



# Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

April 2022

## A Message from Pastor Kat

This month, we conclude our Lenten journey and prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter. For many of us, we have celebrated so many Easters that it is hard for us to imagine the experience of the women that first Easter morning as they came to see the tomb and care for the dead body of Jesus.

No doubt, they were still in shock having just witnessed the gruesome and cruel death of their beloved leader and teacher, Jesus. This was the same man they believed to be the Messiah, the one who would usher in a new era for their people, God's people. They have lost not only a dear friend but the hope and dream he placed in their hearts about a kingdom of justice and peace for all people.

If the women approach the tomb lost in memory, the appearance of two "men" brings them abruptly back to the present. They bow their faces to the ground in terror. And then they hear the impossible message, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."



### HOLY WEEK



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday — April 10th**

Second Sunday Single Service at 10 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday – April 14th**

Communion Worship at 7 p.m.

**Good Friday – April 15th**

Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.

**Saturday – April 16th**

Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m.

**Easter Sunday – April 17th**

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

No Sunday School

Perhaps, you too find yourself approaching Holy Week and Easter distractedly, with your spirits bruised, or simply caught up in the many tasks of daily life. As we walk through the last days of Lent and into Holy Week, I invite you to imagine yourself with the women – to immerse yourself in the experience of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his passion, his death. Come see and hear the power of Jesus' final days on earth.

And as we enter the season of Easter, I invite you to explore with me how we, like the women and the other disciples, can go and tell the story, confess our faith, and invite others to join us in our faith walk. Who in your life might need to hear the Easter message of hope and new life? How can you share this good news with them?

I pray that this holy time of year blesses you in unexpected ways and inspires you to reach out and reconnect with God and neighbor.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kat

## Congregation Council Highlights



The Council met via Zoom conference call on March 17th. Below are the highlights of that meeting.

- Zion's Social Ministry committee purchased groceries and gift cards for Family Promise this month. Guests continue to be housed at an area motel because of Covid concerns.
- The Tag Sale will take place on April 30th. Donations can be dropped off at the CEB beginning April 11th.
- The Property committee is working on a comprehensive maintenance calendar for Zion's three properties. They will complete a walkthrough of the church, parsonage, and CEB this month.
- The 9:30 a.m. summer worship services will begin on Memorial Day weekend, May 29th.
- There will be a Blood Drive at the CEB on Tuesday, April 12th from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- The Council voted to send \$5,000 from Endowment Fund earnings to Lutheran Disaster Response. (Please see the article below.)
- The Evangelism committee will host a Name Tag Sunday on April 10th. The committee is also working on redefining the new member process as there is nothing formal in place at this time.
- Thank you to:
  - \* Eric & Shellie Evers for their leadership of the March 13th Lenten Parish Night.
  - \* Linda Held for creating the Tree of Life being used in the Lenten Midweek Gatherings.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, April 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.

**HELLO**  
my name is

## NAME TAG SUNDAY - PALM Sunday, April 10th

Zion will have our first 2022 Name Tag Sunday on April 10th as we welcome our members, friends, family and guests for Palm Sunday's Single Service at 10AM. This is a great opportunity to re-connect with each other and to welcome all who join us for this blessed day of Lent. It will also be the First Communion celebration for our 3rd & 4th graders.

## Lutheran Disaster Response — Zion's Donation

At their March 17th meeting, Zion's Council voted to send \$5,000 from our Endowment Fund earnings to assist Lutheran Disaster Response with their work in responding to the crisis in Eastern Europe. This money will be used entirely to provide support for people impacted by the conflict in the region.

If you would like to make an individual contribution, please visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) and click on "Our Work". Under "Relief and Development" you will see a link to Lutheran Disaster Response, where you can give an online gift. Please pray for those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries that have been affected by the crisis in Ukraine. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.



## Blood Drive — April 12th



Zion's Social Ministry committee is hosting a blood drive at the CEB on Tuesday, April 12th, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please see the sign up link that was emailed from the Parish Office to register for a donation time.

## Town-wide Tag Sale — April 30th

Beginning Monday, April 11th, donations for the Tag Sale can be dropped off at the CEB. Please, no clothing, books, or bedding.

Smaller items can be dropped off any time. To donate larger items that cannot be left in the entryway, please contact Rebecca Melick at 908-229-3744.

Help is needed to run the sale on the day of the event. Please watch your email for the Sign Up Genius link.



## Open Cupboard Food Pantry — Thank You

THANK YOU ZION for your March food pantry donations to the Clinton Open Cupboard Food Pantry. Open Cupboard Food Pantry, Inc., is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency. They believe our community has a responsibility to address the food needs of those who cannot afford to feed themselves and their families. Thank you for helping meet the food needs of our neighbors.



## Faith Kitchen News by Debra Kaufman

Faith Kitchen - March! Zion provided 100 cups of delicious chicken vegetable soup and 80 bags including a ham and egg salad, fruit, snack and a sweet treat. Great new recipe by our soup master, John McAleer! Thank you to volunteers Linda Lovas, Barb and Steve Surhoff, Wendy and John Minerowicz, and Christine Clark. We included an Irish Blessing in each bag.

In April, The Sunday School classes are dying Easter eggs and the First Communion class is packing bags along with the volunteers making soup in Dover.

And in May - YES, the patrons will allowed back inside for their meals. Praise God for continuing to care for those in need.



## Youth and Family Ministry at Zion by Rhonda Rossi



### Sunday School and Confirmation Class

All Sunday School and Confirmation classes continue to meet in-person at 9:45 AM in the CEB. Masks are optional.



### First Communion

The First Communion class has enjoyed lessons on the Exodus story, The Synagogue and the Upper Room, and Communion Symbols. Currently, they are working on individual First Communion Banners that will be presented during the First Communion worship service on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Class Schedule:

Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:45 AM – Family Easter Event at CEB – Please bring a dozen hard-boiled eggs with you. To comply with Faith Kitchen regulations, the eggs cannot be boiled before Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM – Service project/rehearsal in the Great Room (parents are invited)

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM – First Communion Sunday during worship service followed by a reception in the Great Room

*April 5<sup>th</sup> Service Project: We will be helping with Faith Kitchen by packing the brown paper lunch bags followed by a brief rehearsal.*

### Confirmation Class

The confirmation class along with several youth mentors and parents kicked off Lent by participating in a Lenten Mini- Retreat on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Currently, they are working on their presentation of telling the Easter story at the Family Easter Event being held on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:45 AM in the Great Room at the CEB.



### Adult Education

### Adult Education

Please join Pastor Kat on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> for the final Lenten Midweek Gathering held in the Great Room at 7:00 PM. We will meditate on the powerful image of the Tree of Life, a symbol of God's life-giving creation and saving cross.

### Christian Education & Youth Calendar

Sunday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> –	Family Easter Event at the CEB at 9:45 AM. Come and enjoy an engaging telling of the Easter Story presented by the Confirmation students. We will enjoy decorating our own Resurrection Eggs and hanging them on our Tree of Life. Afterward, we will dye 80 Easter eggs to benefit Faith Kitchen.
Tuesday, April 5 <sup>th</sup> –	First Communion Service Event/Rehearsal at 7:00 PM in the Great Room
Wed., April 6 <sup>th</sup> –	Final Lenten Midweek Gathering at 7:00 PM in the Great Room
Sunday, April 10 <sup>th</sup> –	Palm Sunday Service with First Communion at 10 AM – students/families arrive by 9:30 AM
Tuesday, April 12 <sup>th</sup> –	Christian Education and Youth Committee meeting via Zoom at 7 PM
Thursday, April 14 <sup>th</sup> –	Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM
Friday, April 15 <sup>th</sup> –	Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM
Saturday, April 16 <sup>h</sup> –	Annual Easter Egg Hunt outside at the CEB at 10 AM (Confirmation students, please arrive at 9 AM)
Sunday, April 17 <sup>th</sup> –	Easter Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 AM



## Family Easter Event — April 3rd at 9:45 AM

All Sunday School and Confirmation students, and their families, are invited to join us on April 3rd during our normal Sunday School hour for an educational, fun-filled and rewarding event.

We will enjoy an engaging telling of the Easter Story through Resurrection Eggs, as presented by our Confirmation students. Afterward we will each decorate our own Resurrection Egg and hang them on our Tree of Life. We'll then dye 80 Easter eggs to benefit Faith Kitchen.

Families are asked to bring one dozen hard-boiled eggs with them on the 3rd. To comply with Faith Kitchen regulations, the eggs cannot be boiled before Saturday, April 2nd.



**Saturday, April 16th**

**10 a.m. at the Christian Education Building**

**All children through Grade 5 are invited**

**(Don't forget your Easter basket!)**

**\* Treat-Filled Eggs \* Crafts \* Songs \* Snacks \***



## Vacation Bible School

**Bible Stories – Science Experiments – Crafts - Games – Songs**

**June 28 – July 1**

All children ages 3 through the completion of grade 5 are invited to join in the fun and excitement as we go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

## Blessing Bags at Zion — Thank You!

Zion's youth would like to thank all those who helped with their Blessing Bag project. With your support and the help of a Thrivent Gift Card, the youth were able to reach their goal of packing 100 Blessing Bags that were donated to the Hope One Van to be given to those who in need. We look forward to participating in this service project again.



## Look What's Happening at Cross Roads!

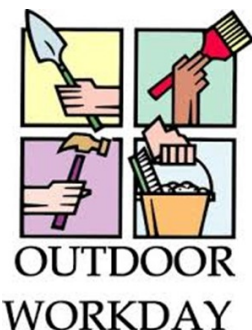
### Upcoming Youth Retreats

Middle School Retreat (Grades 6-8) — April 29th-May 1st

Elementary Retreat (Grades 3-5) — May 13th-15th

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.



### Opening Day at Cross Roads!

Save the Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022

Join us for "Opening Day at Cross Roads," a fun work-day event. Youth, families, and congregational groups are invited to come to camp to volunteer with a few projects as we get camp ready for the summer season. It will be a day of fun, fellowship, and giving back to camp (and can even count towards service hours for teenagers looking to fulfill their requirements!). There will be projects for all skill levels that will be done in family groups and well-distanced. Lunch will be included. We'll conclude the day with an outdoor camp worship service to celebrate the start of the season. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Rhonda Rossi at [youth@zionoldwick.com](mailto:youth@zionoldwick.com).

**CROSS ROADS**  
**YOUTH RETREATS 2022**

**Crack the Code,  
Journey with  
Jesus**

At the Cross Roads Elementary and Middle & High School Retreats this Spring, participants will embark on a series of challenges to find clues, crack the code, and solve the mystery.

**APRIL 29 - MAY 1 (GRADES 6-12)**  
**MAY 13 - 15 (GRADES 3-5)**



## 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

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

#### 2022

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

[WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM/WEDNESDAYS-AWAY](http://WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM/WEDNESDAYS-AWAY)

### Wednesdays Away at Cross Roads

#### April 6th - Nourished

Presented by Kayla Hopgood

As we approach the Last Supper during Holy Week, we will consider the significance of the dinner table. Join us as we explore how our own lives have been shaped by meals had around tables in our home and by the sacred table in which we feast upon Christ's promises for us. What does it mean for us to be nourished at the table?

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

### Work at Camp this Summer!

Staff applications for Summer 2022 are OPEN.

Join us to help make a difference in the lives of children and youth during Summer 2022. Apply to work with us using the online application form. We are currently hiring all positions, including counselors, kitchen staff members, grounds and maintenance staff, and more. Please visit [www.crossroadsretreat.com](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com) for details on how to apply. If you have any questions about summer employment or the application, please contact Program Director Helen Payanzo by phone at 908-832-7264 or send an email to [helen@crossroadsretreat.com](mailto:helen@crossroadsretreat.com).



## Youth Mentoring Update *by Debra Kaufman*

I was honored to be asked to participate in the Youth Mentor program for the 7th/8th grade young people, knowing that cultivating intentional relationships between Zion's adults and youth was a key goal of the initiative. I am so incredibly thankful to the women of Zion who were strong Christian examples of faith, love and support for my daughters as they grew up at Zion (Sandy Matsen, Kathy Rustwick, Melanie Hodges, Elizabeth Blackwood and Pastor Dale - just to name a few!). I pray that I can be that same example for my mentee, Lauren.

Lauren and I are off to a fast start getting to know each other. We've attended many Zion activities together — the Big Reveal, packing Blessing Bags for Hope One Van, Lenten Parish Night and we'll be going to the upcoming Easter Family Event. In addition, we've texted each other to share thoughts about our Creation Care devotions during Lent. I'm looking forward to walks on our favorite trail — the Columbia trail — and grabbing a bite to eat with her family. Lauren is intelligent, fun, and joyful to be around. I am one lucky mentor!



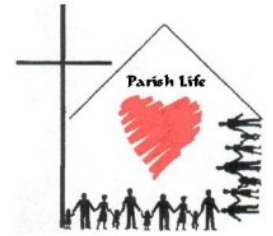
## Women of Zion Glass-Painting Class

The Women of Zion gathered for a glass-painting class in March. We enjoyed fellowship and learned new painting skills. Tons of creativity was seen in the completed glass works! Praise God for the opportunity to gather in person.



## Parish Life News *by Shellie Evers*

**Lenten Parish Night** was held on March 13th and a fun time was had by all! Thanks to all who were able to join us, and to those who helped set up, clean up, and/or bring a dessert. Special shout-out to Dan Metz for providing music for us to eat and craft along to, and to youth mentors Cindy Rupprecht, Debra Kaufman, Eric Evers, and Joanne Rupp, along with their mentees, who assisted in leading a craft.



### **Next Parish Life & Shepherding Committee Meeting:**

Wednesday, April 27th at 7PM at the home of Eric & Shellie Evers — 8 Matheson Road, Whitehouse Station.



### **A Little Giggle from the Shepherding Committee**



The moment was bittersweet  
when the bunny realized  
Easter was not about him.



### **HELP NEEDED!**

We are going to be cleaning the globes of the chandeliers that hang in the church on Sunday, April 10th, following the Palm Sunday, First Communion, Second Sunday Single Service worship.

The globes have not been washed in two years and it is time to prepare for the celebration of Easter and Pastor Kat's Service of Installation.

We need help with the washing and drying ... there is a system. Bill Wallace is our intrepid ladder-climber but we need someone to help Bill move the ladder as he navigates through the pews. Please let Joanne Rupp (jzrupp51@gmail.com) know if you are able to help us on this day.



### **Lunch Bunch — April 14th**

Please join Pastor Kat at the Pittstown Inn on Thursday, April 14th at 12 p.m. RSVP to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, April 12th.

## Endowment Fund News

The Endowment Committee will be having our first Endowment Sunday for 2022 on Mother's Day, May 8<sup>th</sup>. The additional Endowment Sundays for 2022 will be on Father's Day, June 19<sup>th</sup>, and All Saints Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

There is \$25,148 from the Endowment Fund earnings available for new ministry opportunities in 2022. This is determined by taking 3% of a 3-year average of the fund. The Church Council is open to suggestions on using the funds to support our ministries. YTD \$1,500 has been donated to the NJ Synod Compensation Aid Fund, and \$5,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response for the Eastern Europe Crisis, leaving a current balance of \$18,648 still available to support 2022 ministries.

Please consider giving to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund on May 8<sup>th</sup> as a tribute to all mothers 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 available at the church on May 8<sup>th</sup>. 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!



## Zion Finance Fact — Complete Our Ministry Story

Zion's financial picture for our ministries extends beyond our budget. Last year, our budget income met our expenses, and we were able to do even more with our responses to special appeals as well as with other income from Endowment Mission Outreach, Memorials and Pre-Pledges for this year.

Zion's 2022 budget is based on projected giving of \$373,500 which is about the same amount as was collected in 2021. The projected 2022 expenses to support our ministries are \$415,500 which means we have a projected deficit of \$42,000. The deficit will be financed from our Operating Reserve.

**Our challenge is to find ways to create a balanced budget in the near future.** With Zion's commitment to mission support, the income gap to have a balanced budget while continuing to give generously outside our walls is \$48,000 additional giving. The challenge looks like this:



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YTD 2022

GENERAL FUND	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
January	\$31,968.90	-\$29,412.46	\$2,556.44
February	\$33,265.17	-\$31,893.59	\$1,371.58
<b>Year To Date Total</b>	<b>\$65,234.07</b>	<b>-\$61,306.05</b>	<b>\$3,928.02</b>

TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$119,678.68	3/3/2022
Money Market Plus	\$178,093.76	2/28/2022
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>\$297,772.44</b>	
Directed Funds	\$168,282.27	2/28/2022
Operating Funds	\$129,490.17	2/28/2022
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>\$297,772.44</b>	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$542,784.57	1/31/2022
THRIVENT	\$367,345.57	2/28/2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$910,130.14</b>	

ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH	
<b>Available Funds for 2022</b>	<b>\$25,148.00</b>
Synod Compensation Aid Fund	-\$1,500.00
Lutheran Disaster Response - Eastern Europe Aid	-\$5,000.00
<b>2022 Endowment Funds Remaining</b>	<b>\$18,648.00</b>



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