



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace...

July 2021

A Message from Pastor Kat

This month, we continue to walk with the disciples alongside Jesus as he spreads the good news of the kingdom through teaching and acts of healing and mercy. As Jesus' popularity grows, people begin to wonder just who this miraculous man might be. Everyone has a theory to offer:

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us? –Mark 6:3

Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead..." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." –Mark 6:14-15

As I read these verses, I am reminded of the song, "Who are You?" performed by the English rock band, The Who. The song's chorus relentlessly asks the question, "Who are you? Who? Who? Who? Who?" I can imagine the crowds, the bystanders, the scribes and Pharisees, the religious and political leaders all singing together this chorus as they watch Jesus teach, heal, and work miracles – "Who are you?"

Still, there are others who can't be bothered with the details of Jesus' origins or source of power. They recognize that Jesus has wisdom, healing, and nourishment to share. For these people, the work of Jesus tells them who he is – a person who embodies God's new life and salvation.

Tell Me, Who are You?

How do you identify when someone asks who you are? Do you offer a name, tell them your position at your work, describe to whom you're related? Who are you?

As Christians, we identify as children of God, but perhaps the words we use are less important than the things that we do. How would the people in your life know that you are a follower of Christ? Would they see it in the wisdom, healing, and nourishment that you share with others? Would they recognize it in your pursuit of forgiveness, justice, and peace?

May we always remember that through Jesus we are plugged into God's new life and salvation and that as followers of Jesus we are called to exhibit that new life and salvation to the people in our life – not just in what we say or do but in who we are.

In Christ,
Pastor Kat



An Important Challenge from New Jersey Synod Bishop Tracie Bartholomew

In response to the 2021-2022 NJ Bishop's Challenge, the Council voted on June 17th to give \$2,000 in support of the lives of emerging leaders of African descent in the ELCA. Zion's response to the Bishop's Challenge will include much more than a monetary gift. Please see pages 6 and 7 to learn more about the Synod's efforts to promote awareness, acceptance, and action as we participate in year-long conversations about race, and visit www.njsynod.org/bishopschallenge to view a video a message from the bishop.

Congregation Council Highlights



The Council met via Zoom conference call on May 20th and June 17th. Below are the highlights of both meetings.

- Pastor Kat's contract has been extended through the end of October, providing a new pastor has not been found before then.
- Rick Schroeder reported that Zion is on track to meet our projected giving for 2021. Please see the Treasurer's Report on page 9.
- Masks are no longer required at Sunday worship services for those who have been fully vaccinated. Front pews have been reserved on the right side of the sanctuary for members who wish to be seated at a distance from others.
- The Christian Education & Youth committee has decided to hold Vacation Bible School inside in the air-conditioned CEB, now that many COVID restrictions have been lifted. When indoors, all children and adults will be wearing masks to ensure the safety of all.
- Pastor Kat has begun bringing communion to our elderly/homebound members, who have been eager to meet her.
- In response to the 2021-2022 NJ Bishop's Challenge, the Council voted to give \$2,000 to support the lives of emerging leaders of African descent in the ELCA. Our response to the Bishop's Challenge will include much more than a monetary gift. Please see pages 6 and 7 to learn more about the Synod's efforts to promote awareness, acceptance, and action as we participate in year-long conversations about race, and visit www.njsynod.org/bishopschallenge to hear a message from Bishop Tracie Bartholomew.
- The Council has approved a proposal from the Property committee for exterior repairs and painting of the church building, to begin in July. The project is being funded by the bequest to Zion from the estate of Betty Von Culin.
- An updated Youth Ministry Policies and Procedures Manual has been presented to the Council for their review. Many thanks to Judy Formalarie, Melanie Hodges, Sandy Matsen, and Rhonda Rossi for their work on creating this important document.
- Rhonda Rossi has begun reaching out to families of current 7th-11th graders to determine interest in attending the 2022 National Youth Gathering. The Council agreed to increase the 2022 Youth Ministry budget to assist with covering a portion of the cost of youth and chaperones attending the Gathering.
- General Memorial funds will be used to purchase a new glass baptismal pitcher.
- A gift of \$1,000 from Endowment Fund earnings was made to Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center in response to a challenge offered by the camp. During the month of May, all donations made to the camp were augmented by \$200 thanks to a gift from the Zion Lutheran Church of Garfield.
- The 5K Fun Run/Walk to benefit The Good News Home for Women will again be held in September.
- The Parish Life committee is planning a trip to a Somerset Patriots game in July or August. Please see the article on page 3 for more information.
- Letters were sent to active-duty military members in conjunction with Memorial Day.
- Rhonda Rossi's summer hours have been temporarily reduced to 10 hours/week due to family commitments. She will return to 25 hours/week in September.
- Thank you to:
 - * Judy Formalarie for leading worship on May 23rd and 30th.

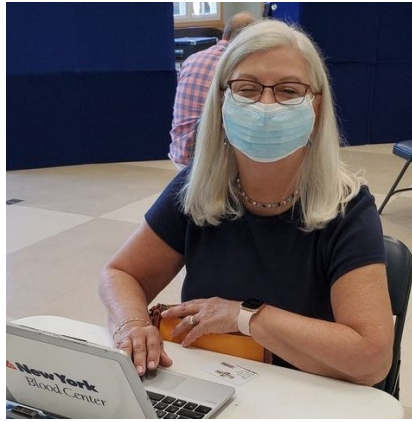
The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, July 15th. Meetings are open for all to attend. If you would like to attend an upcoming meeting, please let the Parish Office know and we will send you the Zoom link.

Update from the Social Ministry Committee

101 pounds of food were delivered to the Flemington Area Food Pantry in June. As Chris from the Food Pantry shared - Zion is a generous congregation. Indeed, we are! As always, food donations are still needed. In addition, Chris has asked that we collect magazines for the pantry's home-bound clients. Do you have old Reader's Digest, car magazines, life magazines, etc., ... something that would connect the mostly older clients to their past. Challenge on, Zion! Let's share God's grace with the homebound clients at Flemington Food Pantry.

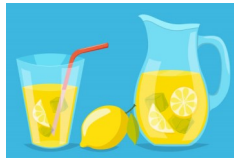


Thank you to all who donated blood at the June 15th blood drive, and to Debra Kaufman, Helen Livingston, and Angela Sztuk for hosting/coordinating. 27 pints of blood were collected!



Summer Social Hour

Zion's weekly fellowship time takes place on the front lawn of the church, immediately following Sunday's 9:30 a.m. worship service. If you would like to volunteer to bring food and/or drinks on one of the Sundays in July or August please sign up using the link that was emailed from the Parish Office.



SAVE THE DATE — Zion's Anniversary

The congregation will celebrate our 307th anniversary on Sunday, August 1st. We are pleased to welcome former Zion Pastor Mark Summer as our guest. Please plan to join us for worship on this special day!



News from the Parish Life Committee



Gathering restrictions have been lifted and the Somerset Patriots are again allowing group ticket sales! Please visit www.milb.com/somerset/tickets/groups for

more information, and let us know if you are interested and would like us to pursue group tickets for any of the home games (dates are also at the link). Contact Shellie Evers at shellie.eversafe@gmail.com.

Construction Notice

Painting and carpentry repairs will be made to the exterior to the church over the summer but should not disrupt any of the services or planned activities.





Vacation Bible School

**Monday, June 28th – Friday, July 2nd
9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**



We are looking forward to VBS! Due to COVID restrictions being updated in New Jersey, we have decided we do not need to hold VBS outside, as previously planned, and will be moving indoors. All participants and volunteers will be masked.

It's not too late to join us! Please go to www.zionoldwick.com/connect and look for the registration tab under the VBS icon.



Flat Jesus is Coming!

Jesus is always present in our everyday lives. Why not share his presence in our lives with others in our congregation?

Who is Flat Jesus? The original “flat” character was Flat Stanley, star of a book by Jeff Brown in which a boy has remarkable adventures after waking one day to discover he is flattened to half-an-inch thick. This was the beginning of the Flat Stanley project in schools to help children with literacy and geography, and from this grew the Flat Jesus Project.

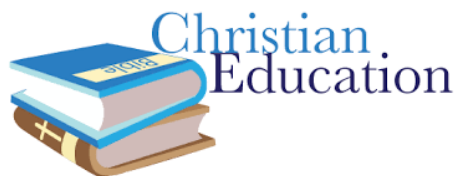
Flat Jesus reminds us to keep Christ at the center of our lives even, or especially, when we are far from our church home. As the country continues to re-open from the Covid shut down, take Flat Jesus with you everywhere you go! Take Flat Jesus out to dinner, the park, the beach, to visit family, or even on vacation! Wherever you go, take Flat Jesus with you and snap pictures of his adventures.

Don't forget Jesus is present with us at home too. You could even snap pictures of Flat Jesus at mealtime, bedtime or just hanging out and watching TV!

The Flat Jesus project is for everyone – not just children and their families. Flat Jesus, with instructions, will be mailed to the congregation and should arrive to your home by the first week of July. Enjoy the summer with Flat Jesus and don't forget to take pictures of your adventures with him! You can send your pictures to youth@zionoldwick.com anytime! Not tech savvy? No worries, feel free to drop off printed pictures at the church office.

We hope to post pictures in the newsletters throughout the summer, then we will put a display together of Flat Jesus' summer adventures in the CEB. These will be ready to view when we gather in September.

This will be an amazing adventure! It is a great way to remember that Jesus is always with us, wherever we go, and with whatever we do. And it just might start up a conversation with someone about what you are doing ... and why!



Christian Education and Youth Committee Update

The Christian Education and Youth Committee have been hard at work! After the restructure where the Christian Education committee and Youth committee were merged, the new committee participated in team-building exercises led by Rhonda Rossi. The results from the team-building produced a team covenant, a mission statement, and a vision statement. In addition, several members worked on updating the safety policies and procedures for Zion's Youth Ministry. The policies were presented to Council on Thursday, June 17th for them to review and approve. Thank you to Judy Formalarie, Melanie Hodges, Sandy Matsen and Rhonda Rossi for working on the policies.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Christian Education and Youth Committee; to teach God's Word and love for us, to help children, youth and adults grow in faith and prepare them to serve Christ, and to share God's love with the larger community through outreach and evangelism.

Vision Statement

Create a safe, judgment-free zone for children, youth, and adults to build relationships in a Christian community that will help them navigate the tensions and challenges of life.

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 contact Rhonda Rossi at youth@zionoldwick.com.



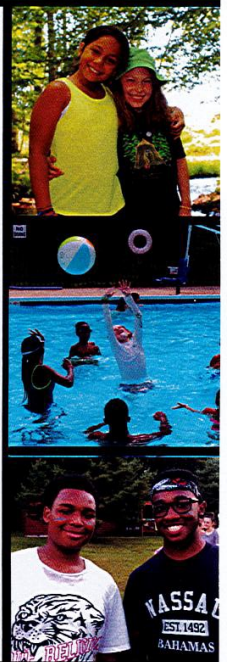
It's not too late to register for summer camp! Please contact Rhonda Rossi at youth@zionoldwick.com with any questions.

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.



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

The Jehu Jones Mission

The NJ Synod Bishop's Challenge 2021-22



Faith responds to our National Moment...

During the summer of 2020, protests erupted around the world calling for racial justice.

Where does the church stand amid all the rancor? How does our faith in the reconciling love of Jesus Christ inspire us in our baptismal promise to “strive for justice and peace in all the earth?” (ELW, 237) In the 2021-22 New Jersey Synod Bishop's Challenge, Bishop Tracie Bartholomew invites NJ Lutheran congregations to educate ourselves

on the issues, accept our responsibility to respond in faith, and work to address racial inequity and injustice in our world.

The Jehu Jones Story:

The Rev. Jehu Jones was ordained in 1832 as the first Black Lutheran Pastor in the US. He purchased two plots in Philadelphia—at \$375 each—for a building for his growing

Examples of Uncompensated Loss

1839

Unable to raise support among leaders of the Pennsylvania Lutheran Synod, the Rev. Jehu Jones loses the mortgage on his Black congregation's building

1890's-

Rise of Jim Crow laws to disenfranchise and remove economic gains made by Blacks during Reconstruction

1921

Tulsa, OK riots wipe out vibrant Black area of city, a major setback for Tulsa's Black population.

1944-1956

The GI Bill failed to compensate Black veterans of WWII the same as Whites.

1950 - today

Redlining used by lenders to restrict Black ownership in certain areas of American cities

AWARENESS

learn about the history of uncompensated loss in Black American history

ACCEPTANCE

recognize this legacy as responsible for ongoing disparities and injustice today

ACTION

Accept the Challenge to raise \$375 for a fund to support African American emerging leaders

Black congregation. Jones lost the mortgage after his Synod refused to rescue the project. Even after calling him to ministry and commending him for his service, the Synod refused to support him. **Will you help your congregation to buy back a plot for Pastor Jones' church, at \$375 a plot?**

In the Bishop's Challenge Plan,

we as a synod are being challenged to...

- have conversations about race, (specifically the African American experience) in our congregations and become more aware of our history;
- commit to following the Bishop's Challenge schedule of synod-wide events over the next year;
- help raise \$50,000 to support the lives of emerging leaders of African descent in our church today;
- consider confession and lamentation for the uncompensated loss that underpins the African American experience in the US;
- help to create a better future for all by being a part of Christ's Beloved Community.

For a donation of \$375 or more, each congregation will receive a quilt square, which represents a congregation's commitment to growing in awareness and moving toward action in Christian love. Congregations will send in their quilt squares to be combined in a



Photo of the cornerstone of the original building built by Jones for his congregation. The building is currently the Mask and Wig Club of Philadelphia. Image at SEPenn Synod's "ministrylink.org".

large quilt and presented to the Bishop at the 2022 Synod Assembly. The quilt will then hang in the Synod office. All funds raised will support educational opportunities for emerging leaders of African descent, including (but not limited to) internships, camp, and international travel and will be administered through the NJ Synod.

Quilt squares will be assembled into one large quilt, symbolizing our faith response and witness as Christ's church in our time.

HERE'S HOW TO GET STARTED...

Go to the NJ Synod website, njsynod.org, to find out more about the history behind this legacy, to see the schedule of events over the next year, and find information about decorating and sending in your congregation's donation and quilt square.



New Jersey Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Women of Zion Labyrinth Walk & Lunch

When: Thursday, July 7th at 10:30 am

Where: St. John Neumann Church
398 County Road 513, Califon

After experiencing the labyrinth, we will enjoy lunch at Max's Italian Eatery in Califon.

WATCH FOR THE SIGN-UP GENIUS – we can help with rides!

Women
of
ZION



Vaccines for Homebound Residents

Is someone you love homebound and in need of the COVID vaccine?

The NJ Department of Health now has a process for scheduling at-home COVID vaccinations for individuals who are homebound. To set up an at-home appointment, please call 855-568-0545 (8AM - 8PM, 7 days a week).

Faith Kitchen Update *by Debra Kaufman*

On June 3rd, we had another successful morning of packing brown bag lunches for Faith Kitchen! Thank you to the volunteers –John & Wendy Minerowicz, Sonja Fesenmaier, John Ruland, John McAleer, and Stacey & Todd Rothermel. I had to work hard to keep up with this energetic bunch and forgot to take a picture. Just have to trust me - one good looking group of folks! Hearty turkey, cheese, lettuce, and tomato sandwiches were prepared.



On July 1st, **brown bag lunches will be assembled at Debra Kaufman's house** at 56 Big Spring Road in Tewksbury, due to Vacation Bible School taking place in the Great Room. Please contact Debra at 703-402-2158 to RSVP.

God's blessings on Freyja Hyunmi Shin on the occasion of her baptism. Welcome to God's family! Parents: Steve and Tiffany Shin. Sponsors: Amy Noelle Corbet-Elsbree and Brooks Kirsch.



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
May	\$32,397.55	-\$26,551.59	\$5,845.96
Year To Date Total	\$154,381.53	-\$137,232.82	\$17,148.71



TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE
Checking Account	\$68,089.98
Money Market Plus	\$233,016.83
Cash On Hand	\$301,106.81

6/3/2021 Bank Statement

5/31/2021 Bank Statement

Directed Funds	\$195,862.83
Operating Funds	\$105,243.98
Cash On Hand	\$301,106.81

5/31/2021

5/31/2021

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE
CFNJ	\$534,804.87
THRIVENT	\$362,029.12
TOTAL	\$896,833.99

(4/30/21)

(3/31/21)



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

ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH

Available Funds for 2021	\$23,500.00
ELCA Compensation Aid Fund	-\$1,500.00
Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center	-\$1,000.00
2021 Endowment Funds Remaining	\$21,000.00

2/28/2021

5/27/2021

A Little Giggle from Shepherding ...

