

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
2233 Abbeyville Road  
Valley City, Ohio 44280

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

# News from the Hill



Editor: Judy Porter

## News from the Pews

Congratulations to both Fred Gern and Ken Vonderau who will be turning 80 years old on Jan. 16 & Jan. 29, respectively. Let's remember them and shower them with praises. God keeps smiling, Zion!

Congratulations and welcome to our new members who have joined Zion at the "church on the hill"...

Emily Bauer  
Richard & Barb Dasch  
Betty Dasch  
Mitzi Otterbacher  
Janice Watson

Congratulations on the birth of a son, Chase Harper, to Samantha (nee Derksen) and Evan Harper. Chase was born on Monday, December 16 at 2:48 pm. After a rough pregnancy, all are doing well now. God is good!



### THE LORD BE WITH ALL OF YOU by Pastor Jim Watson

This month, I chose a Prayer 3:16 verse that's simple, yet powerful. From Paul's second letter to the Christians in the town of Thessalonica:

*The Lord be with all of you*  
2 Thess. 3:16b

This is one of many New Testament letters that deals with controversies, factions, and the need to be discerning about what is true. Several passages in the letter could be used to divide people. Yet here, at the end of the letter, Paul is expressing blessing, that God be with all of the people. As someone who grew up feeling like an outsider to the church, this kind of blessing catches my attention! We've just celebrated the birth of Jesus, who is also given the name Emmanuel, meaning God-with-us, and who is clearly worshipped as God-made-flesh, the One who brings God's full divinity into our full humanity. In Christ, we are called to say with Paul: "The Lord be with all of you."

For us at Zion, the end of the year 2019 marks a time when we reached out with this blessing. At Purpose Palooza, we invited everybody, encouraging each person to ask "What is God doing through me?" We opened our doors and our hearts to Operation Homes, as a full partner and host congregation, and found ourselves blessed in return. We dedicated new hymnals which were designed to help us be open to more people. We connected in new ways with students in the Buckeye schools and others in the community. A number of our members have even begun working through personal loss and tragedy to be able to help other people who might be struggling too. God is working through all of the people, so that the world might know that God is with all people.

I pray that this kind of blessing will continue strongly in 2020! Early in the year, we'll be talking about several ways this might play out. In an "additional staff conversation," we can give thought and prayer and discernment to how God is calling all of us at Zion to be organized and equipped – are there ways in which another staff person could help us support the ministry of all? I'm also looking forward to working with families and leaders as we consider how to include kids in Holy Communion. How do we prepare them for their call to be part of God's blessing in the world, and what's the best way to include them in the holy meal that forms us as the Body of Christ? And we'll be starting the project of updating Zion's web site. How can we best tell God's story, and use the technology available to us to coordinate the work we share?

I firmly believe that the Holy Spirit is moving through all of the people at Zion, gathering, enlightening, and calling us as "the church on the hill" to keep shining God's light out to the world. Thanks for your partnership so far! And in this new year, may the Lord be with all of you in powerful new ways!



**GOD'S GIFTS TALENT SHOW**  
Sat., January 25, 2020 @ 5:00  
We Accept Talent of All Ages

# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS THANKS

THANK YOU to all who have worked on our Advent Fest, Advent and Christmas worship, and other events! We appreciate all the decorators, Advent candle lighting families, worship assistants, Altar Guild, singers and musicians, luminary crew, Luther League, organizers and activity contributors, and the many, many other people who help behind the scenes. Your combined efforts have helped our whole congregation tell the story of Jesus, and helped our community share in the joy of the season!



# Good News & Brews

Good News & Brews is a casual, open-to everyone gathering where we talk about issues of faith and life, with optional dinner and drinks for those who wish. We usually meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month, but will be meeting only once this month, on January 7, starting at 7:00pm, at the Corkscrew Saloon, 811 W. Liberty in Medina. We'll continue with the topic of Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King. All are welcome!



## FAIR TRADE FAIR 2019 RECAP

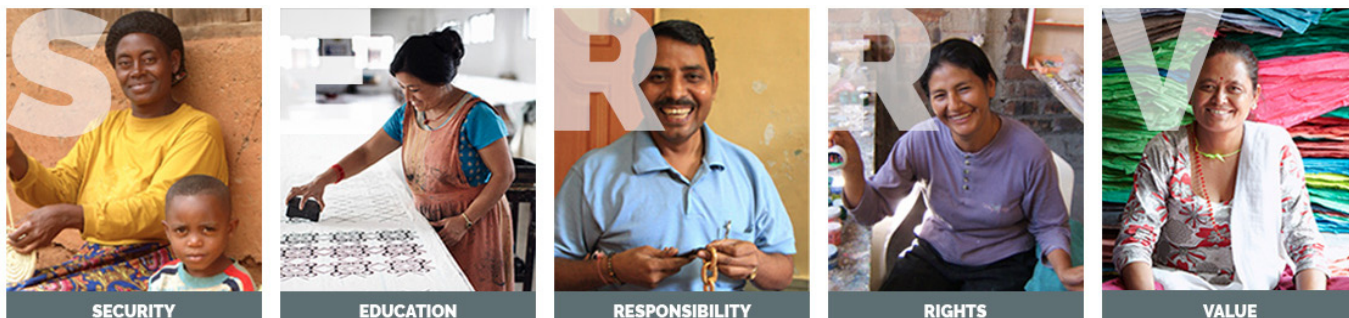
Our Fair Trade Fair enjoyed another successful year. We ordered over \$2000 worth of products from SERRV including food, home decor, baskets, pottery, and ornaments using our wholesale discount of 50% on handcraft and 25% on food items.

Thanks to all of you for your support of small farmers and artisans in over 25 countries including the U.S. Many of you "rounded up" your payment so that we will be able to send around \$25.00 as a donation. Your donations ranged from 10 cents to \$10.00!

We will be placing one more order shortly after the new year since some of the items were out of stock and some folks liked what they received and want to order more. We need a minimum purchase of \$200.00. Contact Barb Steingass with questions or orders. Call or text 330-241-0322 or email: [bsteingass@zoominternet.net](mailto:bsteingass@zoominternet.net)

Go to [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org) to see the wide range of products available. You can also find information about the artisan communities and find out how SERRV has been serving others for 70 years!

Your purchases provide fair wages, safe working conditions, and no child labor. Coffee, tea, and chocolate (sometimes olive oil) are always available on our on-going Fair Trade table by the church office.



## OPERATION HOMES

Our next host week is March 16 – March 23. We will need "Welcome Hosts" who will be at the church from 5 pm to 8 pm to welcome our guests and be there for dinner. We will also need "Overnight Host(s)" (males & females) who will be there overnight 8 pm to 7 am. You can certainly volunteer to be both the Welcome Host and the Overnight Host if you choose. The Welcome host idea would give folks who can't stay overnight an opportunity to serve our Operation Homes effort. It would also be a great way for families or any church group to serve. A separate sheet for Welcoming Hosts is in the volunteer sign-up book on the ministry table. And, remember if you want to do both (welcome and overnight) sign up on both sheets.



We, of course, need meals again. Arline Radden will continue to coordinate the

meals. Contact Arline if you would like to help.

Other 2020 dates in the 1st half of the year are: **April 27 – May 4, and June 22 – June 29.**

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Lynn Kemp at [lkemp1009@gmail.com](mailto:lkemp1009@gmail.com).

## SOUPER BOWL



Collection of non-perishable items begins Sun., Jan. 12 through Feb. 2. Let's line up our hallway with lots of food/paper items to be given to local organizations, yet to be decided.

## LOVE FEAST

Sun., February 9, 2020 @ 12:30ish All O.W.L.S. (Older, Wiser Lutherans) are invited. Our Luther Leaguers will host this event. Inter-generational Fellowship! This is always a fun event!



## FANTASY FOOTBALL



Congratulations to Carrie Penrose, the new champion of Zion's fantasy football league! Her team "The Erlenmeyer Swirl" defeated Ben and Austin

Severence's "Turn Down For Watt" in the closest final game our league has seen yet. Next comes the annual end-of-season banquet and awards ceremony on Friday January 10 at 6:30pm. Past and potential team owners are welcome to join this year's participants as we crown our champion and look ahead to next year. Please RSVP for the banquet to Pastor Jim by Sunday January 5.

# JAN. OFFERING EMPHASIS 01/12 SUN— LOVE, INC.

## 2019 MITTEN TREE GIFTS

Given to: MEDINA SALVATION ARMY  
 Hats 93                      Headbands 13  
 Gloves 51 pr              Underwear 11 pr  
 Booties 29 pr              T-shirt 1  
 Socks 29 pr                Mittens 1 pr  
 Scarves 27  
 Total Items 255

Special thanks to **Diane Wiley** for donating the following homemade items, which are included in the totals above:  
 Hats 83 \* Scarves 22 \* Booties 29 pr \* Headbands 13

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Special thanks to Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger for leading the worship services on Sun., Nov. 24. It was nice to have her at our church on the hill.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way for the Community Thanksgiving Service on Tues., Nov. 26 held at Zion this year. Special thanks to all those who baked goodies for the fellowship after the service.

Many thanks to the MLS for setting up the beautiful nativity display for the Holiday Fantasy at the Medina Fairgrounds. Many thanks to our Zion church family for the many beautiful cards and thoughtful messages to us on our anniversary.

Jerry & Judy Porter

Thanks to the many of you who wrote devotionals for the Advent Booklet. You all did a super job.

Many thanks to Janeen and Janice Calame for putting up the beautiful tree in the gathering area.



Meal Train Ministry is an online method of organizing meals and help for families who need support after the birth of a baby, surgery, illness, or loss. If you or someone you know has a need for support (meals, rides, visits, shopping help or other), please contact **Pastor Jim**, the church office, **Barb Steingass**, or anyone on the Care Team.



meal train®

If you would like to assist families in times of special need, please sign up on the Ministry Table or call/email Barb Steingass 330-722-6139 or [bsteingass@zoominternet.net](mailto:bsteingass@zoominternet.net). Even if you do not have email, we are able to include everyone through phone contact. Some of you noticed that we sent out Meal Train Plus for **Genie Crocker** in December. Genie had hip surgery right before Thanksgiving, is now home, doesn't need meals, but would like to have visitors at her Remsen Rd. home. To ease the scheduling burden for her and to keep us from all visiting on the same day, we are experimenting Meal Train Plus to see if we can get our visits organized. See information above for how to participate. Let's surround Genie with our love as she has always surrounded us with her love!



The sewing circle is in need of used blankets, mattress pads and sheets. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

## 2020 YOUTH WINTER GATHERING

Jan. 3-5, 2020 Winter Gathering for all high schoolers will be January 3-5. We will be returning to the recently renovated Holiday Inn in Independence. This year, LYO welcomes the Allan Scott Band!! More details found here. You will need money for dinner on Friday and for any desired purchases at the Winter Gathering. (Usually, the band has merchandise for sale.)



The group will depart from Zion on Fri., Jan. 3rd at 4:30 pm, stop in Independence for dinner before we arrive at the Gathering, and return to Zion at approximately 1 pm on Sun., Jan. 5th. The weekend consists of a wide variety of activities planned by the LYO high school students and usually brings in over 300 participants! Our very own Morgan Kenney serves on the LYO Board planning this year's Gathering - Yay, Morgan!! There are also ways to get involved while we are at the Gathering!

We will also collect food donations to take to the Gathering to be given to a local food bank and we will tie Project Linus blankets. See Bryan Penvose with any questions.

### S.S. PERFECT ATTENDANCE NOVEMBER

Nathan Burmeister	Marina Malicki
Logan Kuczynski	Sammie Hellwig
Jacque Eierdam	Bethany Shartz
	Kendra Hosack

# YOUTH SECTION

### UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

- January 3rd-5th** - Youth Winter Gathering
- January 8th**- Conformation Class, Kids Choir and Kindness Club
- January 25th at 5-8 pm** Spaghetti Dinner & God's Gifts Talent Show
- February 9th at 12:30 pm** Love Feast



Summer will be here before you know it!! It's time to register youth for summer camp. Although Mowana has closed, there are still LOMO camps available with week-long programs for those just completing kindergarten through 12th grade. Please look for informational posters in the Gathering Area. See Hope Hellwig if you're interested in a Campership! The sooner we register, the bigger the discount!



# Zion Church Women

Zion Church Women held their annual Women's Christmas Party in the festively decorated Fellowship Hall on Mon., Dec. 2, 2019, at 6:00 PM. The table centerpieces were beautifully made by Barbara Steingass. Twenty-five (25) ladies were in attendance. President Judy Wolff gave the welcome and offered the prayer. A potluck dinner provided by the ladies was delicious and enjoyed by all. After dinner, we were reminded to decorate the Christmas tree by the entrance with mittens, hats, scarves, gloves, socks and underwear for the families serviced by the Salvation Army. Judy Wolff installed the new officers. The Christmas program theme was "Comfort and Joy".

The ladies brought items from home that gave them comfort and joy and shared their stories. The stories warmed our hearts and brought much laughter.

Ellen Jenne led the group in singing favorite Christmas songs as we sat around the Christmas tree. Ellen accompanied on the keyboard and many ladies took turns playing the bells. The singing concluded with Silent Night.

Names were drawn for the Secret Sisters program for next year. Everyone enjoyed sharing their gifts and revealing their Secret Sisters for the past year. Cards were signed for members and friends of Zion congregation.

A donation of \$50.00 each will be given to the following organizations: Battered Women's Shelter of Medina County, Feeding Medina Co., Genacross Lutheran Services - Toledo, Medina Light (Jail) Ministries, Oaks Family Care Center, Salvation Army - Medina, Salvation Army - Project Munch, Zion Family Emergency Fund.

The first week of Operation Homes was a success. The second one will be December 9 thru 16. Host & Hostesses are needed. Contact Arline Radden if you would like to help with a meal.

Barb Steingass placed an order for Christmas gifts from the SERRV Fair Trade catalogs with discounts of 50% on non-food items and 25% on food items. Catalogs and order forms are on the Fair Trade table. Contact Barb Steingass.

The next meeting will be Mon., January 6 at 1:00 PM. Bible Study leader is Janice Calame. Sandy Diestler and Gloria Peyton will serve refreshments. Zion Church Women is a caring and fun group and our bible studies are open to all ladies of the congregation. Please make a New Year's resolution to join us for bible study and fellowship in 2020.



# Martin Luther Society



The Martin Luther Society met at the church on Sunday, December 15, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. for our Annual Christmas Party. Eleven (11) members were in attendance after enjoying a very cool day. The ladies prepared a delicious potluck dinner for us to share, which was followed by a relaxing fellowship together. Everyone was kind in the "White Elephant" gift exchange as we enjoyed opening the treasures that were shared. Bob Jenne handmade fifteen (15) wooden fire trucks, trailers, and blocks to play with which will be given to some very lucky children in Medina County. Also, a large number of games, toys, dolls, sporting equipment, stuffed animals were given from our group, which were displayed and then packed to go to The Salvation Army to be distributed to needy children in Medina County. **Ken and Mary Ann Dagleish** volunteered to deliver all these toys to the Salvation Army in Medina. Thanks to all of you who gave so generously to help brighten the lives of the children. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 19, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. All adults are welcome to attend.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thanks to the Luther League for taking charge of the Zion Postal Service again this year. This really is a nice project to help out the members of Zion. Also, thanks to the Luther League for this year's Cookie Walk and to all others who baked cookies for this event and for all the monetary donations.

Thanks for the Spiritual Growth Team for providing the food for the children's program lunches. Also, thanks to all those who helped prepare and serve the meal.

Thanks to Carrie Hosack, Ellen Jenne, and the Sunday School children who again put on another wonderful Christmas program for us this year. It is always so heartwarming to see our youth celebrate the birth of Jesus. Thanks to the teachers, too, for their leadership.

Special thanks to parents/grandparents who brought the kids to the practices. It makes it so much nicer when the children come to the practices. Thank you all!

Many thanks to all those who purchased items for the "mitten, hat, socks, & underwear" tree. Special thanks to Mrs. Wiley (neighbor to Phyllis Wolff) for the many beautiful handmade items she provided again this year. All the items collected were given to the Medina Salvation Army.

Thanks to all who contributed gifts or monetary donations to our adopt-a-family project with the Oaks. All gifts the families requested have been purchased and we were able to provide gas and grocery gift cards for each family as well. Your generosity is overwhelming! Thanks for sharing God's love through this service!

Thanks to Pastor Jim & Sheryl for all the goodies they provided for the congregation between services on Sun., Dec. 15. Yum-Yum!!!

Many thanks to Pastor Jim for the Advent Worship Services and to those who attended.

Thanks to Zion's Ellen Jenne and the Sr. Choir who participated at the Christmas Sing-a-Long at Emmanuel UCC-Valley City on Sat., Dec. 7. What a beautiful sound was heard!

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Many thanks to Roxanne Haggard & Marsha Mezenski for organizing the crafts and the volunteers for the Advent Festival and to Pastor Jim and Ellen Jenne for the candlelight service. Thanks to all those who volunteered to take charge of a table.

Thanks to the Luther League and adults who decorated the tree in the sanctuary and to those who beautified the church with Christmas decorations. Zion looks great! Thanks to those who "rang the bell" for the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign this year. Your many efforts are truly appreciated!