

The Zion Herald

Proclaiming Good News

October 2016



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9: BLANKET SUNDAY AT ZION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22: CRAFT SHOW & OKTOBERFEST
GERMAN DINNERS AND SO MUCH MORE!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26: BIG NIGHT AT ZION

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITY **at 6:00 p.m.**

DELICIOUS DINNER **at 6:15 p.m.**

IMPORTANT MEETING **at 7:00 p.m.**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30: REFORMATION CELEBRATION:
IT'S BEEN 499 YEARS, AND COUNTING!





My Very Best to You Dear Friends in Christ, Be Strong and Courageous

These are exciting and terrific times at Zion for sharing with our members and friends at our household gatherings. Ideas and thoughts about how God has blessed us in the past and how He is blessing us now, and what God's vision is for the future mission, life and ministry of Zion. I believe God's Spirit will truly open the hearts and minds for us to see the future He has for us and empowering us to move forward into that future.

How can God turn around a 200 year old congregation that is plateaued/declining in terms of membership and attendance, or in stagnation or decline? What kind of leadership is necessary for a congregation to catch a new

vision for mission? How do lay and clergy congregational leaders work collaboratively to chart a new destiny for an established congregation? These are the questions with which we are challenged and which confront congregations, church councils and clergy across the landscape of American Christianity today!

To answer these questions, reach into the Old Testament and see what the story of Joshua can tell us! His life-story has some very interesting lessons for us here at Zion and for God's preferred future!

IF you are a leader in the church and

IF you are confident that God has a future mission for Zion and,

IF you have the courage to invite Zion into that future....

you need to know that you **ABSOLUTELY WILL** face a "BACK TO EGYPT COMMITTEE."
It is guaranteed!

You will be denying a basic law of physics if you choose to exercise leadership on a stagnant congregation. And this is the law: **A body at rest will tend to stay at rest.** To move Zion forward into God's preferred future will take energy and perseverance. It is not for the meek or the reluctant. It takes leaders with "chutzpah"... this is a Yiddish word for "guts," faith in God, confidence in power of the Holy Spirit to make all things new!

Leaders, I want to encourage you to be leaders with CHUTZPAH! We have the benefit of learning from Biblical leadership lessons which can allow God's preferred future to take hold on the spiritual imaginations for our congregations today!

Be strong and courageous...God will be with you as we plan and share His preferred future for Zion's mission and ministry.

Be strong and courageous...Share leadership with those who God has called into the life and membership of our congregation. They've been planted there in this time and place for God's glory and in Jesus' name.

Be strong and courageous...Take the faith challenge. Let God delight our congregation when it realizes that what God has planned in its' future is so much better than what has happened in its past!

Be strong and courageous...make the Evil One quake when he sees our congregation revitalized; strong and vital with new dreams and plans for ministry into the future!

Be strong and courageous...God is ready to provide protection, peace and blessing when you are ready to lead a reinventing church!

The word of the Lord to Joshua is also a word to you: "I hereby command you: **BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS**; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

God's abundant, amazing, awesome, astonishing, unimaginable, indescribable, love, and power be with you all.

Pastor Hal

Household (Cottage) Gatherings

Purpose

Receive input from active and inactive members and friends for the:

- Calling of a pastor for Zion
- Looking at our past
- Looking at our present (reality - where we are now)
- Looking at our future (our hopes, dreams, desires and vision)

Resulting

- Fellowship
- Information for our Call Committee (probably appointed in January 2017)
- Determining God's preferred future for Zion
- Empowering us for ministry

Things to do:

- Secure 10 hosts/hostesses by September 30
- Schedule instruction meeting for hosts/hostesses, Sunday, October 2 at 12:30 p.m.
- Dates and times for household meetings
 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the following dates:

OCTOBER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH
 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH
 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH
 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH
 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

People and materials needed

- Transition Team Serves as Steering Committee (appointed by Zion's' Council)
- 10 host/hostesses for the gatherings
- Pencils/pens
- Newsprint and magic markers
- Cards with member's names, phone numbers and addresses

Meeting with hosts/hostesses

- Sunday, October 2 instruction meeting for hosts/hostesses
- Select 8 households they will invite from cards
- Contact members personally to invite them to their homes
- Emphasize this is not a financial campaign

President's Message

Welcome to the new Program Year!

Well folks we are off and running! The Grill Off was a great success. We are still figuring out how we did on the money side but the afternoon was simply fantastic! I would like to thank all of the Outdoor Chefs who lovingly toiled to bring us a wonderful meal, the folks who brought side dishes and desserts, and all of you who handled a myriad of other details that I failed to anticipate. It is clear we have a winner with this event and that we need a better party planner than yours truly.

Pastor Robarge has officially joined us as Interim Pastor. His function is to help us move from Pastor Sherwindt to whatever is next. We need to continue to build our community while we decide what is next. We are planning a group of Cottage Meetings to help understand where we have been, where we are and where we want to go. Please plan on attending one of these meetings, tell us your opinions so the Call Committee can do their job choosing the next pastor.

Council Retreat

Council sat down on Sunday afternoon, September 11th, to review the parish bylaws and constitution. We walked through what each Council Elder was responsible for and talked about ways forward. We have identified some very interesting project ideas and some areas where we think we can do a better job. We then talked about the Transition Program and approved of Pastor Robarge's general transition outline. Folks did a great job of taking ownership of projects and responsibilities. I think this is going to be a great year.

Transition Team

We are looking to create a "Transition Team" to assist Pastor Robarge through the interim period. This group will help to coordinate the Cottage Meetings. They will be a part of the other projects that help us focus on making a good Call decision. The Transition Team closes shop when a new pastor is called so this is a limited time commitment. This is a great way to be a part of helping define what we want in a new pastor. If you are interested, please let me know. Warning, we need about 10 or so volunteers. You might get a call asking if you can help.

Call Committee

We will also need a Call Committee. I was premature when I talked about this earlier. We will be talking with folks who expressed an interest earlier in being a part of this team. Please let me know if you would like to serve. This group will probably start meeting after Christmas to get the ball rolling.

Budget/Revenue

As of the end of August we are a little behind the power curve. We are currently about \$4,000 behind. This is not terribly unusual for the end of summer. We have been in worse places in the past. We need to stay cognizant of this condition. I am sure that we can close this gap as we move through the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas seasons but we need to be aware of our position. We have had small surpluses each of the last 14 years. I am confident we will get there this year. We are still hopeful of getting tenants into the parsonage that would close our budget circle.

Church Office

We are getting the office up to speed. We have purchased a new computer for the secretary and we are moving forward towards a computer for the pastor's office. They will be networked to access the copier/printer so they can easily collaborate. We have asked the Trustees to start investigating phone systems. Ours is more than 10 years old and we have been experiencing some phone system problems. Thank you Howard Dansizen for fixing Vicki's phone! We hope to have more news on this soon.

Craft Show October 22, 2016

Connie Frank is gearing up for another Big Show! Don't forget to order your German Dinners. I think Dale may have some surprises for us this year. Come on out and enjoy the fall season.

Annual Meeting October 26, 2016

Dinner before the meeting will be starting at 6:15 pm. Then we meet to approve the 2017 Annual Budget. Please come out and be a part of the community. (Plus a great dinner and Halloween Party for the kids)

Please let me know if there is anything that Zion can do for you. We are here to serve our community both inside and out. Council and Pastor are ready to hear your comments and suggestions.

The Congregational Council

Sunday, September 11th, the Council met to discuss the Constitution and By-Laws of Zion to review the duties of each ministry. The meeting was very productive and we have decided to publish the duties of each Council officer and on successive months a description of each ministry to keep the congregation better informed. Members elected to the Congregational Council must be in good standing and must have held membership in this congregation for at least one year, and be at least 21 years of age. The terms are two years. No elected officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms, except the Treasurer. The Treasurer may be elected indefinitely.

Duties of the Congregational Council Officers

President

The President presides over all meetings of the Congregational Council and this congregation. The Vice-President will preside in the President's absence. The President serves as an ex-officio member of all ministry teams of the church and chairs the executive/steering ministry.

Vice President

The Vice-president acts for the President in the President's absence, chairs the Ministry Development team and assumes such other duties as may be delegated by the President.

Treasurer

Shall make disbursements by check upon receipt of properly signed vouchers, except those expenditures specifically identified in the budget guideline; make a written report of all financial transactions to the Council monthly; make monthly remittance of benevolence receipts to the Synod and assume such other duties as may be delegated by proper authority.

Secretary

The Secretary keeps an accurate record of all proceedings of the Congregational Council and all congregational meetings, and maintains a permanent record of all continuing resolutions which are to be dated and properly identified. These records are kept in the church office.

The Elders

There are eight Elders each of whom is responsible for a given area of ministry as defined in the Constitution and assume other duties as may be delegated by proper authority.

Worship and Music

We met with Pastor Robarge on September 7th and he reviewed his **Tentative Plans and Schedule** for the up-coming year with us. We talked about some special things we may do on the up-coming Sunday Services. We are going to start up a Home Bound Communion Ministry. A letter with a flyer advertising for a choir director was sent to the local college music departments. We are hoping to get some responses back.

For All Saints Sunday, Pastor Robarge will be announcing the names of members that have passed away in the last year. Please let the office know of any names you would like him to announce. Thank you for your help.

Resource Ministry

With expenses up and revenues down, we are running an Operating Budget deficit of approximately \$4,600 for the year to date. Contributing factors are the hiring of a Secretary for the office and the loss of rental revenue from the Parsonage. The good news is that benevolent giving remains strong. The proposed 2017 Budget that will be presented at the Congregational meeting on October 26, 2016 will realistically address our financial challenges and take into account the increased efforts to secure a tenant for the Parsonage.

Caring Ministry

A big thank you to everyone who supported and attended the recent “*End of the Summer Grill Off*”. A number of folks who use our Zion Food Pantry and Clothing Closet were able to attend due to your donations. The Stark County Hunger Task Force will also benefit from your generosity. The October Food Pantry and Clothing Closet dates are the 4th and 18th. All of you are invited to stop by and help out with either set up at 9:30 a.m. or distribution of food and clothing at 1:00 p.m. You can participate as much as your schedule will allow.

Please keep sending your prayer requests to Kay Davis and also let her know if you no longer require an earlier prayer request.

Parish Life

A big THANK YOU goes out to the Men of Zion for grilling up delicious contributions as well as all who attended the End-of-Summer Party. The beautiful afternoon was filled with incredible barbeque, delectable side dishes and desserts and most importantly fun fellowship.

We hope to see you at our Youth Missions Craft Show on October 22, 2016, for a day filled with crafters, raffle baskets and famous German dinners.

I’d also like to take a moment to formally introduce myself as Zion’s Parish Life Council member. During this time of transitions, Council members are learning more about the areas we serve and I pledge to become more engaged in those specifically of Parish Life. I am brainstorming a variety of events and programs intended to increase camaraderie, restore optimism and strengthen our faith. If anyone has suggestions or questions, please reach me, Heather Hoffman, at 330.323.3840 or leave a note in the Parish Life Mailbox outside the gym.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN AUGUST 2016

August Income	\$ 8,671.38
Income through August	\$125,139.95
August Expenses	<u>\$ 9,382.42</u>
Expenses through August	\$129,727.20

August Deficit	(\$ 711.04)
2016 YTD Deficit	(\$ 4,587.25)

Food Pantry Fund	\$ 7,718.95
Zion’s Youth Fund	\$ 6,738.87

We thank you for your generous support!

Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday is Sunday, October 9th. After that, we'll pack up our blankets and quilts during the week, and, along with our Personal Care Kits, drive them to Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville on Saturday, October 15th. From there, these items are coordinated by Lutheran World Relief for distribution all over the world.

LWR Fall Shipment

Preparations are underway to send comforters, donated blankets, and our Personal Care (Health) Kits to Jerusalem Lutheran Church. Requested items for Personal Care (Health) Kits have been minimal so far. We hope to send 25 - 30 kits. Please respond as you are able for items needed on or before Thursday, October 13, 2016.

Items needed for personal care kits:

Bath-size towel (52" X 27", darker colors recommended)
 2 bath-size bars of soap (4 to 5 oz.)
 An adult-size tooth-brush (in original packaging)
 A sturdy comb and a metal nail clipper.

Place these items in the collection box in the Narthex.

We invite the men to help with sealing the cartons and the shipping the week of October 10th-13th (details later).

Chancel Guild Members Update

The Chancel Guild members extend an invitation to any woman, any age, that would like to join us in serving in the Chancel area. Preparations for worship service is enjoyable, educational, and inspirational. At the present time we have 18 members, 1 new member, and future members coming on board after retirement. There will be scheduled times to work (approximately every four months), guidelines to follow, instructions given by other members. Once you get into the routine, you will be glad you joined. Chancel Guild's fall meeting will be on Monday, October 24, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to attend for instructions and fellowship.

Women's Fall Gathering for the Canton-Massillon Cluster

Wednesday, October 26th, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Zion Lutheran Church, 702 Raff Road SW, Canton, OH 44710. Guest speaker will be Pastor Lynn Williamson from St. Jacob, Massillon and he will talk about *Reformation: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*. Katie Luther will be with us, too! Lunch will be a salad buffet. Please bring a salad to share for every three attendees. Rolls and beverages and plates etc. will be provided. Offering to be split between North-eastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization and the program to provide *Gather* magazine to seminarians. In-kind gifts of canned goods will be collected for the local food pantry. The cost for registration is \$5.00. Since we are bringing salads, no preregistration is required. If you have any questions, please call Kim Carr at 330-854-4586 or Mary Amick 330-587-4293.

News from the Zion Sunday School

Happy Birthday to:



Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

Sunday, October 16th: Youth event during Sunday School making items for the Craft Show

Saturday, October 22nd: Youth Missions Fall Craft Show 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 26th: Youth Halloween Activity 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Pre-K thru 6th Grade News

Our Sunday School year is off and running! The kids have started out with some great lessons, crafts and activities, with many great lessons and activities planned for the rest of the year. Sunday School begins each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. each morning and ends at 10:15 a.m. We hope your children will join us and bring a friend!

Confirmation and High School Classes

Our Confirmation class is also off to a great start! This class meets from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. every Sunday in the Resource Center. Our 7th graders have received their Bibles and are ready to start their two year journey in Confirmation class.

Our High School class will plan to meet on scheduled Sundays from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. that will be passed out to our families. This class will center on service projects and lessons connected to those projects.

We encourage **all** of our youth from 7th – 12th grades to attend these classes to further their learning in the Lutheran faith. We have great leaders who look forward to working with these teens.

Youth Halloween/Fall Activity – Wednesday October 28th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

We will be having a Youth Halloween Fall event during October's Congregational Meeting on Wednesday, October 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will meet for pizza at 6:00 p.m. and then enjoy some fall treats for dessert. There will be crafts and pumpkin decorating, and we hope to go outside for some games. Sign up sheets for the event are located in the church office. Please sign up by Sunday, October 25th, so we have enough food and supplies. The children are welcome to invite a friend. This event is for all of our youth, Pre-K through High School. We look forward to an evening of great Fall fun.

Fall "Oktoberfest" Youth Missions Craft Show News

The Craft Show is almost here! Zion's Youth will once again have a table at this year's show. The kids will be making goodies to sell this year at our Bake Sale Table. Anyone that would also like to bake some yummy treats for the Bake Sale Table is greatly appreciated. There are sign up sheets in Luther Hall. Please bring your items packaged and ready to sell. We look forward to the delicious items that youth are making and all the delicious donated goodies. Our youth of all ages will be making items for the Craft Show on Sunday, October 16th during Sunday School. There will be lots to do and sample that morning so we look forward to everyone's help!

The Sunday School classes are making awesome raffle baskets once again this year. Each child is asked to

donate items to help fill the baskets. They may choose any of the baskets to donate items, and will receive one raffle ticket for each item donated. All items are needed by Sunday, October 9th.

Raffle Tickets for these baskets will go on sale Sunday, October 16th. The cost will be 2 for \$1 or 15 for \$5. This year's baskets are as follows:

All Sunday School Classes are being asked to contribute to make the following baskets:

Sweet Treats Basket

Ohio State Fan Basket

Family Fun Basket

Cleveland Sports Fan Basket

The youth will also be selling tickets for our delicious German Dinners which will be available during the Craft Show. There will be tickets available for pork or brat dinners for \$8.00 each. Please see any of the kids in our High School and Catechism Classes for tickets. They will also be selling tickets before and after services. Tickets can purchased or donated to help those who may not be able to buy their own dinner tickets.

The Craft Show will take place on Saturday, October 22nd from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This is a great event at Zion that helps our youth program, and we need lots of help to make it a success. There are sign up sheets in Luther Hall for volunteers to set up, tear down and work on the day of the Craft Show. There are also sign up sheets for bake sale items and other food we will need. We encourage everyone including all of our youth to help out if possible. We really appreciate your support!

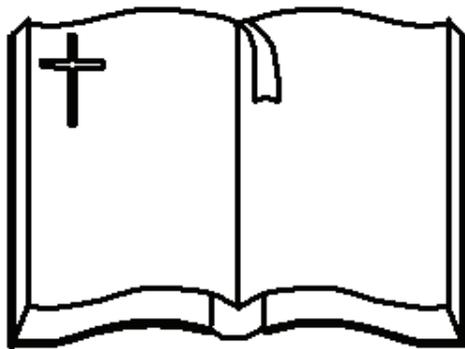
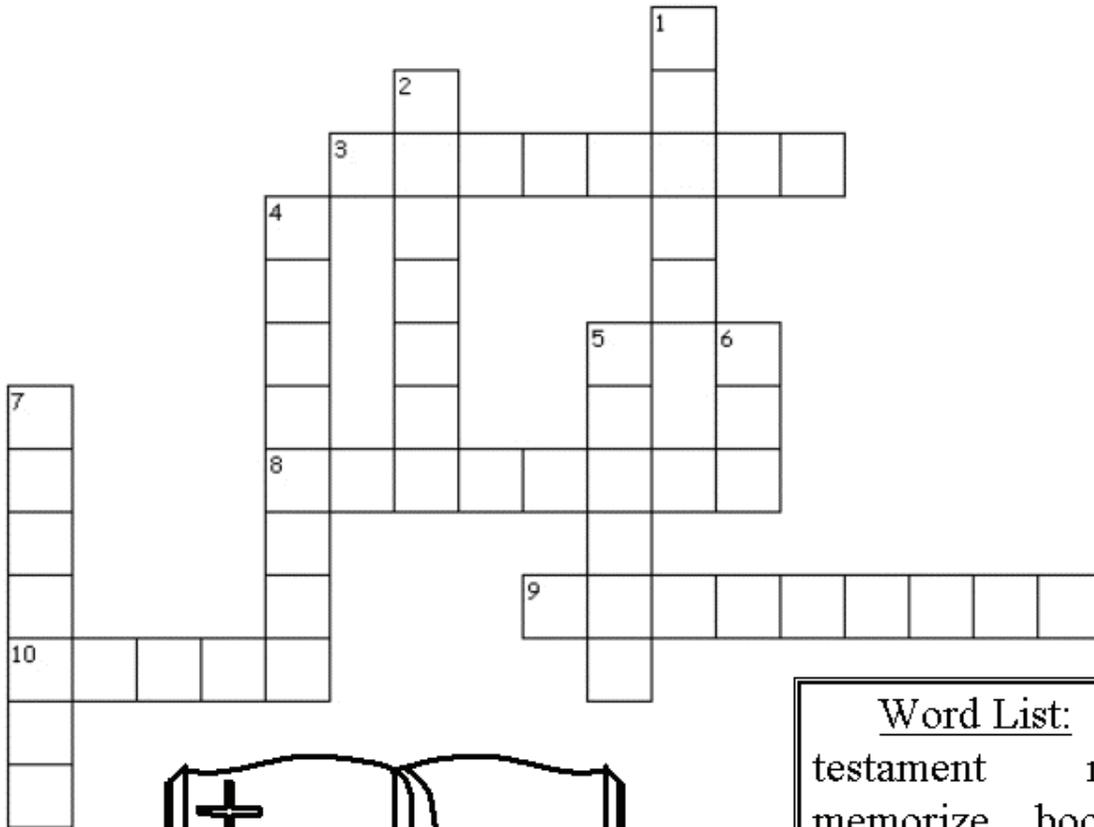
Acme Receipts Reminder

Just a reminder that we are collecting Acme receipts again this year to help Zion's Youth. This year Acme's Community Cash Back Program has already started and concludes much earlier than last year. It runs from August 11, 2016 through December 31, 2016. A collection jar is located in the Narthex. Please bring in your Acme receipts dated between August 11th and December 31st. Thanks for your support!!!

Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school class is beginning an exciting examination of the 39 books of the Old Testament as we continue our study of "*Sola Scriptura*" (Scripture Only). We are presently discussing the first five books or "*The Law*" that are often referred to as the Pentatuch or as the Torah in the Jewish tradition. We are examining the revelation of God's law as it was presented to the Israelites as well as its impact today. Please come and join us and don't forget to bring your Bibles!

Bible Crossword



<u>Word List:</u>	
testament	red
memorize	books
inspired	guide
promises	letters
parable	verses

Across

- 3. The best way to keep the Word of God in you heart is to ____ it.
- 8. Every word in the Bible (no matter who wrote it) is ____ by God.
- 9. The Bible is separated into the old and new ____.
- 10. There are 66 of these in the Bible.

Down

- 1. The Bible is our biggest ____ in helping us know how to live.
- 2. Some of the books of the Bible are ____ written to help and encourage others.
- 4. The Bible is full of these just for you.
- 5. Each chapter has a number of these in it.
- 6. In some Bibles Jesus' words are printed in this color.
- 7. Jesus' favorite way to teach and tell stories was by telling these.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

349 Lindy Lane NW, North Canton, 330-499-3909

Date: Saturday October 22, 2016

The Craft Show: **10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

German Dinners: **11:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH FALL “OKTOBERFEST”

GERMAN-STYLE TAKEOUT DINNERS are available for \$8.00. Choose Bratwurst with sauerkraut and German potato salad or Apple Cider Roast Pork with apple compote. Enjoy the meal yourself or donate a dinner to families in need.

Prize Drawings

Concessions Area

“Themed” Basket Raffle

Bake Sale

Crafter space is available for \$35.00 per 8 foot table

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

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Our 12th Annual Youth Missions Craft Show, with
German Take-out Dinners: Saturday, October 22, 2016!
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Worship Services

Sunday Morning: 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
Sunday Morning: 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Sunday School Classes

(Adult Discussion) 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
(Classes: All Ages) 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Hal Robarge 330-499-3913
Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler 330-499-3909
Church Office Secretary E-Mail: vicki.givler@yahoo.com
Praise Team Leader: Suzanne Walters 330-497-8996
Christian Ed. Director: Debbie Fox 330-966-2433
Chancel Flowers: Jayne Schrader 330-904-8300
Church Office Fax Number 330-499-0801
Prayer Chain: Kay Davis 330-494-6267
Prayer Chain: Email stitchandsewk810@sbcglobal.net

www.ZionEvangelicalLutheranChurch.org

