



# Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

May 2022

## *A Message from Pastor Kat*

### **A New Beginning**

No doubt, many people thought death on the cross was the end for Jesus, but we know that it was just the beginning. The women discover the empty tomb and hear the good news: Jesus is not dead but is alive! This news marks a cosmic shift. Empire, injustice, and death are not allowed to have the last word – God does.

In today's context, many of us feel burdened by disheartening news that seems to herald an ending – war abroad, political tension at home, and a broken society still reeling from the effects of a two-year pandemic. It can sometimes be difficult to see how God's victory over death all those years ago still has meaning for us today.

In worship this month, we will hear readings from the book of Revelation that remind us our experience is not a new one. The first audience of Revelation also felt hopeless and weighed down by their current circumstances. They too may have wondered what difference Jesus' death and resurrection made. The vision John shares with them reveals once more that God always has the last word and that this last word is one of justice and renewal.

### **An Installation!**

As a congregation, we are embracing our own new beginning with a service of installation on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. This will be a time to celebrate our ministry together and look forward with hope. Together we will affirm that God is still at work among us creating new life and new possibilities.

I pray that you will join me for this festive day as we witness God's presence in our midst and listen for how God is calling us into the future.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kat



The Service of Installation for Zion's 31st pastor, The Reverend Kat Steinly, will be held on Sunday, May 15th at 3:00 p.m., followed by a dinner reception at the CEB. Please plan to join us in celebration of this special occasion in the life of Zion!

In order to help us obtain a headcount for the dinner reception, RSVP no later than May 9th via the link that was emailed from the Parish Office. Thank you!

## Congregation Council Highlights



The Council met via Zoom conference call on April 21st. Below are the highlights of that meeting.

- Zion's annual Easter Egg Hunt was a big success, with three new families in attendance.
- Pastor Kat is planning a summer "Let's Talk" series for the adults of the congregation.
- The Property committee completed their walkthrough of Zion's three properties. They are creating a list of priorities for items that will need attention in the near future and plan to meet with the Finance committee to identify funding strategies.
- The Shepherding committee has been providing meals to a member in need and would like to find more volunteers willing to provide meals in the future.
- The last day of Sunday School will be on May 22nd.
- Our Sunday morning summer schedule (9:30 a.m. worship) begins on May 29th.
- The 2022 Nominating committee members will be Debra Kaufman, Helen Livingston, Rebecca Melick, and Joanne Rupp.
- The Council voted to accept the invitation of the New Jersey Synod to participate in a Faithful Journey — a 2-year experience for our church's pastor and 4-6 lay members wherein our leaders are engaged, equipped, and supported in visioning our congregation's future and growing leadership skills.
- Eric Evers reported that the stone plaque currently leaning on the wall in front of the church is going to be installed permanently in the memorial garden.
- **With heavy hearts, the Church Council received the letter of resignation from Rhonda Rossi, Director of Youth & Family Ministry. A Farewell and Godspeed has been planned for May 22nd.** Please see the farewell note below from Rhonda.
- Thank you to:
  - \* Melanie Hodges for her leadership of the Family Easter Event and the annual Easter Egg Hunt.
  - \* Bill Wallace for climbing the ladder to clean the globes in the sanctuary.
  - \* Elizabeth Blackwood, Melanie Hodges, Debra Kaufman, and Cindy Rupprecht for providing meals to a member in need.
  - \* Joanne Rupp, Worship & Music chairperson, for her extra efforts during Holy Week.
  - \* Judy Formalarie for continuing to support Zion's card ministry.
  - \* Gretchen Surhoff for delivering donations to the food pantry.
  - \* Debra Kaufman and Cindy Rupprecht for providing baked goods and volunteering to assist at the blood drive.
  - \* Jeff Livingston, Dan Metz, and Brian Pepe for providing special music on Easter Sunday.

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

## A Fond Farewell from Zion's Director of Youth and Family Ministry

As noted above, Zion's Council received Rhonda Rossi's letter of resignation at the April 21st Council meeting. We are sad to see her go and we wish her well. We will bid Rhonda Farewell and Godspeed on Sunday, May 22nd at 11 a.m. Please see the note from Rhonda below.



Dear Friends of Zion:

After several weeks of discernment, I have made the decision to step down as the Director of Youth and Family Ministry at Zion on May 22nd. I have enjoyed getting to know each of you and the youth of Zion, and especially ministering alongside Pastor Kat.

Thank you for your support of me and of the youth of Zion. I pray that you will continue to support the youth and the important ministry of accompanying them in their faith journeys.

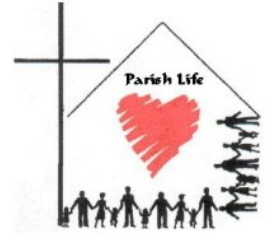
Yours in Ministry,  
Rhonda Rossi



## Parish Life News

### Dinner Reception for Pastor Kat's Installation

Please join us on Sunday, May 15th as we celebrate Pastor Kat's installation as the 31st pastor of Zion Lutheran Church. Following the installation service, a dinner reception will be held at the Christian Education Building. Please help us get a headcount for the caterer by signing up via the link that was emailed from the Parish Office, or by calling 908-439-2040.



### Prayer Partners

The 2022 Prayer Partner program continues! If you haven't signed up yet and decide at any time throughout the year that you would like to join us – please reach out! The door is always open!



### **Lunch Bunch — May 12th**

Please join Pastor Kat at Galasso's Cucina on Route 22 in Lebanon on Thursday, May 12th at 12 p.m. RSVP to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, May 10th.

### **Women's Fellowship Luncheon and Tea — June 18th at 12 p.m.**



All Women of Zion are invited to the Women's Luncheon and Tea on Saturday, June 18th at 12 p.m. at the CEB. The event will be an opportunity to enjoy each other's company again, and to meet new friends.

We urge you to invite at least one woman friend, neighbor or relative to come as your guest. Postcard invitations for you to hand-deliver will be available in the narthex next to the sign-up sheet, starting May 15th.

*Women*  
**of**  
**ZION**

We will also use this gathering to honor Zion's partnership with Family Promise, one of our local outreach ministries.

The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex through June 12th, the final day to sign up yourself and your guests. You can also sign up on-line via the link that will be emailed from the Parish Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Anita Zarate at 908-938-4532 or [anita.zarate@mac.com](mailto:anita.zarate@mac.com).

### **Meal Train Assistance**

Zion has a long-standing tradition of supporting members in need or in mourning through a meal. If you would like to be on the volunteer list to provide support of this ministry, please reach out to Shellie Evers.





## 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. The 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> grade will join the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade with Mrs. Matsen through the end of the year. Masks are optional.



### First Communion

Four of Zion's young people celebrated their First Communion at the 10 a.m. worship service on Palm Sunday, April 10th, and the remaining class member on April 24th. Congratulations to the students and their parents!



The First Communion Class assisted with Faith Kitchen this month by packing 80 lunch bags. Thank you to the kids and their parents for helping with this special service project!



### Christian Education & Youth Calendar

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Sunday, May 1st –    | Confirmation Class and Sunday School meet at 9:45 AM in the CEB  |
| Wednesday, May 4th – | Christian Education and Youth Committee meeting via Zoom at 7 PM   |
| Sunday, May 8th –    | Second Sunday Single Service at 10 AM – Attend church with your family   |
| Sunday, May 15th –   | Confirmation Class and Sunday School meet at 9:45 AM in the CEB<br>Service of Installation of Pastor Kat at 3 PM |
| Sunday, May 22nd –   | Confirmation Class and Sunday School meet at 9:45 AM in the CEB  |







## Easter Egg Hunt!

Zion's annual Easter Egg Hunt was a big success, with 16 children participating and over 45 people in attendance! Three new families from the community joined in the fun and a great time was had by all!



## Family Easter Event

Students in Zion's Christian Education programs, their parents and youth mentors participated in the Family Easter Event held on Sunday, April 3rd. Those attending were treated to the telling of the Easter Story presented by the Confirmation Class. After the story, the group stuffed eggs for the Easter Egg hunt, dyed 80 eggs to donate to Faith Kitchen, and made their own Resurrection Eggs that were hung on our Tree of Life.



## 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.



## Thrivent Action Teams — Can You Help?

Zion Congregation – Are you a Thrivent member? If so, you can help Zion make a positive impact in our community! As a Thrivent member, you are eligible to request an Action Team grant twice each year from Thrivent to support Zion's ministries and events. Thrivent offers all the resources needed, including up to \$250 in seed money. We've used these grants in the past to help fund items for the Good News Home 5K (race bibs, etc.), postage for our Military Recognition care packages, and costs associated with the Tag Sale. **The Zion leader** for the particular ministry or event will **supply the required information** to be submitted to Thrivent and will do **ALL the follow-up at the end of the event**. All we need from you is the willingness to apply for the grant! Please contact the Parish Office to find out more and/or to volunteer.



## Blood Drive Update

Zion's Social Ministry and Evangelism committees paired up for a successful Blood Drive on April 12th. **Sixteen donors** met an urgent need. Members of the Evangelism team provided snacks and shared information about Zion's upcoming activities. We enjoyed many conversations with folks about Zion and our outreach ministries.



## Faith Kitchen News by Debra Kaufman

Faith Kitchen - April was a Zion team effort. The Sunday School classes dyed hard boiled eggs (so pretty!) and the 3rd/4th grade first communion students packed the bags of fruit, and chips (thank you Kathy Rustwick for the donation). John McAleer led the soup crew with a new incredible soup - Ham, Corn, Potato, and Green Bean chowder. He traveled far to find a new roux product and wow - it made such good chowder - what a chef! We welcomed back John Ruland and Audrey Ruland from their winter travels and Wendy Minerowicz and Christine Clark jumped in to chop up a whole bunch of veggies. Praise God for this wonderful ministry.

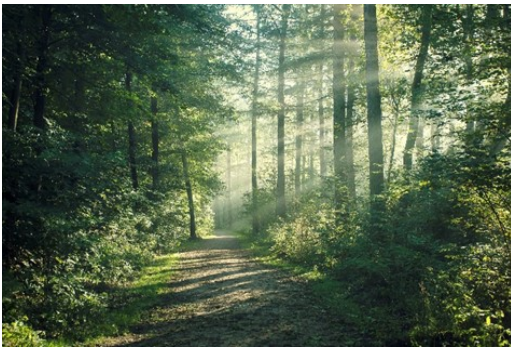


## Look What's Happening at Cross Roads!

### Opening Day at Cross Roads!

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 toward 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).



### Wednesdays Away at Cross Roads

**May 4th and May 11th — Resurrected Wounds**

*Presented by Kayla Hopgood*

The resurrected Jesus is not without wounds of the cross. In the Gospel of John, Jesus appears to the disciples, most famously Thomas, to show his wounds and to share words of peace and mercy. We will contemplate together the power of this passage while considering how resurrection transforms our own wounds today.

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

## CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS SUMMER AT CROSS ROADS**

The Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center staff is a vibrant, close-knit community that intentionally creates a nurturing place and time apart. Join us for a life-changing summer experience in 2022!



**BE A LEADER**



**GROW IN FAITH**



**GET OUTSIDE**



**FORM RELATIONSHIPS**

Summer employment runs from late-June through August 2022. Apply to join Spring Staff to come to camp early!

APPLY ONLINE AT [WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM/EMPLOYMENT](http://WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM/EMPLOYMENT)

## Military Recognition and Appreciation

May 30, 2022 is Memorial Day. *All Gave Some. Some Gave All.* Facts about Memorial Day:

- Memorial Day honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.
- It is observed on the last Monday of May, although for many years it was observed every year on May 30th.
- Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day.
- It became a federal holiday in 1971 and created a three-day weekend for federal employees.



At Zion we begin our annual Military Recognition (that culminates with Veteran's Day in November) in May by sending cards to our active-duty service members letting them know we are thinking of them. Please see the list below if you would like to send a card. Please let the Parish Office know if there are additions that should be made to the list of those currently serving or to the list of Zion's veterans. Thank you to all for your service!

Rank/Job Branch/Where Stationed	Military Service Member's Name and Mailing Address	Affiliation with Zion
E3 Private First Class  U.S. Army Reserve Blackwood, New Jersey	<b>Daemon Durham</b> 7187 Boca Grove Place Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202	<i>Nephew of Bob Durham</i>
FCA3  U.S. Navy Naval Station Norfolk Norfolk, Virginia	<b>Robert Heinke</b> 1509 Judith Court Virginia Beach, VA 23464	<i>Brother-in-law of Meghan Holman</i>
E6, 25B, IT Tech White House Communication Agency with Presidential Airlift Group at Andrews AF Base  U.S. Army Fort Belvoir, Virginia	<b>Erik Lindquist</b> 5500 Boxwood Court N, unit B Fort Belvoir, VA 22060	<i>Nephew of Debra Kaufman</i>
E5, Petty Officer 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Electrician's Mate  U.S. Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	<b>Hunter MacKenzie</b> 217 Summit Road Media, PA 19063	<i>Son of Shellie Evers</i>
Captain Professor of ROTC Cadets  U.S. Army Roswell, New Mexico	<b>Kurt Rossi</b> 901 S. Caminisito Street Roswell, NM 88203	<i>Nephew of Lynn Fuller</i>
Petty Officer, 2nd Class  U.S. Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	<b>Zachary Sullivan</b> 1 Washington Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19147	<i>Friend of Shellie Evers</i>





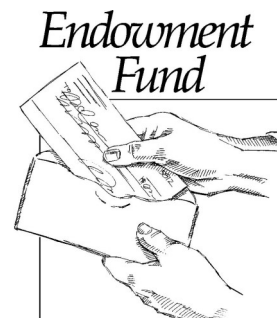
## ZION MEMBERS WHO ARE VETERANS

Name	Branch	Rank	Where Served	Dates
Einar Bredeson	U.S. Army	First Lieutenant Rifle Platoon Leader Airborne Ranger	Fort Benning, GA; Baumholder, Germany; Bosnia Herzogovina	1992-1996
P.J. Ehmann	U.S. Army	SP-4	Germany	1960-1962
Tom Fesenmaier	U.S. Army	SP-4	Tank at Fort Hood Killeen, Texas	1966-68
Fred Herder, Jr.	U.S. Army	Sergeant E-5 Rifle Platoon Leader	South Carolina; Vietnam; Kentucky	Sept. 1966- May 1969
Ted Jermansen	U.S. Army  U.S. Army Reserve	Staff Sergeant E-6	Fort Dix, NJ  304 Chemical Company New York, NY	Sept. 1962-March 1963  March 1963-Sept. 1968
Bill Kover	U.S. Air Force	Airman First Class	26th Weather Squadron, Detachment 34 Dyess Air Force Base Abilene, Texas	1966-1967
Dan Matyola	U.S. Marine Corps	Captain Naval Flight Officer F-4 and A-6 Aircraft	Vietnam; Japan; North Carolina	1963-1968
John McAleer	NJ Army National Guard	Sergeant Tank Commander	50th Armored Division, 5R/117th Cavalry	1965-1971
John Ruland	U.S. Navy	Lieutenant	Newport, RI; 7-month tour in Vietnam	1965-1967
David Wintemute	U.S. Air Force	Major Aircraft Commander C-141	McGuire AFB, Wrightstown, NJ	1971-1991  <i>(combined active duty &amp; reserve service)</i>
Dennis Wuest	U.S. Marine Corps	Corporal	US Embassies in Tripoli, Libya, and Romania	2013-2016

## Endowment Fund News

Our first Endowment Sunday for 2022 will be on Mother's Day, May 8<sup>th</sup>. The remaining Endowment Sundays for 2022 will be 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 ways to use 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 remaining 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. 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 worshipping virtually, please consider mailing a check marked "Endowment" to the Parish Office.

Please contact any member of the Endowment Committee (Mike Donnelly, Ted Jermansen and Rick Schroeder) if you have any questions. Thank you for your support of Zion's Endowment Fund!

## Bishop's Cup Golf Outing — June 13th



### YOU MAKE CAMP POSSIBLE!

For 20 years, Cross Roads has served children and families from across New Jersey and around the world. The life-giving, and life-changing, impact of Cross Roads does not happen by accident. It is possible only through the generosity of countless people, including those who underwrite and attend the Bishops' Cup Golf Outing. Consider joining our Gold and Bronze sponsors or choose another level of support like American Church Group, our golf cart sponsor! We also welcome foursomes and individual golfers.

To register for the golf outing, please visit [www.crossroadsretreat.com](http://www.crossroadsretreat.com).

**CROSS  ROADS**  
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



## 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
March	\$29,621.39	-\$38,082.06	-\$8,460.67
<b>Year To Date Total</b>	<b>\$94,855.46</b>	<b>-\$99,388.11</b>	<b>-\$4,532.65</b>

TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$104,362.07	4/3/2022
Money Market Plus	178,101.32	3/31/2022
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>\$282,463.39</b>	

Directed Funds	\$161,359.18	3/31/2022
Operating Funds	\$121,104.21	3/31/2022
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>\$282,463.39</b>	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$535,055.33	2/28/2022
THRIVENT	\$371,377.77	3/31/2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$906,433.10</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 - Ukraine	-\$5,000.00

<b>2022 Endowment Funds Remaining</b>	<b>\$18,648.00</b>
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Give to Zion from your phone! Scan the QR code to be directed to Tithely's electronic giving site.



Judy Formalarie has moved to Pennsylvania and would love to keep in touch with her friends at Zion. We miss you, Judy!

579 Adie Drive  
Effort, PA 18330  
908-343-3646

**A Little Giggle from the  
Shepherding Committee**

