



Good News From Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace...

October 2020

A Message from Pastor May

Grace and peace to you from God and Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

It is very difficult to say goodbye to people for whom you care. Such is the task before me now. I hope that the words that follow will adequately bring you the thanks and joy that I feel as I complete this work as your pastor. Several things are most significant:

- For the kindnesses you have shown Karla and me, I give you great thanks. Your generous and gentle spirits have been comforting and encouraging. It is not without remorse that we now leave you.
- I leave you trusting in God's providential care for Zion. I believe that God wants Zion to be here at Oldwick, present always for the community in which we live. Have faith in God's care of this congregation. Just as God called me here to serve with you, God will call another pastor as a partner in ministry.
- Covid19 has brought unprecedented attention to personal space and how we live in relationship to one another. It was unexpected and brought many challenges. You have shown great resilience and commitment to your Church and your faith. It was a great pastoral honor to share in weekly worship and daily devotion online.
- I encourage you to have patience with the New Jersey Synod's process. Take your time and have patience. God is at work through the process, even if it takes longer than you would like.
- Use the time of the pastoral vacancy to consider the ways in which God is calling Zion to be God's caregivers to one another and to the people of the surrounding community. It is all too easy to turn in on ourselves; continue to focus on your social ministry opportunities.
- My work as your pastor is complete on November 1st. Thank you.

God's peace be with you, now and always.

In Christ,

Pr. Jeff May



Congregation Council Highlights



The Council met via Zoom conference call on September 10. Below are the highlights of that meeting.

- Pastor May welcomed Rhonda Rossi, Zion's new Director of Youth & Family Ministry, to her first Council meeting.
- Rhonda Rossi is planning several events for youth and families this fall, beginning with Disc Golf on September 27. (See the article on the next page for details.)
- Council approved the draft of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). This document will be submitted to the Synod to aid the Bishop in identifying Zion's next pastor. (See article below.)
- Thank you to:
 - * Members of the Youth & Family Ministry Interview Team for their work in finding and hiring Rhonda Rossi — Patricia Craig, Melanie Hodges, Mike Jennison, Helen Livingston, and Pastor May.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, October 15. Meetings are open for all to attend. If you would like to attend an upcoming meeting, please let the Parish Office know and we will send you the Zoom link.

Pastoral Call Process — A Few Updates

The church survey has been completed (thanks to everyone for your input!) and compiled, and informs part of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), which has now been submitted to the Synod and starts the next phase of our process. The results of the survey can be seen in the box to the right. The Call Committee consists of Carol Anne Bredeson, Colleen Bryson, Mike Jennison (chair), Rebecca Melick, Todd Rothermel, and Rick Schroeder. Thanks to these folks for agreeing to participate in this important process. We are arranging a meeting with the Bishop and her assistant for mid-October with the Church Council and the Call Committee where we will learn more about the nuts and bolts of the process and the detailed next steps. We hope to have the first qualified candidate visit before the end of the year. We will keep the congregation apprised of the status through newsletter/bulletin updates and periodic reports to Council. Please keep this team and the entire process in your prayers!

Top Five Ministry Tasks for Zion's Next Pastor:

- Preaching/Worship
- Youth, Adult & Family Ministry
- Building a Sense of Community
- Pastoral Care and Visitation
- Music/Worship/Arts

Top Five Gifts Zion's Next Pastor Should Possess:

- Be an effective communicator
- Help people develop their spiritual life
- Build a sense of community among the people with whom he/she works
- Be effective in working with youth
- Be an effective teacher

Helpful Gifts Zion's Next Pastor Should Possess:

- Be able to share leadership and work in a team
- Provide care and nurture
- Bring joy and good humor to relationships
- Be able to use technology and media
- Possess talents in the areas of music, arts, writing

Disc Golf for Youth & Families — September 27



We've all experienced the joy of throwing a Frisbee. Take it to the next level and try disc golf! Disc golf is a great activity for all ages. Easy to learn, fun to play. A great excuse to get outside. Easy to keep social distance. No cost to play at most courses.

Date: Sunday, September 27 (rain date October 11)

Place: Olde Towne Park in Branchburg (corner of Narragansett and DeAngelo Drives)

Time: 12 Noon — Meet at Olde Towne Park following 10:30 a.m. outdoor worship at Zion

Lunch: Please pack your own lunch or grab sandwiches from the General Store

RSVP: Colin Brokaw at 908-319-7591 or cwbrokaw@outlook.com



Zion families and friends of all ages are invited to attend!

High School Connect — A Letter from Rhonda Rossi

Dear High School Youth,

I hope this finds all of you doing well as you work to balance your new “normal” for school, jobs, and activities. Through all of this disorder, I pray that you feel God’s presence guiding each of you every day.

I’m developing a Sunday morning program for all Zion high school youth in grades 9-12. This group will kick-off on **Sunday, September 27th at 9:30 AM**. While the weather holds out, we will find a place to meet outside on the lawn. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on. We will follow the CDC guidelines by socially distancing and wearing masks.

My goal is to develop a community where you will feel safe and welcomed. A community where we have a weekly time together to engage in conversations that connect world events with the Bible, share our faith and everyday life. It will be relaxing and fun!

I look forward to meeting all of you and getting to know you. Friends are welcome to attend too! Please let me know that you will attend by emailing me at youth@zionoldwick.com.

Yours in Ministry,

Rhonda



Calling All 7th-12 Graders!

Join Rhonda Rossi on October 4th for a trip to the Corn Maze at Stony Hill Farms in Chester! This is a GIANT corn maze - 10 acres! Every year there is a new theme for the maze. This year's them is "aMAZED by Weather". The design features lightning bolts, a tornado, and sunshine over Stony Hill Farms.

Due to COVID restrictions, Stony Hill is requiring ticket purchases in advance so please let Rhonda know as soon as possible if you would like to attend by texting her at 973-219-8333 or emailing youth@zionoldwick.com. We will meet at Stony Hill Farm at 11 a.m., go through the maze, and then head to lunch at NY Pizza in Chester. Please bring \$16 to cover the cost of the maze. The church is covering the cost of the pizza.

We will be outside the entire time, which will allow us to social distance. Please don't forget to wear your mask!



Sunday School News — In-Person Sunday School is BACK!



On September 13, we returned to in-person Sunday School at Zion. We kicked it off with a lesson from Spark Lectionary titled, "Joseph Helps His Family". The lesson came from Genesis 45:1-15, 50:15-51 and focused on how God can help to change the bad in our lives to good. We also talked about forgiveness. Sunday school will continue to meet every Sunday beginning at 9:30AM in the CEB parking lot. We practice social distancing and wear our masks.



Kristen Hodges and Tiffany Shin with Kindergartener Oskar Shin and Preschooler Greta Shin

Proverbs 22:6

"Point your kids in the right direction — when they're old they won't be lost."

The Message



Melanie Hodges with 6th grader Chloe Brokaw and 5th grader Allie Beauregard



Sandy Matsen with Oliva Bryson (2nd grade), Jade DiCriscio (4th grade), and Nathan Brokaw (3rd grade)



Jeff Livingston and the Confirmation Class — Kayden O'Connor-Shin, Teddy Lanka, Jessica Rodrick, Lily Rogers, Kevin Pepe, Aaron Melick, and Robert Bryan

News from the Social Ministry Committee

As is the case with churches everywhere, the Covid-19 Pandemic has turned most of Zion's 2020 plans on their ear. The thought of an outside event to get us moving, be "together" apart, and raise money for an awesome ministry — The Good News Home for Women — was perfect! The 5K Fun Run/Walk was a success.



The Social Ministry Committee extends a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for your support of the event this past weekend. We really appreciated the presence of our 34 walkers/runners. We raised over \$1,000 on Sunday and more donations are still coming in for the Good News Home! Staying connected as a church family is important as we continue to navigate the pandemic. Thank you for all your energy and financial support! Thanks to you, we truly enabled an event that epitomizes our vision, "Connecting People with God's Grace".

The Tewksbury Township Committee was gracious in accepting our last-minute agenda item, unanimously approving the event. Youth and adult congregants stepped up to volunteer at food tables, to donate necessary items, and welcome participants. Further, an anonymous benefactor has agreed to match the donations we receive.

The weather was perfect, and Tewksbury Police ensured that we were safe on the roads. The event gave us a chance to share the beautiful neighborhood of Oldwick with ten women from the Good News Home who attended. We can't wait to do it again next year!

Thank you again for your support,
Social Ministry Committee



Military Recognition 2020

October is our official Kick-Off for Zion's annual Military Recognition, which will culminate on November 8th, just before Veterans Day. If you have a military service member you would like to honor — past or present — please submit his/her name and information to Shellie Evers at shellie.eversafe@gmail.com. If you would like to donate items for this year's care packages being sent to active duty military members, please visit www.signupgenius.com to sign up. Find the sign-up by clicking on the magnifying glass at the top of the page and entering "parishadministrator@zionoldwick.com" in the "Search for a Sign Up" box.



Please let the Parish Office know if there is anyone who should be added to our list of those currently serving on Active Duty: Lindsay Carrick, Daemon Durham, Christopher Grinnell, Robert Heinke, Erik Lindquist, Hunter MacKenzie, David Marvel, Cody McAleer, Gilbert Mercedes, Patty Oelschlager, Kurt Rossi, Elizabeth Snyder, Daniel Wort, Joshua Wort

Endowment Fund News

Our final Endowment Sunday for 2020 will be on All Saint's Day, November 1st. The Endowment Committee would like to thank all who donated on Mother's Day, Father's Day and throughout the year.

Would you please consider mailing a check to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund to commemorate All Saint's Day or to celebrate a significant milestone in your family's church life such as a baptism, confirmation or wedding?

Always keep in mind that the Endowment Fund only grows with contributions from members and friends of Zion. Those who share the vision of not only a living memorial for loved ones, but also recognize that upon maturity, the fund will provide significant monetary grants for mission-oriented programs, forever.

There is \$22,776 from the Endowment Fund earnings available for new ministry opportunities in 2020. This is determined by taking 3% of a 3-year average of the fund. The Church Council is open to suggestions on using the funds to support our ministries. To date the Church Council has voted to send \$1,000 to Faith Kitchen, \$2,500 to Crossroads Camp and Retreat Center, and \$1,500 to the New Jersey Synod Compensation Aid Fund.

Please contact any member of the committee (Geof Close, Ted Jermansen and Rick Schroeder) if you have any questions!



Updating Zion's Bylaws

At the Special Meeting of the Congregation in December, we will be voting on a change the Council has proposed to Zion's bylaws, which requires 60-days notice to the congregation. This change is needed to bring the bylaws in line with current practices. The article that needs to be revised is B13.06.01, and the language to be added/deleted is as follows:

*"The Endowment Committee shall provide oversight and evaluation for the management of the Endowment Trust Fund Assets and confirm the prompt transfer of endowment donations from Zion accounts to the Trust Fund. **The Endowment Committee will disperse 3% of the Trust Fund amount of the fiscal year ending September 30th based on a 3-year moving average (last three years) to the Endowment Fund directed fund for the following year's ministry and mission opportunities. The Congregation Council shall provide for the evaluation, approval, or disapproval of ministry opportunities for the disbursing of funds from the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Committee shall provide the amount of the Endowment Fund disbursement expected to be available for the coming year in October of the current calendar year. It shall evaluate, approve or disapprove requests for the disbursing of funds from the trust. Except for disapproval for any reason other than insufficiency of funds for that calendar year, the person making the request may appeal the decision to the Congregation Council. In the case of an appeal the Congregation Council shall make the final decision. To overrule an Endowment Committee decision, a vote of 2/3 of the total membership of the Congregation Council is required.** The Endowment Committee shall also provide quarterly reports to the Finance Committee and Congregation Council and an annual report to the congregation. The reports shall include requested grants, contributions, disbursements and the value of the fund. ~~The Endowment Committee shall provide the value of mission grants funds available to Zion for the coming year in October of each calendar year.~~"*

News from the Stewardship Committee

October is Stewardship month at Zion! This year's theme is "God's Work, Our Response" Even though we are separated by social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, Zion's mission still continues, and needs congregational support. While temple talks and in-person gatherings are limited, the Stewardship Committee is still planning the annual pledge campaign. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information.



Second Quarter General Fund Giving-2020

Our 2020 Spending Plan was based on a projected income of \$427,300 from members. This was comprised of:

- Pledges from 52 families of \$281,500;
- An estimate from 71 non-pledging families of \$117,500;
- An estimate from Plate and special services of \$28,800.

We received the income from pre-pledges of \$63,000 in December. In the first quarter, 6 families met their total 2020 pledge; in the second quarter this increased to 9 families. For the second quarter, we have received a total of \$251,700 or 61.6% of our year-end estimate. This income comes from:

- 49 pledging families giving \$174,900
- Non pledging families giving \$33,800
- Plate and other income of \$43,000

If we include the Operating Reserve from the end of 2019 (\$39,900), the total available for General Fund expenses reaches \$291,600. This equates to 69.4% of the projected income.

On the plus side, 22 families have met or are ahead of pledge by \$48,000. On the flip side, 22 pledging families are below their year-to-date pledge by \$22,100. Note: 16 of the 71 families who did not pledge, but were expected to contribute to support our ministries, have not contributed in 2020.

Beyond Second Quarter

Typically, giving drops off in the summer months and we may use the Operating Reserve to continue our ministries. In July 52 families made contributions. In August 66 families made contributions. (If you acknowledge the 9 families who have completed their pledges, these numbers adjust to 61 in July and 75 in August.)

God's Work, Our Response

October is the time for our Stewardship emphasis. We have chosen the theme "God's Work, Our Response." This year it will be very important to hear from each of you. We want Zion's ministries to continue strongly and we need to know that our members will support them financially. Our core financial support comes from 121 families. You may notice from the information above that only 102 of those families have contributed to date. Three pledge families and 16 families where we had to estimate what they may give have not given to Zion. Please fill out your 2021 pledge card this month and do not leave it to the leadership to have to guess what your support may be! Fifteen percent of those "guesses" have not materialized this year. Also, please prayerfully consider if you can do more due to some families giving less.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support of Zion's ministries.

Stewardship Committee

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YTD 2020



GENERAL FUND	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
January	\$34,281.28	\$29,374.56	\$4,906.72
February	\$35,792.05	\$31,658.08	\$4,133.97
March	\$25,760.26	\$30,965.46	-\$5,205.20
April	\$32,263.96	\$27,259.26	\$5,004.70
May	\$27,194.61	\$30,039.33	-\$2,844.72
June	\$23,131.66	\$23,059.62	\$72.04
July	\$34,455.29	\$34,271.67	\$183.62
August	\$31,289.53	\$29,853.14	\$1,436.39
Year To Date Total	\$244,168.64	\$236,481.12	\$7,687.52

TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE		
Checking Account PPP \$37,065.00	\$65,153.97	9/3/2020	Bank Statement
Money Market Plus	\$152,754.86	8/31/2020	Bank Statement
Cash On Hand	\$217,908.83		
Directed Funds	\$126,848.53	8/31/2020	
Operating Funds	\$91,060.30	8/31/2020	
Cash On Hand	\$217,908.83		

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$454,662.33	(4/30/20)
THRIVENT	\$313,991.71	(6/30/20)
TOTAL	\$768,654.04	

ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH

2020 Available Funds	\$22,776	
Available Funds for 2020	\$22,776.00	
Faith Kitchen	-\$1,000.00	Approved 5/20
Crossroads Camp and Retreat Center	-\$2,500.00	Approved 6/20
New Jersey Synod Compensation Aid Fund	-\$1,500.00	Approved 9/20
2020 Endowment Funds Remaining	\$17,776.00	

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Thursday, October 1
Jeremiah 2:14-22
Colossians 2:16-23

Friday, October 2
Jeremiah 2:23-37
Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a

Saturday, October 3
Jeremiah 6:1-10
John 7:40-52

Sunday, October 4
Isaiah 5:1-7
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Monday, October 5
Ezekiel 19:10-14
1 Peter 2:4-10

Tuesday, October 6
Isaiah 27:1-6
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wednesday, October 7
Song of Solomon 8:5-14
John 11:45-57

Thursday, October 8
Isaiah 22:1-8a
1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14

Friday, October 9
Isaiah 22:8b-14
James 4:4-10

Saturday, October 10
Isaiah 24:17-23
Mark 2:18-22

Sunday, October 11
Isaiah 25:1-9
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Monday, October 12
Exodus 19:7-20
Jude 17-25

Tuesday, October 13
Amos 9:5-15
Philippians 3:13—4:1

Wednesday, October 14
Song of Solomon 7:10—8:4
John 6:25-35

Thursday, October 15
Judges 17:1-6
3 John 9-12

Friday, October 16
Deuteronomy 17:14-20
1 Peter 5:1-5

Saturday, October 17
Isaiah 14:3-11
Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday, October 18
Isaiah 45:1-7
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Monday, October 19
Psalm 98
Daniel 3:1-18
Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20

Tuesday, October 20
Daniel 3:19-30
Revelation 18:21-24

Wednesday, October 21
Daniel 6:1-28
Matthew 17:22-27

Thursday, October 22
Numbers 5:5-10
Titus 1:5-16

Friday, October 23
Deuteronomy 9:25—10:5
Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

Saturday, October 24
Proverbs 24:23-34
John 5:39-47

Sunday, October 25
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Monday, October 26
Psalm 119:41-48
Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25
James 2:8-13

Tuesday, October 27
Deuteronomy 10:10-22
James 2:14-26

Wednesday, October 28
Proverbs 16:1-20
Matthew 19:16-22

Thursday, October 29
1 Samuel 2:27-36
Romans 2:17-29

Friday, October 30
Ezekiel 13:1-16
2 Peter 2:1-3

Saturday, October 31
Malachi 1:6—2:9
Matthew 23:13-28

Sunday
Micah 3:5-12
2 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

Monday
Jeremiah 5:18-31
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

Tuesday
Lamentations 2:13-17
Acts 13:1-12

Wednesday
Proverbs 16:21-33
Matthew 15:1-9



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/3	Judy Davis	10/17	Art Snyder
10/5	Mike Appel	10/18	Bill Goodwin
10/6	Barbara Conner	10/18	Frank Sztuk
10/6	Mick Kunish	10/18	Karen Rogers
10/7	John Wilson	10/19	Jessica Rodrick
10/8	Wendy Minerowicz	10/20	Ryan Beauregard
10/8	Mark Peters	10/21	Josh Keister
10/8	Jennifer Hodges	10/22	Bill Kover
10/8	Kristen Hodges	10/22	Don Dalgauer
10/9	Bennett McDonald	10/22	Karen Jennison
10/16	Alex Pepe	10/22	Oskar Shin

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/11	Debbie & Ron Beauregard
10/14	Kathleen & Joe Lundari
10/15	Brandi & Andy Berenty
10/17	Donna & Paul Gorky
10/19	Kathleen & Mike Appel
10/22	Kaitlin & Joe Costello
10/26	Patricia & Justin Craig
10/29	Jennifer & Josh Keister

This past month, we have been praying for the following members:

- + Donna Gorky, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- + Linda Herder, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- + Robbin Lamo, who is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery.
- + Betty Lanka, who suffered a blood infection and is recovering at home.
- + Linda Smith and family, on the passing of Linda's father, Eugene Kentopp.
- + Bonnie Summer, who is undergoing PT & OT while recovering from kidney stone surgery.
- + Ted Talis, who is undergoing rehabilitation at home.
- + Paul Zerfas, who received a stem cell transplant to combat his multiple myeloma.

***Members have requested prayers for the following family and friends:***

- + Pat Ciccattelli, friend of Millie Mellblom, who is in the hospital with cancer.
- + Bill Gibbs, relative of the Formalarie family, who has ALS.
- + Rita Gorky, mother of Paul Gorky, who is recovering at home from a stroke and remains unable to communicate.
- + Jay, friend of Sandy & John Matsen, who is undergoing treatment for esophageal cancer.
- + Jeff, brother-in-law of Robbin Lamo, who has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer.
- + Kayla & Jean, sisters of Linda Herder, who suffered damage to their homes in the wake of Hurricane Laura. Unfortunately, Jean lost her home and all possessions. Linda thanks her church family for their prayers.
- + Daniel Kentopp, brother of Linda Smith, who is struggling with multiple health issues.
- + Dixie Kentopp, mother of Linda Smith, who is recovering at home.
- + Sally Kohl, mother of Stacey Rothermel, who is struggling with Parkinson's Disease.
- + Greg Minerowicz, son of John and Wendy, who is recovering from a stroke.
- + Noreen, friend of Debra Kaufman, who is starting chemotherapy.
- + Martin Simon, friend of the Kunkel and Wintemute families, who had a stroke and is recovering at home with ongoing issues.
- + Nicole Smith, friend of Colleen Bryson, who will be undergoing her third brain surgery.
- + Ted Weisenbach, nephew of Sue Schermerhorn, who suffered a stroke and is recovering at home.
- + Mary Ann Wilmoth, relative of Judy Formalarie, who has been diagnosed with Lymphoma.



**P. O. Box 41
Oldwick, NJ 08858**

Phone: 908-439-2040
parishadministrator@zionoldwick.com
www.zionoldwick.com

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Zion Friends and Family on Facebook!

Have you joined the Zion Friends and Family group on Facebook? It's a great place to connect with Zion, especially when we are not seeing each other as much as we would like. Search for the group today and send a Join Request!

