



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

June 2022

A Message from Pastor Kat

On Fire with the Spirit



Things are about to get fired up as we begin the summer months by celebrating the Day of Pentecost. For Christians around the world, this day marks the end of the Easter season and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples as described in Acts 2.

In this reading, the Spirit of God appears with wind, fire, and a miraculous proclamation of God's mighty deeds that leads many to join the followers of Jesus. The text invites us not only to marvel at the awesome experience of God's presence made known on that first Pentecost. We are also invited to consider how God's presence is being made known in our time and in our lives. How do we see God at work in our daily life and in our ministry at Zion?

Of course, not every day in the ministry of the apostles was full of wind and fire and thousands of people being baptized. There were also days of preparation, of waiting, of wondering what God might be up to next. Through it all, they had faith that the fire of the Spirit that burned so brightly on Pentecost would not be blown out, even during seasons of struggle and doubt.

A Faithful Journey

This past month, our Congregational Council voted for Zion to join a cohort of local Lutheran congregations who will be meeting several times a year for a two-year period to discern how God is at work among us and calling us forward into a new future. This "Faithful Journey" program will help Zion as we take the next step in our journey as a community of faith. Participants will engage in spiritual practices that aid discernment and will receive support and encouragement to try new ministries.

Thanks be to God that the Holy Spirit is still at work in the church today! May we, like the disciples, continue to have faith even in the face of challenges that this fire will never go out!

In Christ,
Pastor Kat

Synod Assembly Report

The 33rd New Jersey Synod Assembly was held virtually again this year. One of the highlights of the Assembly was the report on the 2021-2022 Jehu Jones Bishop's Challenge, which exceeded its \$50,000 goal in raising funds for emerging leaders of African descent in the New Jersey Synod. In 2021, Zion contributed \$2,000 to the Challenge. More information about this year's Assembly can be found by visiting www.njsynod.org/bulletin-of-reports.



Congregation Council Highlights



The Council met via Zoom conference call on May 19th. Below are the highlights of that meeting.

- Pastor Kat expressed her thanks to the council and congregation for the wonderful day of celebration for her installation on May 15th. Everyone agreed that it was a great day!
- The newly-formed Evangelism committee has begun their work. Please see page 4 for details.
- Pastor Kat's summer "Let's Talk" series will meet on Zoom on the 4th Wednesday of the month in June-September.
- Vacation Bible School volunteers are in place, once again under the excellent direction of Melanie Hodges.
- 2022-2023 Sunday School Rally Day has been scheduled for September 11th.
- The Tag Sale raised \$4,500 for a scholarship fund for the children of Family Promise to attend summer camp at Cross Roads.
- This year's 5K fun run/walk to benefit The Good News Home for Women has been scheduled for Saturday, September 10.
- Zion will be adding an additional monthly opportunity for members to serve at Faith Kitchen. Please see page 4 for more information.
- Seersucker/Endowment Sunday has been scheduled for June 19th. Please see the article on page 7 for details.
- The council voted to join a cohort of churches from the New Jersey Synod for the "Faithful Journey" process, to consider the question: How do we cultivate Christian identity and Christian community in a rapidly changing world. Along with Pastor Kat, members participating in this program are Colin Brokaw, Linda Held, Melanie Hodges, Janet Hornich, Brooke Schumann, and Reina Schumann.
- Discussion was held regarding Zion's worship schedule and whether the council should consider moving to a single service year-round. Cases were made both for and against the idea. The council agreed to revisit the question at the end of the summer.
- An anti-racism workshop will be held at Stanton Reformed Church on June 7th at 6 p.m. Pastor Kat plans to attend.
- Thank you to:
 - * Harold Wrede for negotiating a new contract with our fire alarm company, and securing a \$9,000 credit to Zion's account.
 - * Joanne Rupp for her assistance with the service of installation on May 15th.
 - * The Parish Choir for their offerings of special music at the service of installation.
 - * Janet Hornich for taking photos at the service of installation.
 - * Shellie & Eric Evers for chairing the service of installation dinner reception.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, June 16th. 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.

Installation of Zion's 31st Pastor

On May 15th, Zion Lutheran Church installed its 31st pastor, the Reverend Katherine I. Steinly — better known as Pastor Kat. The service of installation was followed by a dinner reception at the Christian Education Building. It was a wonderful day of celebration!



Congratulations to Zion's 2022 Graduates!

Graduates will be recognized during 9:30 a.m. worship on June 12th.

Middle School

Jacob Apgar	Readington Middle School to Hunterdon Central Regional High School
Teddy Lanka	Woodglen Middle School to Voorhees High School
Kayden O'Connor-Shin	William Annin Middle School to Ridge High School
Jessica Rodrick	Woodglen Middle School to Voorhees High School

High School

Ryan Beauregard	Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School to University of Mount Union
Carol Anne Bredeson	Delaware Valley Regional High School to Bucknell University
Brianna Colasurdo	Hunterdon Central Regional High School to Raritan Valley Community College
Joshua Evers	Voorhees High School — Pursuing a career in Fire Service
Jonathan Rodrick	Voorhees High School to Raritan Valley Community College
Tanner Rogers	North Hunterdon High School to Penn State University
Roxanne Wieder	Hunterdon Central Regional High School — Pursuing a career in Equine Therapy

College or University

Erik Dehkes	Carnegie Mellon University BS in Biological Sciences and Psychology
Andi Delia	University of Colorado BA in Political Science with minor in Business
Dane Livingston	Montana State University AA in Construction Management
Erik Livingston	Roanoke College BA in History
Kirsten Maiwaldt	Rutgers University BFA in Design & Print with minor in Education
Emma Mikitiuk	University of Pittsburgh BS in Business Administration
Katherine Rupprecht	Pratt Institute BFA in Film



Graduate School

Haley Conner	Scranton University MA in Accountancy
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Zion has a newly-formed Evangelism Committee!

The ELCA defines Evangelism as: *Evangelism is the simple act of sharing the Good News of God's love in Jesus and inviting others to trust in this love and join in God's work.*



Zion's Evangelism Committee Mission Statement: *The important actions involved in the work of Evangelism are communicating (God's good news and our ministries), being present (in the local community and at ministry events), inviting and engaging (new people in our ministries) and building a culture of evangelism in our congregation.*

Members: David Blackwood Laura Bredeson, Janet Hornich, Debra Kaufman (chairperson), Rebecca Melick, John Minerowicz, and Donna Reilly (Advisor: Pastor Kat)

If you see an opportunity for Zion to share the Good News in and around the community, please feel free to speak with anyone on the Evangelism committee!



New Faith Kitchen Opportunity

Our Social Ministry committee is adding another opportunity to serve!

Have you always wanted to volunteer to cook and serve at Faith Kitchen in Dover, but Thursday mornings didn't work for you? Well, now is your chance. Zion is adding an additional day of serving on the **third Saturday of each month**. Our first opportunity is **Saturday, June 18th**.

How it works -

- Arrive at Faith Kitchen in Dover at 9AM
- Prepare food (food and recipes will be provided) - usually a soup and sandwich or salad
- Set the tables
- Hand out the food to the patrons (Saturday has less of a crowd, so we'll be serving approximately 30)
- Finish up around 12:30PM



Want to know more? – Reach out to any of the current first Thursday volunteers, many of whom are pictured below: Christine Clark, Debra Kaufman, Linda Lovas, Sandy Matsen, John & Jann McAleer, John & Wendy Minerowicz, John & Audrey Ruland, Steve & Barb Surhoff.

Want to join? – Please contact Debra Kaufman at 703-402-2158.



Blood Drive Recap — Thank You!

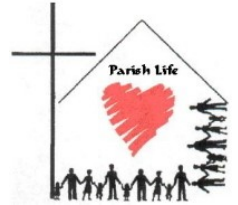
Thank you to all who donated blood on April 12th. We collected 16 units of blood which will help save over 48 lives.



Parish Life News

Thank You!

To ALL of the amazing people who planned, set up, cleaned up, and participated in the May 15th Installation Service and Reception! It was truly a wonderful event and a reminder of why Zion is so very special!



Batter Up

This year's Somerset Patriots baseball outing will be on Saturday, June 25 at 7:05 p.m. and there will be fireworks after the game! If you're interested in joining us for this fun Zion tradition, please contact Shellie Evers at 804-678-8993 as soon as possible to let her know how many tickets you will need. We are sitting in section 213 and the cost is \$9.50 per ticket.

Put on Your Dancing Shoes Again — The Big Fuss returns to Sunken Silo Brew Works on Saturday, July 30th.

Come hang out with Zion friends and family at Sunken Silo Brew Works on Route 22 in Lebanon for an evening of live music at this local brewery. Fun fact -- James Rustwick, son of Zion members John and Kathy, plays lead guitar for this great rock band! Enjoy the covered pavilion and BYOD (bring your own dinner).

Pack something from home or take advantage of the convenience of Metropolitan Seafood right next door. There is a \$10 cover charge for this event. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Please let Shellie Evers know if you plan to attend so we can be sure to grab enough tables for everyone. Join us for the fun and bring your dancing feet!



Calling All Crime Solvers — Sip and Solve with Lisa Desire/Prime Suspect — Friday, August 5th at 7 pm.

Do you love Cold Case and CSI? Then this event is for you! Not only will you have fun learning about forensic science — participants will get to do the actual testing required to solve a mystery. The cost is \$25 per person, Oldwick location pending. Attendees are asked to bring a beverage and an appetizer or dessert to share.

Zion's Anniversary

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, August 7th — Zion's 308th anniversary!

Happy Father's Day!

The quality of
a father can be seen
in the goals, dreams
and aspirations
he sets not only
for himself,
but for his family.

-Reed Markham



Lunch Bunch — June 9th

Please join Pastor Kat at Long Valley Brew Pub on Thursday, June 9th at 12 p.m. RSVP to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday, June 7th.

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



All Women of Zion are invited to the Women's Tea and Luncheon 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 encourage you to invite at least one woman friend, neighbor or relative to come as your guest. Postcard invitations for you to hand-deliver available in the narthex next to the sign-up sheet.

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 was emailed from the Parish Office. You do not need to sign up in both places!

If you have any questions, please contact Anita Zarate at 908-938-4532 or anita.zarate@mac.com.

Youth and Family Ministry at Zion



Sunday School and Confirmation Class

Zion's Sunday School and Confirmation programs for this year came to end on Sunday, May 22nd. Youth (3rd-8th grade), their parents, and our youth mentors participated in a challenging game of Bible Jeopardy while the PreK-1st grade students enjoyed end-of-year activities together in their classroom. Refreshments were served and all had a fun time. We wish you a safe and enjoyable summer. Looking forward to seeing all of you in September!



A special thanks to our teachers for this year:

PreK-1st Grade	Linda Smith
3rd-4th Grade	Tiffany Shin
5th-6th Grade	Sandy Matsen
Confirmation	Jeff Livingston and Pastor Kat
Music	Rod Briscoe

And to Melanie Hodges, our Christian Education & Youth chairperson, who planned our Christmas Program and the Family Easter Event, and helped with all grades throughout the year!

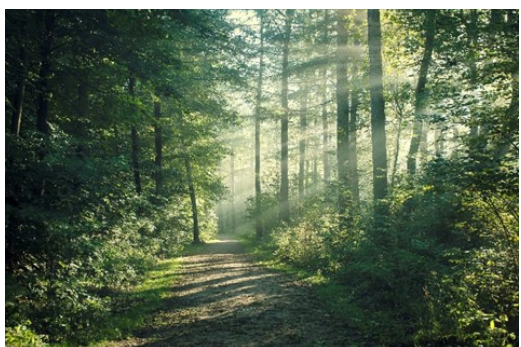
Vacation Bible School

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.



Wednesdays Away at Cross Roads

Wednesday, June 1st

Kindling the Fire – Laurie Matarazzo

Days before the Feast of Pentecost, we will gather the kindling of our souls and of our real experience to add to the flames of the Holy Spirit.

Register at www.crossroadsretreat.com.



WORK AT CAMP

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

Seersucker Sunday, Endowment Sunday, and Ernest Stellke ... A Story

Sunday, June 19th

Seersucker Sunday

Wear your seersucker!

Endowment Sunday

Honor a loved one!

What is Seersucker Sunday? It certainly is not in the liturgical calendar. Seersucker Sunday belongs to Zion. And here is the story ...

It was well over 25 years ago that the dream of renovating and adding on to the Christian Education Building (CEB) was becoming a reality. The stumbling block was how to finance this \$1,000,000+ project. The church had owned the property that is now home to Melick's Town Farm south of Oldwick and when the decision was made to sell the property that was considered to be Zion's nest egg, a disgruntled Ernest Stellke (you could call him Ernie, but he insisted on writing Ernest) went beyond complaining. He acted.

Thanks to a \$50,000 gift from Ernie (sorry, Ernest!) Zion's Endowment Fund was created. Over the years, the Endowment Fund has grown to \$885,000 and over \$200,000 has been dispersed to ministries both inside and outside Zion's walls.

Ernie was a character. He never married, he took care of his elderly mother, he was quick with a sharp tongue, he traveled the world. He also wore his seersucker suit with no socks every summer. We lost Ernie after a battle with ALS in 2012, right before Superstorm Sandy struck. Post-Sandy there was a sermon about the mighty oaks that had fallen which included the giant oak in front of the parsonage, and Ernie.

That next summer we knew we would miss that seersucker suit and Seersucker Sunday was born — a day we all try to wear seersucker. We remember Ernie and his generosity in establishing the Endowment Fund. Father's Day, June 20th, is our next Endowment Sunday. And it's Seersucker Sunday. It's a time you can honor someone in your life with a gift to the Endowment Fund. And we thank Ernie for his foresight and his generosity.

****If you would like to add some seersucker to your wardrobe before June 19th, seersucker clothing is available at Lands' End, L.L. Bean, and The Vermont Country Store.*

Next Endowment Sunday – June 19th

Our second Endowment Sunday for 2022 will be on Father's Day, June 19th. The final Endowment Sunday for 2022 will be All Saints Day, November 6th.

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, \$5,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response Fund for the Eastern Europe Crisis and \$600 has been earmarked for the New Jersey Synod "Faithful Journey" program, leaving a current balance of \$18,048 still available to support 2022 ministries.

Please consider giving to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund on June 19th as a tribute to all fathers 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 June 19th. If you are still 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.

*Endowment
Fund*



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
April	\$28,907.80	-\$31,764.00	-\$2,856.20
Year To Date Total	\$123,763.26	-\$131,152.11	-\$7,388.85

TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$124,889.74	5/3/2022
Money Market Plus	178,108.64	4/30/2022
Cash On Hand	\$302,998.38	
Directed Funds	\$176,593.24	4/30/2022
Operating Funds	\$126,405.14	4/30/2022
Cash On Hand	\$302,998.38	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$537,604.98	3/31/2022
THRIVENT	\$348,304.59	4/30/2022
TOTAL	\$885,909.57	

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



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

A Little Giggle from the
Shepherding Committee

