

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

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

# News from the Hill



Editor: Judy Porter

## ROOTED

by Pastor Jim Watson



I'm writing this shortly before I leave for two evangelism-related events. But I hope by the time February arrives, I'll have some good stories and insights to share with you from both of them!

From January 19-24, I'll be in Atlanta, at an event called "Rooted in Jesus." It's sponsored by several groups within or related to the Episcopal Church, and I'm excited to gather with about a thousand other church leaders to focus on the themes of discipling and evangelizing. I believe those two things go together, and are at the heart of the church's life.



By being rooted in Jesus, we tap into God's grace and power in our lives – and then the joy of being transformed and made alive by God overflows our lives and enriches the lives of others. Then, from January 28-30, I'll be with many of the ELCA pastors and deacons of the three Ohio synods, gathering around the same theme of evangelizing. Through these two events, it will be great to see how the Spirit connects people from different places and denominations!

With all this in mind, I'm choosing a 3:16 verse for February that reflects this theme:

*I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. – Ephesians 3:16-17*

"Being rooted and grounded" in the love of God also sounds like a great theme for Lent! This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 26, and our forty-day journey carries us through March and into Holy Week and Easter in April. Why not think now about choosing your own simple way to be rooted and grounded in Jesus during Lent? You might consider adding a simple habit most days:

- a time of prayer
- a kind word to someone
- a personal-care activity
- scripture reading
- an act of service
- writing in a journal

Or, if you "give something up" for Lent, think of it not as a penalty or punishment, but as a chance to use the time, money, energy, and attention you'd normally use on that thing to instead remind yourself that you are rooted and grounded in Jesus above all.

You'll see throughout this newsletter some other efforts at Zion, and I hope you'll be involved in those as the Spirit moves you. But remember that it all begins with being "rooted and grounded!" May we dwell in and trust in Christ first and foremost, and let everything else we do flow from the love and power we receive from him!

# HOMEBUILDERS' CLASS

The Homebuilders' Class continues to meet in the Conference Room on Sunday mornings at 9:40 am. Parents of pre-school children through Grade 6 are included. We discuss the scripture lessons from the Narrative Lectionary which we use in our worship services and which the children cover in their classes. We find that this is a good time for faith formation—both ours and that of our children. A nursery is provided for the youngest kids. Join our informal group which enjoys sharing and being together—we are all children of God!

Need a Meaningful Valentine's Day Gift?

## CHOOSE FAIR TRADE- OUR COFFEE & CHOCOLATE CHANGES LIVES



Your purchases from Zion's Fair Trade Table provide fair wages, safe working conditions, and no child labor for small farmers around the world. This allows local communities to improve health, education, food, and housing. We pass our wholesale discounts on to you.

# FIRST COMMUNION CONVERSATION



As we decide what to do about welcoming younger kids to participate in Holy Communion, our next step will be a conversation on Sunday, February 9. We'll meet between services, in the sanctuary. Who should come? All parents of 5th grade students; all parents who think your younger kids may be ready; all Zion members and friends interested in the decision and the way we introduce younger kids to the sacrament. If you are interested but can't attend on that day, please share your thoughts with Pastor Jim.

The conversation will begin with some information from Pastor Jim; followed by Q&A and a discussion of the theology and practice of Holy Communion, some signs whether kids are ready or not; and some work to decide on next steps and timing.

Please keep this conversation and the whole process in your prayers. This is important work for the spiritual life of Jesus' youngest disciples and their families!

# ADDITIONAL STAFF CONVERSATION

At our first open conversation on Jan. 5 and at the annual congregational meeting on Jan. 26, some information went out that's intended to help us all at Zion think and pray about an additional staff position. Pastor Jim has made available a set of reflection questions adapted from the "ministry site profile" document used across the ELCA when calling a rostered leader. The next step will be to ask people to pray, give those questions some time and attention, and then we will meet again on Sun., Feb. 23 at about 12:15pm (as soon as possible after the 10:45 service) to discuss. What is God doing through all of us at Zion? And what kind of additional leadership and help might we need to take faithful steps in God's direction? Thanks for praying, and for being part of the conversation!

# Good News & Brews

Feb. 4 & 20 @ 7 pm



This February, Good News & Brews will turn three years old! So why not do like the other three-year-olds do, and enter another stage of development? We will meet as usual on the first Tues., February 4, starting at 7 pm at the Corkscrew Saloon, 811 W. Liberty in Medina. But our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 20, at 7 pm at Der Braumeister, 13046 Lorain Ave in Cleveland. The conversation will focus on Martin Luther, his life, and our trip to Germany in July. Watch for more information coming soon. If you are interested in any of this, and have thoughts about when and where to meet that would make it easier for you to participate, please talk with Pastor Jim.

# 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) or her cell 330.304.1088, or home 330.722.4526.



# BISHOP ALLENDE VISIT

Sun., March 22, 2020 We will have time for refreshments and conversation with the Bishop between services. Come welcome him, hear his proclamation of God's Word, and learn more about what lies ahead for him, the synod, and the church!

# 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!



# "I'D LOVE TO TELL THE STORY...BUT..."

Cleveland-West Conference Gathering Sat., March 14 from 9 am-12 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 276 E Bagley Rd in Berea.

Come learn how easy and affirming it is to share your faith story in your everyday life. This workshop is for ANYONE. It will inspire you, and help you to identify and share your faith story. RSVPs to Bryan Penvose at [blpenvose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blpenvose@sbcglobal.net) are appreciated, but not required.

# FEB. OFFERING EMPHASIS

02/02 SUNDAY SOUPER BOWL  
 02/16 SUNDAY ELCA  
 02/26 WEDNESDAY LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

## 2019 GIVING STATEMENTS

2019 giving statements have been sent by e-mail or printed and placed in your mailbox. If you have not received 2020 envelopes and would like some, please let Irene know at: [ihill45@zoominternet.net](mailto:ihill45@zoominternet.net).

## LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRY UPDATE

As reported in the November News from the Hill, LMM has announced a new initiative to help families who are homeless. The Affordable Housing Initiative, Breaking New Ground, will purchase and renovate up to 20 homes in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood over the next 5 years.



The first home, a duplex on Bonna Ave., has been purchased and a "Wall-Breaking" was held on December 11, 2019, with members of the Cleveland Browns organization which donated \$100,000. Look for more information on LMM's webpage: [lutheranmetro.org](http://lutheranmetro.org) Click on the link "Breaking New Ground" on the homepage for reports and videos. Copies may also be found on the Zion's Ministry Table.

## JR. CHOIR CHANGES LENT & EASTER

Weds., Feb. 5,12,19 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm  
 Weds., Feb. 26 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm  
 Weds., Mar 04,11,18,25 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm  
 Weds., Apr. 01 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm  
 Weds., Apr. 08 No Choir-Holy Week  
 Weds., Apr. 15 Back to normal schedule!  
 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm

## CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation Sunday will come a little early this year, on **April 19**. Mark your calendars! And remember that during the season of Lent, our Wednesday night Confirmation schedule will have a few adjustments:

\* **NO CLASS on Ash Wednesday, February 26**  
 – All students and families are encouraged to come to Ash Wednesday worship instead, at 7:00pm.

\* **Wednesdays in Lent, March 4 - April 1**  
 – We will gather and begin teaching time right away at 5:30pm, finishing a little early by 6:15pm. Confirmation families will not be responsible for providing supper during Lent. Instead, all students and families are encouraged to join in the Soup Supper at 6:15pm and Lenten worship in the Gathering Area at 7:00pm.

\* **NO CLASS on Wednesday, March 25** (Spring Break week for many of our students) or on Wednesday, April 8 (Holy Week).

\* **Wednesday, April 15** – We return to our usual schedule, with families taking turns providing supper at 5:30, and teaching time from 6:00-7:00pm. Classes will continue after Confirmation Sunday for a few weeks, as originally planned on our schedule.

# YOUTH SECTION

### UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

February 2nd - Luther League Mtg 3pm  
 March 3rd - Luther League Mtg 3pm  
 March 14th - Holy Trinity-Akron Meal 9am  
 March 29th - Passion Walk Dress Rehearsal 3pm  
 April 4th-5th - Passion Walk 6:30pm

## VALENTINE TREE

Items needed for residents of Medina County Home:

Stationery & Greeting Cards  
 Postage Stamps  
 AA Batteries  
 Tissues  
 Socks (for men & women)  
 Toothpaste & Toothbrushes  
 Sugar Free Snacks  
 Whole Wheat Crackers  
 Little Debbie Snacks  
 Cheese or Peanut Butter Crackers

# THANK YOU!!!

The sewing circle would like to thank everyone who has contributed sheets, blankets, and mattress pads so that we could make Quilts for the Lutheran World Relief program. We have enjoyed working together and hope that you like the quilts that we have displayed on the quilt rack in the hall way.

## S.S. PERFECT ATTENDANCE NOVEMBER

Lauren Alley	Derek Hosack
Brody Diesch	Kendra Hosack
Jacque Eierdam	Bella Kaczor
Aidan Haggard	Hailey Kuczynski
William Haggard	Keegan Kuczynski
Alyssa Hill	Logan Kuczynski
Travis Hill	Jonathan Lynn-Boggs
Trent Hill	Bethany Shartz



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!

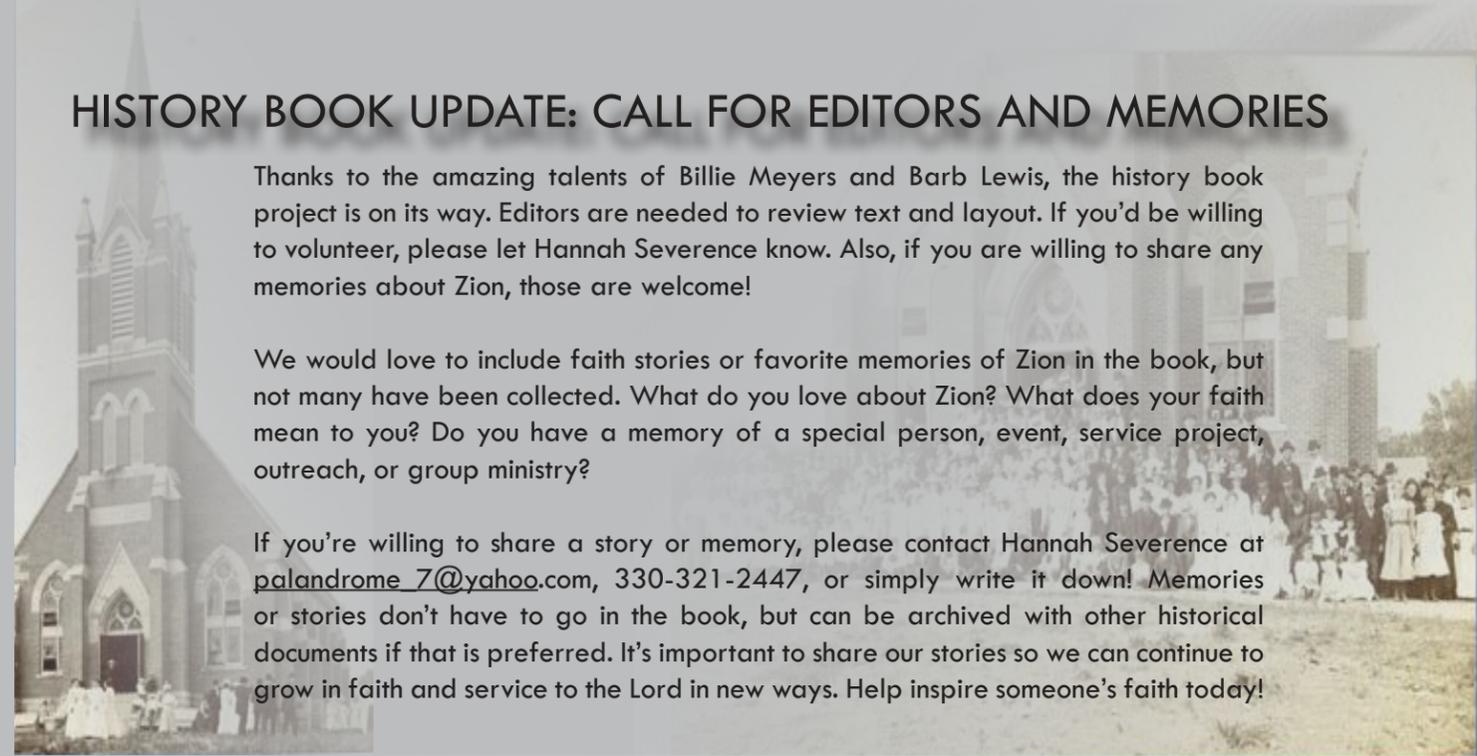




## Is there any interest in forming a group for Bible Study and fellowship for younger women of the church?

If you are interested, contact  
Marilynn Grimm at  
[grimmz@yahoo.com](mailto:grimmz@yahoo.com)

## HISTORY BOOK UPDATE: CALL FOR EDITORS AND MEMORIES



Thanks to the amazing talents of Billie Meyers and Barb Lewis, the history book project is on its way. Editors are needed to review text and layout. If you'd be willing to volunteer, please let Hannah Severence know. Also, if you are willing to share any memories about Zion, those are welcome!

We would love to include faith stories or favorite memories of Zion in the book, but not many have been collected. What do you love about Zion? What does your faith mean to you? Do you have a memory of a special person, event, service project, outreach, or group ministry?

If you're willing to share a story or memory, please contact Hannah Severence at [palandrome\\_7@yahoo.com](mailto:palandrome_7@yahoo.com), 330-321-2447, or simply write it down! Memories or stories don't have to go in the book, but can be archived with other historical documents if that is preferred. It's important to share our stories so we can continue to grow in faith and service to the Lord in new ways. Help inspire someone's faith today!

## SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to all outgoing/ongoing church leaders for the jobs you accomplished during 2019. Zion appreciates your service to the church and to our Lord. Thank you!!!

Many, many thanks to Sue Alley for her 12 years of leadership as Sunday School Superintendent. Her shoes will be hard to fill. We are very grateful for all her dedication to this position. She has put a lot of smiles on your kids' faces. We will miss her, but we won't let her stray too far!!

Gary Gunkelman thanks his Zion family for all the get well cards and well wishes after his double knee surgery. All is going well, and he hopes to be out doing farm work this spring.

Thank you, Zion family & friends, for the prayers and cards I received for my recent surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Jim for the visit and prayer before my surgery. I'm truly blessed to have such caring and thoughtful friends!

-Becky Severs

OOPS! SO SORRY! We missed Betty Dasch's 94th birthday in January's newsletter. Her birthday was on January 26. Betty recently became a Zion member along with her son and daughter-in-law (Richard & Barbara Dasch). If you see her at Zion, wish her a "belated" Happy Birthday.

## HELPING HANDS February-March

Janice Calame	Jane Gunkelman
Genie Crocker	Gloria Peyton
Marge Ellinwood	Judy Porter

### "BIRTHDAY BLANKETS" for Lutheran World Relief

This project honors loved ones by giving a donation of \$5 for each blanket. The honoree's name will also appear in Zion's Newsletter. If you would like to participate, give the birthday information and payment to Judy Porter.



Congratulations and welcome to Debra "Deb" Olinger who has joined Zion at the "church on the hill." Deb is no stranger to Zion. She has been with us a few years and, because of her teaching degree, has been serving as a Sunday School & VBS teacher as well as serving on the Spiritual Growth Team and performing in the Passion Walk. Her smiling face is

seen helping out wherever needed. Deb and her husband Michael live on 6525 Neff Road and have done several projects to their home. They have two grown daughters and they cherish their two young grandchildren.

## REVISED 2020 Benevolence Emphasis

Always	ELCA and NEOS
01/12	Sunday Love INC
02/02	Sunday Souper Bowl Sunday/ Feeding Medina County; Holy Trinity-Akron; Brunswick Food Pantry
02/16	Sunday ELCA
02/26	Ash Wednesday Lutheran World Relief
03/04	Second Wed. in Lent Lutheran Social Services
03/11	Third Wed. in Lent Lutheran Ministries of Mercy - Napoleon and Williston
03/18	Fourth Wed. in Lent United Protestant Campus Ministries
03/25	Fifth Wed. in Lent Lutheran Family Services
04/01	Sixth Wed. in Lent Feeding Medina County
04/09	Maundy Thursday Jacob's Porch
04/10	Good Friday Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio
04/12	Easter ELCA
04/26	Sunday Jail Ministry
05/10	Sunday Operation Homes
05/24	Sunday Gideons
06/14	Sunday Cadence
07/12	Sunday Love INC
08/02	Sunday Medina Salvation Army
09/06	Sunday Lutheran World Relief
09/20	Sunday ELCA
10/04	Harvest Home Sunday Feeding Medina County
10/18	Sunday Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry
10/25	Sunday Operation Homes
3rd Sunday in November	Women of the ELCA
12/20	S.S. Christmas Program Wernle Youth and Family Treatment Center
12/24	Christmas Eve Lutheran Family Services

**Glorify God and Share His Love, As We Serve All People From His Church on the Hill**

