

Zionews

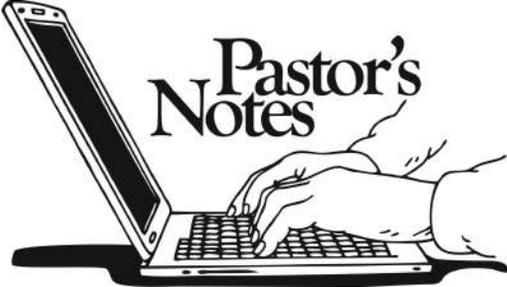
February 2021 Edition

Grace and peace to you from God, who moves over the chaos.

I know we all have one big question: When will we get back to Level 2 so we can do the Service of the Table and Drive-Through Distribution again? There is actually an answer to this: When the new cases per capita fall below 50. For the past several months, Erie County has been over 800—and sometimes way over.

It makes me sad to write this, because it means we're coming up on a terrible anniversary and will probably still not be meeting in person for a while. As more people become eligible for and get the vaccine, I hope the number of new cases per capita will quickly drop. Regardless, Worship & Music and the council are always looking for ways to adapt our practices so we can continue to provide you with the rhythms of the church year.

It seems very unlikely that we will be able to gather together for our Ash Wednesday service, but we are going to make packets of ashes and communion elements available for you to pick up from Zion on Tuesday, February 16th, which is Fat Tuesday, and Wednesday, February 17th, which is Ash Wednesday. These packets will have a card in them that provides instructions for both using these items while watching the online service and if you are unable to watch the online service.



We will post our midweek Lenten services online on Tuesdays at 7 p.m., but I realize this leaves out those who don't have internet access. I have reached out to WLEC to see if we could get any of our midweek services broadcast over the radio, but they don't have any time slots available with basketball season in February and March. We are working on a way to provide something for people calling the church phone, but we don't have all the hardware we need to do that yet. I will update you through the weekly announcements when we have figured out what we can do.

If the ash distribution works for Ash Wednesday, it could provide a model for what we could do for Palm Sunday. Our Worship & Music and Property & Facilities ministry teams are looking as a way for us to be able to use the parking lot for Easter. We'll update you with those plans as they develop.



We are in this together, and God will see us through this. The love of the Father is always providing. The light of Christ is always shining. The gifts of the Spirit are always growing.

May God keep us disciplined and healthy,
PE



Nickels and Noses for December



As a reminder, these numbers are two months behind to account for the audit and bookkeeping schedule.

You can see a full breakdown of Zion's 2020 financials and attendance in the annual meeting packet. You can see we finished a little under our anticipated offering, but all things considered are doing quite well. We qualified for our PPP loan becoming a grant, and our investments have paid some nice year-end dividends.

December's Offerings

	Monthly	Year to Date
Actual	\$48,577.15	\$410,994.58
Budget	\$35,413.00	\$425,000.00

December Total Income

	Monthly	Year to Date
Actual	\$189,252.64	\$523,459.93
Budget	\$38,076.00	\$467,160.00

December Attendance

4 Saturdays, 4 Sundays

	Total	Average
Saturday Reflection	258	64.6
Sunday Worship	918	229.5
Total	1176	294

Our Christmas sing-a-long has approximately 398 in attendance. Our Christmas service had an estimated 266 in attendance.

**Thank you for all the support
you have shown in 2020!**

Hopes are high for 2021!





Welcome Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Zion welcomes into the family of faith through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism: **Teagan Ellen Jean Thompson**, son of Kevin and Brittany Thompson. Teagan's baptismal sponsors are Donald (DJ) and Anastasia Hoffman



- Pastor Eric, Deacon Carolyn, and Lori all strive to be available to you as much as is possible. There are times, however, when no one is available to answer the phone. Please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as we can.
- We are outsourcing our financials with Barnes Wendling. They come to Zion once a week. If you have a financial question, we will do our best to answer when you ask, but it may take some time to get a complete answer.
- While we are not worshipping inside the building, please know that Zion is not closed. If you are in need of pastoral care or assistance, please contact us. Pastor Eric is still providing end of life pastoral services. Please do not hesitate to call him.
- If you have a pastoral emergency you can reach Pastor Eric at 419-503-5288.
- Giving Statements were mailed on January 25th. Please contact us if you did not receive one.

Annual Reports will be available for pick up in the portico. Please press the buzzer and we will let you in to the portico to pick up a copy. Keep in mind that the office is closed from Noon-1:00 pm daily for lunch.

Coronavirus
COVID-19



Level 3 or 4 (Red or Purple)

Each Saturday: YouTube Reflection at 6:00 p.m.

Each Sunday:

- **8:00 am YouTube/FB Service**
- **9:30 am Zoom Fellowship Time and Children of Zion on YouTube/FB**
- **10:30 am Worship Service on WLEC/YouTube/FB**
- **No Non-Staff Building Use**



We need your help in updating our records. Our records show old addresses, old phone numbers, no email, children at home that are now grown with their own families... Please take a few minutes and update your information. You can do this in one of the following ways:

1. When you receive your end of year statement, you will find a membership information form enclosed. Please take a few minutes and complete the form and return it to us in the self-addressed stamped envelope.
2. You can also go to the "About Us" section of our website at ZionSandusky.org. Click on the link to the Google Form that says Click here to update your Membership Information.

Care and Share of Erie County



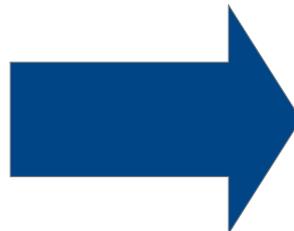
Care and Share, currently closed because of the COVID pandemic, is making plans to reopen in January. A cookbook featuring inexpensive and easy to prepare recipes has been created and has been ordered. The cookbook will be given to each client family and to area churches. Each month a few recipes will be featured, and all the ingredients will

be included in a box, as well as many basic items we normally provide. Since we cannot operate as a choice pantry at this time, we hope to increase interest in our new and improved boxes. Our goal is to provide ideas for healthier eating and improved cooking skills will result.

We are now working on the challenge of providing recipe items and staples that clients do not have in their homes. Since area churches have supported Care and Share since its beginning in 1974, we are hoping members of your congregations would be willing to donate some items during this critical time of community need. Most of these requests are available at Aldi's, off brands, that are significantly less expensive.

Any help you could provide would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Joanne Dawson, Secretary
Care and Share, Inc. of Erie County



Can you help?

Care & Share Needs These Items.

Ground black pepper
Jars of dried beef
Canned deviled ham
Canned salmon
Bread crumbs
Mustard
Canned Vienna sausage
Boxed stuffing mix
Spam
Ketchup
Rotel canned tomatoes
Parmesan Cheese
Small bags of flour
Canned corned beef

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7



AT NOON

Zion's council has decided that if Erie County is at Level 3 or Level 4 on February 7th when we are scheduled to have our annual meeting, the meeting will be rescheduled for the third consecutive Sunday that Erie County has been at Level 1 or Level 2. The only exception to this will be if that Sunday is either Palm Sunday (March 28th) or Easter Sunday (April 4th), in which case we will look to April 12th.

If we do not have the annual meeting on February 7th, the new council will be installed as part of the service that morning. We recorded what we needed at the January council meeting.

Keep an ear open during the announcements and an eye on the bulletin for when we have the meeting. You will have two weeks notice that way.

The packet of reports for the annual meeting is already available for pickup from the portico. Call the office to schedule a time to get one.

Carolyn's Corner . . .

By now we are well into this new year and we look forward to the end of the pandemic. We aren't there yet, but soon we will begin to come out of the isolation we have lived in for almost a year. This is a great time to focus on our faith practices – either those we already do or new ones that will help us to explore God's purpose and will for us.

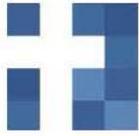
As we move into 2021, the Northwestern Ohio Synod invites us to enter the Year of Generosity; to explore what it means to be generous with our time, our gifts, our talents, our resources.

Before we can be generous with others, we need to be generous with ourselves. Often we have high expectations of ourselves and that becomes a burden that God never intended for us. As we practice generosity we make a difference not only in our own lives, but also for others. We are doing the work God intended for us to do.

To help us understand what God has in mind for us, why not join others in the NW Ohio Synod to read and explore the New Testament? The Synod office has published a reading schedule, one that is much easier than when we read through the entire Bible in a year! This year we will read only the New Testament and we will read it chronologically. So, I invite you to join me. The schedule is available on Zion's webpage.

The Bible verse Bishop Beaudoin has chosen for us to learn and practice this year is Matthew 6:21, **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** So, I invite you to join me in learning this verse as we remember that everything we have is a gift from God, given to us to serve others.

Blessings,
Carolyn



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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January 13, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ

On Tuesday, January 12, many of us gathered for a zoom parish leader's meeting. We focused much of our time on COVID 19, in-person worship, and planning a step by step return to parish life.

The current reality is that the number of new viral infections and the number of deaths continues to rise in our state and across the geography of our Synod. For many of us, COVID 19 has hit close to home. 5 of our pastors have been infected. One was hospitalized. We had an outbreak in one of our parishes. The pastor assures me that they took all the necessary precautions. Many of our parish members have been infected, and some have died. The truth is we all know someone who has been affected. And as I shared on Tuesday, my grandson George, oldest son Joshua, and wife Rachel, were exposed and tested positive. George and Rachel are doing well and have fully recovered. My 30-year son continues to be without taste, smell, and energy. What we have learned is that this insidious virus affects different people differently. Some recover quickly. Some recover slowly. Some die.

I am aware of the struggle and the pressure that so many of our parish leaders are experiencing regarding in person worship, especially when other congregations in our communities are open. My prayerful counsel for this time is that you simply **"hold in place"** with your current practice. If you are gathering for in- person worship, and are following all safety protocols, please "hold in place". This is not the time to begin additional worship practices. If you are meeting in the parking lot, please "hold in place", and thank God that this has been a mild winter thus far. If you are worshiping virtually, "hold in place", and keep learning how to gather in "digital community" And please continue to follow the guidelines that you agreed to follow. With the increases in positive COVID19 cases, this is simply not the time to make changes.

But that time will come, and until then, please take this time to plan and to dream. I am hopeful that our continued focus on "love of neighbor", and the rolling out of the vaccine will help us experience a safe "step-by-step return" to parish life. But for now, we "hold in place" and begin dreaming about what our "step-by-step return" is going to be.

Bless you,

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21)

Children of Zion

Join us each week for a brief children's story and activity time.

Look for Children of Zion on our YouTube channel, "The Hill of Zion Sandusky" & on our Facebook page, "ZionELC Sandusky".



Our Sunday Service
Is broadcast on
WLEC-AM 1450 &
WLEC-FM 93.5
Every Sunday at 10:30am

Summer Camp at LOMO

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio are again offering youth and family camping opportunities at Camp Luther in Conneaut and Luther Memorial Camp in Marengo, OH.

There are \$100 scholarships available through the camps

For those who register by March 1.

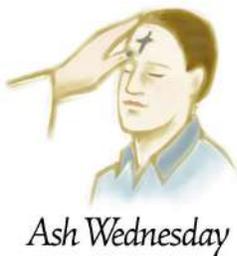
Zion also offers scholarships to Zion youth who attend.

For more info, check online at lomocamps.org or contact Carolyn at Csteinaim@zionsandusky.org and we will get you on our mailing list!

Saturday and Sunday services can be viewed on our "ZionELC Sandusky" Facebook page & on YouTube "The Hill of Zion"



Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday

On Tuesday, February 16th and Wednesday, February 17th, during the hours of 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, members can stop in the portico and pick up a baggie with ashes and communion. There will be a card attached with instructions for both watching and participating along with the video and also if you are not able to watch and participate. The Ash Wednesday video will go live on our YouTube Channel (The Hill of Zion Sandusky) and on Facebook at 7:00 pm.

Each Tuesday of Lent, a Lenten service will go live on the YouTube Channel and Facebook at 7:00 pm

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheHillofZionSandusky>

Centennial Plates

There are over 20 Zion Centennial plates in the office. We are giving them away to members on a first come, first serve basis. Members are to contact the office and place their request. Their name will be put on a plate and it will be placed in the portico for pickup.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting

January 13, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Martha Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Rev. Bodenstab, Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt, Carol Albert, Andrew Castello, Savannah Castello, Faye Gast, Tom Kinsel, Darlene Lowery, Barbara Newton, Nancy Stewart, Martha Thompson, Jarrod Todi, Kevin Yontz, and Recording Secretary, Lori Wobser. Guests: newly elected council members for 2021, Roz Orticari, Carla Mitchell and Sheree' Miller.

OPENING DEVOTION & PRAYER:

Pastor Eric opened with a reading of 1 Corinthians 12, a reflection on the reading, and prayer.

AGENDA:

Amended agenda accepted and reflected in Old and New Business.

CORRESPONDENCE

An email from Martha Thompson regarding the baptism of granddaughter, Teagan, was read. Discussion regarding baptism in the building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for the December 9, 2020 Council meeting were approved as presented.

CLERGY REPORTS:

Pastor Eric – Written report submitted.

Deacon Carolyn – Written report submitted.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Martha Thompson, President – No written report. Yearly staff evaluations will be conducted in January.

Vice President – No report given.

Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Kinsel – Financial reports were submitted and discussed. Income from 2019 to 2020 was up by \$104,000. This is outside of Capital Campaign giving. \$56,000 was

given as a loan as part of the Payroll Protection Plan. We followed the guidelines set forth for the loan, therefore, we will not have to repay it and it will be considered a grant. Due to the pandemic and the way we are trying to communicate and connect with our congregation members, our costs in some areas, such as postage and printing costs have gone up substantially. Our personnel expenses are down \$11,700. This is due to our previously having two office personnel and now having just one person in the office working in the capacity of Administrator and Secretary. We are still doing well. Our members have done a tremendous job of being consistent in their giving. Zion Foundation received a very generous donation of \$40,000 from one of our Zion members. There was discussion of annual audit. The Treasurer's report will be filed as presented.

MINISTRY TEAMS REPORTS:

Worship & Music – Carol Albert – At the January 6th Worship and Music Meeting, hymns were selected through March 7th. A plan was discussed regarding Ash Wednesday and the distribution of ashes and communion in packages for pickup in the portico. Each bag would include ashes, communion elements, and an instruction card. A service will be posted on our YouTube channel and Facebook page on Tuesdays of Lent and on Ash Wednesday. Time to be determined. Discussion took place on how to have an outdoor service for Easter. This is in the early planning stages. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24th.

Faith Formation – Jarrod Todi – Nothing to report.

Stewardship & Administration – Andrew Castello – There is a Needs Assessment Committee that will be meeting in the near future to discuss the needs of the congregation and possible future staffing. Discussion has taken place with Lori Wobser regarding written standard operating procedures for the office to provide a smooth transition for anyone coming in; to be able to follow the written guidance and complete tasks necessary to the operation of the church. It was also discussed that each ministry team should also compile a standard operating procedure guide.

Youth & Young Adult – Kevin Yontz and Savannah Castello – Nothing to report.

Parish Life – Darlene Lowery – During the City of Sandusky Bicentennial in 2018 we hosted a block party with United Church of Christ and Saints Peter and Paul. We raised funds to purchase a bench with a plaque for the park. Darlene is working with Pastor Lenore Kure and contacting the city to see how we are to proceed. Pastor Eric will reach out to Father Hoyles once we have the final cost.

Property & Facilities – Barbara Newton – No written report. The new air filtration system is working very well as the filters that were put in back in early summer are filthy and need replacement. New MERV-13 filters were ordered. The west boiler pump #2 motor has failed. A new motor has been ordered. ReStore Pro is almost done. While most of the work has been done very well, some of the work needs to be retouched and clean up needs done. We are not to pay ReStore Pro until the job is signed off on by Carla.

Mission & Outreach – Nancy Stewart – Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Staff Phones:** Pastor Eric researched and presented reimbursement plans approved by the IRS. The way the first plan works is that the employing organization purchases the cellphone and pays for the phone and plan (COPE). The phone belongs to the employer. The other option is bring your own device (BYOD). This is a reimbursable plan based on actual costs. Council will need to write out and decide upon a plan. Carolyn was advised to upgrade her phone to newer model with larger data. Tom Kinsel will review. A motion was made to use either the COPE or BYOD plan to provide for cellular phones for the pastor, the deacon, and the office administrator. The motion carried.
- **Annual Report:** Reports needed for the annual report were all received by Lori Wobser and will be formatted and sent to the printer. Reports will be made available for pickup in the portico.
- **Annual Meeting:** All that is slated for the meeting at this point is all reports. The budget was presented and voted on in the November Congregational Meeting. We are

bound by the constitution to have the meeting on the first Sunday in February. Discussion regarding the current health/safety concerns and being at level 3 and needing to be at level 2 for three consecutive weeks before having any form of hybrid service due to guidelines that we must announce the meeting for two weeks prior to the meeting. A motion was made to hold the Annual Meeting on February 7th if Erie County is in level 1 or 2 of the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. If Erie County is in level 3 or 4 of the OPHAS, we will hold the annual meeting on the third consecutive week that we are in level 1 or 2, with the exception of Palm Sunday (March 28) and Easter (April 4). The motion carried.

- **Capital Campaign:** We are currently at 97% of the goal for the campaign through donations and pledges. The architect will be preparing a plan for the basement that can be given to the Property and Facilities Committee to prioritize according to project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Retreat 2021:** The retreat for council members is on hold at this time.
- **Staff Procedures Following Possible COVID Exposure:** Council needs to develop a policy on what is expected of staff while in quarantine or if sick with the virus. How will job responsibilities be handled. Martha has offered to assist Andrew and Tom in working on these plans.
- **Paying Bills with Credit Card:** Discussion of paying normal monthly bills on the church credit card. This provides us with a statement showing that the bill was paid and guarantees that the bill is paid on time; not held up in the mail. This would be a more efficient way of handling the bill pay, provide a better paper trail, ensure payments are not late, and be able to use points from the credit card use toward future bills. This will also alleviate check signers from coming weekly to sign checks. Lori will discuss with Barbara Johnson and work on a list of bills to present to council for approval to be paid via credit card.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori A. Wobser, Recording Secretary



FEBRUARY

All meetings are held via Zoom at this time. Our services are posted on our Facebook page (ZionELCSandusky), YouTube Channel (TheHillofZionSandusky), and you can still listen to the 10:30 am worship service on WLEC (1450 AM / 93.5 FM). All previous services, podcasts, studies, etc., can be viewed on our YouTube Channel. During Levels 3-4 of the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, there will be no Service of the Table or Drive-Through Communion Distribution. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be postponed if at Level 3-4.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Confirmation	4 9:30 am Priscilla	5 	6 6:00 pm Reflection
7 8:00 am Youtube/FB Worship Service 8:45 am Service of the Table 9:30 am Fellowship Time—Zoom 9:30 am Sunday School - Youtube/FB 10:30 am Worship on WLEC/Youtube/FB 11:30 am Drive Through Communion Distribution	8 10:30 am Praying In Color	9	10 9:30 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Council	11	12	13 6:00 pm Reflection
14 8:00 am Youtube/FB Worship Service 8:45 am Service of the Table 9:30 am Fellowship Time—Zoom 9:30 am Sunday School - Youtube/FB 10:30 am Worship on WLEC/Youtube/FB 11:30 am Drive Through Communion Distribution 	15	16	17  9:30 am Staff Meeting Noon—Ash Wednesday Service on YouTube/FB 6:30 pm Confirmation	18 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	19	20 6:00 pm Reflection
21 8:00 am Youtube/FB Worship Service 8:45 am Service of the Table 9:30 am Fellowship Time—Zoom 9:30 am Sunday School - Youtube/FB 10:30 am Worship on WLEC/Youtube/FB 11:30 am Drive Through Communion Distribution	22 10:30 am Praying In Color 5:00 pm Property/Facilities Meeting	23 1st Tuesday of Lent 7:00 pm Lenten Service on YouTube/FB	24 9:30 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Worship Planning 7:00 pm Faith Formation	25	26 	27 6:00 pm Reflection
28 8:00 am Youtube/FB Worship Service 8:45 am Service of the Table 9:30 am Fellowship Time—Zoom 9:30 am Sunday School - Youtube/FB 10:30 am Worship on WLEC/Youtube/FB 11:30 am Drive Through Communion Distribution		 LENT				