



The Herald

1300 Edgewood Drive, Lima, Ohio 45805
419-224-9951

welcome + grow + serve



March 2021

*...to welcome all people, grow as followers of Jesus
and serve all creation*

FOR THE LOVE OF SCRABBLE



I used to work at a tiny college in rural Vermont. Our students were from traditionally underserved, underrepresented, and underprepared populations. If they didn't make it in our school, they weren't going to make it in college.

There was one student who will always stand out to me: Ellen from New York. Ellen was tough, and she made sure you knew it. Ellen was a bipolar addict, who strutted around campus reliving glory days of being a high school bully, regularly self-destructing in and out of the classroom. Chaos just followed Ellen. She was also a gifted writer, fiercely passionate, a talented singer, and incredibly loyal.

Ellen was a regular guest in my office for a variety of reasons. Sometimes to tell me about the girl she concussed in high school, sometimes to share with me the poem she wrote. Sometimes she was in trouble, sometimes she gave me the scoop from the weekend. Sometimes she just wanted a Jolly Rancher. Ellen drove me nuts, but I had a soft spot for Ellen.

Because Ellen also loved Scrabble.

Scrabble is my game. I grew up playing with my grandmother, but never really found any other good opponents because it's not a game teenagers and 20-year-olds played in the 2000s.

When I found out Ellen played Scrabble we made it a regular thing to play. Every Thursday night after supper, we'd meet in the lounge outside my apartment to play a game. There were a few times I tried to bail because I wanted some alone time, but sure enough Ellen would knock on my door and ask if I was scared to face her that week.

We talked about a lot of stuff in those games. Things going on at home, things scaring her about the future, the trauma she'd endured growing up, why she liked to write, who she had a crush on that week. Sometimes we wouldn't talk about anything, sometimes she'd just sing.

CONTINUED...

People on campus found out we were doing that and said, “I was doing a great service.” I didn’t think I was doing anything special. I was just playing Scrabble with someone who also liked to play Scrabble.

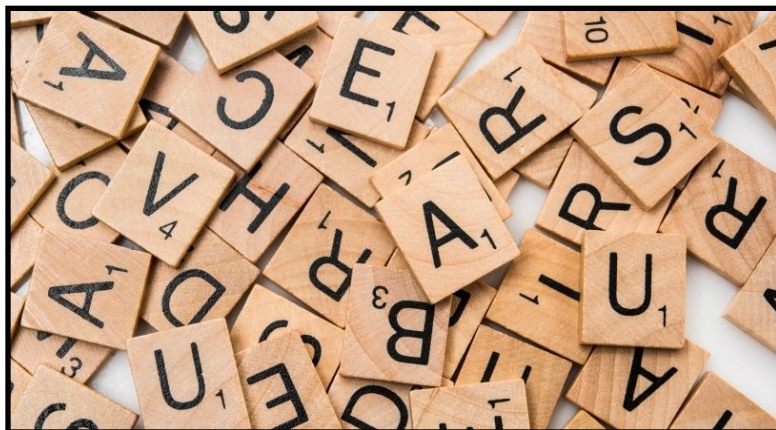
But after we played for a few months, Ellen seemed different. I noticed Ellen didn’t use as much. Ellen didn’t self-destruct as much. Ellen didn’t create as much chaos. She was just easier to get along with. Was I responsible for that? Absolutely not. I think Jesus put me in the right place at the right time for Ellen. I think Jesus knew that the most important thing for Ellen was to have someone she trusted, to connect with, and build a relationship with.

Jesus does care about the ministry, but the ministry is the relationships. Ministry without relationships is community service. And look, there’s nothing wrong with community service. In fact, I think it’s great. **But it’s not the only thing Jesus calls us to.** When we’re doing ministry-and we are all capable of doing ministry-we should be asking ourselves, “How, if at all, is this thing moving people closer and closer to Jesus?” And if we’re not moving out of the box of “doing a great service,” then maybe it’s time to reexamine **what we’re doing.**

We cannot build a kingdom, we cannot share the joy and power and love of Christ without building relationships with the people around us, the people we’re serving, and the people we’re in community with. We GET to share what we have found in Christ everyday, and people will keep coming back because of the relationship, not because of the service.

My encouragement to you is to believe in your ability to have impact and influence beyond the service, and think deeply about those God has placed in your heart to build a relationship with.

- Corie Steinke



“But it’s not the only thing Jesus calls us to.”



welcome

Zion’s Plan of Return

As a reminder, our policy is to return to in-person worship when Allen County is orange/yellow on the Ohio Health Advisory Map. Numbers have been consistently falling and I anticipate that we will be orange soon (likely before this newsletter even reaches your mailbox!). This is great cause for celebration! Praise be to God!

But there are *many* variables contributing to the decline in cases/spread, the vaccine and the hard work of our healthcare workers likely being among them. That being said, when we return to in-person worship, we will still be using all the precautions laid out on our website at zionlima.org/plan-of-return. Even if you have received the vaccine, you will still be required to wear a mask and follow all precautions as well. When we all do our part, we keep each other safe and healthy. Please take time to review the guidelines for in-person worship on the website.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon! - Pastor Dan



Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain - Weekly Readings

Week 3 – 3/7 <i>Again & Again, We Are Shown the Way</i>			
Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm 19	1 Cor. 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
Week 4 – 3/14 <i>Again & Again, God Loves First</i>			
Numbers 21:4-9	Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
Week 5 – 3/21 <i>Again & Again, We Are Reformed</i>			
Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
Palm Sunday – 3/28 <i>Again & Again, We Draw On Courage</i>			
Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	John 12:1-19
Maundy Thursday – 4/1 <i>Again & Again, We Are Held Together</i>			
Ex. 12:1-4, 11-14	Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Cor. 11:23-26	Jn. 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday – 4/2 <i>Again & Again, We Find Ourselves Here</i>			
Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22	Hebrews 10:16-25	John 19:1-30
Easter Sunday – 4/4 <i>Again & Again, The Sun Rises</i>			
Acts 10:34-43	Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Cor.15:1-11	Mark 16:1-8



Corie Steinke
Director of Discipleship & Community Outreach

grow



A HUGE thank you to everyone and anyone who helped with the *community meal* on February 17th. 56 meals were handed out to people in an hour and a half. So if you were on site that day, donated desserts or money, or prayed for the ministry, you had a hand in connecting people to Jesus and Zion. The next community meal will be March 30th.

KITCHEN REMODEL UPDATE- We had an assessment of the kitchen done by a professional assessor and we will have a remodel quote to present to council soon. It has been very exciting to dream about the future ministries that will come from this upgrade!



Sheila Smith
Director of Administration & Community Engagement

serve

John 6:12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing be lost"

Zion's going **GREEN!** It's time we take notice of the waste we contribute to our world. The plastic bags, the plastic bottles, even our paper use. The average office generates 1/4 pound of paper per employee, per day. That adds up to a lot of paper over a year...and a lot of trees used and spent energy too! Most of our used copier/printer paper, notepads, catalogs, cardboard boxes, outdated phone books and more could be recycled, instead of just going to waste. Zion Lutheran has set a goal of reducing the amount of waste for disposal by 60 percent by the year 2024. It's a great goal that preserves both resources and our local economy, helps our community become more sustainable, and helps us live into one of our baptismal covenants: to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. We will also launch a waste prevention program to help us cut back on the amount of waste we generate in the first place.

THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP: Join Zion's **GREEN TEAM!** Our team will be responsible for initiating ways to recycle and help with delivering our recyclables to the centers. Zion is also encouraging YOU to start or continue recycling at home! Carry a reusable water bottle. Say no to disposable straws and cutlery. Store leftovers in glass jars. Bring your own shopping bag (Zion is going to help with that!). Energy saving tips include using a programable thermostat or adjusting temps at night and when you are out of the house, switching your light bulbs to Energy-Efficient, unplugging small appliances until you really need them, and taking steps to weatherize your home.

During the month of March you can bring your plastic grocery sacks to Zion for recycling. We are also continuing to collecting new or used ink cartridges. Collection box is in the office! A few small changes to old habits and we can all be proud of the difference we'll be making to help keep our community beautiful and our church thriving. Thanks for participating! **MORE INFO ON RECYLING IN ALLEN COUNTY ON PAGE 11... CONTACT SHEILA TO JOIN OUR GREEN TEAM!**

**BRUSH AND BRUNCHES
MARCH 6TH
SIGN UP
BEFORE WEDNESDAY
MARCH 3RD**



Zion Students St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Games Night is happening! Students in 9th-12th grade will be getting more information from Corie in the mail. Contact Corie if you're interested.



THANKS...

*Let your constant love comfort me,
as you have promised ...
Psalm 119:76a*

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your gift to help reach others in a time of need! I appreciate your care for the poor and homeless in our community. Individuals facing a time of crisis are able to receive care for physical and spiritual needs because of your generous support.

Our goal is to provide a safe and caring environment for individuals as they take steps to get their life back on track. We are here to provide support, guidance, and encouragement as they make positive changes.

Thank you for your part in this ministry!

God Bless—Chuck Ferguson Lima Rescue Mission

Thank you to all of the staff and families of Zion Lutheran for the many years of comfort, joy and friendship given to our parents, David and Pat McCormick.

—Vicki Losito and family, Michelle Oxrider and family

Zion Lutheran Church and Childcare Staff:

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. I appreciate your thoughtfulness during the unexpected loss of Jon (Zion's mailman) and Michelle Brockert. My hope is in the Lord and trust His plan even though I don't understand. I'm looking forward to Heaven and our reunion there.

—Sincerely Chris and Joyce Brockert

Dear Friends:

We greatly appreciate the donation of warm winter coats for the students of our school. They will surely bring lots of comfort to children who might otherwise not having something as nice to wear. It was so kind of you to think of them.

Sincerely, Stacy Barker, Principal at Heritage Elementary

Dear Sam Bassit and the People of God at Zion Lutheran Church:

It is with deep gratitude that I write to thank you for the generous Zion Endowment Grant award that has funded discipleship training of leaders and churches throughout the Synod.

We are so grateful for your parish's example of generosity in the life of your community. It is a gift to be Church with you here in NWOS. Thank you for living the faithful generosity to which our God calls us, and through which we will renew northwestern Ohio and the world.

—Blessings, Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

While Allen County remains RED on the Ohio Health Advisory Map, all in-person worship and meetings at Zion are suspended until we return to orange or yellow.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO COVID PRECAUTIONS)

March 2, 2021	Building and Property meeting	5 pm
March 2, 2021 (each Tuesday until April 6)	God.Gifts.You.	1:30 pm
March 6, 2021	Brunch and Brushes	10:00 am
March 10, 2021	Council meeting	6 pm
March 4, 11, 18, 25 Online Yoga on Yoga at Zion Facebook group page	Holy Stretch! Thursdays 1:30p:m chair & 2 pm energetic mat	
March 30	Community Meal	5 pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: churchoffice@zionlima.org 419-224-9951

Altar Guild for March:
Linda Young, Laura Ball, Kim Manning

Meet Kerry Fremont!



**One of new volunteers for
Zion To-Go!**

With the Community Meals returning we thought we would salute all the volunteers that make it happen! **Kerry Fremont** has stepped up as one of the coordinators along with Sue and Dan Fifer, Sandra Knarr, Carrie and Tom Schepman, Karen and Buzz Long and Cinda Rismiller.

"I am excited to help with this wonderful project. More than ever, there is such a need to continue this mission to help local people. Even though I am new to this church, I feel strong fellowship and friendships developing as we are working together to share the love of Jesus with this community outreach." - Kerry Fremont

OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY

January giving:
1/3 \$ 5994.02
1/10 \$ 6354.02
1/17 \$ 8629.29
1/24 \$ 5097.02
1/31 \$ 6855.02

Total \$ 32,929.37
Average 6,585.87

January views:
1/3
1/10
1/17
1/24
1/31

online 124
online 191
online 150
online 120
online 90

total views 675
Average/wk 135

IF YOU RECEIVE THE MONTHLY BLUE ENVELOPES AND HAVE SWITCHED TO ONLINE GIVING CONTACT SHEILA TO BE TAKEN OFF THE MAILING LIST! THANKS!

SPOILER ALERT: APRIL GIVE—DIAPERS FOR HEARTBEAT OF LIMA

SHARE+FEED+RELIEVE so far raised over \$10,163!!! Thank you for your support !

CHURCHES UNITED PANTRY

Give to CUP at zionlima.org or if you'd like to volunteer contact sheila@zionlima.org.

The CUP ministry continues to be in need of personal care items. These are items that they do not purchase and depend totally on donations. So as you are shopping pickup some of the following items; toilet paper, shampoo, soap, body wash, tooth brushes and paste, feminine care products and deodorant. Thanks for your continuing support of this vital ministry here in Lima. CUP is also looking for volunteers to assist in the daily operation.

Thank you Church Members for your generosity and commitment in support of CUP -
Lynn Kearns ***BIG CUP INSIDE NORTH DOORS!***

ANY QUILTERS out there? [Contact sheila@zionlima.org](mailto:sheila@zionlima.org) OR call the office!



Remember in your Prayers: Please let us know if you would like to add someone to the prayers list. Please keep us updated as to when our prayers have been answered!

INTERVIEW WITH A...STUDENT

A series of questions with one of our teen members Catie Lucente!



What are some of your hobbies?: My hobbies are singing, and photography.

What puts you in a good mood? : Seeing friends and family makes me happy.

How was the year 2020 for you? : 2020 was both good and bad. I learned more about myself but I didn't like having to do online school.

What are your hopes for 2021? : I hope that I am able to come out of my shell more and become more outgoing.

What do others say you are good at? : People say I am good at singing and photography. They also say I'm really, really good at working with my sister with special needs.

What do you want people to know about people your age, particularly when it comes to church? : I can't speak for everyone my age because we are all different. Though I think that if there were more teens there, we would look forward to going and not feel like it's a chore that our families make us do. I also think that if there were more activities for teens to do outside of Sunday services, that would attract more teens and help us get to know each other better.

What does church mean to you? : I think that church is very important especially if I'm having a rough time because it can help me relax and not worry about the bad things happening.



Zion Students St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Games Night is happening!

Students in 9th-12th grade will be getting more information from Corie in the mail. Contact Corie if you're interested!

Zion Lutheran Childcare Can you believe it's finally March?

The year already has provided us with lots of snow and cold weather. Hopefully we can look forward to warmer and sunnier days. We welcome Spring with open arms! This month we have many fun days planned. The first week in March, we will have a special visit from The Cat in the Hat! Some classes will be making Green Eggs & Ham to celebrate Dr. Seuss week. We also will have a special scavenger hunt planned on March 17th for St. Patrick's Day. Finally at the end of March, we will start to learn about the true meaning of Easter.

-Lesia Brown, Childcare Director



We need CEREAL BOXES for an project with Zion's kids. Please drop off cereal boxes to either office. All cereal will be donated upon completion of the project. thanks!



March Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES

Philip & Cathy Shafer	3/4	54 yrs.	Josh & Charisse Baily	3/20	11 yrs.
Mike & Cathy Lehman	3/9	47 yrs.	Greg & Cheryl Grant	3/23	18 yrs.
Mike & Cheryl Frey	3/13	28 yrs.	Gene & Velma Fries	3/26	66 yrs.
Jim & Cathy Guy	3/16	47 yrs.	Don & Pamela Schulz	3/8	48 yrs.

BIRTHDAYS

Rose Busboom	3/1	Brooke Stolzenburg	3/22
Penny Coleman	3/1	Ryan Dickrede	3/22
Brian Calvelage	3/1	Karen Long	3/23
Stan Lawrence	3/5	Jennifer Clark	3/23
William Behnfeldt	3/5	Dave Douglas	3/24
Dick Marquart	3/6	John Hughes	3/24
Janet Baier	3/7	Russ Wensole	3/25
Sally Parker	3/8	Sue Fifer	3/25
Terry Boop	3/8	Drew Neidemire	3/25
Luke Best	3/8	Oliver Young	3/25
Nancy Klausing	3/10	Matthew Hawk	3/26
Lynn Kearns	3/11	Pamela Schulz	3/27
Kasey Weihrauch	3/12	Justin Lehman	3/28
Mary Sheldon	3/14	Adeline Schulz	3/28
Lee Grant	3/20	Sandy Kivimaki	3/29
Cam Grant	3/20	Ilene Kay Rhoades	3/30
Ron Hagaman	3/21	Linda Young	3/31
Jackie Loescher	3/22		

If we've missed your anniversary or birthday, or if we have the wrong date, please call the office at 419-224-9951 or email churchoffice@zionlima.org.

Contacts

Lead Pastor Rev. Daniel J. Gutman: pastordan@zionlima.org

Visitation Pastor Rev., Dr. Samuel Payne

Director of Administration & Community Engagement

Sheila Smith: sheila@zionlima.org

Director of Discipleship and Community Outreach

Corie Stienke: corie@zionlima.org

Allen County Monthly Drop-Off Recycling Programs

Gomer- Boy Scouts of America Troup #84
3rd Saturday of Every Month at Uncle Al's- 9AM to Noon
4305 W. Lincoln Hwy, Gomer

What is accepted: Corrugated Cardboard, Paperboard & Newspapers, Clear, Green & Brown Glass Bottles, Aluminum Cans & Steel Food Cans, Plastics Bottles & Jugs #1 & #2

ALL ITEMS MUST BE SEPARATED

Do NOT put recyclables in bags

The Following Monthly Recycling Programs accept these items:

PAPER ITEMS ACCEPTED

Corrugated Cardboard (Please flatten), Paperboard (i.e.Cereal Boxes), Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs, Phonebooks, Office/School Papers (No wire or plastic bindings or covers), Shredded Paper & Junk Mail.

CO-MINGLED ACCEPTED

Aluminum Cans, Aluminum Foil, Steel Food Cans, Glass Bottles/Jars (No bulbs, ornaments, window glass or cookware), Plastics Containers #1 and 2 (NO Styrofoam).

ALL containers Must be Rinsed with No Food Residue or other Contaminants.

No Plastic Bags

Do NOT put recyclables in bags

American Township

1st Thursday of Every Month - 2:30PM to 5PM at the Lima Mall Parking Lot (behind Macy's)

Monroe Township/Village of Cairo

2nd Thursday of Every Month - 2:30PM to 5PM at the Old Cairo School

Bath Township

3rd Thursday of Every Month - 2:30PM to 5PM at Township Hall (2880 Ada Rd)

Auglaize Township/Village of Harrod

3rd Tuesday of Every Month - 12:00PM to 2:30PM at the Allen East Community Center, 9520 Harrod Rd (Allen East Community Center)

Delphos

4th Saturday of Every Month - 9:00AM to 11:30AM
at the Delphos Truck Wash 1770 E Fifth St, Delphos

Thank you for recycling!

Mission Statement:

to WELCOME all people, GROW as followers of Jesus, and SERVE all creation

Vision Statements:

We will make traditional and nontraditional spaces of welcome and belonging for all people.
We will honor our legacy while joyfully pursuing God's future for us.

We will be known for sharing the love of Jesus with our community and the surrounding area.

We will cultivate life-giving opportunities that foster relationships rooted in Jesus.

We will remove barriers for leaders and disciples to realize their God-given impact and influence.

We will broaden the scope of our impact and influence in our community and the surrounding area.

We will equip servant leaders to discover their individual spiritual gifts and call.

We will encourage all to participate in their own calling for God's mission in the world.

We will creatively seek partnerships of mutuality, respect, trust, and love.



welcome + grow + serve



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