

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 Worship Service
*Services are streamed through Facebook

Office hours
9:00am to 3:00pm M-F
Doors open at 9am

Zion's Staff
Pastor: The Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr.
Mobile: 850-766-5853
Email: Pastor@zion-nc.com

Administrative Assistant: Tina Taylor
Phone: 330-499-3909
Email: Office@zion-nc.com

IT Manager: Tobias Rhodes
Email: Tech@Zion-NC.com
Website: www.zion-nc.com
Like us on Facebook@zionnorthcanton

Council Members

Jim Fidler—President
Darlene Milavickas—Vice President
Jayne Schrader—Secretary
Beth Shaheen—Treasurer
G. Scott Gross—Caring Ministry
Debbie Fox—Learning Ministry
Tina Linz—Parish Life Ministry
George Miller—Property Ministry
John Rhodes—Resource Ministry
Susan Whalen—Witness Ministry
Paul Bagocius—Worship Ministry

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

THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News December 2023

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOLIDAY SERVICES 2023**

ADVENT SUNDAY SERVICES

December 3, 2023	9am	Worship Service
December 3, 2023	5:30pm	Advent Meal
December 3, 2023	6:15pm	Worship Service
December 10, 2023	9am	Worship Service
December 10, 2023	5:30pm	Advent Meal
December 10, 2023	6:15pm	Worship Service
December 17, 2023	9am	Worship Service
December 17, 2023	5:30pm	Advent Meal
December 17, 2023	6:15pm	Worship Service
December 24, 2023	9am	Worship Service

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 21, 2023	3pm	
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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24, 2023	7pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 25, 2023	9am	A Service of Lessons and Carols

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Every Wednesday in December—7pm

NEWS YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

December 31, 2023	9am	Worship Service
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Zion Lutheran Church
349 Lindy Lane Ave. NW
North Canton, Ohio 44720
330-499-3909

Message from our President

In December we contemplate God's incomparable gift to the world- the incarnation of His Divine Essence and Presence in the human form of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. At Zion our Advent, Sunday Morning Worship, Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Services are about celebrating what God did for the sake of His people. The knowledge that we are truly blessed to have the Commandments to love God with all of our mind, heart and soul and to love our neighbors as ourselves furnishes purpose to our lives and a sense of peace that transcends all understanding. We are flawed human beings struggling to navigate the trials and tribulations of troubled seas. There can be no better navigator of these troubled waters than Jesus Christ. The knowledge that He stands beside us on this sometimes very perilous journey reassures us, strengthens our resolve to continue in the face of adversity, and instills in us a renewed determination to be good stewards of the abundant resources our Divine Creator has entrusted to our care.

During this past year each of us has suffered loss or heartache or despair. Being human, we often look inward on such occasions and immerse ourselves in self pity, recrimination, and doubt. At such times the lamp of Jesus' love dispels the gloom and directs our steps to the path that takes us out of despair. On these occasions we experience the healing power that love and concern for our welfare on the part of friends and neighbors provides. And it is during such times we come to appreciate that love for God and our neighbors is the prescription for mutual healing and that there can be no greater Christmas gift than the gift of new life through faith in Jesus. It is incumbent upon us to be good stewards of this gift. We need to cherish it, honor it and make the most of all it has to offer. Cultivating the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy in Christ will aid us in this endeavor.

Zion's "Stewardship for all Seasons" campaign focuses on the opportunities generous giving provides to further Zion's mission of service to the community. As we think about our gift giving this Christmas season let us focus our thoughts on meeting real needs and giving where it will be much appreciated. Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection gave us a heavenly Afterlife. We need to remember that Jesus' birth gave us new life here today- a life abundant with joy, peace and fulfillment that grows as we grow in faith through prayer, generosity and service to others. Practicing these disciplines of faith enhances our ability to fulfill the two Holy Commandments to love God and our neighbor.

Lord, thank you for the message of Life Abundant; Your Commandments to love You and our neighbors; and Your admonition to serve others and be generous to those in need. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Merry Christmas

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Fidler
Council President



**Blood Drive: Sunday, December 17th
10 am – 2 pm in the gym
We Want Your Blood! They Need Your Blood!**

THERE CONTINUES TO BE A CRITICAL SHORTAGE – PLEASE HELP SAVE AND SUSTAIN LIVES BY DONATING YOUR BLOOD!

Did you know that one in seven hospital patients requires a blood transfusion? This could be somebody's mother or father, sister or brother, son or daughter, or perhaps one day, you. Lifesaving blood offers second chances and many tomorrows to those who depend on it. If you're worried about needles, don't be—most blood donors compare the experience to a mild, split-second pinch! The entire process is very safe and very fast, and you will feel amazing knowing you potentially saved up to three people. Please give if you can. It truly is the gift of life and there are so many who need your donation!

You can schedule your own appointment, or Debbie Fox can schedule one for you.

To make your own appointment go to:

<https://donors.vitalant.org/dwp/portal/dwa/appointment/guest/phl/timeSlotsExtr?token=rpWCGMfJ%2FsldxPH1ITaq1KcuSg7ROM%2Btvz7ydfwsDh8%3D>

or go to:

Vitalant.org

Click on "donate"

Click on "schedule an appointment"

And search by city, zip and date

Or use "Advanced Search" and Group code: U1525

If you are unable to donate on December 17th, you can go to the Vitalant Donation Center at 4119 Tuscarawas St West, Canton, OH 44708. Call 877-258-4825 or schedule an appointment online.

Please mark your calendars for our 2024 Blood Drives at Zion:

Sunday, Feb 18th, 2024 10am – 2pm

Sunday, April 1st, 2024 10am – 2pm

Wednesday, June 12th, 2024 (3:00-7:00pm)

Wednesday, August 7th, 2024 (3:00-7:00pm)

Sunday, October 13th, 2024 10am – 2pm

Sunday, December 15th, 2024 10am – 2pm



Because of you, life doesn't stop.



BLOOD DRIVE

Zion Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
10 AM – 2 PM

Gym
349 Lindy Lane NW
North Canton

GIVE BLOOD TODAY | vitalant.org
Eligibility questions? Call 877.258.4825

All donors will receive a \$10 gift card redeemable via email.

Please eat before you donate.

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

Appointments are preferred.

To make an appointment and earn reward points, go to vitalant.org and search with Blood Drive Code: **U1525**



Trunk or Treat 2023

The community came out despite the rainy cool weather to enjoy Trunk or Treat this year. We had over 500 people join us this year – our biggest ever in the five years we have hosted a Trunk or Treat event! We held the event inside this year because of the weather, and it worked out great! There was plenty of candy at the tables we lined up in the gym and Coffee Connection area. Thank you to everyone who decorated their spaces and passed out candy to the kids and their families, and to all that donated candy.

We provided hot dogs, brats & sauerkraut, chips, cookies, donuts and drinks for everyone to enjoy. The tables we set up for eating were constantly full! Everyone left fed and happy, and with a lot of candy for later! Thanks to Doug Roman for grilling the hot dogs and to Dave Palumbo, Darlene Milavickas and Pinar Elliott for handling the kitchen and feeding the people.



It was a great day for community fellowship and fun. There were lots of people and great costumes, dogs and even a cat! We were able to provide a safe & warm place for all to come and enjoy – especially with this year's weather! Thanks be to God!



Adult Sunday School

Calling **all** adults! Join us in Coffee Connection area after Sunday service at 10:15 am for coffee, delicious treats and Bible discussion. The group, led by Pastor William, is discussing the book, "Autopsy of a Deceased Church (subtitle – 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive)" by Thom S. Rainer, for 14 weeks. The chapters in this book will give important insight into how we can move Zion forward in positive and meaningful ways that align with our mission!

Confirmation & High School Classes

Classes meet Sunday mornings at 10:15 am. Join us at the Coffee Connection and then we will head off to classes. Cindy Bagocius leads our Confirmation classes studying the "Here We Stand" curriculum and Renee Keith is our High School leader using t.b.d. curriculum.

Bible Adventure Pre-K thru 6th Grades

Sunday Bible Adventure meets Sundays at 10:15 am after service in our classrooms in the back hall. There will be no classes on Sunday December 24th or Sunday, December 31st. Our regular schedule will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

Join us for great lessons from Whirl, games, crafts and snack and encourage your kids to bring a friend! We have some fun things planned for the holiday season!



The Children's Christmas Program will take place during our Sunday evening Advent Service on December 17th. Dinner is at 5:30 pm and service starts at 6:15 pm. The kids will lead us in the beautiful Chrismon Service as we learn about the Chrismon Symbols and fill the Christmas tree with all of our Chrismon ornaments. Join us for a great evening!



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study group will meet on Monday, December 4th at 4:30 pm for a Christmas Celebration and ornament exchange at Cindy Bagocius's home (Market Ave NW, Canton, OH 44708). Bring an ornament that is home-made or in the \$5 - \$10 range, and enjoy delicious food and fun – all women are invited. Please RSVP by text to Cindy Bagocius at 234-207-3638. Ruth and Cindy will be hosting the group together this month.

Regular Women's Bible Study sessions will start again after the first of the year. Stay tuned for dates and times. There will be at least two sessions offered, and the group will continue to devote an hour in the Word and in the company of each other discussing the Bible Study from the ELCA's GATHER Magazine.

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 learning your Word every day. Amen

Food Pantry News - Debbie Fox

I wanted to share a few stories that happened in November that show how much we do matter to the community! A woman came in for the first time for one of our distributions. She drove by, saw our banners and stopped. She decided to come in and shop for her food and as she was talking with the volunteer who helped her shop, she explained that she is a single mother and had just run out of food. That morning she didn't know what she was going to do, but then saw our banners (the Holy Spirit at work!). When she finished picking out her food, she was in tears and could not believe what she had received. She was so grateful because the food was going to help her get to her next paycheck! God sent her to Zion and we were able to help! Thanks be to God!

The next person I wanted to share about is a single gentleman who was very nervous on his first visit with us this past month. He wasn't sure how it all worked, and decided to have us bring out pre-packed groceries instead of coming in to shop for his food. I could see he was uncertain so I stopped to talk with him before getting him registered. He was so amazed that we had given him lunch. He wasn't going to be able to have lunch that day, so this was a really big deal for him. It was a hot and delicious meal that he couldn't stop thanking us for. He then gave me all of his reusable shopping bags that were in his trunk because he did not need them and wanted to help if he could – just amazing! He was so grateful for all the groceries and was just a joy to visit with. On his second visit, he was much more relaxed and again very grateful! Thanks be to God that we could be here to feed him and show him he is loved!

Finally, as I was shopping at Aldi for our 2nd distribution in November, a woman in front of me in the checkout line looked in my cart and said, "donations?". I explained that I was getting items for our Food Pantry. She was very curious to learn about where we were, who we served and how many. She was so moved by what we do that she offered to pay for some of the items I was buying. The Holy Spirit moved her to help with our mission to feed the hungry, and I could not have been more touched and grateful for her actions. Praise God!



How can you help in December? We are planning to give each of our families a Christmas bag with paper products including toilet paper, tissues, paper towels and laundry detergent. Our goal is to collect enough of these items for 100 bags. We will also give each family a plate of Christmas cookies, and will need over 100 dozen cookies. Sign up sheets to donate Christmas cookies are in the area by the Coffee Connection. Cookies are needed by Sunday, December 17th. Thank you in advance for helping us share God's love with those who are in need in our community! We really do matter and hope to share a little extra love this holiday season!



Sharing God's Love at Thanksgiving—Debbie Fox

November was a very busy month! We served 107 families during our first Food Pantry Distribution and 74 families the second. Each family received a decorated Holiday Food Box full of 14 items in addition to our normal food distribution on November 21st. A big



thank you to Zion's youth, their families, the Cub Scouts and Renee Keith's 2nd grade class for coloring Fall pictures that were attached to each Holiday Food Box. A big thank you to Carol Rossbach and Linda Weidenbach for writing "Happy Thanksgiving" on all 120 boxes and to our kids and parents who cut out and attached all the pictures to the boxes. We also served coffee and pie to our Pantry friends on the 21st when they arrived as a

special treat. Thank you to Tina Linz and Mark Denman who braved the cold and rain that day to take care of our friends. Dave Palumbo fixed a special Thanksgiving hot lunch for our friends on the 21st with chicken drumsticks, stuffing, fruit and pumpkin spice cookies (made by Evie Reigler, our amazing baker). A big thank you to Dave and Linda Smith & Arnie Givler for feeding our friends a hot lunch not only on the 21st, but every 1st & 3rd Tuesday! These are just a few small ways we want our Food Pantry families to know how much they are loved and cared for! Thanks be to God for all of our volunteers who go the extra distance to take care of the families in our community who are hungry! Well done good and faithful servants, well done!



This year, we delivered 30 bags of food and Acme gift cards to our Siffrin friends on Friday, November 17th. The Thanksgiving bags were created by our youth, with some help from the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. The kids did a great job and

everyone who saw the bags loved them! Thank you to the kids and parents who were able to help fill 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 their website at www.siffrin.org.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Thanksgiving projects this year with donations, decorating boxes and bags, and 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!



December ushers in the rest of the Holiday Season. With all the wars and hate in the world it is hard for me to be joyful this season. However, Christmas brings me hope with the birth of baby Jesus for a new

beginning and a fresh start. We have so much to be thankful for here in America even thou the politicians tell us how our awful economy has made life so terrible here. Therefore, as you have demonstrated in the past, this season presents our church the opportunity again to share our generosity both with our local and world communities.

Supporting Teams:

Handyman Services, leader - Ken Reinoehl
Volunteer and Request forms are available on the bulletin board across from Pastor's Office.
1 client served in October.

Visitations – Ken Reinoehl - No Report

Transportation – No Team Leader Assigned.

Parish Nurse – Not Currently active.

Prayer Chain – Jayne Schrader

Funeral Reception Meals – No Report

Feed a Friend – Laura Thompson
No requests in October.

Blood Program – Debbie Fox
The next Blood drive will be Sunday December 17th 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Thank you for your support.

Comfort Givers – Darlene Milavickas
No Report.

Greeting Cards – No Report.

O God, give our leaders, volunteers, and suppliers the wisdom, strength, and perseverance to provide for our community during this Holiday Season. Amen.

G. Scott Gross—Caring Ministry Elder

Coffee & Donuts Social - Darlene Milavickas

Join in every Sunday
for Coffee, Donuts &
Fellowship!



Chancel Guild - Connie Riffle and Janet Sease

Zion presented a gift basket of goodies to Terry at Maggiore's to express our gratitude for the wine donation by his business through the years. We are truly blessed to have the generosity of Terry and want him to remember our thankfulness. Please be sure to visit his business just down the road on Portage about 1 mile west of Zion.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

Larry Genara	December 2
Arnie Givler	December 2
Ben Keith	December 3
Anna Erbland	December 3
Doug Roman	December 5
Adrienne Santiago	December 9
Margaret Van Scoy	December 11
Mabel Kolarik	December 12
Carol McKimm	December 14
Drew Heller	December 15
Linda Lancashire	December 19
Hannah Venable	December 20
Lester Brown	December 23
Gary Horton	December 23
Robert Henderson	December 24
Shirley Cary	December 25
Peggy Ingalls	December 25
Linda Tvorik	December 28
Gracie Haga	December 30
Dave Palumbo	December 31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Donna and Jerry Roan	December 15
Judy and Jeffery Arter	December 17





Chancel Flowers are available in memory or honor of your loved one (s) or special occasion 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 any Sunday in January available. Arrangements can be made in the front office.

Darlene Milavickas—Leader of Shared Goods

It is the busy time of year for the Shared Goods. We have had a lot of donations to put out for our friends to take. Also it is time to put out the Christmas decorations for them to choose from. Cindy Bagocius will be arranging the new items and new clothes that have been donated for our Christmas Shop. The shop will be open Dec.5th, 18th and 19th for everyone.

Dear Lord, we thank you for all that you provide for us to carry out this ministry which provides help to those needing clothes and house hold goods. Give us guidance that we can come up with more ways to provide for the needy. In Jesus name we pray. Amen





CHRISTMAS MORNING

9:00AM

Paul Bagocius- Worship Ministry Elder

A BIG CHANGE IS COMING IN THE WORSHIP SPACE: Thanks to an anonymous donor, our worship space will have an 86" video screen in the front (replacing the hymnal board). A similar screen will be placed over the entrance/exit way that can be seen by the pastor during the service and by the congregation during the cross processional before and after the service. They will be hooked up to our computer to display pre-service announcements, words to hymns/songs, video replays, scripture readings (eventually), and other possibilities as we continue to praise and glorify our God! Since several of our members have trouble reading the words to the hymns/songs in the bulletin, the larger print will help them to participate in our services. This addition will add a much more brilliant and eye-pleasing element. Plans for installation are Nov. 29 and 30, with actual usage planned for our December 3rd Sunday service.

TIME TO MARK YOUR DECEMBER CALENDARS:

- Advent Services will take place beginning Dec. 3 and continue Dec. 10 and 17. A light dinner (thanks to Parish Life Ministry) will be served at 5:30pm with the Advent Service to begin at 6:15.

- There will be a normal Wednesday evening service on Dec. 20 at 7pm.
- A Blue Christmas Service will be held on Dec. 21 at 3pm (designed to help individuals experiencing sadness during this season due to emotional events that occurred during this time in the past).
- A normal Sunday morning service at 9am will be held on December 24.
- Our evening Christmas Eve service is on Dec. 24 at 7pm.

A Monday morning Christmas Day Service will be held on Dec. 25 at 9am to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

PLANS WHEN PASTOR IS ON VACATION OR ILL: Supply pastors are difficult to arrange due to a shortage of these individuals. Couple that with the budget constraints of our Ministry, plans are being explored to have a video presentation of a sermon instead of a live person. The Assistant Minister will lead the service. No communion will be offered during the service without an ordained pastor.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us and for providing people to help make our worship a meaningful spiritual time so that we are encouraged to be Disciples of You, of Your Son, Jesus, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



Betty Boettler
St Luke's Lutheran Home
220 Applegrove St NW- Dogwood room 11
North Canton, OH 44720

Hey you guys:

In order to be a “good” Christian, Jesus **requires** us to share our faith and let others know how God has helped us through our troubles and sorrows. We will never be able to share anything if we don’t get to know each other. A trust in each other is vital, and if we don’t know each other, that trust will nev-

er develop. **MEN**, PLEASE join us at the church on the last Saturday of the month, 8:30 in the morning, when we will continue to explore the ventures of being a good Christian.

BE SURE TO BRING A FRIEND or two.

We finished up our conversation on the book, **Not In It To Win It** on Saturday, Nov. 25th. Since the last Saturday in December will be New Year’s Eve, we have decided to move it to the 23rd. The topic of discussion has yet to be determined. Be sure to come and put in your two cents worth on what you’d like to talk about.

We are planning a “FIELD TRIP” for January. All members of the church will be invited to journey down to Dover to visit Walther’s Museum. Day, date and times have yet to be determined, so be sure to watch for further announcements and sign-up sheets.

Our **GAME DAY** activities will continue on the 2nd or 3rd Saturday of each month. Keep your eyes peeled for the notices on the bulletin board in the hallway outside pastor’s office. Euchre seems to be a regular game, but Mexican Train and other games have proven to be popular as well. Come and join the fun!!!!

THERE WILL BE **NO GAME DAY** IN DEC.!

Also, keep in mind, **Helping Hands**. Several men have volunteered to assist you with any chores you may have. This includes helping to shovel the sidewalks, change your furnace filters, etc. Recently completed consist of a bedroom being painted, porch steps replaced, and a back door being strengthened. Sign-up sheets are located on the Men’s bulletin board located in the hallway outside the pastor’s office. Complete the form and give to Ken Reinoehl.

We will “git ‘er done!”

VISITATION TEAM REPORT

The Visitation Team is willing and waiting to visit you or someone you know. Maybe you would just like to have a conversation with someone, in order to catch up with what is happening in the world. Give us a call.

If you are going to the ER or the hospital, you must call the church to let us know. (If you prefer not to have your name published, we will respect your wishes.) We will come and visit without naming names.

If you know of someone you **think** needs to be (or should be) visited, let us know.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Help beautify our worship space for Christmas Eve

I wish to order _____ Poinsettia(s) at \$20 per plant

_____in memory of
 or
_____in honor of

Given by:_____

Make checks payable to: **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Order deadline: Monday, December 18, 2023

**Pick up poinsettias after Christmas Eve
worship**

**Memorial names will be printed in Christmas Eve
Bulletin**



What is a Blue Christmas Service?

Society teaches us that Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy, hope and celebrations. But many people rightly feel sorrow, despair, and loneliness. There are those who suffer grief, illness, aging, depression, family discord and physical separation from loved ones. Even those not suffering from loss may feel the stress of preparations and societal expectations around Christmas time.

In every Christmas gathering, and every Christmas Eve candlelight service there are people who are hurting physically or emotionally, whose lives are in turmoil, and who seek a solution to their blues.

A Blue Christmas service is designed to provide a time and place of solace during the often-frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. It is a time to come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays. It is a time to call on God for peace, healing, and rest.

The worship service is designed for us to comfort one another; to offer hope and encouragement. The service is meditative where promise and hope-filled scriptures are read, prayers are offered for healing and peace, and quieter Christmas hymns are sung.

Come, take a break, find peace – Thursday, December 21, 3:00 PM in the main worship space.



Pastor's Ponderings, December, 2023

Christmas presents us with many opportunities to engage in holiday spirit. Listed below are some opportunities that just might lead to finding the true meaning and purpose of Christmas:



- Advent Sunday morning worship at 9:00 we'll gather together to hear Jesus telling us about his coming return, John the Baptizer (that's how Mark refers to him) revealing the true light of the world, and how Jesus was at the beginning of time and had a hand in creation. The worship space and building will slowly transform into a Christmas wonderland as decorations increase each week.
- Advent Sunday evening worship at 6:15 (preceded by a communal meal at 5:30) we'll gather together in the form of Evening Prayer, where we will join in the ancient form of prayer, scripture and song that seeks to connect us closer to God With Us (Emmanuel). The third week, will be led by our children as they tell us the story of Jesus through the use of Chrismons.
- Blue Christmas on December 21 at 3:00 (see the article on page 17) will give us the opportunity to put words to the grief, sorrow and loneliness that permeates Christmas for so many of us. We'll be present for each other, hear God's promise of love and compassion, and sing songs that call on God to restore our hope.
- Christmas Eve evening service at 7:00 will be a traditional worship of scripture and familiar song. We'll use candles, and glow sticks for our young ones, to share the joy of Jesus's coming as we sing Joy to the World. We will also participate in the life-giving body and blood of Jesus through Holy Communion.
- Christmas Day service at 9:00 will be a time to gather on the day we celebrate Jesus' birth and physical entry into this world. We'll sing songs of joy, hear the Good News of Jesus expressed in scripture from Genesis through the Gospels and spend just a small part of this holy day together as one family in Christ, in the place we have come to know we can encounter God.

Here's hoping you will find time to put Jesus front and center this Christmas.

Graciously, Pr. William

Darlene Milavickas—Property Chairperson

Last year we formed a task force to look at the South and West wing that have the Sunday School Classrooms. The task force was made up of Randy Cizek, Mary Humbert and Dave Palumbo. They decided the first and most important thing to start with was the lighting.

US Illuminations Company, which Randy Cizek works for, sold us the light fixtures at their cost. We really want to thank them for their generosity. Randy Cizek, Dave Palumbo and Dave's brother Dan Palumbo installed the light fixtures.

The next time you are at church please go back to the south and west wing and check out the lights. You may need to have your sunglasses on when you turn them on. Thank you so much Randy, Dave, Dan and Mary for your work on the task force and for installing the lights.

Dear Lord, help us to always remember that all we have is yours and we are just the caretakers. Guide us to be doing the right things to preserve your building for the community to use. In Jesus Name we prayer. Amen



ADVENT

Sunday, December 3, 10, 17

5:30pm Meal

6:15pm Worship Service

The Picks are In

Like to read? Consider joining one or more of our Reading Discussion Group sessions in the 2023-24 season, which opens the first Friday in September, 2023 at 10 am and continues through the first Friday of June, 2024 at 10 am.

Here's the new picks -

December:	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> , by Khalid Hosseini
January:	<i>A Stone for a Pillow</i> , by Madeline L'Engle*
February:	<i>The Wisdom of Morrie</i> , by Morrie Schwartz
March:	<i>The Personal Librarian</i> , by Marie Benedict
April:	<i>The Wright Brothers</i> , by David McCollough
May:	<i>Dorothy Fuldheim</i> , by Patricia Mote
June:	<i>The Night of Many Endings</i> , by Melissa Payne

*These two stories by L'Engle can be found in a one-volume trilogy called *The Genesis Trilogy*

The meeting place is Zion Lutheran Church, unless otherwise directed. For information, call, text, or email Linda Weidenbach at 850-766-5640 or lindakjw@gmail.com.



Thank you to our friends at Trinity Baptist Church for doing a Thanksgiving Food Drive for our Pantry! Thanks be to God for the love and support from our community partner. We are so grateful!

God bless you for your prayers and support in sharing God’s Blessings and improving the lives of Zion members and the community.

	October 2023	Year-To-Date 2023
Giving	\$23,009.36	\$274,787.94
Expenses	\$26,944.30	\$316,380.58
Difference	-\$3,934.94	-\$41,592.64

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.

Christmas Giving Tree—Debbie Fox

Our Christmas Giving Tree is up in the Coffee Connection area. There are many in need this holiday season, please help us share God’s love with a few of these people!

Our Giving Tree has the following tags:

- ❖ Gift & gift card ideas for the children at Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center.
- ❖ Pajamas and fuzzy blankets for the children supported by the North Canton Cares Team.
- ❖ Gift ideas for the families from Plain Local Schools.

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!

Zion is a collection site for the North Canton Jaycees Adopt a Family Christmas project this year. See the flyer in this newsletter for more information. The collection boxes are located in the Narthex and Coffee Connection area.

We matter to the community at Zion! We are moved by the Holy Spirit to share God’s love and help those in need in our community! Thanks be to God for everyone and your support this holiday season!

STEWARDSHIP FOR ALL SEASONS

John Rhodes—Resource Ministry

God's plentiful blessings be with you all! The chill in the air and the frost on our windshields remind us that winter is just around the corner. Fortunately, frequent sunny skies have made the days inspirational reminders of God's positive impact on our well-being. It makes for glorious start to the coming holiday season.

Your positive support and approval of our proposed 2024 Spending Plan during the October 22 Congregational Meeting provides an opportunity for you to demonstrate support for our planned 2024 ministry activities. Pastor William passionately and eloquently documented the Stewardship challenges necessary to support this plan, as well as the appeal for your participation in our Fall 2023 stewardship campaign, "**Stewardship for All Seasons**".

Your enthusiastic, prayerful support and submissions of the stewardship Intent Card have begun on Sunday November 19. The initial response has been 50% of our card submission goal, translating into a significant projected increase to our General Fund Giving. General Fund Giving supports Zion operations and ministry activities. The coming days will establish our cumulative response, and you will be kept abreast of the impactful results with email updates. The final totals will also be summarized in the January newsletter. We are committed to utilize Zion's combined spiritual, physical and financial resources to enable ministry events which align with our mission, "Zion matters to the community by showing the love of Jesus Christ."

Trunk-or-Treat 2023, WOW! Threatening skies pushed us inside and forced some last-minute organization, but the results were amazing. **530, yes 530**, community youth, parents, and grandparents, enjoyed themselves in very festive costumes, young and old alike. They were amazed and appreciative of the range of sweets, food and drinks. Many smiles were in evidence, for both the attendees and the multitude of Zion volunteer participants. This has become a major community event that we need to leverage for additional community initiatives. This will be on the agenda for 2024.

Our October giving results were disappointing. One disastrous week of giving destroyed an otherwise positive month producing a monthly deficit and increasing our Year-to-Date ("YTD") operating deficit. Our YTD Giving is currently 4.5% greater than 2022 but it is an insufficient rate to eliminate our current budget deficit. On one hand, 64 percent of Zion Giving members are giving at a rate which is more than 110 percent of their 2022 levels, and 74 percent are giving at rates greater than 2022. This is excellent and in alignment with our 2023 approved budget of 10 percent increase; however, the current total giving YTD is 10 percent less than our budgeted amount producing noted deficit. Cost controls have been implemented to minimize the negative impact, but the solution is an increase in Zion total giving rate. We believe this will happen in November and December and it will come to fruition with your generosity. 2024 Intent Card submissions will be a positive impact; please submit yours to ensure our success.

We are encouraged by your support of the 2024 Spending Plan, but we are especially looking forward to your enthusiastic participation in Stewardship for All Seasons to enable our successful execution. Doing so will ensure that we are properly funded to make a difference and matter in our community by sharing the love of Jesus Christ.



VETERANS' DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST NOVEMBER 12, 2023

96 people came to enjoy pancakes, fruit and sausage.

Thank you to the following people who helped make this breakfast possible.

Janet Slease,
Darlene Milavickas,
Dave Palumbo,
Linda Tvorik and
Debbie Fox.





Weekly ZOOM Bible Discussion

Bible discussions for adults are on Thursdays at 9 am via 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 the session.

If this time doesn't work, contact Pastor William to set up a time that does. We encourage everyone to join the weekly Bible discussions – please let us know how we can make joining this discussion easier and inviting to you!

Zion Lutheran Church North Canton, Ohio **DECEMBER 2023**

ASSISTING MINISTER SCHEDULE

December 3, 2023 George Miller
December 10, 2023 Beth Heller
December 17, 2023 Cindy Bagocius
December 24, 2023 Linda Weidenbach
December 31, 2023 Jim Fidler

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

December 3, 2023 LJ Brown
December 10, 2023 Ben Keith
December 17, 2023 Ben Keith
December 24, 2023 Ava Medina
December 31, 2023 Kenadi Medina

READER SCHEDULE

December 3, 2023 Mark Denman
December 10, 2023 Jayne Schrader
December 17, 2023 Renee Keith
December 24, 2023—9am Mark Denman
December 24, 2023—7pm Randy Cizek
December 24, 2023—7pm Ruth Reinoehl
December 24, 2023—7pm Jim Fidler
December 24, 2023—7pm Brian Milek
December 31, 2023 Nick Cignetti

CHANCEL GUILD SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

December 2, 2023 Darlene Milavickas
December 9, 2023 Jayne Schrader & Sally Bunyan
December 16, 2023 Darlene Milavickas & Jayne Schrader
December 23, 2023 Darlene Milavickas & Sally Bunyan
December 30, 2023 Darlene Milavickas

SUNDAY

December 3, 2023 Darlene Milavickas
December 10, 2023 Jayne Schrader & Sally Bunyan
December 17, 2023 Jayne Schrader & Sally Bunyan
December 24, 2023 Jayne Schrader & Sally Bunyan
December 24, 2023 - 7pm Darlene Milavickas
December 31, 2023 Darlene Milavickas

9am SUNDAY SERVICE DOOR LOCKERS

December 3, 2023 Laura Thompson
December 10, 2023 Darlene Milavickas
December 17, 2023 John Rhodes
December 24, 2023 Dave Palumbo
December 31, 2023 George Miller

ACCOMPANIST SCHEDULE

December 3, 2023 Carol McKimm
December 10, 2023 Steve Moore
December 17, 2023 Steve Moore
December 24, 2023 - 9am Carol McKimm
December 24, 2023 - 7pm Carol McKimm
December 25, 2023 - 9am Darlene Milavickas
December 31, 2023 Carol McKimm



What: Why: Where: When:

North Canton Jaycees are partnering with **Abby's Helping Hands, Hopeful Hearts** to collect **NEW toys & clothing items** for kids of all ages (infants to teens). We are also collecting **fast food, Walmart, & gas gift cards** for homeless teens.

To benefit local families, children, & homeless teens in need this holiday season. The need is great & we're looking to help as many families as possible.

A **drop-off bin** will be located at:
-Massillon Museum
-N. Canton Chamber
-N. Canton City Hall
-Walthers Twin Tavern
-Wayne Savings Bank (S. Main St.)
-Zion Lutheran Church N. Canton (Lindy Lane)

November 1-December 22. Items may be dropped off during regular business hours at those locations. A special live collection will be held at Winterfest, please check out our Facebook page for more information.

Thank you for your donations. They make a real difference in our community.
Please check out the Amazon Wish List for toys & items needed: <https://a.co/45xf8Vf>
For more information on Abby's Helping Hands, Hopeful Hearts or to donate directly check out their website: www.abbyshelpinghandshopefulhearts.org.
For questions, contact Abby Spraggins at adoptafamily@northcantonjaycees.org.

