



# Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

January 2022

## *A Message from Pastor Kat*

### Getting to Know You



This month, we hear stories from the beginning of Jesus' life and ministry, and it isn't entirely smooth sailing as Jesus gets his start. He gets left behind after a visit to the Temple in Jerusalem with his parents and neighbors. The Holy Spirit of God enters him in blessing in his baptism and then drives him into the wilderness to be tested. His first miracle goes largely unnoticed at a wedding reception. And, finally, his first sermon in his hometown leads to a riot!

In the season after Epiphany, we get to know who Jesus is, and we also consider who we are as the body of Christ. Gospel readings that highlight challenges in Jesus' early ministry are paired with readings from the book of 1 Corinthians that highlight challenges in the early church. In both texts, we hear of people who misconstrue and even react with harmful intentions to the good news of God. All of us are guilty of getting the wrong end of the stick sometimes, so this month our readings act as an aid to help us get off on the right foot with Jesus and with each other.

### A Rough Start

We might say that Jesus got off to a rough start in his early ministry, and the same might be said for us, dear people of Zion! As pastor and people, we were tossed together in the midst of a pandemic and in the middle of an interrupted interim period. We were navigating choppy waters from the beginning! I thank God for the capable and compassionate leaders who supported me and made ministry possible despite these challenges, and I feel tremendously blessed to now be your newly called pastor.

On Sunday, January, 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM, there will be a service of installation to start us off on the right foot in our new relationship. I pray that this day is one of affirmation and celebration for all the members and friends of Zion. May God bless us with many joys and triumphs together and see us through any challenges that lie ahead.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kat

### Service of Installation — January 16th at 3 p.m.

Please join us on January 16th as we celebrate the installation of Pastor Kat Steinly as Zion's 31st pastor. The 3 p.m. service will be followed by a reception at the Christian Education Building.



## Congregation Council Highlights

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



- The Service of Installation for Pastor Kat Steinly has been scheduled for January 16th at 3 p.m.
- The Treasurer's Report reflected a positive balance at the end of November. Please see page 9 for an update.
- The audio/video equipment at the church has been upgraded to include the ability to zoom in on the altar during worship livestreams.
- Rhonda Rossi and Pastor Kat are implementing a Youth Mentor program, designed to connect each member of the Confirmation Class with an adult from the congregation. Each pair will participate in activities together throughout the young person's time at Zion.
- The Social Ministry committee reported that Alternative Giving raised \$1,800, the Adopt-a-Family Thanksgiving drive yielded meals for 35 families, and the Giving Tree provided Christmas presents for six families.
- The council approved a motion to donate the remaining Endowment Mission Outreach funds for 2021 to Family Promise, as they assist eight of the families who were displaced by the Hunter Hills apartment fire in November.
- The Stewardship committee is seeking a new chairperson, as Todd Rothermel is moving to Pennsylvania.
- Thank you to:
  - \* Colleen Bryson, for her continued efforts to improve the quality of the Sunday morning worship livestream.
  - \* Eric & Shellie Evers, for managing the Oldwick luminaries on behalf of Zion.
  - \* Linda Held, for expertly crafting the ornaments that accompanied the Alternative Giving gifts.
  - \* Helen Livingston, for her leadership of the Adopt-a-Family Thanksgiving project.
  - \* Meghan Holman, for sorting and packing the Giving Tree gifts.
  - \* Leah Wintemute, for serving as Council President during a challenging two years.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, January 20th. 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.



As they relocate to Pennsylvania to live closer to their children and grandchildren, Todd & Stacey Rothermel would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and support over the last two years with Stacey's mother's ongoing health concerns. And Stacey reports that they are missing everyone already!

## Change of Address

Peggy Eppley has a new address and would love to hear from her friends at Zion!

Juniper Village at Brookline  
Senior Living—The Pines  
1940 Cliffside Drive, Suite 211  
State College, PA 16801



## Join the Parish Life or Shepherding Committee – Or Both!

Parish Life is about connecting to each other and to God's grace – and having fun together whenever possible! 2022 plans include wine tastings, game nights, parents' nights out, dance lessons, and annual Somerset Patriots games. The Women of Zion (WOZ) are a vibrant and wonderful part of Parish Life as well. WOZ organizes events around four categories -- Spiritual, Health, Arts & Crafts, and Fellowship. In short, – Parish Life and WOZ spearhead the social activities of Zion and would love to have new volunteers in any capacity.



The Shepherding Committee's role is caring for the congregation and assisting those of us in need. We have a wonderful card ministry. We provide prayer shawls, pray for the sick, offer assistance to those in crisis, send cards and deliver flowers to homebound members, and provide meals and/or transportation for those who need it. We welcome new volunteers and new ways to support each other!

An interest form is included with this newsletter. Fill it out and send it to the Parish Office to let us know how you can help. Our next joint meeting will be on Wednesday, January 19th at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Please let Shellie Evers know if you would like to attend and she will send you the link to join the meeting.

## Lunch Bunch — January 13th

Please join Pastor Kat at the Tewksbury Inn on Thursday, January 13th at 12 p.m. RSVP to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, January 11th.



## Women of Zion Cookie Exchange

Zion's 2021 Season of Connection included the Women of Zion bakers creating magnificent treats!

**\*\* 41 dozen \*\*** to be exact - molasses, fudge, lemon shortbread, blondies, pumpkin spice, chewy granola, chocolate crinkles, pecan pies, forgotten cookies and MORE!



**Thank you to our bakers** - Sandy, Sue, Anita, Barb, Judy, Shellie, Christine, and Nova. And a special thanks to Kathy for providing the adorable boxes and Hershey kisses, and to Barb, Anita and Debra for packing all the boxes. We shared the treats with our homebound (thank you Debra and Sue for delivering!), the Zion bell choir, Zion parish choir, and the Good News Home.





## Youth and Family Ministry at Zion by Rhonda Rossi



### Giving Tree

Zion's Sunday School participated in this year's Giving Tree, sponsored by the Social Ministry committee. With the students' Sunday School offering, we were able to purchase five Christmas gifts for children less fortunate than they are.

### Sunday School Christmas Program

Special thanks to Melanie Hodges for her direction of this year's Christmas Program! The program took place during the 10 AM worship service on Sunday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful to experience the Christmas story told through our youth in word and song. Thanks to our actors, readers, singers, and solo musicians for sharing their gifts!



### Christian Education & Youth January Calendar

Sunday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	No Sunday School or Confirmation – Please attend worship with your family.
Wednesday, January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Ed/Youth Committee Meeting at 7 PM via Zoom.
Sunday, January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Second Sunday Single Service at 10 a.m. – No Sunday School.
Tuesday, January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Adult Youth Mentor meeting via Zoom at 7 PM.
Sunday, January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult Forum classes resume at 9:45 AM.
9:45 AM —	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> graders will meet in the Great Room to plan the Blessing Bag project.
	Grades PreK-4 <sup>th</sup> will go directly to their classrooms.
3:00 PM —	Pastor Kat's Installation Service
Sunday, January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult Forum at 9:45 AM.
Sunday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult Forum at 9:45 AM.



### **Advent Mini-Retreat**

On Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> members of the Confirmation Class and adults experienced an Advent Mini-Retreat. The Retreat centered around the story of Mary and Elizabeth from Luke 1:39-50. After listening to the scripture reading, the group meditated on the reading with self-reflection. Then, they put their meditations to paper using different art mediums.



### **Upcoming Youth Retreats at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center**

Elementary Retreat (Grades 3-5) — February 11-13

Middle School Retreat (Grades 6-8) — March 11-13

The theme for the 2022 Cross Roads Youth Retreats is **Crack the Code, Journey with Jesus**. At both the Elementary and Middle School Retreats, participants will embark on a series of challenges to find clues, crack the code, and solve the mystery. Each weekend includes interactive Bible study, group games, small group discussions, and a lot of FUN!

Both retreats begin on Friday evening with check-in at 7 pm and end on Sunday morning at 10:30 am after a worship service. The cost for the weekend retreat is \$95. For more information, please contact Rhonda Rossi at [youth@zionoldwick.com](mailto:youth@zionoldwick.com).

**CROSS  ROADS**  
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

### **Wednesdays Away at Cross Roads**

Join Josh Kelly at Cross Roads on February 2nd for “Para + dox”.

We have many views, opinions, and beliefs surrounding our own understanding of the Divine. Often, we frame God as this, but not that, (for example God is fully present, but God is never absent, or God is only limitless and not limited). How might our views of the divine shift if we considered God as this AND that? What if getting a better grasp of God means letting go of one, and allowing the other space to be, embracing a framework of paradox in our views of the divine? Sounds overly philosophical and abstract? Maybe, but consider the cross – is it death? or is it life?

To register for Wednesdays Away, please visit [www.crossroadsretreat.com](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com).



## Update from the Social Ministry Committee



### The Giving Tree

Thank you Zion friends for your generosity in donating 90 gifts to provide six Family Promise families with Christmas gifts! It was literally a truck full of presents.

### Alternative Giving

Thank you to everyone who donated to this years Alternative Giving program. You helped raise \$1,800 for the four charitable organizations to help them continue their good works.

Canines for Disabled Kids - \$270

The Outreach Connection - \$315

Trinity Place Shelter - \$840

ELCA Good Gifts- Hygiene Kits \$375

## A Glimpse Into the Good News Home for Women

How often do we really get to walk in another person's shoes? To learn of the trials, tribulations, and success story of that person? To feel their pain and joy - even for a moment? Shellie Evers and Sue Swanson had just that opportunity through the inspiring testimonials of several of the Good News Home graduates at the 24th Annual Fundraising Banquet in November. These ladies described in their own words the life circumstances that lead them to addiction to alcohol or drugs which, through the advocacy and treatment program at the GNH, they overcame. The gratitude, devotion, and enthusiasm for the staff and ladies was very evident throughout the evening. Zion continues to have a warm and supportive relationship with the GNH and endeavors to include the staff and the ladies in many of our church services and activities, such as the annual 5K. Shellie and Sue are grateful for the Good News Home, for Zion's role in its success -- and especially for the opportunity to see it in action.



## Faith Kitchen News by Debra Kaufman

Faith Kitchen - the December crew worked their magic in the kitchens for our last 2021 meal. The soup crew was led by John McAleer with an awesome recipe of ham, potato & corn chowder - thanks John Minerowicz, Wendy Minerowicz, John Ruland, and Audrey Ruland (yes, the Johns were all together!). The CEB crew mastered a tasty pasta salad and packed bags of sweets, fruit & treats - thanks Barb Surhoff, Stacey Roethermel, Christine Clark and Linda Lovas. Our 2022 Faith Kitchen ministry starts on January 6th. We welcome new volunteers - contact Debra Kaufman 703-402-2158.



## Annual Faith Kitchen January & February Collection

### MOOO – LET’S COLLECT MILK!

Faith Kitchen has a new director, Judy Miller, and she has recommended that rather than coffee, we use our annual Faith Kitchen drive to give the gift of **MILK**. Judy tells us that the patrons of Faith Kitchen need (and want!) **shelf stable milk** which will provide them 8 grams of protein and vitamins A & D. This is an urgent need at Faith Kitchen for the winter. They are thankful for the abundance of coffee that we have provided in the past and look forward to receiving our collection of MILK in 2022.

So, let’s get “Mooo”ving and collect MILK! Here are a few examples of the shelf-stable milk that are available. The 8oz individual servings are best. Any flavor will be welcomed.



### Thank You!

The Flemington Area Food Pantry thanks Zion Lutheran Church for their generous giving! Please see the suggested donation list for the pantry’s current needs. All donated items will be picked up on Tuesdays from the CEB entryway and the church narthex.

## Flemington Area Food Pantry Suggested Donation List

- Coffee
- Cooking oil
- Instant hot oatmeal (plain or assorted flavors)
- Family sized pasta or rice side dishes
- Canned pineapple or peaches
- Cream soups (chicken or mushroom)
- Beef/vegetable soups
- Cold cereals (low sugar)
- Crackers (saltines, wheat thins etc)
- Dried beans (1-2 lb bags)
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream
- Children’s toothbrushes
- Toilet paper
- Dish soap
- Baby Formula – yellow Enfamil powered form
- Diapers sizes 4, 5, or 6
- Sanitary pads
- Baby wipes
- Adult hygiene wipes
- Food Store Gift Cards (so we can purchase protein)

## Stewardship Thoughts

### Christmas Season

During the holiday season, we know we are supposed to focus on the greatest gift of all, Baby Jesus. God loved everyone in the world so much that He sent His Son as a present that first Christmas Day. He sent His one and only Son as a gift for us to believe in. And as believers we receive yet another gift-the gift of eternal life and love in the presence of God. Now that's a gift! Because God has loved us and lavished so great a gift on us, we return our thanks by showing that love and gift-giving generosity by giving tokens of our love to one another and our church. We give because God first gave to us.



### Community at Zion

Our Stewardship theme this year has been Community. Our pledge campaign showed some promising results. 55% of the families have turned in a pledge for 2022. This is up from 47% of the families who pledged for 2021. The amount pledged has reached \$272,600. This is \$43,000 more than was pledged for this year. We would love to hear from every member of the congregation. If you have not yet joined with those who have pledged, it is never too late. Please join those in our community of faith in expressing your support of our ministries here at Zion with your pledge.

### Methods of Giving

There are several ways you can give. For those who like to give weekly, envelopes for 2022 are available now at the church. If you did not see one with your name on it, but would like some, please notify the office. We will see that you get a box. You can also give electronically. Families who are using this method often elect to contribute monthly. There are clusters of families giving around the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, but you can choose any date that you prefer. If you want assistance in setting up this form of giving, let the office know and we will provide help.

### 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 your financial support. God has provided abundantly to us. Let us show that we are thankful in our response.

The Stewardship Committee

### A Little Giggle from the Shepherding Committee

