



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

October 2021

A Message from Pastor Kat

Drumroll Please!

This month, we are building up to **Reformation Day on Sunday, October 31st**, a day of remembering our past heritage as well as looking forward to our future possibilities as a church. On this day, we will also celebrate the confirmation of six of our young people at the 8:30 AM worship service and then honor them between worship services at 9:45 AM at our Christian Education Building on Miller Avenue with a special Reformation Celebration. There will be cake, games, and fun for faithful people of all ages!

Curtain Call

As we build up to this special day, we will ponder together in worship the meaning of community and how it relates to our stewardship of all that God has given to us. Our stewardship team will help us to explore this theme with a series of humorous and enlightening skits, starring Rick Schroeder, Todd Rothermel, Sandy Matsen, and John Rustwick. Don't miss out on the fun!

Gather Round

Appropriately, as we kick off this series celebrating community, the call committee and congregation council invite you, the congregation, to make your voice heard on **Sunday, October 10th, when you will be asked to consider a candidate for call**. I am humbled and honored that this candidate is me. It has been such a pleasure to serve alongside you and to get to know you as individuals and a community. May God bless this day as you make this important decision about Zion's future ministry!

In Christ,
Pastor Kat

Special Meeting of the Congregation — October 10th

The Call Committee and Congregation Council are thrilled to announce that we wish to extend a congregation call to The Reverend Katherine I. Steinly to serve as our next Pastor. Although Pastor Kat has been ministering to us at Zion on a part-time basis since November 2020, she still went through the rigorous process required by our NJ Synod to get to this point. Now, it is up to the congregation of Zion.



A Special Meeting of the Congregation will take place following our 10:00 a.m. Second Sunday Single Service worship on Sunday, October 10, 2021. The Rev. Dean Brown has been appointed by our Bishop Tracie Bartholomew to conduct the congregational meeting and represent the Synod. More details will be forthcoming as we draw closer to the day of the meeting.

Thank you to the members of the Call Committee and Congregation Council for the time and hard work you put in on behalf of the members of Zion. In addition, **thank you to all the members of Zion** for your prayers, concerns, and patience throughout this long process. With God's help and guidance, we pray that Zion will be ready to take our next step forward on October 10th.

Leah K. Wintemute
Council President

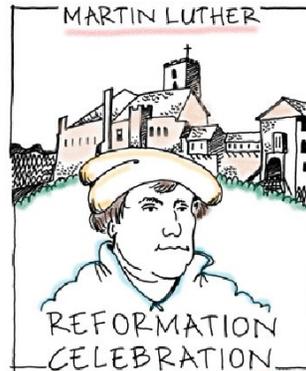
Congregation Council Highlights



The Council met via Zoom conference call on September 16th. Below are the highlights of that meeting.

- The Treasurer's Report shows that Zion's finances are in good shape. Please see page 13 for an update.
- Pastor Kat made visits to Judy Bogan, Jim & Shirley Reed, and Henrietta Siodlowski this month.
- An Intergenerational Reformation Fair will be held on October 31st at 9:45 a.m. at the CEB.
- Exterior work at the church is ongoing and should be complete by the end of October.
- The Parish Life committee will be sponsoring a Halloween Hospitality event for trick-or-treaters in Oldwick.
- Over \$1,700 was collected for the Good News Home for Women during the God's Work Our Hands 5K event. The Council received a motion to match that donation with Endowment Mission Outreach funds. The Council amended the motion to say the amount would be rounded to an even \$4,000, and the motion carried.
- The September blood drive yielded 26 units of blood. The next drive will be in December.
- Social Ministry's fall drive will be a monetary collection for Lutheran Disaster Response. Any amount collected up to \$10,000 will be matched by Endowment Mission Outreach funds. Please see page 9 for more information.
- A Special Meeting of the Congregation has been called for October 10th at 11:00 a.m. Please see the article below for the details.
- Thank you to:
 - * Debra Kaufman and Shellie Evers for their excellent leadership of the God's Work Our Hands event.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, October 21st. 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.



On October 31st, all are invited to attend the

Intergenerational Reformation Celebration

taking place at 9:45 a.m. at the CEB.

We will congratulate this year's Confirmands, and enjoy games, food, and fun.

This event is for **all ages** and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

Youth and Family Ministry at Zion by Rhonda Rossi

Sunday School Happenings

Zion kicked off the Sunday School year on Sunday, Sept. 12th with Rally Day and participating in God's Work Our Hands. On Sunday, Sept. 19th the PreK – 6th grade students began their lessons by participating in the Sunday School Opening in the Great Room of the CEB with music, lesson introduction and a prayer. The PreK and 1st grade students also received a Spark Story Bible that was presented by Pastor Kat.



Mark your calendar for these special Sunday School events:

Sunday, Oct. 10th – Confirmands (9th graders) will participate in leading the SSSS worship service at 10:00 AM.



Sunday, Oct 17th – 3rd-4th graders receive a Student Bible at the 8:30 AM worship service. The children will then have a special 3- week class on the Bible.

Sunday, Nov. 14th – 3rd-4th graders participate in leading the SSSS worship service at 10:00 AM

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class is meeting on Sundays at 9:45 AM in the Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the CEB. Classes are taught by Pastor Kat and Jeff Livingston. Classes began on Sunday, Sept. 19th with an informational session attended by students and parents. We are excited about our new curriculum called “re:form,” which encourages kids to engage in conversation, creatively express themselves, and relate their faith to their daily life. Our focus this year will be on Lutheran heritage and Christian beliefs.



High School Connect

This is a new group that will engage the faith of high school aged youth (grades 9-12). Ninth graders awaiting confirmation are expected to attend this group as the final portion of the confirmation program leading up to their confirmation day on Sunday, October 31st. It is our goal in these final weeks to help the confirmands consider how they will continue to grow and be active in their faith post-confirmation. Also, this will be the time when they will rehearse for the October 31st confirmation service. This group meets at 9:45 AM in the youth room (formerly the library) on the 3rd floor of the CEB.

Please mark your calendar: the Confirmands (9th graders) will be participating in leading 10:00 AM worship on October 10th.



Special Event for Confirmation Class and High School Connect – Sunday, Nov. 7th

Please plan to attend a special youth group event on Sunday, November 7th at 9:45 AM. We will welcome our guest, Alison Belli of One Voice of Hunterdon County. Alison will educate us on the One Voice organization and discuss the Blessing Bag service project for the Hope One van. During this time together, Zion's youth will discuss and make plans to put the bags together. This will be a great service event to tie into Zion's Stewardship theme of “Community.”

Stewardship in Sunday School

On Sunday, October 3rd all Sunday School classes (PreK through high school) will participate in a Stewardship lesson. Students will learn how we can use all that God has entrusted to our care – our time, our talents, and our treasures – to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside the church walls and our homes. And, how to serve as Jesus served. Please watch for detailed information on the Stewardship project that will be mailed the week of October 4th.



Calling all Zion Youth and Friends in 3rd- 8th Grades!

Come and try your luck at the **Stony Hill Farms 10-Acre Corn Maze**. After the maze we will enjoy pizza together at NY Pizza in Chester.

When: Sunday, Oct. 10th

Time: 2 PM – 5 PM

Where: Stony Hill Farms 15 North Road, Chester, NJ

Cost: \$15.00

RSVP: by Sunday, Oct. 3rd to Rhonda Rossi at youth@zionoldwick.com

Please dress according to the weather. Hats, gloves, jackets or sweatshirts, and sunscreen. The maze can be muddy! Make sure you have the appropriate footwear.

We will meet at Stony Hill Farms at 1:45 PM for a 2 PM entry time. Rhonda will have the tickets ready for everyone and you can reimburse her at the maze. After we conquer the maze, we will have pizza at NY Pizza in Chester. The Zion youth fund will pay for the cost of the pizza and is also covering the amount over \$15 for the entry tickets.

We will be outside the entire time, which will allow us to social distance. Please don't forget your masks! They are required at the farm.



RALLY FOR CROSSROADS — SATURDAY, OCT. 2nd

Grab your family and friends and spend a day at camp by participating in Cross Roads Annual Fundraiser. In addition to a 5K or 2K walk/run, a full day of activities has been planned.

8:00–9:00 AM – Registration

9:15 AM – Opening Prayer

9:30 AM – 5K begins

10:00 AM – 2K begins

12:00 PM – Lunch

1:30–3:30 PM Volleyball/Outdoor Activities

3:30 PM – Awards Ceremony

For more information, please contact Kathryn Schaefer at kathryn@crossroadsretreat.com.

CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



WEDNESDAYS AWAY 2021 - 2022

Join us for Wednesdays Away, a time of retreat and spiritual renewal one Wednesday a month. This upcoming year we are excited to welcome you back to Cross Roads for these retreats, from 10 am – 3 pm. The cost for each retreat is \$50 and includes lunch. A virtual option for participation will also be available. Register on our website.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: A PICNIC FOR THE WEDNESDAYS AWAY COMMUNITY Wednesday, September 8, 11 am – 2 pm

Participants and leaders who attended the 2020-2021 Wednesdays Away retreats are invited to a celebratory picnic at Cross Roads. The cost for this event is \$15. RSVP on our website.

WEDNESDAYS AWAY DATES & THEMES

2021

Autumn Blessings with Wendy Abrahamson	Oct. 6
What My Grandmothers Taught Me with Dale Selover	Nov. 3
"Always we begin again" with Laurie Matarazzo	Dec. 1

2022

Para + dox with Josh Kelly	Feb. 2
Ash Wednesday: Stations of the Cross with Dale Selover	March 2
Nourished with Kayla Hopgood	April 6
Resurrected Wounds with Kayla Hopgood	May 4
Kindling the Fire with Laurie Matarazzo	June 1

WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM/WEDNESDAYS-AWAY

Vacation Bible School Presentation

On Sunday, September 19th, we enjoyed a special presentation from the Vacation Bible School children at the 8:30 a.m. service. Special thanks to Tiffany Shin for leading the kids in singing for the congregation.



NEW JERSEY SYNOD YOUTH RETREAT

EXTREME FAITH!

SATURDAY, NOV. 20, 2021
10 AM - 4 PM
ABIDING PRESENCE, EWING

DO YOU **EXTREMELY** NEED A DAY OF RETREAT?
ARE YOU SEEKING **EXTREME** ANSWERS FROM GOD?
ARE YOU READY FOR AN **EXTREMELY** FUN TIME?

Join us for the 2021 NJ Synod Youth Retreat! All Middle School and High School Youth (Grades 6-12) and their adult leaders are invited to a day of faith, fellowship, and fun with other congregations around the state. The cost is \$25 per person and includes lunch, snacks, and all programming (inquire about scholarships).

WWW.NJSYNOD.ORG/YOUTH

Endowment Fund News

Our final Endowment Sunday for 2021 is on All Saint's Day, November 7th.

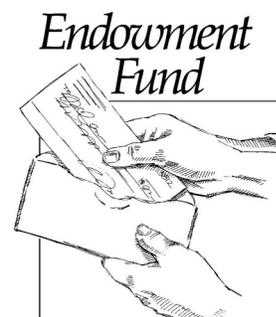
The Endowment Committee would like to thank all who donated to the Endowment Fund on Mother's Day, Father's Day and throughout the year.

Would you please consider mailing a check to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund or dropping a check in the plate when you visit Zion, 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 many new mission-oriented programs ... forever.

There was \$23,500 from the Endowment Fund earnings available for new ministry opportunities in 2021. This is determined by taking 3% of a 3-year average of the fund. The Church Council is open to suggestions on ways to use these funds to support our ministries. To date in 2021, the Church Council has voted to send \$1,000 to Cross Roads Camp and Retreat to support camper scholarships, \$2,000 to the NJ Synod Jehu Jones Bishop's Challenge, \$1,500 to the NJ Synod Compensation Aid Fund and \$1,000 to support our Sunday School Outreach Marketing Program.

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



God's Work. Our Hands.

Second Annual 5K Supporting the Good News Home for Women



**God's work.
Our hands.**

After a special outdoor church service, along with Rally Day, and under the spectacular leadership of Shellie Evers and Debra Kaufman, the Parish Life and Social Ministry committees held the second annual 5K Fun Run/Walk. We demonstrated the *God's Work Our Hands* mission as we donated all proceeds from the 5K to the work of the Good News Home for Women. And the ladies and their families were able to join us for worship, offering their gifts of music to enhance the service, and for the walk.



The weather was perfect and thanks to Pastor Kat, Danny Metz, Zoe Koch, Rod Briscoe, Cindy Rupprecht, Rebecca Melick, Audrey and John Ruland, John and Wendy Minerowicz, Helen and Jeff Livingston, Sue Swanson, Sonja Fesenmaier, Margot Forster, Sandy Matsen, Rhonda Rossi, Eric Evers, and all the volunteers, the walkers, the Sunday School Teachers, and Tom with Kona Ice – the day was absolutely wonderful!

By the way - a special note of thanks to the Congregation Council – who voted to match the \$1,720 donated and round it up to an even \$4,000, with the difference coming from Zion's Endowment Fund earnings.



Faith Kitchen News

These brave volunteers navigated the closed roads and damage from IDA to prepare the brown bag lunches for Faith Kitchen this month. Such dedicated folks! We packaged fresh salads and sandwiches for Faith Kitchen along with water bottles and bananas. Always a good time sharing God's grace with those at Faith Kitchen.



We'll be preparing brown bags at the CEB again on Thursday, October 7th at 8:45AM. New volunteers are always welcome - PLEASE JOIN US!



Parish Life & Shepherding Meeting

A joint meeting of the **Parish Life** and **Shepherding** committees will be held in person (and via Zoom for those who prefer to meet virtually) on Wednesday, October 27th at 7PM. If you are a member of either of these committees, please plan to join us. If you are interested in joining one of the committees, please reach out to Shellie (804-678-8993) or Eric Evers (908-581-7082).



Lunch Bunch — October 14th

Please join Pastor Kat at Galasso's Cucina on Thursday, October 14th at 12 p.m. RSVP to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, October 12th.



Adult Forum — Help Needed

Adult Forum has been a popular venue for adults to gather during the Sunday School hour to discuss their faith in their everyday lives. We encourage anyone to attend, as they are able. Discussions usually are on a single topic each week, so everyone can drop in at any time.



We are currently looking for adults who would like to take turns leading the informal discussions.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Rhonda Rossi at youth@zionoldwick.com.

Trick or Treat!

Our annual Halloween Hospitality event will be held for the local community on Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 5PM – 8PM at the CEB and the church. Please plan to volunteer if your schedule permits. Tasks include set up, clean up, giving out candy, and serving cider, hot chocolate, and donuts to visitors. Costumes are definitely encouraged! Contact Shellie Evers to sign up.



2021 Military Recognition Underway

Zion is proud and appreciative of its long history of military service, our current members who are veterans, and those friends and family who are currently serving.

The Social Ministry and Parish Life committees, with the help of Thrivent and a very generous congregation began formalizing Zion's appreciation in 2018 with a Military Recognition project, and have been going strong since that time. The fourth annual Zion Military Recognition project kicked off on Memorial Day 2021 with Facebook posts and cards to those currently serving.

The project typically involves the work of many congregation members including the Sunday School classes. In 2020 fourteen care packages containing the November newsletter, candy, thank you notes, gift cards, Thrivent t-shirts, snacks, toiletries, entertainment and sports items, and a travel water bottle were mailed to service members across the United States and in other countries.

This year's project will culminate the Sunday before Veteran's Day 2021 where the military will be recognized and the care packages will be blessed. If you would like to add a service member to be recognized, please contact the church office. If you would like to donate items for the care packages, please sign up using the link that was emailed from the Parish Office.





THE EMPTY BOWL TAKEOUT



24th ANNUAL
NEW Location: at the Pantry

For your \$30 donation to the Flemington Food Pantry you'll enjoy a delicious takeout lunch with a handcrafted bowl donated by area potters to serve as a reminder of food insecurity in our community.

Takeout (only) from the Pantry
154 Route 31 N, Flemington (opposite Walmart)

Friday OCT 22nd 2021	11:00am To 2:30pm	TICKETS \$30 • Restaurant Soup (for re-heating) • 1/2 Sandwich • Dessert • Handmade Bowl	
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INFO: flemingtonfoodpantry.org/empty-bowl or 908-788-5568

POTTERY SALE IN WALMART PARKING LOT

Participating Restaurants			
Basil Bandwagon	Cocoa Loew	Maddalenas	Sarah Beth's Cuisine
Chive & Thyme	Dockside	Matt's Red Rooster	ShopRite
Clean Plate	Lovin' Oven	Metropolitan Seafood	Viva Mexico

A Little Giggle from the Shepherding Committee



A Challenge to Our Zion Family

Zion's Social Ministry committee has sponsored a fall collection drive for many years. These collections have been successful due to the generosity of Zion's members and our willingness to put our faith into action. This fall, the Social Ministry committee has decided to collect funds to go to Lutheran Disaster Response.



Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, they stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Every disaster is local and because of this Lutheran Disaster Response believes that every response needs to be rooted in that community. They work with the community to administer not only immediate relief, but also long-term recovery. Lutheran Disaster Response is still working long and hard after the news coverage is finished.

Here are just a few of the people/places where Lutheran Disaster Response is providing aid:

- Hurricane Response
- U.S. Wildfires
- Afghan Humanitarian Crisis
- Asia-Pacific Disaster Response
- U.S. Severe Storms
- Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)
- U.S. Tornadoes
- U.S. Flooding
- South Sudan Relief
- AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Minors

To learn more, please visit: elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response

Here is the challenge:

We are collecting monetary support for Lutheran Disaster Response. Earnings from Zion's Endowment Fund will match all funds raised up to \$10,000.

Please make your checks out to Zion Lutheran Church with "Lutheran Disaster Response" or LDR in the memo line and send/bring to the Parish Office.

If you wish to donate directly to Lutheran Disaster Relief, please document the amount that was sent so that it can be matched by Zion's Endowment Fund earnings.

Thank You!

Matthew 25:44-45: "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'"



Zion Hosts a Booth at the 23rd Annual Tewksbury Harvest Festival

Zion hosted an booth at the Tewksbury Harvest Festival for the first time this year. Many thanks to Debra Kaufman, Donna Reilly, David & Elizabeth Blackwood and Pastor Kat for spending time at the booth, and to church members who stopped by to say hello! There were over 60 folks who stopped by the booth and 30+ children colored a Flat Jesus. Pocket Prayer Shawls were handed to many who had prayer concerns. It was an amazing outreach opportunity for Zion. If you know of other opportunities for Zion to participate in outreach events, please contact the chair of Zion's Communications committee, Ken Bryson.



A Message from the Stewardship Committee

October is Stewardship month. As expressed in the letter that appeared in the September newsletter, our Stewardship theme this year is **Community**. The Stewardship campaign starts on October 10th with a set of humorous Temple Talk skits continuing through the October 17th and October 24th worship services. October 31st is Reformation Sunday, and for Zion it is also Commitment Sunday – the Sunday on which the congregation provides information about their financial commitment for the coming year via the pledging process.



The Stewardship committee will be mailing a letter and pledge cards (a copy for your use is also attached below) to all families of Zion on or around October 21st, asking you to return your pledge card on or before the October 31st worship services. We encourage all members to fill out their pledge cards and provide us with a pledge for 2022. Not only does this support the

Zion says YES to Community



I am/we are happy and blessed to be part of the Zion community. I/we have considered whether I/we can increase the amount of my/our financial support of Zion's ministries to enable the church to confidently embark on our mission for 2022.

My/our 2022 pledge is \$ _____ per week/month/year (circle one)

(Please keep this portion of the card)

Zion says YES to Community



I am/we are happy and blessed to be part of the Zion community. I/we have considered whether I/we can increase the amount of my/our financial support of Zion's ministries to enable the church to confidently embark on our mission for 2022.

My/our 2022 pledge is \$ _____ per week/month/year (circle one)

Name(s): _____

(Please return this portion of the card)

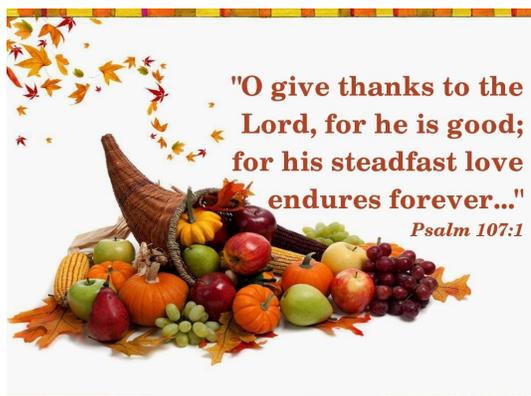
Batter Up!

Zion's outing to the Sept 10th Somerset Patriots game was almost cancelled due to flooding at the field and in the surrounding community from the remnants of Hurricane Ida. The resilient folks affiliated with the Patriots had other ideas. They rallied and worked hard so the game could go on as planned. It was a beautiful night and those able to attend had a great time -- and BONUS - the Patriots won the game!



Save the Dates for Upcoming Women of Zion Events

The Women of Zion are hosting two exciting upcoming activities. All are welcome!



Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Gathering

Wednesday, November 10th at 7 p.m. at the CEB

Our annual gathering to give thanks for another year of receiving and sharing God's grace. Wonderful food, great company, music, and devotions.

Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange

Wednesday, December 15th at 7 p.m. at the CEB

Our annual time of cookie-making and exchanging! We will gather to enjoy the sweets of the season and prepare cookie boxes to share with our homebound members. Please plan on joining this special time of fellowship during the Season of Advent.



Virtual Event Celebrating Family Promise of Hunterdon County

Thursday, October 14th



Celebrating 31 Years of Supporting Families in Hunterdon County!

"EVENING OF PROMISE"

Building Foundations for the Future

*Virtual Benefit Dinner
Early Registration Available*

Thursday, October 14, 2021
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

For more information, contact Cyndi Mayer

(908) 782-2490

www.familypromisehc.org

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
July	\$28,398.55	-\$27,824.51	\$574.04
August	\$30,624.15	-\$29,315.87	\$1,308.28
Year To Date Total	\$241,357.51	-\$216,874.00	\$24,483.51



TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$50,982.31	9/3/2021 Bank Statement
Money Market Plus	\$223,048.00	8/30/2021 Bank Statement
Cash On Hand	\$274,030.31	

Directed Funds	\$161,964.45	8/30/2021
Operating Funds	\$112,065.86	8/30/2021
Cash On Hand	\$274,030.31	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$546,507.23	(6/30/21)
THRIVENT	\$379,206.09	(6/30/21)
TOTAL	\$925,713.32	

ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH		
Available Funds for 2021	\$23,500.00	
ELCA Compensation Aid Fund	-\$1,500.00	2/28/2021
Cross Roads - May 2021 Challenge	-\$1,000.00	5/27/2021
Contribution to Jehu Jones Bishop's Challenge	-\$2,000.00	6/30/2021
Zion Sunday School Outreach Marketing	-\$1,000.00	8/19/2021
2021 Endowment Funds Remaining	\$18,000.00	



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



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 everything going on at Zion. Search for the group today and send a Join Request!

