



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

September 2022

A Message from Pastor Kat

Carrying the Cross

For those who first followed him, Jesus was a breath of a fresh air, a sign of new life in a difficult age. He saw those who had been overlooked or rejected and invited them to his table. He offered healing to the suffering and bread to the hungry. For those who had felt lost in the dark, Jesus was a beacon of hope.

For many of us today, our faith and calling to follow Christ brings us great joy and meaningful purpose. And yet, we also know that a life of faith does not come without challenge or trial. Following the path that we imagine Jesus would desire for us involves sacrifice. Discipleship comes with a cost.

Jesus is up front about this cost. He speaks about the tension that his followers might experience in their intimate relationships. He urges his followers on several occasions to “give up their possessions” or to “sell their possessions and give the money to the poor.”

This month's readings all share a common theme. Each story in some way references material resources and wealth, and how we are called to sacrifice, steward, shrewdly manage, and be generous with these resources – all for the sake of creating a world that mirrors God's intentions.

Supporting God's Mission

The fall, we leap into a new program year. Sunday School and Confirmation classes begin this month as well as regular weekly rehearsals for our choirs and musical groups. None of this happens without your time, energy, and effort.

As we begin preparing for a new year of learning, growth, and ministry activities, I urge you to consider – how is God calling you to sacrifice, steward, shrewdly manage, and be generous with your resources for the sake of God's work in this place?

It is my prayer that, as a congregation, we will continue to make the choice of carrying the cross for the sake of new life and hope for our congregation and community.

In Christ,
Pastor Kat



Beginning September 18th, we will return to our regular Sunday morning schedule with worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Congregation Council Highlights

The Council did not meet in August. The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, September 15th. 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.



September Events at Zion



Sunday School and Confirmation Class

"In the Beginning"

Sunday, September 11th

9:30 a.m. at the CEB

Service of Blessing & New Beginnings - Family Friendly!

10:30 a.m. at the CEB

Class Orientation & Activities - Food & Fun!



Volunteers Needed for 5K — September 10th

The Social Ministry and Evangelism committees are hosting the 3rd Annual Community 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Good News Home for Women on September 10th at 9:30 a.m. and **we need YOU!** Please consider one of the many volunteer opportunities for this year's event.

We are anticipating a great turnout from the community, so please mark your calendars to run/walk, volunteer, and spend time with the Good News Home ladies and their families.



Lunch Bunch

Join Pastor Kat for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, September 8th, at 12 p.m. This month's gathering will take place at the Long Valley Brew Pub. Please sign up via the link emailed from the Parish Office.

Exploring the Kingdom of God What is it, really?!

Virtual Midweek Gatherings
Fourth Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
June-September



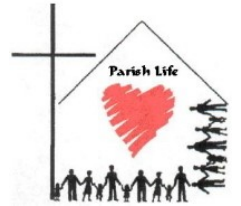
Join Pastor Kat on Zoom at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28th for the final installment of our virtual summer midweek gathering.

Parish Life News



Sipped and Solved!

Friday, August 5th was lots of fun! Thanks to those able to join us – and congratulations to Debra Kaufman and Joanne Rupp who figured out “Who dunnit”!



Zion's Anniversary Was Happy One!

Zion's 308th anniversary was celebrated on August 2nd and it was a great time for fellowship! Many members of our congregation were in attendance, along with our special guest, retired pastor Mark Summer.



Fourth Annual Military Recognition

Donations of gift cards, comfort items, snacks, and toiletries will be accepted from now until October 1st for care packages that will be sent to our active duty military members. Thank you in advance for your generosity toward these amazing people, and for dropping off your donations at the CEB.



Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event

Saturday, October 1st at 9:00 a.m.

Montgomery Evangelical Free Church
Belle Mead, NJ

Zion has reserved 15 spots for the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event on October 1st in Belle Mead. Please contact the Parish Office to sign up.

Faith Kitchen News by Debra Kaufman

Two days of sharing God's grace in August — First Thursday and Youth Service Third Saturday

First Thursday - we served 120 meals of Beef Tortilla Casserole, Mexican Coleslaw, Watermelon and Strawberry Shortcake (one patron took a to go box home and brought her family back to eat because it was so tasty!). Volunteers were kept busy the entire time chopping, grating and squeezing (cabbage, carrots, onions, jalapenos, peppers, cheese and limes) - yes, there are modern age kitchen appliances and prepacked foods, but when you have volunteers all you need is a lot of cutting boards, peelers, knives, and box graters!



Third Saturday - Youth Service Event. Many thanks to the youth who arrived early at the CEB (Alex, Jess, Lauren and Reina). They made hearty sub sandwiches and prepared the pasta salad. Great job! And thanks to the adults who served the patrons at Faith Kitchen. Special thanks to Dan who spent 2.5 hours prepping all of the veggies in advance. A wonderful day of engaging the youth in one of Zion's ministries.

Praise God for this ministry that feeds the hungry. - Next days of service - **Thursday, September 1st** and **Saturday, September 17th**. Volunteers are especially needed for our new Saturday service! Contact Debra Kaufman 703 402 2158 with any questions.

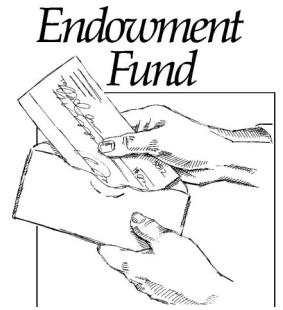


Endowment Fund News

NEXT ENDOWMENT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6th

The final Endowment Sunday for 2022 will be All Saints Sunday, November 6th.

There was \$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, \$5,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response for the Eastern Europe Crisis and \$500 has been earmarked for the New Jersey Synod Visioning Process Training, leaving a balance of \$18,148 still available to support 2022 ministries.



Please consider giving to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund on November 6th to celebrate All Saints Sunday 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 November 6th. 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.

CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Upcoming Events at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center

Wednesdays Away

Monthly: September - June

Join us for Wednesday's Away, a time of spiritual renewal hosted by Cross Roads throughout the year. Our time together includes prayer and conversation, led by a spiritual director and focusing on a different spiritual practice or theme each month. These retreats are open to all people interested in exploring new faith practices.

Rally for Cross Roads

October 1, 2022

The Rally for Cross Roads is an annual run/walk fundraising event. This year, we are excited to combine a run/walk race with an afternoon of activities, including a volleyball game, to have double the fun as we raise funds to support camp! You can join us on-site at Cross Roads for the run/walk and festivities or participate in the 5K or 2K races from home.

Fall Women's Retreat

October 21-23, 2022

Join us for a relaxing time in community together this fall. The Women's Retreat theme is "Who Do You Say That I Am?" and is led by Laurie Matarazzo and Dale Selover. There will be a virtual retreat held on Friday from 10 am – 3 pm via Zoom.

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	-\$31,765.47	-\$2,857.67
May	\$30,337.81	-\$37,690.59	-\$7,352.78
June	\$36,476.35	-\$25,121.17	\$11,355.18
July	\$30,385.26	-\$24,338.60	\$6,046.66
Year To Date Total	\$220,962.68	-\$218,303.94	\$2,658.74

TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE
Checking Account	\$105,632.43
Money Market Plus	178,131.08
Cash On Hand	\$283,763.51

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE
CFNJ	\$493,631.47
THRIVENT	\$354,316.67
TOTAL	\$847,948.14

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



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

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?"
One child answered, "Mary."

The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?"
A little kid said, "Verge."

Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?"
The kid said, "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

