

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: Ray LePelley
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 March 2024



Bulletin Board by Christian Education teachers and families

Bible Adventure - Sunday's 10:15am
Pre-K thru 6th grade
Free and open to the public

Message from our President:

In 2024 the month of March envelopes the Season of Lent- the journey of introspection and the search for wisdom and understanding culminating in Palm Sunday and Easter. And it is a time when we must continue to focus on efforts to practice wise stewardship. Stewardship encompasses not just our financial abundance but all of the blessings God has bestowed upon us. Ash Wednesday's admonition that "to dust we shall return" reminds us that we have a finite amount of time in which to employ all of the resources God has entrusted to our care to strengthen our souls and open our hearts to the resurrected Christ. As we Lutherans observe Lent with devotion and attention to spiritual disciplines let us ask ourselves if we are wisely stewarding our time, our health, our intelligence, our God given talents and our relationship with family and friends to enhance our ability to fulfill God's purposes as a disciple of Jesus. We must ask ourselves if we are utilizing the many resources entrusted to our care in a manner that enhances and joins them together in pursuing fulfillment of God's mission. Finally, we need to recognize opportunities to enrich our lives through generosity and service to others.

On the third Sunday in Lent, March 3, 2024, we will be holding a Congregational Meeting immediately following the 9:00AM Worship Service. At the Meeting we will be asking the Congregation to help those of us on Council evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the activities of our various Ministries in furthering the mission of service to others. And we will be electing individuals to serve on Council in various Ministry positions. We are seeking individuals willing to assume the duties of the Caring, Resource and Social Ministries. These are challenging Ministries, requiring varying degrees of financial and administrative skills coupled with imagination, a keen intellect and vision. We are humbly requesting that those of you in a position to do so prayerfully ask yourselves if at this point in your life you are physically and spiritually prepared to step forward to assume a leadership position and devote your time and energies to ensuring the success of these Ministries which play such a vital role in making Zion matter to the community by showing the Love of Jesus Christ.

Lord, thank You for entrusting to our care all those resources needed to nourish our souls and help us become closer to You. Help us to fulfill the Commandment to love one another. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Fidler
Council President



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MARCH 3, 2024

After Worship Service

Scout Sunday

**February 4
9am Worship
Service**

**Over 40
Scouts and
their families
came for the
service and
reception!**



Pack 12 held its annual Pinewood Derby on January 28th and had 32 scouts participate this year. In this competition, each scout builds a car to race from a kit (a block of pine, wheels, and axles) and whatever other decorations they might dream up. Scouts are free to make whatever design they can think of that fits within the rules. The derby has separate races for each grade-level and a championship race at the end. During the check-in and during the races the scouts and their families can vote on the cars for various fan-favorite categories and enjoy some pizza and snacks. At the end of the day, everyone had a great time and already thinking about next year's build.





Food Pantry News - Debbie Fox

As a member of the Stark County Hunger Task Force Network, we are required to complete an annual Pantry Survey for SCHTF. This year's survey was submitted in February and it covers statistical information, how we are doing as a pantry with volunteers and financial support and how the SCHTF can help us, and how we source our food. A few statistical highlights from this year's survey for Zion's Pantry: 64,599 pounds of food distributed, 1,812 households served (8.3% increase from 2022), 4,281

people served (6.7% increase from 2022). We have seen an increase in those numbers over the past few years.

February was a busy month for the Pantry with 93 families served during the first distribution and 97 families served during the second. Thanks be to God for providing what we have needed! We truly appreciate all the support we receive from food donations from the congregation and community in addition to the financial support from the Stark County Hunger Task Force. We also want to send a huge thank you to all of our volunteers who make it all happen!



This month, we would like to do a little something extra for Easter for our Pantry families. We will be collecting toothpaste and laundry detergent for our March 18th distribution. If you would like to help out, those items can be left in the wagon by Sunday March 17th.

How else can you continue to help? We have set up on the Monday before our distribution dates from 9 -11 am. Sign up

sheets are on the Food Pantry door or you can call the Church Office if you are interested. On distribution days (1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month) we start at 9:30 am with final set up, volunteer lunch starts at 11:30am, pantry clients lunch 12:15 pm, and food distribution for 1 -2 pm with tear down to follow. We

appreciate any time you may have available to volunteer from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm on those Tuesdays. If you are not able to help on Mondays or Tuesdays, you can always donate nonperishable food items. Our most needed items include spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, jelly, canned soup, boxed cereal or oatmeal and toilet paper. Please consider adding one item to your grocery list.



Please see Debbie Fox if you have any questions or would like more information about volunteer opportunities!



CARING MINISTRY - G. Scott Gross

March, spring is in the air, but not necessarily on the ground; however, it is still a season of hope and renewal. God's creatures all snap into high activity reflecting back on the passing of a hard winter. Therefore, we as Christians can reinforce our faith by watching the world renew and share in the hope of things to come.

Supporting Teams:

Handyman Services - Ken Reinoehl
Volunteer and Request forms are available on the bulletin board across from Pastor's Office. One Family used handyman services in January.

Visitations - Ken Reinoehl
No Report.

Transportation – No Team Leader assigned.

Prayer Chain – Jayne Schrader
If you would like to make a request, please contact Jayne at Prayer@zion-nc.com.

Funeral Reception Meals – Darlene Milavickas
No Report.

Feed a Friend – Laura Thompson
No requests in January.

Blood Program - Debbie Fox
The next blood drive will be Sunday April 14th, 2024 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Comfort Givers – Darleen Milavickas.
No report.

Greeting Cards - No report.

Lord, help us through all the trials and tribulations that we encounter in our daily lives. Amen.



NEOSWO - Ruth Reinoehl

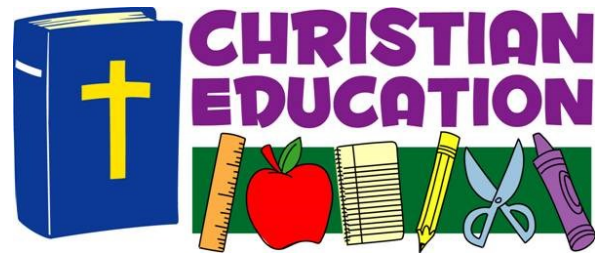
Mark your calendar for April 27th, The North East Ohio Synodical Women's Organization (NEOSWO) of the Women of the ELCA will be having a gathering you won't want to miss! They will be featuring a character portrayal of Dorothy Fulheim about her life. They will also be offering a class on how to navigate the NEOSWO website along with a short Biblical program. It will be held 9am – 2pm at Grace Lutheran Church in Wadsworth, carpooling will be available. The luncheon will be potluck, with everyone bringing a dish - looking forward to a large crowd so there will be plenty of choices. We will put more information in the Sunday bulletin as time gets near the event. Hope to see you there!



Every Sunday Evening in Lent

Dinner - 5:30pm

Worship Service - 6:15pm



LEARNING MINISTRY– Debbie Fox

Bible Adventure - Pre-K thru 6th Grades

Sunday Bible Adventure meets Sunday mornings at 10:15am after service in our classrooms in the back hall. Bring a friend or two for fun

and learning about the Bible and how much God loves us! Miss Connie and Miss Janet teach great lessons that include games, crafts and snack.

Adult Christian Education

Join us after Sunday service at 10:15 am for coffee, delicious treats and an hour of learning and discussion. The group, led by Pastor William, recently finished a discussion on the book, “Autopsy of a Deceased Church -12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive”. Their next topic of discussion in March is *Sumud: Following The Way of Jesus, A Holy Land Lenten Journey*.

Confirmation & High School Christian Ed

We offer these classes Sunday mornings at 10:15am. Join us at the Coffee Bar after service, and 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.

Women’s Bible Study

March’s Women’s Bible Study will meet Monday, March 4th. Cindy Bagocius will lead a session at 1:30pm in her home (2308 Market Ave North, Canton), and Ruth Reinoehl will lead a session at 7pm in her home (407 9th St NW, North Canton).

The plan for 2024 is for the groups to meet on the first Monday of the month. They each devote an hour in the Word and in the company of each other discussing the Bible Study from the ELCA’s GATHER Magazine during the sessions. Please contact Cindy or Ruth if you are interested in joining or have any questions. They can provide you with the materials needed for discussion. Ruth is willing to do an additional session each week if those times don’t work for you. Please contact Debbie Fox, or Ruth if you are interested in scheduling an additional meeting time.

Vacation Bible Adventure

Mark your calendars! This summer’s Vacation Bible Adventure is June 24th – 28th! It will be a week-long adventure in God’s Big Backyard for the kids and volunteers. Daily themes will include serve family, serve friends, serve neighbors, serve community and serve Jesus. The week will run Monday thru Thursday 9am - 12:30pm and Friday 9am – 1pm. Vacation Bible Adventure is designed for kids age 4 through those who have completed 5th grade. We also have a group for Middle School and High School kids who would like to help out. We are looking forward to an awesome week full of serving Jesus! Stay tuned for more details!

Dear God, help us open our minds, our ears and our hearts to what You are telling us, and to do Your will! Guide us in our pursuit of learning and walking in your Word every day. Amen



**Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center
Transition**

Wernle is transitioning their services in February due to some challenges they have been experiencing. Please see the following letter from Wernle’s leadership explaining this transition.

We will continue to support Wernle, especially with our prayers for discernment of God’s will.

Wernle Transformation

For over 140 years, Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center has served thousands of youth and families through residential and outpatient therapeutic services. Wernle is proud of improving lives for so many, and for being an employer of talented, dedicated, and caring people in the community. The last 20 years have seen extraordinary philanthropic support allowing the revitalization of our campus to have best-of-class facilities for serving those in need.

As we enter our 15th decade of service, and as a result of post-Pandemic labor market challenges that have affected so many non-profits and businesses, we are in a period of transformation. One new and recent challenge for all Indiana residential treatment facilities has been the significant decrease in the number of youth placed in such facilities. Since last summer we have been evaluating - through a special task force of community leaders and experts - our service models and potential partners to ensure that Wernle remains a fixture for years to come in serving youth and families.

We have worked diligently to maintain the required 24/7 staffing ratios to continue serving at the highest levels the troubled youth entrusted to us by the Indiana Department of Child Services. Unfortunately, maintaining those ratios and levels has been extraordinarily challenging, causing our license to be revoked in the near future. Accordingly, in February we will wind down our services for DCS residential placements. We are proud of the partnership and outcomes we achieved with DCS, but are now focused on the future and how we can best serve those in need.

We will continue our existing outpatient services for the community, and are transitioning our service model while we continue our discussions with our potential partners in the community. We are excited about the opportunities we have identified and are exploring. Meanwhile, we are presently evaluating our skilled workforce and determining how to preserve positions in the near term for as many of our dedicated staff as possible. We have not yet made any employment decisions, and for those staff that we are ultimately unable to retain presently, we will work with compassion to assist them in their transitions.

In this time of transition, we thank the community and our passionate supporters for their continued prayers and support.

*Sandi Rowe, Chair, Board of Directors
Darrell Gordon, Chief Executive Officer
Maria Vail, Executive Director*

Lent/Easter Schedule 2024

February 14	7pm Ash Wednesday Service
February 18	9am Worship Service - First Sunday in Lent 5:30 Meal 6:15 Worship Service
February 21	7pm Worship Service - Second Sunday in Lent
February 25	9am Worship Service 5:30 Meal 6:15 Worship Service
February 28	7pm Worship Service - Third Sunday in Lent
March 3	9am Worship Service 5:30 Meal 6:15 Worship Service
March 6	7pm Worship Service - Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10	9am Worship Service 5:30 Meal 6:15 Worship Service
March 13	7pm Worship Service - Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17	9am Worship Service 5:30 Meal 6:15 Worship Service
March 20	7pm Worship Service - Palm Sunday Observance
March 24	9am Worship Service - Palm Sunday
Holy Week	
March 27	NO Worship Service
March 28	7pm Worship Service - Maundy Thursday
March 29	7:30pm Worship Service - Good Friday
March 31	9am Worship Service - Easter Sunday

Please retain this schedule for the Lent/Easter Season.



The men are still meeting the LAST SATURDAY of each month (except May = Memorial Day weekend). We are back to doing a Bible Study. Each month, I am now emailing the Bible text to those interested, the Sunday before our meeting. I am also adding some of the questions you might want to think about beforehand. If you would like to receive those questions at the beginning of the week before our study, just give me your email address, and I will include your name along with the rest. Even if you don't get to the text or questions before hand, come and join in the discussion any way. And you are always encouraged to bring someone along with you. Our discussion text for March will be Hebrews 13:1-25. A sample of the questions will be emailed the weekend before our session.

GAME TIME will be on **MARCH 9TH** – 4 pm till whenever.

Whether in the men's group or not, part of being a Christian, is **US** sharing our love of Christ with all those we come into contact with. Of course, inviting them to come to church for worship, functions, or just inviting them to a cup of coffee/tea and conversation, is a priority. Getting to know them and making sure they know that God loves them and so do you, can still be accomplished, even if they don't accept your invitation. It is vital that we always "plant the seed" until it begins to sprout.

Don't forget the HANDYMEN are still offering their services for those pesky 'odd jobs' that we all have around the house that need to be done. We can always use more hands, if you would like to lend a hand, just let me know and I will add your name to the 'helpers' list.

For the rest of you, give us those "TO DO" jobs, we will gladly "GIT 'ER DONE!"

It is safe to say that those making requests have been more than satisfied with the results. One early request resulted in finding it necessary to call an actual plumber. In the last year we have carried a mattress and box springs out to be picked up by the trashmen, replaced back porch steps, painted a bedroom, repaired a back door, and completed a few other requests, all at no cost to the recipients. One recipient was so grateful, that she baked two cherry pies that were also shared during Adult Classes after church. The men have enjoyed helping deal with these needs.



LENTEN EVENING
WORSHIP
SERVICE EVERY
SUNDAY AT 6:15PM

March Birthday's

LJ Brown	March 2
Linda Weidenbach	March 4
Mel Whalen	March 6
Melvin Lindberg	March 8
Brian Kay	March 17
Elijah Haga	March 17
Brody Davis	March 17
Corlene Coulter	March 22
Robert Frock	March 27
Ken Reinoehl	March 28
John Rhodes	March 30
Betty Boettler	March 31

March Anniversaries

Joe and Gail Vogt

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 2024

WORSHIP MINISTRY—Paul Bagocius

Our immediate planning is focused on the March Easter season services. Part of that planning includes conducting a survey at the beginning of March to see if there is interest in an Easter Sunrise Service (in addition to our 9am service). See below.

Did You Know??? We offer two weekly services that parallel each other: Wednesday at 7pm and Sunday at 9am. Worshipping our God, hearing the weekly Bible scripture, and listening to the Pastor's message is too important to miss. Just remember, God is expecting you!

As Cottage Meetings develop in the coming weeks, a question will focus on building our attendance during Advent/Lent evening services. This will help us gain insight on how to make these services more valuable and spiritually fulfilling to you.

Our sound system in the worship space and on the internet needs improvement. Too many squeals, humming's, and cracklings do not make the "joyful noise" mentioned in the Bible. Our Ministry will be looking at assessing our system to solve these problems.

Our God, may our worship services be a pleasing sound to you! And may we, Your people (and not the audio equipment), make a joyful noise as we worship You . Amen



Your Worship Ministry is exploring the possibility of having a Sunrise Easter Service.

- Tentative Date: Sunday, March 31 at 6:45am
- Tentative Location: Zion's Pavilion
- Special benefit: Breakfast casserole meal immediately following in Coffee Bar Area

Survey results will be announced at services two weeks prior to Easter Sunday.
Note: Our 9am Easter service will be held with either outcome of this survey.

SURVEY:

YES _____ If held, we/I will attend the Sunrise Easter Service.

NO _____ We/I will not attend.

Family Name: _____ Important information to avoid duplicate counts.

***PLEASE RETURN BY MARCH 10, 2024**

EASTER LILIES

Help beautify our worship space for Easter Sunday
Up to 3 names per lily

I wish to order _____ Easter Lily (s) at \$12 per plant

_____in memory of
 or
_____in honor of

Given by: _____

Cash _____ Check# _____ Amount Paid _____
Make checks payable to: **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Order deadline: Monday March 25, 2024

Pick up lilies after 9am Easter Sunday worship

**Names of memorials will be published in the Easter Sunday Bulletin
and April Zion Herald**

Contact Ray at tech@zion-nc.com or call
the main office if interested in
volunteering at Sunday Morning Service!

**JOIN THE
TECH TEAM**
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Learn a
fun new
skill!!



**Deadline to turn in your Acme
Receipts is **February 29** for
receipts dated
August 1, 2023-February 14,
2024!
Thank you for your support!!**

**Zion Lutheran Church
North Canton, Ohio
MARCH 2024**

ASSISTING MINISTER SCHEDULE

March	3, 2024	Linda Weidenbach
March	10, 2024	George Miller
March	17, 2024	Jim Fidler
March	24, 2024	Cindy Bagocius
March	31, 2024	Darlene Milavickas

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

March	3, 2024	Eli Haga
March	10, 2024	Ben Keith
March	17, 2024	LJ Brown
March	24, 2024	Ava Medina
March	31, 2024	Ben Keith

READER SCHEDULE

March	3, 2024	Laura Thompson
March	10, 2024	Renee Keith
March	17, 2024	Mark Denman
March	24, 2024	Nick Cignetti
March	31, 2024	Randy Cizek

ACCOMPANIST SCHEDULE

March	3, 2024	Carol McKimm
March	10, 2024	Carol McKimm
March	17, 2024	Steve Moore
March	24, 2024	No Organist
March	31, 2024	Steve Moore

CHANCEL GUILD SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

March	2, 2024	Beth Shaheen & Sally Bunyan
March	9, 2024	Beth Shaheen & Jayne Schrader
March	16, 2024	Jayne Schrader & Sally Bunyan
March	23, 2024	Darlene Milavickas
March	30, 2024	Darlene Milavickas & Beth Shaheen

SUNDAY

March	3, 2024	Beth Shaheen & Sally Bunyan
March	10, 2024	Jayne Schrader & Beth Shaheen
March	17, 2024	Jayne Schrader & Sally Bunyan
March	24, 2024	Jayne Schrader & Beth Shaheen
March	31, 2024	Darlene Milavickas & Sally Bunyan

9am SUNDAY SERVICE DOOR LOCKERS

March	3, 2024	Jayne Schrader
March	10, 2024	Janet Slease
March	17, 2024	Paul Bagocius
March	24, 2024	Darlene Milavickas
March	31, 2024	Dave Palumbo

ministries

find your place

COMFORT GIVERS - Darlene Milavickas

National Quilting Day is March 16th. Lutheran World Relief is celebrating more than 75 years of sending quilts overseas to make those who are struggling with chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster and conflict a bit more comfortable. We have records showing that Zion has been sending LWR quilts for at least 45 years. LWR has sent nearly **28 Million Quilts!**

We all love to feel the comfort of warm clothes, snuggling under a warm comforter, even more so if it was given to us by a friend or family member. That's the feeling we share through the quilts we make and send overseas and locally. We are reaching out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope, and that they are not alone.

The quilts have many uses for the people in these countries. They use them to shield against cold and rain and for bedding. The quilts are also useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on their mother's back. The quilts help keep the children healthy. In some of the colder countries the children are dealing with stunted growth due to chronic malnutrition and cold. Children who are stunted are more prone to illness and may have developmental delays. They have found that the children in Tanzania's chilly Njombe region were not only hungry but also cold. The calories that should be used for growing were being burned off to keep them warm. The quilts help to keep them warm so the calories they take in can be used for growth. Over 9,000 children in Njombe have quilts to help them grow and keep warm. There is a poster with a map of the countries to which LWR sends the quilts and kits. It is on the closet door next to Equal Exchange. It is very interesting. Please take a moment and see all the countries we are helping.

We would love for you to join us, men and women of all ages, on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 10am to 12pm. If Thursdays don't work, we have people making the tops of the quilts every Monday from 10am -12pm. If you can cut material, iron, and tie knots, you can make a quilt. Join us in doing our Lord's work of caring for our neighbors.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for the abundance of items and hands you provide for us which enables us to provide for others in our community and around the world. We ask that the Holy Spirit enlightens more people to help and also enlightens us with new ways of helping our community. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



Palm Sunday concludes our 40 day Lenten journey. It recognizes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and is marked by words of praise and adoration for the God who came to save us.

Sadly, that joy is short-lived as we recognize the reality of what awaits Jesus after his final entry into Jerusalem; the cross, for our sake.

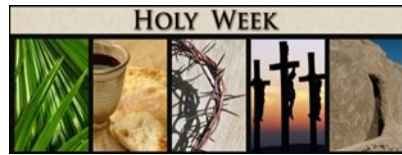
Before we celebrate the Resurrection, we are called to remember that Jesus' suffering and death demonstrates God's love for us.

We experience this through Holy Week services; Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Unfortunately, participation in these vital worship experience has waned over the decades.

In response, the church began to couple the joy of Palm Sunday with the passion of Christ's arrest, persecution, and death.

We will uncouple these two significant events in the life of Christians; thus bringing us an opportunity to walk closer with Jesus.

You are encouraged to fully participate in this most significant part of the church year; immersing ourselves in Holy Week services – we look forward to being with you at both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services.



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and proceeds through the four days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday. This is the defining season of Christianity and you are encouraged to grow closer to your Savior by fully participating in all four worship experiences.



Palm Sunday, Wednesday March 20 at 7:00 pm and Sunday March 24 at 9:00 am

On this day, united with Christians around the world, we mark Jesus' triumphant entry in to the holy city of Jerusalem to complete the work of our salvation. We follow his footsteps as we enter the church, our Jerusalem, acclaiming the one whose throne was the cross.

Worship Pattern: we gather with palms and joy to hear the reading of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Worship continues in the usual pattern.



Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 pm

On this night we begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life. The Maundy Thursday service includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (*madatum*, from which *Maundy* comes) to love one another. On this night in which Jesus was handed over to death we also gather around the Lord's supper. At the service conclusion, the altar area is stripped of furnishings as a sign of Jesus' abandonment.

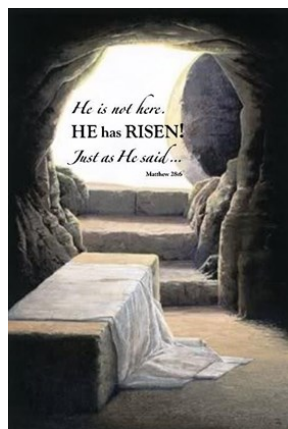
Worship Pattern: we gather in the gym to experience the Living Last Supper and join with our First Communicant in receiving Christ's body and blood. Service concludes with silent procession to the worship space where we sing *Were You There*, followed by the solemnity of stripping the chancel.



Good Friday, March 29 at 7:30 pm

On this night, the journey continues through the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. At the heart of this service is the passion reading according to John, which celebrates Christ's victory on the cross. As Jesus draws all people to himself, we pray for the whole world for which Christ died. Finally, we honor the cross as the sign of forgiveness, healing, and salvation. With all God's people we are invited to before this mystery of faith. Christ has died, so that we may live.

Worship Pattern: we gather in silence, pray for one another, hear God's Word, glorify the cross, and ponder what Christ did for us and the whole world.



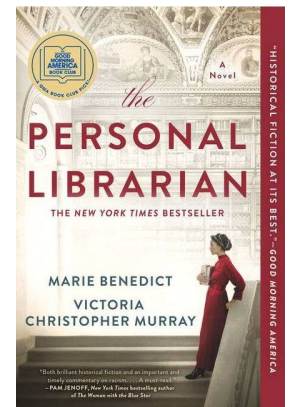
Resurrection Sunday, March 31 at 9:00 am

Every Sunday in worship, the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On this day, we rejoice anew. Easter is the day of all days. The tomb could not keep Jesus. As Christ is risen, we too shall be raised. Come, join with all the faithful across the world as we raise our voices in triumphant song and share the meal of Holy Communion which Christ set before us. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He's Risen indeed! Alleluia!

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 -

March: *The Personal Librarian*, by Marie Benedict
 April: *The Wright Brothers*, by David McCollough
 May: *Dorothy Fuldheim*, by Patricia Mote
 June: *The Night of Many Endings*, by Melissa Payne



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.

NEW BIBLE DISCUSSION

OPTIONS

EVERY THURSDAY

7AM - SAMANTHA'S 6326 MARKET AVE.

9AM - ZOOM BIBLE DISCUSSION

12PM - ZION CHURCH LIBRARY

If you need the Zoom link, please contact the office to receive the weekly email.

The same material will be covered at each weekly session. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please invite your friends and family.



Blood Drive Update Sunday, February 18th

Thank you to everyone who came out to donate blood on February 18th! There were 15 people who came out, and 17 units of blood were collected which will help up to 51 people.

To date, Zion's Blood Drives have collected 363 units (just over 45 gallons) helping to save or sustain the lives of 1,089 people. Thanks be to God for everyone who is willing to donate blood and give the gift of life.



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

You can schedule your own appointment, or Debbie Fox can schedule one for you for any of our scheduled drives in 2024.

To make your own appointment go to:

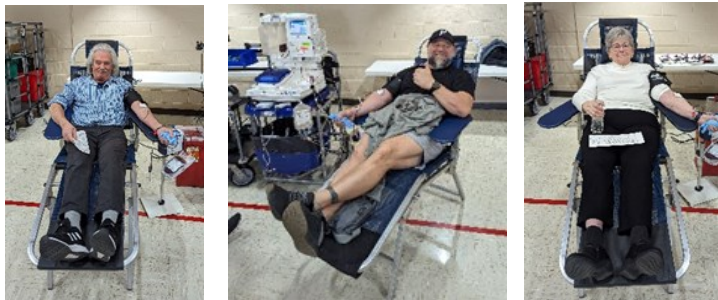
Vitalant.org
Click on "donate"
Click on "schedule an appointment"
And search by city, zip and date
Or use "Advanced Search" and Group code: U1525



If you are unable to donate at one of our drives, 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.

Remaining 2024 Blood Drive Dates:

Sunday, April 14th, 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



STEWARDSHIP FOR ALL SEASONS

Resource Ministry February Update - John Rhodes

God's plentiful blessings be with you all! Our NE Ohio's 2024 winter weather has exhibited all of its normal variations: occasional frigid temperatures with interspersed forms of precipitation. I enjoy the diversity but am thankful that we have avoided extremes which put our safety and healthy activity at risk. I trust we can avoid the extremes, and especially hopeful that the weather is cooperative for the Lenten Holiday Season.

Our January Unrestricted ("General Fund") giving results were very positive and a continuation of our strong December giving pattern. Thank you! January 2024 was 30% greater than 2023, creating the opportunity to end the month with a positive cash flow and create good momentum for our Lenten Giving season. Our giving results combined with execution of our planned cost controls to produce almost \$12,000 balance to help offset Giving decreases which will undoubtedly occur in February since it is a 4-week month. Even though we have had a strong start to 2024 Giving in total, we have not enjoyed this increase from all members. On one hand, 52 % of Zion Giving members are starting the year giving at a rate which is more than 110 % of their 2023 levels, and 70 % giving at a rate greater than 2023. This is excellent and in alignment with our objective to achieve our approved 2024 Spending Plan. On the other hand, 20% of 2023 Givers have yet to give anything for 2024. We need support from all of you to positively resolve this situation and remain confident about achievement of 2024 plans.

Your enthusiastic, prayerful execution of our Fall 2023 stewardship campaign, "**Stewardship for All Seasons**", Intent Card pledges (totaling \$35,000) should provide the planned increase to our 2024 General Fund Giving (>10% 2023). General Fund Giving is the "fuel for the engine" which supports Zion operations and ministry activities. Your successful execution of your Intent Card commitments will help us to utilize Zion's combined spiritual, physical and financial resources to support ministry activities which align with our mission, "Zion matters to the community by showing the love of Jesus Christ." Thank you for your 2023 support, and we are encouraged by our start in January 2024. May God bless each of you for your prayers and support in sharing God's Blessings to improve the lives of Zion members and the community in 2024 and beyond.

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.

	January 2024	Year To Date 2024
Giving	\$43,974.50	\$43,974.50
Expenses	\$32,065.57	\$32,065.57
Difference	\$11,908.93	\$11,908.93