

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

October seemed like a month of meetings; and now November ushers in a month of Sundays! All Saints' Sunday starts us off on November 6<sup>th</sup>. This is the Festival that celebrates the gift of eternal life promised by the Lord of life, who burst the bars of death with the dawn of a new age proclaimed with the Resurrection on Easter morn. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that all who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life.*" Luther called this the *gospel in miniature*; and that is the Good News we reverently remember with the ringing of the bell as each name is read identifying loved ones among us who were called to their heavenly home this past year. What could be more moving than remembering that those whom we love have been claimed by God's love, a love that promises to never, ever let us go.

The next Sunday on the calendar calls for the celebration of the work of the Women of the Church. This is an especially treasured day in the ELCA because of the courage and faithfulness displayed by our predecessor church bodies, the LCA and the ALC, more than forty years ago when we reclaimed the original vision and ancient practice of letting the Spirit decide whose gifts the church needs to thrive. I am talking about the Ordination of Women, which the Lutheran Church in America and the American Lutheran Church affirmed in 1970. This was the original vision of our Lord practiced by first generation Christians in the life of the early church, where traditional barriers dividing Jews and Gentiles, men and women, rich and poor were overcome through the blood and in the body of Jesus Christ. The ELCA has been richly blessed through the time, talents, and treasures that gifted women have shared with the life of the church. We will thank God for that, and so much more, on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

The following Sunday brings us to the end of the church year with the Festival of Christ the King Sunday. We will not be following the pattern of Harold Camping in offering invariably wrong predictions of the end of the world. The Scriptures promise that there will be an end to the disorder of things as we have come to know them in this world. That is assured with the final judgment, which announces the dawn of a new age. We acknowledge this promise with our creeds every Sunday. Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead, and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Judgment is good news because the gospel promises that it will not be strict justice but God's grace that sets the bar for opening the doors of the kingdom to all believers. That is the Good News of Christ the King Sunday, which will be the focus of our worship on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

The end of this present church year signals the beginning of a new church year. The Church calls this Advent. At Zion, we call it the beginning of our regular schedule of Advent dinners and Advent services. There is, of course, more to Advent than great food, good fellowship, and weekly opportunities to enjoy the gifts so many of Zion's talented members bring to our Sunday evening services – Jim Fidler's Advent dramas, the great voices of our Senior Choir and Praise Team, our prayers for peace, the songs of Taize, along with the sights and sounds of music from around the world at Carole Singer's carol-fest. We have so much to celebrate with the arrival of a new year; and that begins on November 27<sup>th</sup> with the First Sunday of Advent. Plan to join us for these special Sundays in November as we celebrate the gifts of God's love alive among us.

## CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Jim Fidler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance: Susan Heyard (Vice President), Juanita Cignetti (Council Secretary), Dave Palumbo (Treasurer), Cathy Harvey (Caring), Beth Shaheen (Outreach), Pastor Sherwindt, Mark Votaw (Resource), and Renee Keith (Learning). Jim Dansizen (Witness Ministry), Lorin Beaber (Property), Vicki Givler (Parish Life), and Dale Jacobs (Worship Ministry) were not able to attend.

The September Treasurer's Report showed the progress we desired in returning to a monthly surplus for the Operating Budget. Income exceeded expenses by \$622.30, and we whittled our year-to-date Operating Budget deficit to \$5,198 – which is \$2,000 better than where we were at this time last year! We are on course to balance our sixth consecutive budget. All we need is your continuing generosity to make that happen.

The main item of business on our agenda was getting ready for Zion's *Fall Congregational Meeting*. We finalized the details of our 2012 Proposed Budget Guidelines, which will be presented for congregational approval when we gather for a delicious dinner (at 6:15 p.m.) and our Congregational Meeting (7:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

### FINANCIAL FACTS FOR SEPTEMBER

September Income	17,966.63
September Expenses	<u>17,344.33</u>
<b>September Surplus</b>	<b>622.30</b>
Income thru September	183,244.45
Expenses " September	<u>188,443.15</u>
<b>Deficit thru September</b>	<b>( 5,198.70)</b>
<b>2011 YTD (Deficit)</b>	<b>( 5,198.70)</b>
<b>2009 YTD (Deficit)</b>	<b>(7,195.23)</b>

***We thank you for your generous support!***

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We began with a truly exceptional dinner, prepared by Dale Jacobs, with help from Dave Palumbo, and the Church Council. We served an encore presentation of Dale's famous bratwurst and sauerkraut, along with his mouth-watering roast pork. This was accompanied by green beans, Spaetzle, and a great assortment of desserts. Council members helped with set-up and clean-up, while also contributing to the full array of desserts that graced our buffet. The food was great, and so was the turnout.

We easily met our quorum, and the business part of our congregational gathering was called to order by Jim Fidler just after 7 p.m. Pastor Sherwindt invited us to pray the words of the hymn with which we open all of our congregational meetings: "*We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.*" Laura Thompson introduced the 2012 Proposed Budget Guidelines, and, with help from Dave Palumbo, responded to an extended period for questions and answers about the budget process and its particulars. The vote was then taken; the budget passed; and we adjourned into Luther Hall to pick the winners of our 2011 Themed Basket Raffle.

The 2012 Budget calls for lower targets for income and expenses than the 2011 Budget set out. We are confident that we are on course to balance this year's budget, just as we have done for the past five years. We have been fortunate to reap the financial benefit of decreasing costs for natural gas, while also experiencing better efficiencies with the new HV/AC system. The result has allowed us to keep overall expenses under control, while funding all of our priorities.

## **MORE COUNCIL NEWS**

**Witness Ministry:** We thanked all involved for the good turnout that greeted our second community outreach program, with this one focusing on *Senior Citizen Safety*, which we hosted on October 5<sup>th</sup> in Luther Hall. Pastor opened our meeting with a prayer, and then presented each of our special speakers with two complimentary German dinners, along with the invitation to join in the fun of our Eighth Youth Missions Craft Show and Oktoberfest! We offer our thanks to James Knight from the Prosecutor's Office, Mayor David Held, Chief of Police Steve Wilder, Director of Administration Michael Grimes, Fire Chief John Bacon, and Larry Parker from Aparco Security; and we thank the Men of Zion for providing great refreshments!

**Property Ministry:** We thanked everyone who was involved in our painting party for the pavilion, while also reviewing our desire to finish some repairs at the parsonage, and looking forward to the role we might play in helping with the Youth Missions Craft Show.

**Worship Ministry:** While the order of our hosts for the Sunday evening Advent dinners has not yet been determined, we are looking forward to continuing the format of dinner at 5:30 p.m., with the service at 6:15 p.m. Jim Fidler is always impressive in his portrayal of biblical characters. Zion's Senior Choir and Praise Team are always a treat for our Service of *Lessons & Carols*. It's always nice to enjoy an evening of prayer with the music of Taize. Our evening with Carole Singer leading us in carols from around the world is simply the best way to welcome the week that includes our celebration of Christmas. Since Christmas is on Sunday this year, we will have just one Christmas morning service, which will begin at 10:30 a.m.

## **FUNERAL LUNCHEONS**

To many, the bereavement luncheon that Zion provides for its grieving families has been a well-kept secret. We provide a lovely luncheon buffet following the funeral service for a member or for a family member of a parishioner. During the family's time of loss, this is one thing that they do not have to worry about. Zion provides everything so the family can grieve in peace. We have a wonderful group of people who prepare the meal, serve the luncheon, and clean up.

Recently, I agreed to oversee this ministry. We are looking for assistance from the congregation to keep this fine ministry going. We need your help. If you are available to help set up, serve, or clean up at the luncheon, we could use your assistance. If you are unable to volunteer your time, but you can provide a casserole, salad, jello, vegetable, beverage, or dessert, your donations would be very much appreciated.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Luther Hall, beginning Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. If you can help, please sign up, or call me at home, or call the Church Office. When we have a funeral luncheon you will be called a few days in advance. You can indicate what you would be able to do at that time. Thank you for considering helping with this ministry.

God' Peace and Blessings be with you,  
Darlene Milavickas

*(Editor's Note: We truly do thank Darlene for her willingness to oversee this very valuable ministry. We would also like to take this time to thank Cathy Harvey, who helped to oversee this ministry most recently, and Edna Smith, for all she did in overseeing this ministry for decades before that. Heartfelt thanks to all!)*

## OUTSTANDING NEWS FROM OUR 2011 YOUTH MISSIONS CRAFT SHOW

***Thank you, Connie Frank, Jayne Schrader, Debbie Fox, Dale Jacobs, and everyone who joined in this fabulous effort!*** We built on last year's success, and we had no difficulty attracting the crafters we needed, who rented the maximum number of tables we had available, making this year's edition of the Youth Missions Craft Show the biggest and best ever! Connie Frank once again assumed her leadership role for the Craft Show side of this Oktoberfest extravaganza, and what a professional touch she adds to this unbelievable event. Sixty-three crafters joined in the fun, seventy-three tables were rented, with gross revenues coming in at \$6,861.54! A good part of these revenues are produced by our German dinners, and for that we thank our Singing Chef, Dale Jacobs, for the great skill he brings to this event every year. Our list of essential volunteers does not end there. Jayne Schrader provides Church Office oversight and coordination. Debbie Fox gets the Sunday School involved with our Raffle Baskets. Janet Slease and Connie Riffle head up our Saturday afternoon Concession Stand. Chris Thomas makes sure that the Men of Zion are present in force to provide all the support that is needed.

In terms of dollars and cents, when the final totals were tallied, our income from renting craft tables was \$2,555.00. The Bake Sale contributed \$303.00 to our totals. Pre-sold tickets for our German dinners, totaled \$2,430.00. The Concession Stand added \$720.54. Last, but not least, our Themed Raffle Baskets produced \$653.00 in ticket sales. Cash donations added another \$200.00. All of this adds up to \$6,861.54. ***That's right, \$6,861.54!*** While there are a number of expenses that need to be covered in paying for an event like the Craft Show, the revenues produced are mind-numbing. It is hard not to stand in awe at what this Oktoberfest extravaganza has become, both in terms of dollars that are made and the volunteers that step forward.

Just take a moment to consider this list of names of folks involved: Connie Frank had great support from her husband Jeff, and daughters, Carley and Cassie, plus lots of other husbands and wives, children and friends, like Dean & Debbie Fox, and Jeremy, Rick & Sharon Stout, Brandon and Brooke, Christian Henderson, Chris Thomas, Gary Horton, Loretta Panzarello and David, Darla Dague and Eric, Cindy, Shelby, and Samantha Keyes, Tina Beaber and Jaret, Dan & Linda Wilson, Bob Lancashire, John Rhodes, Mallory and Marcus, Steve Robbins, Scott Gross, Beth Willis and AJ, Patrick and Alex Robbins, Val Cizek, Adam Schrader, Renee Keith, Chuck Danner, Kelly Walters, Shirley Cary, and that's just the Craft Show side of the day!

Then there are kitchen crews, which include Connie and Melissa Riffle, Matt Leasure, Janet Slease, Dave Palumbo, Marilyn Espe-Sherwindt, Darlene Milavickas, Sue Everhart, Cathy Harvey, and Dale Jacobs, and the folks that contribute to the Bake Sale table, and volunteers who oversee the youth tables, the raffle baskets, and the various crafts that are raffled off during the day. How about members who display Craft Show signs in their yards, and youth and adults who sell German dinner tickets, and the members and friends of Zion who buy them! What a congregational event, and what a show of community and camaraderie! Between members who help with the Craft Show & Oktoberfest, and members who attend the big day, and members who in some way contribute to our effort with their time, talents, and treasures, we could just duplicate our membership roster and thank you all, which, if you think about it, is exactly what we just did with this extended page of thanks here in *The Zion Herald*. Thank you all!

## GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

### UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Sunday, November 6:** Celebration of Certificates with the Completion of Communion Class  
**Sunday, November 13:** Thanksgiving Service Project for All Youth during Sunday School  
**Sunday, November 27:** The Advent Giving Tree is introduced with our First Advent Dinner  
**Saturday, December 17:** Dress Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program and a Pizza Party!  
**Sunday, December 18:** Zion's Children's Christmas Program at the 10:30 a.m. service (only)  
**Sunday, December 18:** Youth, Parents, and Leaders host our Sunday Evening Advent Service

### PRE-K THROUGH THE SIXTH GRADE

As we look to November and December, we will continue our normal Sunday School lessons at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday. We will also start practicing for this Christmas Program during the month of November. We will have reading and non-reading parts for all of our youth this year from ages 3 through High School. We look forward to a great program, along with the great lessons they will continue to learn during the Sunday School Hour.



We are entering into a great time of the year for Zion's Sunday School children, and they will have a lot of fun and learn so much about the Good News of God's love for all people. We get to practice some of that love with the Advent Giving Tree, which our Sunday School sponsors on behalf of the families we serve through our Food Pantry. By the time we get to the big weekend, we will have collected money for Christmas hams and received presents for several of our pantry families. The Christmas Program will be performed at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. We will have dress rehearsal, our traditional Christmas Pizza Party, and our wrapping of the Advent Giving Tree gifts on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### ZION'S COMMUNION CLASS FOR KIDS

Thank you to Chuck Danner for doing an outstanding job with our *Communion Is For Kids* class. The children learn so much and look forward to the time they spend with Chuck during the month of October. We would also like to thank his helpers, including Miriam Keating, our Nursery Supervisor, Eric Dague, one of this year's Confirmands, and David Panzarello, who was confirmed last year. As has become our tradition, our children will receive *Certificates of Completion* on All Saints Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, during the 10:30 service.



## MORE GREAT NEWS FOR ZION'S YOUTH

### LEARNING ABOUT THE MEANS OF GRACE (WITH HELP FROM CHUCK DANNER)



Every fall, Zion offers an opportunity for kids during the 10:30 a.m. service: our *Communion Is For Kids* class. Each time we offer this class, we see more clearly the meaning of Pastor Sherwindt's reminder to our group that we are not just learning *about* the church, we are learning *how to be* the church. We believe this phrase resonates among the children in our communion class, just as it does among adults! Our sessions have centered on the question, "What do we need in order to be aware that we are ready to celebrate communion?"

Our answer has always been: "simply a believing heart."

Our *Communion Is For Kids* class is just one step in an ongoing journey of learning, loving, and responding to what God is doing for us through the amazing grace, which we receive with Holy Communion. We are very proud as a church family of all of the children who participated in this year's edition: Grant Beaber, Justin Dague, AJ Edwardo, Jeremy Fox, Cassie Frank, Joshua Hilson, Marissa Hilson, Avery Kitzmiller, Amelia Milek, Weston Milek, Emma Parkomaki, Jacob Parkomaki, Mallory Rhodes, Marcus Rhodes, Brooke Stout, Christopher Thompson, and Casey Walters, with helpers Eric Dague, Christian Henderson, and David Panzarello.

### NEWS FROM THIS YEAR'S YOUTH HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

This year's **Halloween Party** was wild, crazy, and a lot of fun! We had 19 children dressed in great costumes and just raring to go! A big thank you to everyone who helped make the party such a great success, including Janet Slease, Connie & Melissa Riffle, Connie Frank, Tina Beaber, Dean Fox, Darlene Dague, Sharon Stout, and our youth, Brooke Roman, Brandon Stout, Nathan Fox, Carley Frank, Shelby Keyes, Jaret Beaber, Eric Dague, Natalie Henderson, Quintin Hilson, Ben Sir Louis, Emma Shaheen, and Ethan Burns!



We tried something new this year by going outside to enjoy the great fall weather. We ate dinner, played games, and had a fire for s'mores. We also enjoyed great crafts, creative pumpkin-decorating, and a mini-haunted maze inside. We ended the night with a Trick-or-Treat Scavenger Hunt all around our church! It was a great night! We would like to thank everyone who donated items for the party and who helped us Trick-or-Treat at the end! We truly appreciate everyone's time and donations.

### THANKSGIVING YOUTH SERVANT EVENT



We will be working on our traditional Thanksgiving service project during Sunday School this month. The kids will make decorated Thanksgiving bags for the Food Pantry to use when they deliver this year's holiday meals. We will provide the brown bags for all of the classes to decorate during Sunday School, and we plan to fill these bags during Sunday School on Sunday, November 13. We are asking each family to donate a specific item that is needed for these bags. More information will be coming on what items are most needed.

## JAYNE'S ECOLOGY CORNER

### ***How to Make Home Appliances Last Longer:***

We all want to get the most use out of items we already own. Naturally, this applies to appliances, as well. With a little time and elbow grease, you can keep your appliances running in top form for years.

***Washing Machines:*** Always check the pockets of your clothing, as coins and other objects can damage or even break the drum. A damaged drum can rip or wear out your clothing much faster than normal. Never overload your washing machine. This puts a strain on the motor, which will cause it to wear out faster.

***Dryers:*** It's important to vacuum the inside of the ventilation hoses on a regular basis. Lint builds up and clogs filters and hoses. The dryer has to work harder and it takes longer to dry loads. It's also important to check the dryer vent. The vent is designed to stay closed until the dryer comes on. However, the vent often gets clogged with lint. If it gets stuck closed, your dryer will have to work extra hard to expel the moist air. If it gets stuck open, your house is going to lose cold or hot air, and you'll waste your efforts to save energy at home and make your home more energy efficient.

***Refrigerators:*** Your refrigerator has one mechanical part that's fairly easy to access. This part is the condenser coil, located at the back of the fridge. Over time, dust and dirt build up on these coils. This buildup impairs the coil's ability to keep your fridge working efficiently. Cleaning the coils regularly will help keep your energy bills low. To clean the condenser coil, simply unplug your refrigerator, pull it out from the wall, then vacuum the coils located at the outer, backside wall. If you haven't done this in a while, you might be surprised at how dusty they are!

## THE WOMEN OF ZION

**BLANKET SUNDAY** was a great success when measured both by how beautiful the Sanctuary looked with the many colored quilts draping the pews and filling the Chancel on **October 9<sup>th</sup>** and by the results, namely, 64 quilts, 20 blankets, 45 school kits and 22 personal care kits. With the help of Verle Elsass, Carl Geib, and others on Thursday, October 13, these items were packed into 34 boxes, which were packed into the Elsass pick-up, and readied for delivery to Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville by Saturday, where they became part of a larger shipment headed to places all over the world. We extend our thanks to all.

The Women of Zion will celebrate their annual **THANKOFFERING SERVICE** on the Sunday of **November 13**. This is an opportunity to lift up the ministry of women in the ELCA, and to honor the work done by women's organizations in congregations all over the country, including our own. *Love Offering* envelopes will be made available in the bulletin on Thankoffering Sunday. All of us will be invited to show our thanks with an offering of support for the work that is done by the Women of the ELCA. That's Sunday, November 13!

The monthly **Women's Bible Study** meets on **Tuesday, November 15**, with our focus on *The Gospel of Mark: To Follow and Serve*. Our theme verse for November's Bible study is drawn from Mark 4:40, which connects power with authority in a lesson that invites us to understand that words matter. We should be careful in what we say. We are, after all, ambassadors of Christ and partners in his ministry of reconciliation. We would love for you to join us in the Resource Center at 9:30 a.m. on November 15<sup>th</sup>, both for the great fellowship and for the good discussion that is a part of our every meeting. See you there.

## **MORE CRAFT SHOW NEWS**

**Just listen to what Crafters said about our Craft Show:** "It's well organized. There's great traffic. The atmosphere, the helpers, the other crafters: all great! People appreciate your art, and they buy stuff! It's a well-run show. There are good sales, friendly workers: all was great. There are good people; it's very friendly; keep up the good work! Simply put, everything was great; the food was delicious; and thanks for the complimentary coffee and donuts! Keep up the excellent work. The show is awesome, and we'll be back next year. There was lots and lots of traffic. It's very well-organized; everyone is so nice. The show is very nearly perfect." We're so happy our crafters see the difference, and happier still that Connie (and Jayne) will be back next year organizing our efforts and coordinating everything that makes this event "nearly perfect"!

**The Themed Raffle Baskets** created by the Sunday School classes for our Craft Show were truly amazing once again! Thank you to our teachers, the youth, and their parents for donations for the baskets, and a special thank you to Evelyn Moore and Susan Heyard for putting together their own beautiful *Snowman Basket* and donating it to our youth for the Craft Show. Our Raffle Basket Winners were drawn after the Congregational Meeting on Wednesday, October 26: Luther Hall was filled with colorfully costumed youth and lots of anticipation shared by youth and adults alike. Debbie Fox did the honors of helping to select the winners, with Beverly DePalmo winning the *Arts, Crafts & Rainy Day Basket*, Evelyn Moore, the *Sweet Treats Basket*, Rhonda Schrader, the *Snowman Basket*, Terri O'Harrow, the *Ohio State Fan Basket*, Sharon Stout, the *Pink Ribbon Basket*, and Ruth Elsass, the *Family Fun Night Basket*. Again, thanks for all your support.

## **THANK YOU'S AND MORE**

*Dear friends at Zion,*

Thank you so much for your concerns and prayers for me during my recent illness. I appreciate your cards and Pastor's visits, too.

*Bless you all,  
Carole Singer*

*Dear Pastor Sherwindt,*

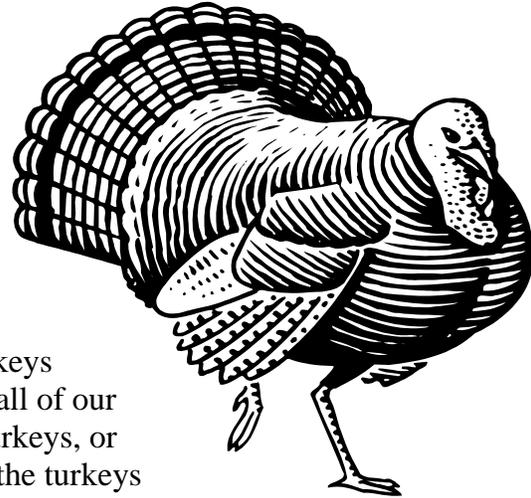
Thank you so much for coming to the hospital both pre- and post-surgery to offer prayers on my behalf. It was very comforting to have you present, especially prior to surgery. I truly appreciate your support and prayers, as well as the support of the congregation. I feel fortunate to have my faith, which gives strength and courage. Again, thanks for your prayers and positive outlook.

*Sincerely,  
Tina Linz*

*Thank you, Connie  
Frank, for all you do  
to make our Youth  
Missions Craft Show  
a huge and incredible  
success! God Bless!*

THANKSGIVING MEANS TURKEYS FOR NINETY-FOUR FAMILIES

**We're looking for a few good turkeys - not the human kind, but the poultry kind!**



Please help us achieve our goal of providing 94 turkeys so that we can offer a full Thanksgiving dinner for all of our food pantry families. You are welcome to donate turkeys, or cash so that we can purchase the turkeys. We need the turkeys and the cash donations to be in place by November 13. That will give us the time we need to make sure that our pantry clients receive the gifts we have for them. We also are lacking in the cranberry department. If each family could bring in a can of cranberry gel or sauce, that would be great. Remember, money and cranberries are due by Sunday, November 13.

**We are now accepting Cash Donations or the Actual Frozen Bird!**

When it comes to Thanksgiving, we not only serve our pantry clients, but also 32 of the Siffrin homes in Stark County! Siffrin homes are group homes for individuals with mental or physical disabilities. Our goal for Thanksgiving is **ninety-four 12-pound turkeys**. The turkeys are just a part of what we supply through the ministry of our Food Pantry. Every family is handed bags filled with stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, cranberries, applesauce, noodles, muffins, pies, and something to drink. We know that with your help, and God's, we will achieve our goal. Feel free to call Shirley Cavender or the Church Office with any questions.

**The North Canton Ministerial Association presents our –**

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, at 7:00 P.M.**

**HOSTED BY ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

415 South Main Street in downtown North Canton: Come and enjoy:

Great music, excellent preaching, and clergy from all of our churches,

As we celebrate our sense of community and camaraderie in service,

**With the offering designated to support the Stark County Hunger Task Force**