



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

July 2022

A Message from Pastor Kat

Road Trip!

This month in worship, we'll be continuing our summer road trip with the prophet, Elijah, through the Holy Land. Part of the adventure of a road trip is discovering new places and sometimes being surprised by where the road takes you. You never know what interesting people you might meet or what amazing things you might see around the bend in the road.

Sometimes, the unexpected nature of a road trip requires us to adapt to and overcome challenges that come our way. This month, we'll hear how Elijah experiences challenges on his road trip: running low on food, sickness, even death threats from the Queen! Through it all, God provides a way forward, giving Elijah the strength needed to keep going.

Zion's Faithful Journey

Last month, I shared with you that a team of Zion members are participating in a synod program called "Faithful Journey," which will give us resources as we contemplate the next step in Zion's faith journey. No doubt there will be challenges we will need to overcome on our "road trip" as a congregation, but, like Elijah, we can be confident that God is with us.

As members of this team begin their work, including a summer listening campaign (see page 2), I encourage you to be open to joining in as together we see where God is leading us. Who knows what we might discover just around the bend in the road!

In Christ,
Pastor Kat

Worship Schedule Open Forums

July 10th & July 31st

Join Pastor Kat and council members on July 10th or July 31st for an open forum regarding Zion's Sunday morning worship schedule. We will meet in the sanctuary immediately following 9:30 a.m. worship. We are considering as a congregation whether we might move to one worship service year-round rather than returning to two services in the fall. Please plan to attend to ask any questions you may have and share your comments with us. Thank you!

**WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**



Congregation Council Highlights



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

- New Member Sunday was held on June 5th, where we welcomed Jon Stein to our congregation. Members who have joined during Covid times were also recognized — Joe Iannacone, Dan Metz, and Brian & Donna Reilly.
- The Worship Renewal Team will have its first meeting this month. Please see page 5 for more information about this group and its mission.
- Pastor Kat and Sonja Fesenmaier attended an anti-racism workshop at Stanton Reformed Church on June 7th. Speaker Angela Fields encouraged the attendees to have intentional conversations and work to raise awareness about what it means to be anti-racist.
- Upcoming Parish Life events include an outing to Sunken Silo on July 30th and a Sip & Solve at the home of Shellie & Eric Evers on August 5th. Please see page 3 for details.
- This summer, the Social Ministry committee is collecting food items for kids. Please see page 4 for a list of suggested donations.
- Background checks have been completed for all Vacation Bible School volunteers.
- The Faithful Journey team is embarking on a listening campaign this summer to learn more about the spiritual life of Zion's members. Please see the article below for more information.
- The Council is working to evaluate the best schedule for Sunday worship services. Two Open Forum sessions will be held in July to give the congregation an opportunity to share comments and questions.
- Plans are in place to form a search committee for the Director of Youth & Family Ministry position.

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

New Faithful Journey Program

We're going on a Faithful Journey! This NJ Synod program, approved by Council, will give us tools to reflect on our current context as a church and then take the next step in our congregational journey of faith. Our journey started this past month in the company of synod leaders and other members of local congregations in a morning retreat.



The focus of Zion's Faithful Journey team will be to grow our youth and family ministry. We are grateful to team members Colin Brokaw, Linda Held, Melanie Hodges, Janet Hornich, Brooke Schumann, Reina Schumann, and Pastor Kat.

Summer Listening Campaign: We want to hear from you! Over the summer, the Faithful Journey team will be doing a Listening Campaign to learn more about the spiritual life of members of our congregation. We encourage you to be open to sharing your experience with the members of our team as we gather information to inform our next step. Thank you for your help!

Youth and Family Ministry at Zion



Tubing on the Delaware River

Calling all incoming 7th-12th graders! Join us on Saturday, July 23rd (rain date July 30th) for tubing on the Delaware! We'll meet at the home of Jeff & Helen Livingston in Milford at 12 p.m. and tube our way to Frenchtown. Please contact the Parish Office for more details and to sign up.



Faith Kitchen

All incoming 5th through 12th graders are invited to assist with meal preparation for Faith Kitchen in August. More information to follow!



WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Blessing of VBS Volunteers

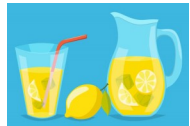
This year's Vacation Bible School volunteers received a blessing from Pastor Kat on June 26th as they prepared to assisting with VBS on June 27-July 1. Pictured are Sandy Matsen,

Margot Forster, Betty Lanka, Melanie Hodges, Sue Swanson, Pastor Kat, Wendy Minerowicz, John Minerowicz, Tiffany Shin, Kayden O'Connor-Shin, and Reina Schumann.

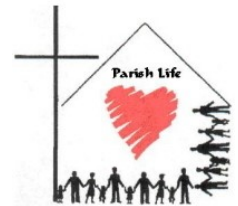


Parish Life News

Summer Social Hour



During the summer months, Zion's weekly fellowship time takes place on the front lawn of the church, immediately following Sunday's **9:30 a.m.** worship service. If you would like to volunteer to bring food or drinks for one of the Sundays over the summer, please sign up via the link emailed from the Parish Office.



Put on Your Dancing Shoes, Again! — The Big Fuss returns to Sunken Silo Brew Works on **Saturday, July 30th at 6 p.m.**



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 from 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, and the event will be held at the home of Shellie & Eric Evers. Attendees are asked to bring a beverage and an appetizer or dessert to share.



Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is taking a break in July and August, and will meet again on Thursday, September 8th. Stay tuned for details!

Food Pantry Donations Needed — Summer Meals for KIDS!

Breakfast items

Cereals
Instant Oatmeal
Pancake Mix
Juice Boxes
Fruit Cups
Applesauce
Mini Muffins

Lunch/Dinner items

Boxed macaroni and cheese
Cup of Noodles
Cup of macaroni and cheese
Canned ravioli
Fruit snacks
Healthy snack treats



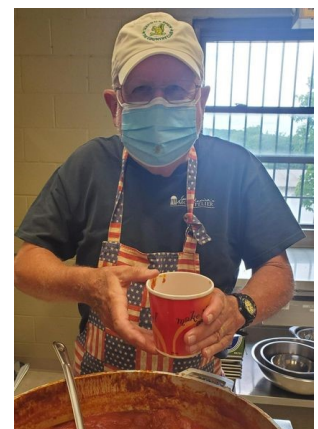
Faith Kitchen News *by Debra Kaufman*

Our Faith Kitchen ministry has expanded to include both **First Thursdays** and **Third Saturdays**!

In June, Zion members were pleased to cook and serve twice with our wonderful ministry partner, Faith Kitchen. We are looking forward to building up a third Saturday crew and we welcome folks to join us for the first Thursday opportunity as well.

So, if you have been wanting to become a part of this ministry, NOW is the time.

The Social Ministry committee gives thanks for the June volunteers and for Zion's faithful congregation who support this important outreach ministry.





Worship Renewal Team

This summer, Pastor Kat and Rod Briscoe, Zion's Director of Music, will begin the work of worship renewal with the help of this new team. This team was formed at the request of the Worship & Music committee to bring in some new voices as we reflect on the evolution of worship, especially as a result of the pandemic.

While Zion is a place of strong and proud traditions, we also want to think about what changes could expand the welcome we provide in worship, a central part of our life together. This team will reflect on current worship practices and consider what changes might be helpful. We give thanks for Rod Briscoe, Ken Bryson, Meghan Holman, Janet Hornich, Dan Metz, Tiffany Shin, and Pastor Kat, who will be serving on this team.



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 10, 2022

3rd Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk to support our ministry partner,
The Good News Home for Women

Enjoy food, music, the ice cream truck and
a great day in beautiful Oldwick

Registration will start at 9:30 a.m.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YTD 2022

GENERAL FUND	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
January	\$31,968.90	-\$29,412.46	\$2,556.44
February	\$33,165.17	-\$31,893.59	\$1,271.58
March	\$29,721.39	-\$38,082.06	-\$8,360.67
April	\$28,907.80	-\$31,680.89	-\$2,773.09
May	\$30,337.81	-\$37,690.59	-\$7,352.78
Year To Date Total	\$154,101.07	-\$168,759.59	-\$14,658.52



TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$99,019.82	6/3/2022
Money Market Plus	178,116.20	5/31/2022
Cash On Hand	\$277,136.02	

Directed Funds	\$171,977.39	5/31/2022
Operating Funds	\$105,158.63	5/31/2022
Cash On Hand	\$277,136.02	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$514,368.30	4/30/2022
THRIVENT	\$350,610.77	5/31/2022
TOTAL	\$864,979.07	



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

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