



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

August 2021

A Message from Pastor Kat

Welcome to Bread of Life month! For the next five weeks, we will hear stories from scripture during worship that illuminate how God provides for God's people with nourishment and abundance. Our gospel texts will come mostly from John 6 in which Jesus has a conversation with his followers about what it means for him to say, "I am the bread of life."

How appropriate to meditate on the sustenance we receive from God as we enjoy the fresh fruits and vegetables ripening for harvest in this final summer month. I pray that this summer has been a time in which you have been nourished – not only with good food but with time spent relaxing and visiting with loved ones as well as drawing closer to God.

Maybe you were able to join us on Facebook or Zoom as we contemplated building up our faith with guidance from Paul's letters in our "Let's Talk!" series. Maybe you were reminded of God's presence as you went about your daily activities and took pictures with "Flat Jesus." Perhaps, you or your child experienced how God treasures you in our Vacation Bible School program. God is always at work through the Spirit, feeding us with food that strengthens our spiritual life together.

As we meditate on how God provides for us, I invite you to consider the following three questions:

How is God at work nourishing me and my family?

What practices do I engage in to make sure that I am receiving the nourishment I need?

How can I and my church family reach out to others who are in need of nourishment?

As you enjoy these final weeks of summer, I pray that this is a time of being replenished as you prepare for the busier pace of the fall.

In Christ,
Pastor Kat

WORSHIP
SCHEDULE



Please see page 3 for an important update regarding our fall worship schedule.

Congregation Council Highlights

The Council met via Zoom conference call on July 22nd. Below are the highlights of that meeting.



- Pastor Kat reported on several pastoral care connections she made in the last month.
- Vacation Bible School went very well. Please see page 4 for a recap. Special thanks to Melanie Hodges for her leadership.
- The new Youth Ministry Policies and Procedures document was approved by the Council.
- Work has begun at the church, to include gutter/roof repair and exterior painting.
- The Parish Life committee has purchased 30 tickets for the September 10th Somerset Patriots game. See page 7 for more details.
- God's Work Our Hands will take place on Sunday, September 12th. There will be a 5K Fun Run/Walk to support the Good News Home for Women. See page 6 for more information.
- Sunday School Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 12th. Please see page 6 for details.
- The Council discussed the results of the Worship Survey. The decision was made to return to 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship beginning September 19th. Sunday School will meet at 9:45 a.m.
- Thank you to:
 - * Judy Formalarie for providing spiritual care to the Horvath family.
 - * Bill Kover for taking pictures of our new members.
 - * Melanie Hodges and Rhonda Rossi for engaging the congregation in the Flat Jesus Project.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, August 19th. 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.

God's work.
Our hands.



Save the date
September 12

God's Work Our Hands
Sunday School Rally Day
Sunday, September 12th

Please see page 6 for details about this important day.

Welcome to Zion's New Members

On July 11th, Zion welcomed four new members to our congregation. Pictured from left to right, they are Dan Metz, Donna Reilly, Brian Reilly, and Joe Iannacone, all of whom live in Tewksbury Township. Please join us in welcoming these new friends to our family!



Fall Worship Schedule — An Update from the Worship & Music Committee



THANK YOU to everyone who responded to the worship survey in the last month. We had responses from 62 people and comments from many of you. Your feedback was much appreciated!

The Final Decision

The Congregational Council met on Thursday, July 22 and discussed the many pros and cons of one worship service versus two worship services. The final decision was to return to our PRE-COVID schedule of two worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 am.

Why Two Services?

The reasoning behind this decision was twofold. Our Christian Education and Youth committee felt the schedule for Sunday School is best if it remains at 9:45 - 10:45, and, as a congregation, we have decided that engaging children, youth, and families are a priority in our mission. The other consideration was that, after months of continual schedule changes, it would be a comfort to return to what is familiar to the congregation.

Sunday Morning Schedule (beginning September 19th)

Worship Services at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM
Christian Education & Sunday School from 9:45-10:45 AM

Second Sunday Single Service Continues!

Second Sunday Single Service will return on October 10th at 10:00 am. This will be an opportunity to worship together as a congregation and to encourage our children and youth to participate in leading worship.

Worship Volunteers Are Needed!

We are desperately in need of people willing to serve as worship assistants, ushers, greeters, and altar guild (setting up communion). If you are able to help in any of these areas, please contact the office.

Orientation Days on August 15th and 22nd following worship

We will be having Orientation Days on August 15th and 22nd for those who would like to help but need some instruction to feel properly equipped.

Cross Roads Fall Women's Retreat

Friday, Sept. 24 at 4:00 PM through Saturday, Sept 26. At 11:00 AM

The cost is \$195 for the weekend. \$50 deposit with registration or you can pay the full amount. Cost includes meals, double occupancy room and retreat programming. Please visit the Cross Roads website (www.crossroadsretreat.com) for more information.

If you would like to attend but can't get away, there is also a VIRTUAL RETREAT being held Friday Sept. 24th from 9-3pm for \$35.



Youth and Family Ministry at Zion

Everyone had a great time at Vacation Bible School! Our campers, volunteers and staff members had a rewarding and incredibly fun week reconnecting in person.

This year Zion used the **Treasured - You're Priceless to God** program during the week of June 28th - July 2nd. At **Treasured VBS**, the children discovered that God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems or gold - it's them. Each day consisted of a gathering time in our Great Room with Pastor Kat and Tiffany Shin to learn new songs, hear stories, and share the enthusiasm of the week's events. After the opening, the children took advantage of a number of activities: imagination station, bible adventures, recreation, crafts, snacks and lots of music. We ended each day back together in the Great Room for songs and prayer. On our last day - siblings, relatives and friends joined us to experience the fun we had through music, stories and of course, new friends. Immediately following the program, everyone enjoyed a light lunch.



This year's VBS group is pictured below. Many thanks to our adult and youth volunteers - we couldn't do it without you!



Watch for Family Summer Activities to Arrive Soon!

Greeting from Rhonda Rossi! Summer is a great time to enjoy as a family and I hope you have been enjoying yours. Two family summer activities will arrive in the mail the last week of July. Both activities center around God's beautiful creation. Enclosed will be a constellation activity that will allow you time to pause and relax at the end of a summer day to view the amazement of the night sky, and a paper chain activity will send you on daily or weekly adventures to intentionally enjoy God's creations.

I would love to hear how you are enjoying these activities! There are many ways to share: Send pictures to youth@zionoldwick.com, write a brief blurb for the September newsletter telling us about your family experience observing God's creation, or feel free to drop off your paper chains and constellation activities to share with Zion's congregation. We can display your constellation and paper chain projects in the CEB for everyone to see!

Sunday School Rally Day — September 12th

Please see page 6 for all the information about Sunday School Rally Day to take place following 9:30 a.m. worship on September 12th!



2022 ELCA Youth Gathering

Sunday, July 24th – Thursday, July 28th, 2022

ALL Students going into 8th – 12th grades are invited and encouraged to attend the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering! We will be partnering with Living Waters in Flemington for our trip to the Gathering. Please contact Rhonda Rossi at youth@zionoldwick.com for more information.



Do you enjoy being around kids and youth? Would you like to learn and be a part of Zion's upcoming Sunday School and youth programs? Please watch your email for details and for the Sign-up Genius to attend a casual, fellowship potluck dinner in August. Contact Rhonda Rossi at youth@zionoldwick.com with any questions you may have.

The Many Adventures of Flat Jesus!

Flat Jesus is everywhere! Take a look at some of what he's been up to, and watch for many more pictures to come!



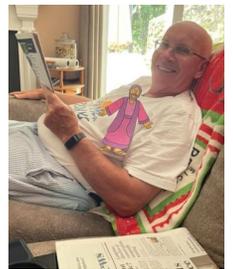
Doing laundry



Grocery shopping



Walking with Prayer Partners



Hanging out at home



In the Adirondacks



On vacation in Maine



Acadia National Park



At the office



At the beach



At the July 4th parade



Visiting Peggy
Visiting Henrietta



At Vacation Bible School



Gardening



At the Peach Festival



Visiting the firehouse



Worshipping from home

We love seeing Flat Jesus' adventures! Please continue to take him with you wherever you go and snap pictures of his travels. You can send your pictures to youth@zionoldwick.com any time! Not tech savvy? No worries, feel free to drop off printed pictures at the Parish Office.

God's Work Our Hands and Sunday School Rally Day

Sunday, September 12th

Please plan on participating in this special day at Zion! Worship with us outdoors at 9:30 a.m., and then join us for Sunday School Rally Day and the 5K Fun Run/Walk to support the Good News Home for Women!

A few details about the day:

WORSHIP — We will be worshipping outdoors at the CEB at 9:30 a.m. (don't forget to wear your sneakers!). The ladies from the Good News Home will be with us and their Bell Choir will be part of our worship service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF — At 10:30 a.m., we will kick-off the 2021-2022 Sunday School year with a brief update for youth and parents, and the youth will have the opportunity to meet their Sunday School teachers.

5K FUN RUN/WALK — Check-in begins at 10:30 a.m. to enjoy the 5K Fun Run/Walk through the neighborhoods of Oldwick. The Run/Walk begins at 11:00 a.m.

DONATIONS will be appreciated to support the GOOD NEWS HOME

REFRESHMENTS – Morning coffee and donuts before the 5K, and the ice cream truck and hot dogs upon return to the CEB!

MUSIC – Live music provided by Rod Briscoe, Danny Metz, and Margot Forster (*you don't want to miss their playlist!*)



| | |
|---|---|
| <p>God's work. Our hands.</p> |  |
|  | <p>Save the date September 12</p> |



News from the Social Ministry Committee



Blood Drive — September 9th

The Social Ministry committee will host a blood drive at the Christian Education Building on Thursday, September 9th.

Please mark your calendar and watch your email for the link to sign up to donate blood.



Women of Zion Update

Prayer Labyrinth Walk & Lunch

The women of Zion accepted Pastor Kat's Let's Talk challenge to embrace a new spiritual practice. We ventured to St. John Neumann's prayer labyrinth for a morning of meditation, prayer and connection. A beautiful setting in Califon that is open to the public. Flat Jesus and his friends came along! Our lunch at Galasso's in Lebanon was a delicious meal spent in the company of wonderful Christian friends.

Women
of
ZION



Betty Lanka to host our next event in August!

ALL are welcome to join Betty for an afternoon of making a Chrismon (Christmas in August!). This is a beautiful craft that will yield a wonderful ornament for your Christmas tree. Please watch your email for the date and time!



Anniversary Sunday — August 1st

Please join us on Sunday, August 1 to celebrate Zion's 307th anniversary as a congregation. Former Pastor Mark Summer will be joining us as our special guest at that day's service. We look forward to seeing everyone gathered together for worship, followed by a special reception.

Lunch Bunch is back!

Lunch Bunch is back after a long hiatus. Please join Pastor Kat at the Long Valley Brew Pub on Thursday, September 9th at 12 p.m. RSVP to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, September 7th.

Going forward, we will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month. Please join us!



Play Ball!

The Parish Life committee has purchased 30 tickets in section 117 for the September 10th game -- and there will be fireworks afterwards! If you have already let us know you're coming -- awesome! Just send in \$15 per ticket prior to game time (or bring it to the game). If you haven't replied but would like to attend, there's still time! Not all of the 30 tickets are spoken for, so if you are able to join us please contact Shellie Evers at 804-678-8993.

Let's Talk LIVE!

Join Pastor Kat on Zoom for our final installment of our summer 2021 Let's Talk series. This month's theme is Replenishing Our Faith, and the live Zoom discussion will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18th. Please watch your email for more details!



Stewardship Corner



Mid-Year Review

Our Stewardship theme this year is Community. Let us be mindful of the opportunities within our Zion family to reconnect with each other. One way we have seen our members engage is in the giving response. Through February, 67 families had contributed to our General Fund. Things took an upward turn when in-person worship resumed on Palm Sunday, March 28th. Through June, the number of families contributing has grown to 95.

General Fund Giving

At mid-year, expected giving from the 51 pledging families would be projected to be \$134,500. Actual giving is 35% higher than this at \$182,100. 21 families have given above their expected level including 12 families who have met their total pledge for the year. We are indeed blessed, and we thank all these families.

We expected income from non-pledging families and special services to be \$52,100 at this point in the year. Actual giving from 45 families is \$43,800 or 84% of the projection. This brings total support of our Operating Expenses to \$225,900 or 21% ahead of the projection.

Total Ministries

In addition to supporting our budget plan, our members have contributed to additional opportunities to support ministries outside our walls. Here is a snapshot of where we are in responding to our call to do God’s work.

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | \$225,900 |
| Endowment/Endowment Outreach | \$ 29,500 |
| Other | <u>\$ 14,900</u> |
| TOTAL | \$270,300 |

A partial list of areas supported by the “Other” category includes Family Promise, Feed My Starving Children, Crossroads Camp Scholarships (i.e. Tag Sale proceeds), Memorials, and Flowers.

God’s Work in Our Community

Thank you for your support of Zion’s ministries. Please continue your Stewardship efforts by giving of your time and your talents, as well as offering financial support. God has provided abundantly to us. Let us show that we are thankful in our response.

Stewardship Committee

Dear Family of Zion,

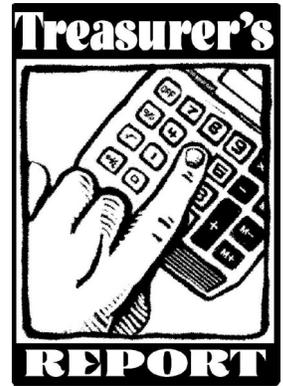
Thank you so much for all the calls, emails, texts, cards, and offers of meals we have had on the death of our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Lysod Kunkel. We have all felt so supported and loved by our church family and want you to know how much we appreciate each and every one of you. It is a blessing to be a part of such a caring community.

The Kunkel, Wintemute, Brokaw, and Costello Families



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 |
| June | \$27,953.28 | -\$22,500.80 | \$5,452.48 |
| Year To Date Total | \$182,334.81 | -\$159,733.62 | \$22,601.19 |



| TD BANK FUNDS | BALANCE | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Checking Account | \$52,176.85 | 7/3/2021 Bank Statement |
| Money Market Plus | \$253,027.17 | 6/30/2021 Bank Statement |
| Cash On Hand | \$305,204.02 | |
| Directed Funds | \$185,480.08 | 6/30/2021 |
| Operating Funds | \$119,723.94 | 6/30/2021 |
| Cash On Hand | \$305,204.02 | |

| ENDOWMENT FUNDS | BALANCE | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| CFNJ | \$540,619.50 | (5/31/21) |
| THRIVENT | \$379,206.09 | (6/30/21) |
| TOTAL | \$919,825.59 | |

ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH

| | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Available Funds for 2021 | \$23,500.00 | |
| ELCA Compensation Aid Fund | -\$1,500.00 | 2/28/2021 |
| Cross Roads Camp and Retreat - May 2021 Challenge | -\$1,000.00 | 5/27/2021 |
| NJ Synod-Contribution to Jehu Jones Bishop's Challenge | -\$2,000.00 | 6/30/2021 |

2021 Endowment Funds Remaining \$19,000.00



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

A Little Giggle from Shepherding ...

A burglar breaks into a house. He starts shining his light around looking for valuables. Some nice things catch his eye, and as he reaches for them, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." Startled, the burglar looks for the speaker. Seeing no one, he keeps putting things in his bag, again, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." This time, he sees a parrot. "Who are you?" the burglar asks. "Moses," the bird replied. "Who the heck would name a bird Moses?" the man laughed. "I dunno," Moses answered, "I guess the same kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus."

