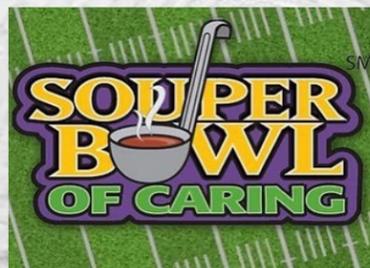


NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Congratulations to Matt Vitello who was chosen Buckeye High School's Student of the Month for February. Matt is ranked 3rd in his senior class of 210 students. He has been involved in Boy Scouts, HUDDLE, mock trial, theater, and a Buckeye Boys State Delegate as well as taking advance placement and college credit courses. He plans to attend college to pursue a degree in economics or political science with a minor in theater. Best of luck, Matt, in your future plans! Zion is proud of your accomplishments...and God is, too!



Many thanks to Hope Hellwig for organizing this year's Spaghetti Dinner & God's Gifts & Talents Show. Thanks to the kitchen crew and those who brought in desserts for the dinner which served around 105 people. Also, special thanks to our talented emcee-comedian Paul Eierdam for his stage talents. Finally, thanks to all who shared their special talents for us. Fun was had by all those in attendance.



Many, many thanks for all our Zion family for adorning our halls with food/clothing items for the Souper Bowl. Again, the competition was fierce and rewarding. The pulpit side won, but the real winners are those we are helping: Feeding Medina County, Brunswick Food Pantry, and Holy Trinity-Akron.

Thanks to all those who donated items for the Valentine Tree. After contacting the Medina County Home, they are not accepting donations at this time, so we will disperse the items to different places. Your generosity is and always is greatly appreciated, no matter what the cause. God is good! Items collected and possible recipients are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 100 Postage Stamps | Zion Card Ministry |
| 50 Cards & Envelopes | Zion Card Ministry |
| 2 Boxes of Kleenex | *BSP |
| 54 AA Batteries | *BSP |
| 3 Toothpaste | *BSP |
| 1 Box of Swiss Roll Snacks | *BSP |
| 65 Cracker Snack Pkgs | *BSP |

*BSP = Buckeye School Pantry

Ken Vonderau thanks his friends at Zion for remembering his 80th birthday with cards, handshakes, backslaps and especially the "Zion card" that was signed by so many with their inscriptions. Thanks so much for thinking of him at that special time in his life.

Thank you all for the birthday and retirement wishes. As I settle into my new role as a winery and vineyard manager, I look forward to seeing you all out at the farm. As they say: The work is never done!
John Gombar

Special thanks to Pastor Jon Steingass for leading us in worship on Sun., Feb. 16.

News from the Hill



Editor: Judy Porter

THE WAY OF LOVE by Pastor Jim Watson



As we enter into the season of Lent, I chose a 3:16 verse I've highlighted before, not from the gospel of John, but the first letter of John:

"We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another." - 1 John 3:16

Just as the letters of John complement the whole message of the gospel, this verse complements the familiar phrase "for God so loved the world." Jesus, born among us as the divine presence of God made human, came to pour love abundantly into each human heart. And that love becomes a way of life, through which we stay connected with God, and through which God's connection with humanity continues on to others. The way of love is shaped like the cross of Christ. His dying frees us from sin and death and evil, and our dying to those forces opens up our lives to God's purposes.

Throughout this Lenten journey, we'll be guided by this theme of "the way of love." I'm borrowing the seven faith practices currently being taught by the Episcopal Church, and this image that presents them together. Inspired by my time at their "Rooted in Jesus" event in Atlanta in January, I'll share some of the insights and resources I found.

I'll try to go beyond a show-and-tell format, by connecting the overall purpose of this theme with our renewed walk of faith with Jesus. My hope is that each one of us will be able to use this season to refresh our understanding of ourselves as beloved children of God, and uncover something new about how God's love is transforming us, and transforming the world through us.



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26, when the dark, dusty symbol of ashes invites us into a new cycle of dying and rising in Christ. Each Sunday during Lent will continue to walk us through stories of Jesus' love in the gospel of Mark. Each of the next five Wednesdays will include a soup supper and worship in the Gathering Area,

with a trial run of the Setting 8 liturgy in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal and a focus on one of the way of love faith practices. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday on **April 9 and 10** will again guide us through the last days of Jesus in Jerusalem and the pouring out of his love in the Last Supper and on the cross. And this year, we have the additional invitation to be part of a Medina Cluster Easter Vigil at St. Matthew on **Holy Saturday, April 11**. I invite you to prepare your heart for the journey, and take as many of these steps together as possible on the way of love!

ZION BOOK CLUB

March 9, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

at Barb Steingass' Home
3108 Lester Rd., Medina

Something Beautiful Happened

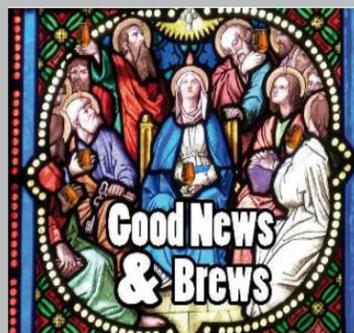
By: Yvette Manassis Corporon



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!

GOOD NEWS & BREWS



For a short time, the Good News & Brews schedule will be “under construction.” We’ll take a slower pace during Lent, and we’ll combine some events with the group that will be traveling to Germany this summer. Watch future worship bulletins and emails for more information on dates, times, and locations for these informal times together to talk about faith and life! ALL are welcome at each event.

MEDINA CLUSTER NEWS

As part of our life together with other area ELCA congregations, members and friends of Zion are invited to an Easter Vigil worship service on **Saturday, April 11, 7:30pm**, at St. Matthew in Medina, 400 N. Broadway St. The Easter Vigil is an ancient tradition that prepares us for new Eastertime life. You can get a feel for the flow of this service on pages 266-270 in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. There is also the opportunity for some of us to participate in the service as readers, communion servers, acolytes, or ushers. Please let Pastor Jim know, the sooner the better, if you would like one of those roles. Then on **Thursday, April 23, starting at 7:00pm**, Zion will be hosting the next Medina Cluster gathering, open to anyone who’s interested in these ongoing conversations. Come check it out, meet some new friends, share news and hopes for the future, and help make plans for serving, learning, and growing together.

HOLY TRINITY MEAL

Sat., March 14



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

This is a great opportunity for families to serve together!! We leave Zion at 9:00 am and return around 2 pm...unless we stop for ice cream!!! Please consider donating an item for the hot meal or your time. Hope Hellwig will send out a

menu the beginning of March for signing up. All ages welcome!!!

COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Zion's Council has decided to revise our First Communion practices. We'll continue to offer "class" instruction led by Pastor Jim in the Lenten season. The materials will be reworked to be appropriate for kids in 3rd grade and older. For families who feel that kids of this age aren't yet ready, or younger kids are ready, parents can talk about it with Pastor Jim and exceptions can be made. We'll evaluate how it goes with this age group, and possibly adjust the age in future years. In this transition time, some families may feel that it's important to give each child "their year,"



It's very helpful if you can let the church office know in advance which children will be attending!

As usual, our “default” time for students to receive their First Communion will be Maundy Thursday. This year, that date is **April 9**, and the service will start at 7:00pm. Other arrangements can be made for families that can't come at that time.

Talk with Pastor Jim if you have any questions or concerns about First Communion.

With these changes in mind, this year we'll have three shorter sessions:

Sunday March 1, 1:30-3:00pm

Sunday March 15, 1:30-3:00pm

Sunday March 29, 1:30-3:00pm

and may opt to send older siblings ahead and wait a while for younger siblings.

All three sessions are required. Each young person should have a parent or other adult present with them for the whole time at each session, and there will be some interactive projects for home in between.

And we ask for everyone's prayers for our young people who will be preparing for this important step in their life of faith, for their families, and for God's guidance as we work to keep the sacraments and Christian education milestones a priority for every age.

ANOTHER SERRV FAIR TRADE ORDER!



Yes, we did place another order for handcrafts in January—another almost \$400. Again, folks liked what they received and want to order more. We need a minimum purchase of \$200.00 in order to obtain our wholesale discount of 50% on most items or 25% on items which include food.

Easter items are available and bread warmers are back in stock!



Contact Barb Steingass with questions or orders. Call or text 330-241-0322 or email bsteingass@zoominternet.net. Go to www.serrv.org to see products available. You can also find information about the artisan communities and find out how SERRV has been serving others for 70 years by initially assisting refugees after World War II in Europe.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN FOR OAKS FAMILY CARE CENTER



During Lent, we are collecting change in baby bottles for the Oaks Family Care Center. You may pick up a bottle in the gathering area. Checks need to be written to Zion Lutheran Church. Please, return the bottles by Easter.

“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 are appreciated, but not required.



MARCH OFFERING EMPHASIS

03 / 04 WEDNESDAY LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES
 03 / 11 WEDNESDAY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES OF MERCY
 03 / 18 WEDNESDAY UNITED PROTESTANT CAMPUS MIN.
 03 / 25 WEDNESDAY LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES

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 or her cell 330.304.1088, or home 330.722.4526.



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!

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.

Many thanks to the Luther League and the parents for hosting the Love Feast to the OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans). The soup, salad, and desserts were all delicious and the game time was entertaining and fun was had by all!



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:

* **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.

JR. CHOIR CHANGES LENT & EASTER

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
 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm

YOUTH SECTION

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

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

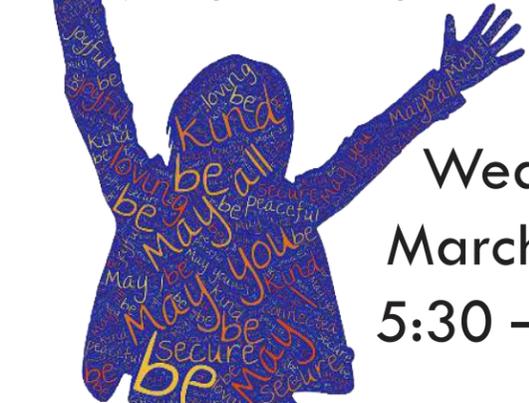
WINTER JAM

Cleveland State University Wolstein Center Sunday, March 29 All youth are welcome and invited! See Hope Hellwig for details.



KIDS' KINDNESS CLUB

(Kindergarteners through 6th Grade)



Wednesday
 March 11 & 25
 5:30 – 6:00 pm



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

- Mar. 04 Zion Women
- Mar. 11 Spiritual Growth & LL
- Mar. 18 Sr. Choir
- Mar. 25 MLS
- Apr. 01 Church Council

If you would like to bring a soup, bread, or a dessert for any of these dates, please sign up at the Ministry Table in the Gathering Area.

HELPING HANDS February-March

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

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, 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!



BISHOP ALLENDE VISITING ZION Sunday, March 22, 2020

Be sure to be at worship (at either service) on **Sunday March 22**, as we welcome Bishop Abraham Allende back to Zion. We will also 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!

PASSION WALK

April 4-5, 2020 @ 6:15-8:00 pm

There's a buzz of excitement moving through the pews and hallways of Zion, and it's mostly coming from the young and adult men as they make plans to once more assume the roles of the disciples and other participants of Christ's last days. Zion will again dramatize these events in our twelfth annual Passion Walk. To accommodate the number of visitors expected, the Walk will again be held on two evenings, **Saturday, April 4, and Palm Sunday, April 5**. The Jerusalem marketplace opens at 6:15 p.m. and while visitors wait for their walk to begin, they can experience a little of the sights, sounds, and culture of 30 AD. The first group will leave at 6:15 and will walk from scene to scene in the church

and courtyard as they witness the Last Supper, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and his arrest, Peter's denial in the High Priest's courtyard, Jesus before Pilate, the crucifixion of Jesus, and the sealed tomb. Almost sixty members of Zion will take part in the scenes, which will begin every 15 minutes from 6:15 to 8:00 pm. The event is fully handicapped accessible. Our Passion Walk committee and all our cast members hope that the Passion Walk will be an inspirational beginning to Holy Week. We urge you to invite your neighbors, relatives, and friends to come to the Passion Walk and experience the events that unfolded before Easter morning.

"Bind Us Together" Blanket Tying

Children undergoing chemo or just out of surgery often feel chilled, so nurses will give them an extra blanket. At Akron Children's Hospital that soft fleece blanket may have come from Zion and our "Bind It Together" project. The Outreach and Ministries Team has delivered over 110 blankets to area pediatric hospitals in the last five years, wrapping sick children in love and soft warmth.

The next Bind It Together event is scheduled for March 15 during the Sunday School hour. This is a fun, inter-generational time of tying the prepared blankets, praying for the hospitalized children, and making connections with each other. We hope you will join us

on Bind It Together Sunday to help complete the 20 blankets waiting for your hands to do God's work and help Zion reach out to these hospitalized children.

Finished blankets will be taken to area children's hospitals!

**Sun., March 15, 2020 @ 9:40 am
during Sunday School**

