



Good News From Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace...

June 2021

A Message from Pastor Kat

This year, as we enter our first summer month, we also enter the Season after Pentecost. Having walked with Jesus from the manger to the cross, we now walk with the disciples as they learn what it means to follow Jesus and be his disciple. The gospels tell us of Jesus' ministry of teaching, healing, and working miracles.

Trinity Sunday marks the beginning of this new season. A reminder that we worship a God that reaches out to us in many ways – as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Fittingly, as the weather invites us outside to marvel at the diversity of God's creation, we marvel in worship at the diversity of God's being.

This season as we gather to praise our wonderful God, please note that **in-person worship will be at 9:30 a.m.** (beginning June 6th). Afterward, we will continue the Zion tradition of enjoying food and fellowship outside on the church lawn in our Summer Lemonade Social Hour. I look forward to this time of being together with you after a long winter of being apart.

Growing Together

As we enter this season of learning and growing in faith, I invite you to join me for a continuation of our “Let's Talk!” series that began this past Lent. Conversation starters will be posted to our Facebook Friends and Family page in the beginning of each month (June through August), and then we will gather for a **Live discussion via Zoom on the third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** Please watch the Zion Weekly emails for more details.

I pray that this season of Pentecost for you is one of growth and increased faith.

In Christ,
Pastor Kat

Summer Worship Schedule Begins on June 6th at 9:30 a.m.

From the Song of Solomon:

For now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.



Beginning June 6th, Sunday morning worship will move to 9:30 a.m. The change in time is to accommodate the warmer temperatures that will come with the summer weather. And yes, we are singing again. This Sunday and going forward we are not only singing hymns, but our liturgy is back. We have been waiting for this day. Come and celebrate!

Our Summer Social Hour on the church lawn will begin on this day as well. If you would like to co-host, please sign up via the link that was emailed from the Parish Office.

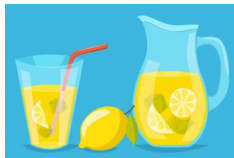
Congregation Council Highlights

The May 20th Council meeting was postponed until the end of the month. Highlights from the May and June meetings will appear in the July newsletter.



Summer Social Hour

The Parish Life and Worship & Music committees are celebrating the start of summer worship! Beginning June 6th, Parish Life will be hosting Summer Social Hour following 9:30 a.m. worship. We need volunteers to set up, provide lemonade or juice, muffins or bagels, and fruit. Please sign up via the link that was emailed from the Parish Office and join us in our return to fellowship time on the church lawn this summer.

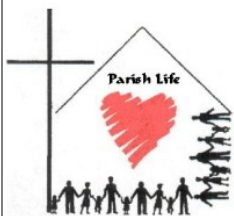


SAVE THE DATE — Zion's Anniversary

Our congregation will celebrate our 307th anniversary on Sunday, August 1st. Please plan to join us for worship on this special day!



News from the Parish Life Committee



Prayer Partners

The 2021 Prayer Partner program continues! If you haven't signed up yet, but decide at any time throughout the year that you would like to join us – please reach out. The door is always open!

As an added devotional opportunity, please keep a look out for the return of Pastor Kat's "Let's Talk!" series which will resume in June!



Flemington Area Food Pantry

Suggested donations for the month of June are individual Jell-O or pudding cups, individual orange juice or apple juice, and Ensure - any flavor.

The full list of requested items is available on the Flemington Food Pantry site. All items are picked up at the church/CEB on Tuesdays for delivery to the pantry.



Update from the Social Ministry Committee



Thank you to the generous volunteers who donated nearly \$900 in ShopRite and Walmart gift cards! These donations will help families in temporary Family Promise housing and other families struggling to maintain their current housing situations. Zion will have an opportunity again in August to provide groceries to a few of the families living in Family Promise hotels.



The Social Ministry committee is hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 15th, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. To schedule an appointment, please visit: nybc.org/newjerseydrive (Sponsor Code: 16064).

Please remember to eat, drink and bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo.

Congratulations to Zion's 2021 Graduates!

Graduates will be recognized during worship on June 13th.

Middle School

Robert Bryan	Woodglen Middle School to Voorhees High School
Aaron Melick	Old Turnpike Middle School to Voorhees High School
Kevin Pepe	JP Case Middle School to Hunterdon Central Regional High School
Jaxon Piegari	Branchburg Central Middle School to Somerville High School
Lily Rogers	Clinton Public School to North Hunterdon High School
Reina Schumann	Ethel Hoppock Middle School to North Hunterdon High School
Gregory Smith	Woodglen Middle School to Voorhees High School

High School

Jennifer Hodges	Ridge High School to Virginia Tech
Kristen Hodges	Ridge High School to Northeastern University

College / University

Haley Conner	University of Scranton BS in Accounting
Patrick Evers	Johnson & Wales University BS in International Business and Economics
Sam Jennison	The College of New Jersey BS in Health & Exercise Science
Sarah Jennison	Ithaca College BS in Clinical Health Studies
Lynn Vorwick	Temple University BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering



Graduate School

Kaylie Brogan	High Point University MS in Communication and Business Leadership
Lily Mikitiuk	Michigan State University MS in Accounting
Lauren Wougk	Rutgers University MS in Civil Engineering with concentration in Water Resources

Youth and Family Ministry at Zion *by Rhonda Rossi*

Vacation Bible School — Monday, June 28th – Friday, July 2nd Last Chance to Register!



Registration will be closing soon! To register: please visit zionoldwick.com/connect/ and look for the registration link under the VBS icon.

All children ages 3 (by June 28th and potty trained) through completion of 5th grade are invited to embark on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles. At Treasured VBS, kids dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold-it's them!

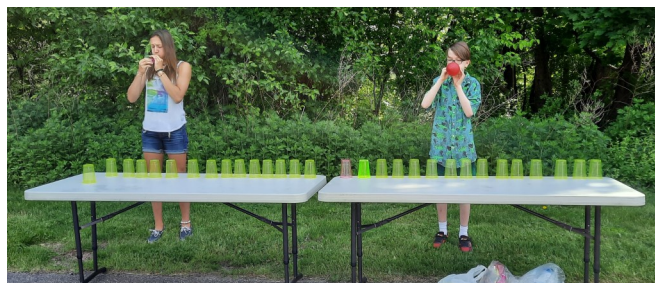
To keep everyone safe, we are planning to hold VBS outside. All CDC guidelines will be followed.

We **NEED** pop-up shade canopies. If you have a canopy that we could borrow for the week, please contact Melanie Hodges at 908-568-7583.



Sunday School and Confirmation classes ended their year on Sunday, May 23rd with a fun, outdoor Pentecost lesson and a "retirement to Zoom" party! Thank you to all the students and parents who hung in there with us this year! We navigated the waters of Zoom successfully!

Special thanks to this year's teachers: Jennifer, Kristen and Melanie Hodges, Jeff Livingston, and Sandy Matsen, and to Rod Briscoe for leading us in music.





Seven 4th and 5th grade students made their First Communion on Sunday, May 16th during the 10:30 a.m. outdoor, worship service. Each student participated in the worship service by either reading lessons or prayers and pouring the baptismal water. We even had a student share her musical talents by playing the piano! It was a beautiful day for a special event!

The First Communion class was taught by Rhonda Rossi and Pastor Kat. The program consisted of five lessons, a rehearsal, and a special class service project. For their service project, students gathered on the evening of Wednesday, May 5th to pack the brown bag lunches for Faith Kitchen. In addition, they each made an individual First Communion Banner that were used to decorate the outdoor communion table. At the end of service, each student was presented with a cross necklace and a beaded cross Chrismon in honor of their First Communion.

Students who received their First Communion: Allie Beauregard, Brooke Bredeson, Madisyn Colasurdo, Jade DiCriscio, Daniel Melick, Alex Pepe, and Natalie Ronaldo.



2022 ELCA Youth Gathering!

Sunday, July 24th – Thursday, July 28th

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the ELCA gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. The event begins on a Sunday evening with the Opening Mass Gathering hosted in the U.S. Bank Stadium. Through the balance of the week, the youth will experience interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service, and fellowship, which give young people the opportunity to grow in faith and inspire them to live their faith in their daily lives.

To find out more about The Gathering, please join Rhonda Rossi on Sunday, June 13th following the 9:30 a.m. worship service (approximately 10:30 a.m.). This brief meeting is for students currently in 7th – 11th grades and their parents. Please contact Rhonda at youth@zionoldwick.com to let her know you will attend or if you have any questions.



CROSS ROADS

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

CROSS ROADS SUMMER 2021



JULY 2 - 4	Family Camp Weekend NEW
JULY 4 - 9	Family Camp NEW
JULY 11 - 16	Youth Camp 1 + High School Week
JULY 18 - 23	Youth Camp 2
JULY 25 - 30	Youth Camp 3 + S.E.E.K. 1
AUG 1 - 6	Youth Camp 4 + S.E.E.K. 2
AUG 8 - 13	Family Camp
AUG 15 - 20	Family Camp

WE'RE HIRING!
Make a difference this summer as a member of our Summer Staff. Apply online.



Summer Camp at Cross Roads

Cross Roads summer camp is here! Please visit crossroadsretreat.com to register.

We can't wait to welcome you to camp! Find more details about all Cross Roads summer programs and register at www.crossroadsretreat.com.

CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



WEDNESDAYS AWAY 2020 - 2021

Are you hungry for a deeper relationship with God? Do you thirst for a more meaningful prayer life? Join us for Wednesdays Away, a time of spiritual renewal on the first Wednesday of the month. These gatherings will continue online on Zoom, from 10 am to noon each retreat. The cost is \$10 per gathering.

WEDNESDAYS AWAY DATES & THEMES 2020-2021

Sacred Ground , Laurie Matarazzo	Sept. 9
Call Me By Name, God , Wendy Abrahamson	Oct. 7
Give Thanks, with a Grateful Heart , Ruth Roemer	Nov. 4
The Coming of Christ , Laurie Matarazzo	Dec. 2
Star Gifts: Words to Ponder All Year , Dale Selover	Jan. 6
What Will We Do Without Ashes? , Dale Selover	Feb. 17
Called to be Water Bearers , Wendy Abrahamson	March 3
Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! , Ruth Roemer	April 7
The Image of God , Josh Kelly	May 5
Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith , Dale Selover	June 2

Wednesdays Away with Cross Roads

Are you hungry for a deeper relationship with God? Do you thirst for a more meaningful prayer life? Join us for Wednesdays Away, a time of spiritual renewal on the first Wednesday of the month. Below is the description for the final virtual retreat in the 2020-21 series. Please visit crossroadsretreat.com to register.

Wednesday, June 2nd – Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith presented by Dale Selover

In his classes, beloved priest, author, and spiritual guide Henri Nouwen offered gentle wisdom for the spiritual life. We will explore his invitation to look within to the heart, look to God in the book, and look to others in community.

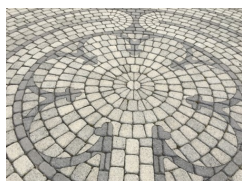
WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM/WEDNESDAYS-AWAY

Women of Zion — Upcoming Events

The Women of Zion committee is making plans for the second half of 2021! Stay tuned for exact dates and more information on these events.

Women
of
ZION

June/July	Trail Walk/Labyrinth/Lunch event
August	Christmas Ornament Class
September/October	Watercolor Painting Event
November	Thanksgiving Dinner
December	Christmas Cookie Exchange



Women of the ELCA

The New Jersey Women of the ELCA is excited and extremely happy to be able to host two dates for a book discussion (on Zoom or by phone) with author Rena Trefman Cobrinik. Rena will be discussing her book, A Different Mother, at this free event!

“A Different Mother reflects Rena Trefman Cobrinik’s life in an immigrant family. As a little girl, growing up in the Bronx during the Great Depression and World War II, she did not recognize the desperation or poverty. She leaned back in the comfort of Yiddish spoken at home. Struggle was a positive energy. Outsmarting life was the bottom line to many family stories but, as she grew older, as an adult responsible for her mother’s end-of-life needs, she would learn that the most amazing parts of the stories had been left out. In A Different Mother, she traces them to very personal and surprising revelations.”

To find the book, please visit your local library, or check with a reading group community like GoodReads. The book is also available on Amazon. Kindle: \$4.99, Kindle Unlimited \$0.00, Paperback \$18.95.

A DIFFERENT MOTHER



rena trefman cobrinik

Book Discussion Dates

Tuesday, June 15th @ 2 pm
Thursday, June 17th @ 7 pm

Join us by ZOOM or phone!

Please send an email to njwelca@yahoo.com or call Joanne at 201-388-0181 to receive the Zoom link or dial-in phone number.

SEERSUCKER SUNDAY, ENDOWMENT SUNDAY, and ERNEST STELLKE ... A STORY

What is Seersucker Sunday? It certainly is not in the liturgical calendar. Seersucker Sunday belongs to Zion. And here is the story ...

It was well over 25 years ago that the dream of renovating and adding on to the Christian Education Building (CEB) was becoming a reality. The stumbling block was how to finance this \$1,000,000+ project. The church had owned the property that is now home to Melick's Town Farm south of Oldwick and when the decision was made to sell the property that was considered to be Zion's nest egg, a disgruntled Ernest Stellke (you could call him Ernie, but he insisted on writing Ernest) went beyond complaining. He acted.

Thanks to a \$50,000 gift from Ernie (sorry, Ernest!) Zion's Endowment Fund was created. Over the years, the Endowment Fund has grown to \$874,000 and over \$200,000 has been dispersed to ministries both inside and outside Zion's walls.

Ernie was a character. He never married, he took care of his elderly mother, he was quick with a sharp tongue, he traveled the world. He also wore his seersucker suit with no socks every summer. We lost Ernie after a battle with ALS in 2012, right before Superstorm Sandy struck. Post-Sandy there was a sermon about the mighty oaks that had fallen, including the giant oak in front of the parsonage, and Ernie.

That next summer we knew we would miss that seersucker suit and Seersucker Sunday was born — a day we all try to wear seersucker. We remember Ernie and his generosity in establishing the Endowment Fund. Father's Day, June 20th, is our next Endowment Sunday. And it's Seersucker Sunday. It's a time you can honor someone in your life with a gift to the Endowment Fund. And we thank Ernie for his foresight and his generosity.

****If you would like to add some seersucker to your wardrobe before June 20th, seersucker clothing is available at Lands' End, L.L. Bean, and The Vermont Country Store.*

Sunday, June 20th — Seersucker Sunday - Wear your seersucker! Endowment Sunday - Honor a loved one!



Faith Kitchen Update *by Debra Kaufman*



Members of the First Communion Class assembled and filled the bags (thank you!) and the sandwich crew went to work. They made the best salsa - chopping onions, tomatoes and squeezing lime juice. Combined with cheese shredded by Audrey (yes, I know it comes shredded in a bag, but it's cheaper in a block!), black beans, rotisserie chicken and some chipotle mayo - wow - what great wraps for Faith Kitchen this month! Thank you to the volunteers (Barb & Steve, Sandy, Chris, John & Wendy, Linda, and John & Audrey) and to all of Zion who support this ministry through your giving. Our next opportunity to serve Faith Kitchen is June 3rd at 8:45AM at the CEB – join us!



Endowment Sunday — June 20th

The Endowment Committee will be having our second Endowment Sunday for 2021 on Father's Day June 20th! The final Endowment Sunday for 2021 will be All Saints Sunday, November 7th.

There is \$22,000 remaining from the Endowment Fund earnings available for new ministry opportunities in 2021. The Church Council is open to suggestions on ways to use the funds to support our ministries.

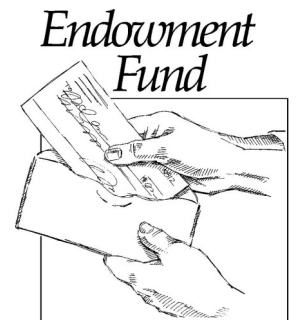
In the past, Endowment monies have been used to support local ministries such as:

- Faith Kitchen
- Crossroads Camp and Retreat Center
- God's Work Our Hands
- Feed My Starving Children
- Good News Home for Women
- St. James Social Service Corporation
- Shop Rite gift cards for families of Hunterdon County
- Binnacle House for support of Hunterdon County youth

Please consider giving to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund on June 20th as a tribute to all fathers or to commemorate and 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 many new mission-oriented programs ... forever.

Envelopes marked "Endowment Fund" will be placed in all the pews. If you are still worshipping virtually, please consider mailing a check marked "Endowment" to the church office.

Please contact any member of the Endowment Committee (Mike Donnelly, Ted Jermansen and Rick Schroeder) if you have any questions.



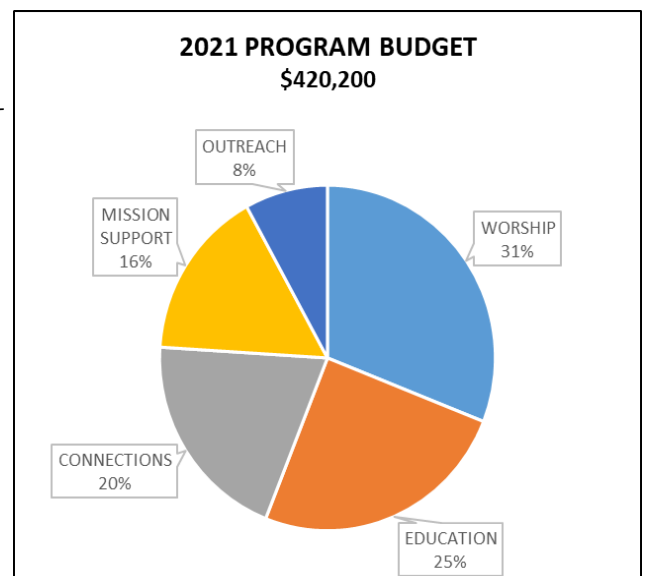
Stewardship Corner

Because of your Generosity...

➡ Zion has purchased software to keep us connected electronically. Email notices of worship, prayer concerns and activities are sent to members. You can now sign up online and get reminders.

➡ Seven 4th and 5th graders received their First Communion on May 21. Classes were led by Pastor Kat and Rhonda Rossi.

➡ Each month, 11% of your offering is shared with the NJ Synod of the ELCA. You are involved in the work of mission in five new churches: Santa Isabel (Latino) and Santa Isabel Ministry to Immigrants in Detention (Prison Ministry) in Elizabeth, Misión Pan de Vida (Latino) in Passaic, Morning Star (Korean) in Ridgely, and Waterfront partnering with Christ Our Saviour in Jersey City.



THANK YOU!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YTD 2021

GENERAL FUND	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
January	\$25,231.84	-\$21,764.39	\$3,467.45
February	\$26,011.61	-\$24,121.36	\$1,890.25
March	\$30,767.25	-\$35,025.96	-\$4,258.71
April	\$39,973.28	-\$29,769.52	\$10,203.76
December			\$0.00
Year To Date Total	\$121,983.98	-\$110,681.23	\$11,302.75



TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$73,406.92	5/3/2021 Bank Statement
Money Market Plus	\$232,986.70	4/30/2021 Bank Statement
Cash On Hand	\$306,393.62	
Directed Funds	\$201,759.53	4/30/2021
Operating Funds	\$104,634.09	4/30/2021
Cash On Hand	\$306,393.62	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$511,911.53	(3/31/21)
THRIVENT	\$362,029.12	(3/31/21)
TOTAL	\$873,940.65	

ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH		
Available Funds for 2021	\$23,500.00	
ELCA Compensation Aid Fund	-\$1,500.00	2/28/2021
2021 Endowment Funds Remaining	\$22,000.00	



Give to Zion from your phone! Scan the QR code to be directed to Tithely's electronic giving site.

A Little Giggle from Shepherding ...

How does Moses make his coffee? Hebrews it.

