

THE ZION HERALD

March 2026

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*Living in Faith,
Known by Love,
Serving like Jesus*

*A community of believers who
are diverse in background yet
one in Christ. We serve the
community and welcome all
to worship, grow and learn
the Word of God.*



Message from our President:

In 2026, 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. Pastor David Rice will be presiding over our Sunday Evening Lenten Services (dinner at 5:30PM, Service at 6:15PM) on March 1, 8, 15 and 22, as well as our morning Palm Sunday Worship Service on March 29. We welcome your presence at as many of these Services as possible as we reflect on Jesus' life and teachings and the incomprehensible magnitude of God's Love.

The Lenten Season is also 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. 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. As Christians we need to understand and appreciate that those things we mistakenly think of as our earthly possessions are in reality resources entrusted to our care by God for a limited period of time and those resources must be utilized in service to others. Only by so doing can we be the people we were created to be and experience the virtues of peace, love, joy, kindness and generosity.

As was made clearly evident at the Congregational Meeting on February 22, 2026, many members of Zion have embraced the concept of utilizing the various resources God has entrusted to their care in service to others and fulfillment of our mission statement: "Living in Faith, Known by Love, Serving like Jesus." They have assumed complex, challenging responsibilities as Council members, Call Committee Members, Representatives of Zion to other institutions, and as individuals dedicated to ensuring Zion functions administratively on a daily basis. Please give them your continued prayers and support.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Fidler, Congregation Council President

Team Zion will again be walking in this year's Stark Hunger Walk. Join us for a 2.1 mile walk on Sunday May 3rd that is pet friendly to help raise awareness and end hunger in our community. Sign up sheets to join team Zion and/or bake desserts for the soup social after the walk will be in Luther Hall later this month.

STARK HUNGER WALK

FEED the NEED

THE NEED IS CRITICAL.

HUNGER AFFECTS 1 IN 5 CHILDREN

20.5% or 16,440 children may struggle with hunger in Stark County

HUNGER AFFECTS 1 IN 7 INDIVIDUALS

14.5% or 54,230 individuals may struggle with hunger in Stark County

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

- 2:00 p.m. - Registration at North Canton Community Christian Church
210 North Main St. North Canton, OH 44720
- 3:00 p.m. - Start of approximately 2.1 mile walk (RAIN OR SHINE)
- Afterwards - Hot Soup Social



AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL
FOOD BANK

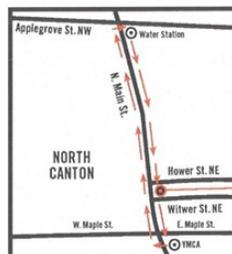
Serving Carroll, Holmes, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties.

FACEBOOK: STARK-HUNGER-WALK
STARKHUNGERWALK@GMAIL.COM



SCAN HERE
to sign up! Not required.

STARK MAP



All proceeds benefit the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank.



LEARNING MINISTRY– Debbie Fox

There will be no Christian Education classes for all ages on Easter Sunday (April 5th) after service.

Adult Christian Education – Sunday Mornings at 10:15 am

Join us each Sunday after service and refreshments for an engaging and interesting discussion on each week's lessons and Gospel. There is much to learn during these sessions, and we are grateful to all of our supply pastors

for leading us each week as we further our knowledge of God's Word.

Confirmation Class

We ask that you continue to pray for Ben, LJ and Owen as they continue their journey to affirm their baptism. Cindy Bagocius leads these young men each Sunday morning after service at 10:15am as they navigate their way through Old and New Testaments, Luther's Small Catechism and a project that each has chosen to complement their studies.

Sunday Bible Adventure Pre-K thru 6th Grades

Bring your kids and have them invite a friend each Sunday morning after service to join Connie Riffle and Janet Slease as they lead them in learning important Bible lessons with games, crafts and fun. They will be working on a special project during Lent and Holy Week that you will see on Easter Sunday!

Women's Bible Study

March's session will take place at Ruth Reinoehl's home on 9th St. in North Canton on Monday, March 3rd. They continue to discuss the Bible Study in the ELCA's magazine, "Gather". Don't worry if you don't have the magazine – we can get you signed up, and we also have a copy at the church!

The women meet on the first Monday of each month with a 1:30 arrival and 1:45pm start time. April's session will be back at Cindy's home on Market Ave. in Canton. All women are invited to join and bring a friend! Please contact Cindy Bagocius or Debbie Fox for more information.

Men's Bible Study

March's Bible Study is Saturday, March 28th at 8:30am. The men's discussion of Paul's Letter to the Romans continues this month.

The men meet at Zion once a month on the last Saturday of the month at 8:30am for good food, fellowship and an hour of engaging Bible discussion. All men are invited to join the group and bring a friend or two! If these times don't work for you, contact Ken Reinoehl to see if we can arrange a time that does work!

Vacation Bible School

We are currently planning all of the details for this year's VBS. Take a Road Trip with us the week of June 22nd - 26th. We will be on the go with God as He guides us wherever we go! There will be great lessons, fun games, music and so much more! Tell your family and friends in the community and invite their children ages 4 through those who have completed 5th grade. We also have a class for our Middle School and High School students where they gather for about an hour each day to talk about the lesson before helping with the younger children throughout the week.

We will experience Daily Mile Markers throughout our exciting week-long journey:

- God is with us on the journey.
- God is with us when we go off course.
- God is with us when we are joyful.
- God is with us when we are lonely.
- God is with us near and far.

There are plenty of volunteer opportunities if you are interested in helping – helping in a classroom or in a rotation, helping with snacks, helping to decorate and set up, helping with the pizza and ice cream party, and more. Sign up sheets will be in Luther Hall in April, or you can contact Debbie Fox for more info. You don't have to commit to the whole week. We are grateful for any time you can give.

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

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

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

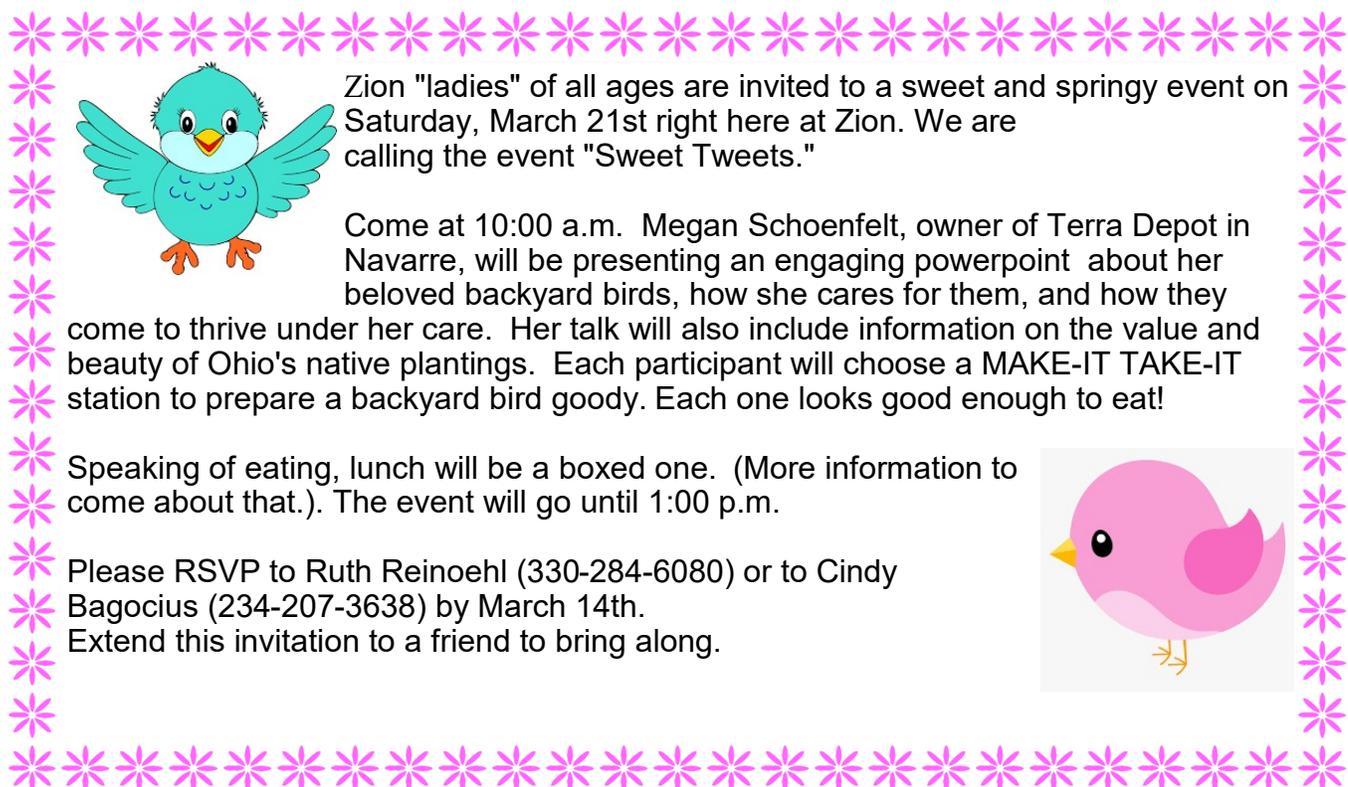
We have March 8th and March 15th available.

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



March Birthday

March 2nd	LJ Brown
March 17th	Brian Kay
March 17th	Eli Haga
March 22nd	Corlene Coulter
March 24th	John Canon
March 27th	Rob Frock
March 28th	Ken Reinoehl
March 30th	John Rhodes
March 31st	Betty Boettler

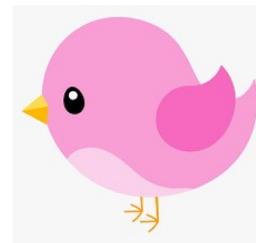


Zion "ladies" of all ages are invited to a sweet and springy event on Saturday, March 21st right here at Zion. We are calling the event "Sweet Tweets."

Come at 10:00 a.m. Megan Schoenfelt, owner of Terra Depot in Navarre, will be presenting an engaging powerpoint about her beloved backyard birds, how she cares for them, and how they come to thrive under her care. Her talk will also include information on the value and beauty of Ohio's native plantings. Each participant will choose a MAKE-IT TAKE-IT station to prepare a backyard bird goody. Each one looks good enough to eat!

Speaking of eating, lunch will be a boxed one. (More information to come about that.). The event will go until 1:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Ruth Reinoehl (330-284-6080) or to Cindy Bagocius (234-207-3638) by March 14th. Extend this invitation to a friend to bring along.



Stephen Ministry - March Training

March 6, **Module 10** Caring Between Visits: Caregiving and Communications Technology will find us in learning the value of in-person communications, and knowing how to use the phone effectively. We will also delve into the limitations and risks of various communication technologies.

Module 11 Using Mental Health Professionals and Other Community Resources will be addressed on March 12. We will learn how much care we can and cannot provide to someone who may need professional help. Others may need assistance available in other social services. What signs we can detect which will prompt us to forward the care receiver to a professional. More role-playing.

On March 19, we will address the issue of "Experiencing Grief" (**Module 12**). We will examine the various phases of the grieving process, and experience how to apply what we learned in **Module 2** on feelings and **Module 8** on how to care for grieving people through role-play.

Module 13, Caring for Those With Depression: The Stephen Minister's Role (March 26) cautions us to be aware of how to care for those with depression. This also emphasizes the role of the Stephen Minister. We will learn the various 'degrees' of mild, moderate, and severe depression; the symptoms and causes of depression; and how to determine when or if referral may be a necessity.

PLEASE KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS.

Spirit of God, we give you thanks for the two men and one woman who are training to become fruitful Stephen Ministers here at Zion.

We thank you for keeping Jenni and myself in the prayers of the congregation, which makes training our Stephen Ministers so much easier.

Lord, we thank you for giving us the courage to step out of our comfort zones and speak up for Christ.

*Help us to feel **COMPELLED** to tell others what GOD has done for us.*

AMEN



Financial Update

All that we have, all that we are, flows from the generosity and abundant love of our Creator.

- **January winter weather created large snow plowing/salting expenses. Our Giving remained strong allowing Zion to have a surplus of about \$2,500 in January 2026. Even though it was really cold, our new insulated windows are doing their job!**
- **We are praying for a Pastor to hear a call from the Holy Spirit to join us at Zion. To facilitate this, we have set aside over \$32,000 for expenses related to interviewing and moving a new Pastor if necessary. This remains a priority for us.**
- **Our parking lot is an essential part of delivering our mission. It is heavily used all 12 months of the year not only for worship services but for food pantry distribution and many other community services. There has been over \$25,000 already designated towards this large project.**
- **Our long term investment funds continue to deliver returns. We are well prepared to welcome a new pastor, fulfill our Mission, and to make improvements in our church property.**
- **When we choose to share from what our Father has already given us, we open ourselves to extraordinary possibilities to bless others and to be blessed. Thank you for your support.**



**Laura Thompson
Resource Ministry**



2026 Habitat for Humanity Faith Build



The kick off meeting for this year's Faith Build will be Saturday, March 14th. We will get to meet the two families and representatives from the different faith communities that are participating in the build. We are so excited to get started and share God's love with these deserving families.

As a reminder, this year's build will include 2 homes:
1895 Blooming Hills Pl. SE, Massillon, OH 44646 – Swogger Family
2010 Tuscarawas St. E, Canton, OH 44707 – Hernandez Family

Volunteer Opportunities for this year's build:



General Volunteer Days – Your congregation will be the only group assigned to a specific task/location.

Dual Volunteer Days – Your congregation will be paired with another faith community for a shared task/location.

Youth Volunteer Night – Youth ages 5 and up can participate in a volunteer project at the Habitat ECO Ministry Office. Each youth group must be accompanied by an adult.

All Community Volunteer Day – Open to all faith communities. Volunteers will gather at the Habitat ECO Ministry Office to work on workshop projects and learn more about the Habitat partner family experience.

Stay tuned for more details in April! Please keep praying for the families, volunteers and staff at Habitat as they continue to build safe, affordable homes for so many deserving families in our community!



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church -- Book Club Schedule; **REVISED**
 November 2025 – May 2026 -- First Friday*, 10:00 – 11:00 am
 Zion Church Classroom
 Coordinator, Peggy Ingalls (330-284-3518)

January 9*– Laura Thompson -- A Gentleman in Moscow, Amor Towles

1922 Moscow...Count Rostov, aristocrat...tribunal...sentenced to house arrest Metropol, a grand hotel...erudition and wit...never worked...lives in an attic...witness to tumultuous decades...entry into larger world of emotional maturity.

February 6 – Linda Gotthardt -- The Last Temptation of Christ, Nikos Kazantzakis

Based on Luke 4:13...masterpiece...brilliantly fleshes out Christ's Passion...courted controversy...depicting a Christ far more human than the one seen in the Bible...gloriously divine but earthy and human... subject to fear, doubt, and pain.

March 6 – Johanna Henderson – Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club, J. Ryan Stradal

Mariel needs a break...Ned...having an identity crisis...beloved restaurant bleeding cash...mother Florence...holed up at church...lasting rift between mother and daughter...devastating tragedy...will the Lakeside Supper Club be their salvation?

April 3 – Carol Rossbach -- My Sister's Keeper, Jodi Picoult

A family torn apart...Anna...countless surgeries...so her sister, Kate...can fight leukemia...preimplantation bone marrow match...sue her parents...rights to her own body...perhaps fatal...what it means... a good person...morally correct?

May 1 – Kay Reiss -- The Great Bridge, David McCullough

Years around 1870...building Brooklyn Bridge...longest suspension bridge...greed, corruption...vision...optimism, heroism...lives lost...odds overwhelming...social climate of the time...remarkable family...great personal cost...Emily's dedication.

"May Bonus Book" – Cindy Bagocius -- Junkyard Wonders, Patricia Polacco (Grades 3-5)

Based on true events...celebrates influence of a teacher...Trisha devastated...new school...special class known as "the junkyard" ...teacher divides into tribes...sense of unity...visit a local junkyard...science fair...school bully... the Junkyard Wonders.

***January 9 = Second Friday**



Hello everyone,

The Call Committee is still working on finding a pastor for Zion. The candidates that we were interviewing earlier have either taken another call at a different church, pulled their profile off the table or decided they didn't feel the call to Zion. Pastor Phillips is looking into the nationwide database for new candidates for Zion to look at. There is a pastor that is giving our profile prayerful consideration at this time.

For the members that have been at Zion for a long time, you know that this is a long process and takes a lot of patience. For our newer members hang in there, we will help you through this. We need to remember that it is not the pastor that makes up Zion, **it is each and every member** here that makes up Zion and what we stand for. It is very important that we work as a team, one united team, when doing things. We have established missions and we need to work on keeping them going. But we also need to keep thinking of new things to do to carry out God's mission for us. If we just stay stagnant during this time we will slowly die. So, **it is really important that everyone stays engaged in doing God's work with our hands.**

We ask for your prayers for the call committee and for each and every one of you to help all of us work through this period.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We ask that you send the Holy Spirit to guide us through this call process. That you help us keep our minds and hearts focused on You and Your mission for us. Help everyone know that we are here for them, to help them through any difficulties they may have. Jesus is our leader, the one to follow. We ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Darlene Milavickas
Call Committee Chairperson



MARCH 2026 ASSISTING MINISTER SCHEDULE

March 1 st	Beth Heller
March 8 th	Jim Fidler
March 15 th	Ken Reinoehl
March 22 nd	George Miller
March 29 th	Darlene Milavickas

MARCH 2026 ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

March 1 st	Ben Keith
March 8 th	Maggie McCormick
March 15 th	LJ Brown
March 22 nd	Eli Haga
March 29 th	Ben Keith

MARCH 2026 LECTOR SCHEDULE

March 1 st	Laura Thompson
March 8 th	Brian Milek
March 15 th	Ruth Reinoehl
March 22 nd	Randy Cizek
March 29 th	Renee Keith

MARCH 2026 ACCOMPANIST SCHEDULE

March 1 st	Susan Kaschak
March 8 th	Susan Kaschak
March 15 th	Steve Moore
March 22 nd	Susan Kaschak
March 29 th	Digital Music

MARCH 2026 CHANCEL GUILD SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

March 7	Sally Bunyan and Jayne Schrader
March 14	Darlene Milavickas and Harriet Bowers
March 21	Beth Shaheen and Jayne Schrader
March 28	Darlene Milavickas

SUNDAY

March 8	Sally Bunyan and Beth Shaheen
March 15	Darlene Milavickas and Harriet Bowers
March 22	Beth Shaheen and Jayne Schrader
March 29	Darlene Milavickas and Sally Bunyan

Comfort Givers:

We have been working with Lutheran World Relief for many decades here at Zion. For the first time last year our quilts and kits were used here in the United States to help our more local neighbors. After Hurricanes Helene and Milton there were 10 shipping containers filled with more than 60,000 handmade quilts and 76,000 essential kits en route to six states. LWR within 12 hours of the floods in Central Texas had quilts and kits there for the people. LWR aided the wildfire victims in California etc.

United States received a total of:

- 114,038 quilts
- 73,180 school kits
- 108,511 personal care kits
- 22,934 baby care kits
- 7,800 fabric kits



LWR has provided in 15 different countries:

- 315,818 quilts
- 179,200 school kits
- 231,811 personal care kits
- 66,984 baby care kits
- 9,368 fabric kits

It has been and is still an honor and a privilege to work with LWR in providing quilts and kits to all the different countries and providing support to different areas in our community. We have provided quilts for Refuge of Hope, Valor Home and Hospice Care, lap blankets for our own members and local nursing homes, and prayer shawls and prayer lap blankets for members of Zion and the community.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help with this project and looking for new projects. We have a group of sewers that sew on the quilts every Monday from 10 – 12pm. They also sew banners for North Canton School soccer and wrestling seniors. So, if you like to sew this would be a time to help. We also have a group that meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10 -12pm and put the quilts together and have fellowship time. If these times don't work for you but you want to help out let me know, Darlene at 330-412-4336 and we will work something out for you.

Thank you so much to all the members and friends that help out with the comfort givers mission.

Darlene Milavickas
Comfort Givers Chairperson



Food Pantry News

2026 is off to a good start! We have had plenty of food to serve all who have come, and plenty of love and kindness to share! Thanks be to God!

January Service Numbers:

- 119 Households served which includes 295 people
- 5,817 Pounds of food ordered from the Foodbank to be distributed in addition to congregational and community donations
- 139 hot lunches served to our pantry friends

February Service Numbers:

- 144 Households served which includes 343 people
- 5,615 Pounds of food ordered from the Foodbank to be distributed in addition to congregational and community donations
- 168 hot lunches served to our pantry friends

How can you help?

- Donate one of our staple items to keep the Pantry supplied – Cereal, Hearty Soups, Spaghetti Sauce, Jelly (especially Strawberry), Canned Tuna, Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter
- Volunteer to set up on the Monday before our distribution dates from 9 -11 am.
- Volunteer on distribution days (1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month). We start at 9am with final set up, lunch starts at 11:30 am for volunteers and 12:15 pm for our pantry families, and food distribution from 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.

Please contact Debbie Fox if you have any questions or would like more information.

Food Pantry News





Equal Exchange has added a new look to its line of products! The iconic red is still in use, but this green has a look of Spring! (BTW--another price change is in effect from the "head quarters."). Check out Zion's EE closet while prices are still as they were.



*New office hours
Monday through Friday
9:00 am to 2:00 pm*



We have some exciting news! We are having the Fall Charity Craft Show this year to benefit Habitat for Humanity future Faith Builds. The show will be Saturday, October 10, 2026 from 10am - 3pm.

Applications are available in the office!



Blood Drive Update

Thank you to everyone who came out and donated blood in February. Vitalant was able to collect 10 units of blood to help those in need. Those donations will help save or

sustain the lives of up to 30 people. Thanks be to God to those who are literally willing to give the gift of life!

Please consider being a donor! Vitalant really needs your blood to help people out there who need blood transfusions. Daily personal emergencies and ongoing medical needs of thousands of patients require a constant and ready blood supply. It's the blood already on hospital shelves that saves lives.

Please plan on giving for the rest of our 2026 drives! Ask a friend or family member to join you in donating and giving the gift of life!

- Sunday, April 26, 2026 10am – 1:30pm
- Sunday, July 12, 2026 10am – 1:30pm
- Sunday, September 13, 2026 10am – 1:30pm
- Sunday, November 15, 2026 10am – 1:30pm

If you are unable to donate on the above dates, 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. Thanks be to God for everyone who is willing and able to donate blood and give the gift of life.



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
 to a 2026
SPEAKER SERIES
 hosted by
Zion Lutheran Church Social Responsibility
Ministry
349 Lindy Lane, North Canton

(*Denotes any voluntary donation will be directed toward speaker's cause)

DATES	TIME	SPEAKER 'n TOPIC
Thursday, April 9	5:30 Snack 6:00 Talk 6:45 Q & A	*Laurel Derry, Missionary with CRU Behind Prison Bars & Yet Set Free
Thursday, July 23	5:30 Snack 6:00 Talk 6:45 Q & A	*Doug Colmery, Dir. STARK FRESH A Journey through the "Desert" Courageous Conversations
Monday, October 12	5:30 Snack 6:00 Talk 6:45 Q & A	Randi Pokladnik, PhD Proliferance and Perils of Plastic "How Much Is Convenience Worth?"
January/February '27	5:30 Snack 6:00 Activity 7:15 Reflection	A Simulation Experience Do You Have What It Takes?

Hear the above speakers share what is on their hearts and let them speak to yours. RSVP 330-499-3909 for the whole series or in part. (Special "thank you" for attending three out of four!)



Laurel has a passion for serving those who are hurting, forgotten, and underserved. She has served as a pastor's wife, a coach for marriage and family at FamilyLife, and in recent years helped train volunteers and lead over 50 Art of Marriage events for inmates and their spouses. She also leads bible studies for women at her local county jail. Laurel desires to help women know they are fully loved and fully known by the Lord, no matter their circumstances.

2026 Lent/Easter **Schedule**

February 18th	Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00pm
February 22nd	Lent Service at 6:15pm (Dinner At 5:30pm)
March 1st	Lent Service at 6:15pm (Dinner At 5:30pm)
March 8th	Lent Service at 6:15pm (Dinner At 5:30pm)
March 15th	Lent Service at 6:15pm (Dinner At 5:30pm)
March 22nd	Lent Service at 6:15pm (Dinner At 5:30pm)
March 29th	Palm Sunday Service at 9am
April 1st	No Service
April 2nd	Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00pm
April 3rd	Good Friday Service at 7:30pm
April 5th	Easter Service at 9:00am

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

Return Service Requested



THE ZION HERALD
MARCH 2026

Worship Services

Sunday Morning: 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
Wednesday Evening: 7:00 p.m. Worship Service
Services are streamed through Facebook

Office Hours

9:00am to 2:00pm M-F
Doors open at 9am

Zion's Staff

Administrative Assistant: Hannah Aemmer
Phone: 330-499-3909
Email: Office@zion-nc.com
IT Manager: Ray LePelley
Email: Tech@Zion-NC.com
Website: www.zion-nc.com
Custodian: Herb Beadle
Like us on Facebook@[zionnorthcanton](https://www.facebook.com/zionnorthcanton)

Council Members

Jim Fidler—President
Darlene Milavickas—Vice President
Jayne Schrader—Secretary
Beth Shaheen—Treasurer
Debbie Fox—Learning Ministry
Tina Linz—Parish Life Ministry
George Miller—Property Ministry
Laura Thompson—Resource Ministry
Cindy Bagocius—Social Ministry
Ken Reinoehl—Witness Ministry
Paul Bagocius—Worship Ministry