! What an amazing way to share God's love with our community!



This Christmas we supported five families from Plain Local and North Canton City Schools, one family connected to Siffrin who recently lost their home and are living in a hotel, the kids at Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center and the North Canton Jaycees Adopt a Family program.



With everyone's generosity we were able to provide Christmas gifts and gift cards for the six families and their children, all wrapped and delivered by December 19<sup>th</sup>. When one of the mothers picked up her family's gifts at the school, she was overcome with emotion and gratitude and cried. Thanks be to God for the love we can share by such small acts of kindness!

We provided 12 stockings and all kinds of goodies to fill them for one of the boy's units at Wernle. The stockings included candy, snacks, socks, hats, playing cards, chapstick, body wash, deodorant, fidget toys, pop it balls and more. Chris Parker said, "You guys nailed it! So nice!", when he got back and went through the boxes of items. We also gave Chris 18 fast food gift cards for the kids and a check for \$800 to sponsor Christmas for 4 kids. Thank you to everyone for supporting these kids and showing them that they are loved!



Finally, we collected new toys, new clothes and gift cards to support the North Canton Jaycees Adopt a Family program that helped North Canton and Canton families and homeless teens in our community. We had two collection boxes that were filled in December with many toys and clothes, and we received 16 gift cards for fast food and gas. Abby from the NC Jaycees made three pick ups to collect all the items and expressed many thanks and gratitude. We are grateful for all of her hard work and the other

Jaycees to give those families and teens a nice Christmas and to feel loved and cared about. Thanks be to God!

This Christmas was another example of supporting our mission at Zion! We matter and help those in need in our community and share God's love! Thanks be to God for everyone and your support this Christmas season – and let's continue this good work in 2023 good and faithful servants!





## Habitat for Humanity Canton Faith Build 2023

We are excited to report that we have sent our commitment letter for the 2023 Habitat for Humanity faith Build. We have committed \$5,000 and volunteers to participate during work days on the build, along with a commitment of prayer and support for the entire project and all involved. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. Thanks be to God for this amazing opportunity to serve our community and share his love!

From the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio, Beth Lechner:

In 2023, we're celebrating our 35th anniversary and want nothing more than to show how faith has remained foundational to this organization. It is truly an inspiring experience to watch people of all faiths swing hammers together as they go "on mission" right here in our community.

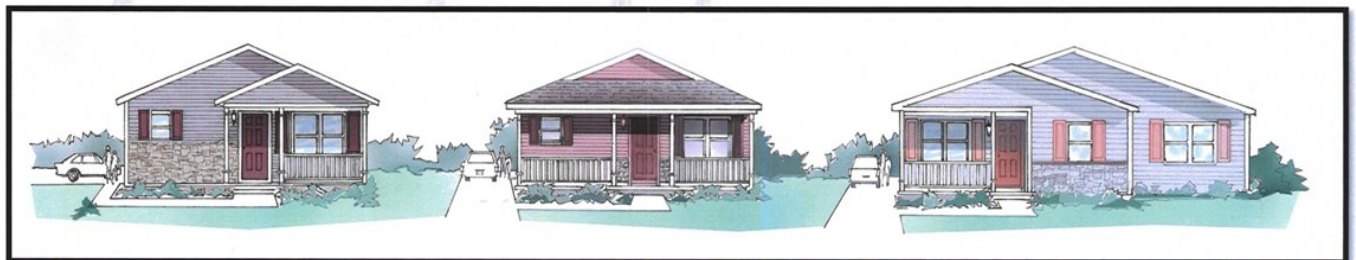
In the summer of 2023, local faith communities will bring their time, talents, and treasures together as we build three homes with three families in our Northeast Canton revitalization neighborhood.

We can't wait to introduce you to the families who will discover strength, stability, and self-reliance thanks to faith communities joining together to build in unity. These families are already hard at work completing their homeowner education classes as part of their sweat equity requirements and will soon be selecting the sites where they'll build their homes!

In the coming months, we'll share more information about the families we're building with and the specific timeline for their projects. If you'd like to learn more about what being part of a Habitat Faith Build involves, we are happy to speak with you and members of your faith community. We pray Faith Build 2023 will be a catalyst of hope for our community, and we hope you'll build on faith with Habitat for Humanity.



## CONCEPT DRAWING



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" – Isaiah 6: 8

## Vitalant Blood Drive – Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Our first blood drive for 2023 is Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 2 pm in the gym. Please give if you can and schedule an appointment to help sustain or save the lives of others in need. There is a critical need right now and supplies are dangerously low – please consider helping out! Enjoy a light meal and treats after you donate. Contact Debbie Fox and she can schedule an appointment for you, or schedule your own appointment by following the options below.



### To schedule your own appointment:

Go to: [vitalant.org/ohiodonorportal](https://vitalant.org/ohiodonorportal)

Click on “Make an appointment”

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

1. Change the date to January 29<sup>th</sup> and scroll down until you see Zion Lutheran Church  
Click on the location to make an appointment for to highlight it and click on “Select” below the box with blood drive listings.  
Click on appointment time  
Click on “New Donor” to register or “Existing Donor” if you already have an account
2. In the next box down you can search by zip code and radius for a blood drive.  
Click on the location you would like to make an appointment for to highlight it and click on “Select” below the box with blood drive listings.  
Click on appointment time  
Click on “New Donor” to register or “Existing Donor” if you already have an account
3. Or Go all the way to the bottom of the page to search by Group Code.  
Zion Lutheran Church’s Group Code is: 1525  
Click on location to highlight and then hit “Select”  
Click on appointment time  
Click on “New Donor” to register or “Existing Donor” if you already have an account

### 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!



## Jesus and the Children Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

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

BLESSED  
CHILDREN  
DISCIPLES  
HEAVEN

INDIGNANT  
KINGDOM  
LITTLE  
LOVE

REBUKED  
WELCOME





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 Indoor Service**

**Zion's Staff**

Pastor: The Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.  
Mobile: 850-766-5853  
Email: [Pastor@zion-nc.com](mailto:Pastor@zion-nc.com)

Office Secretary: Tina Taylor (during Vicki's Family Leave)  
Phone: 330-499-3909  
Text: 330-208-9094  
Email: [Office@zion-nc.com](mailto:Office@zion-nc.com)

IT Manager: Louis Varlamos  
Email: [Tech@Zion-NC.com](mailto:Tech@Zion-NC.com)  
Website: [www.zion-nc.com](http://www.zion-nc.com)

**Office hours:**

**9:00 am to  
3:00pm M-F**

Like us on Facebook@zionnorthcanton

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