



# Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

October 2022

## *A Message from Pastor Kat*

### **Increase Our Faith!**

Sometimes, it can be difficult to have faith in a hopeful future. The headlines in the news, the stress of our daily lives, and our own personal trials weigh us down. We see the devastation of God's creation and wonder what kind of world there will be for those who come after us. We hear about the struggles of young people in the wake of pandemic challenges and wonder how our children will persevere.

Those who first followed Jesus also faced a grim reality and found it difficult to hope. They lived under the cruel rule of the Roman Empire and wondered when they might experience freedom. They suffered from terrible poverty and wondered when they might experience justice and security.

Perhaps, it was these hard truths that weighed on the disciples when they asked Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus assures them that they need only a little faith to experience the mighty power of God's grace and love.

### **Having Faith in the Future**

The month, we will begin our annual Stewardship Campaign. In this year's campaign, "Blessing Future Generations," you are invited to have faith in the future and to invest in that future with your material resources.

While it can sometimes be difficult to hope, we are a people who know that the future is in God's good and trustworthy hands, and so we have reason to trust in God's provision for God's people.

It is my prayer that, as a congregation, you will hear the call to invest not only in our ministry together, but in the future of the church.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kat

### **2022 Stewardship Campaign**

It's that time of year again. We're back from our summer holidays and able to focus on the ways each of us can contribute to and benefit from Zion's mission. Bringing to mind Genesis 12: "blessed to be a blessing", it's time to kick off this fall's Stewardship Campaign, "Blessing Future Generations."



The peri-pandemic world has put stress on our congregation, but we are at a unique moment in time. In a number of places, Zion's work persists as always. At the same time, we are finding new directions for our time and talents. Our ministries, as well as the basic operational needs of the church, depend on our contributions.

During the month of October, under Pastor Kat's leadership and the Stewardship committee's support, we will be having a number of conversations where a variety of members of the congregation will bear witness by sharing their "why I give" story. This effort culminates with Commitment Sunday on October 23rd. Please stay tuned for more information.

## Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met via Zoom conference call on September 15th. Below are the highlights of that meeting.



- The annual 5K to raise funds for the Good News Home for Women was very successful. \$1,238 was raised on the day of the event, and the Council voted to use Endowment Mission Outreach funds to match and round up for a total donation of \$2,500 to the Good News Home.
- The Worship & Music committee will be using General Memorial funds to purchase 100 copies of the All Creation Sings hymnal supplement to be used for Sunday morning worship.
- A new cleaning service has been hired for the church and CEB.
- The Council received a proposal from Sandy Matsen regarding Zion's archives. There is work that needs to be done. Please see the article below.
- Thank you to:
  - \* Melanie Hodges for her leadership of the Christian Education and Youth Committee and her tireless devotion to children's ministries at Zion.
  - \* The Social Ministry and Evangelism committees for their support of the September 10th 5K event. Special thanks to the 5K Team — Laura Bredeson, Shellie Evers, Janet Hornich, Debra Kaufman, and John Minerowicz for their dedicated work, and to all of the race-day volunteers.
  - \* Rod Briscoe, Melanie Hodges, Sandy Matsen, and Tiffany Shin for a successful Sunday School Rally Day.
  - \* Rod Briscoe, Dan Metz, and Joanne Rupp for assisting with the transition from summer worship at the CEB to fall worship services at the church.
  - \* Debra Kaufman for coordinating the Faith Kitchen and Feed My Starving Children service events for Zion's youth.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council is scheduled for Thursday, October 20th. 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.

## Zion's Archives

Are you interested in history? Genealogy? Zion has a treasure trove of documents needing organization and preservation. Steve Griggs, Margaret Griggs and Bonnie Summer spent several years sorting and digitizing original documents and having paper artifacts preserved. They arranged for the Hunterdon County Historical Society to archive the originals that they worked on.

Zion is now looking for volunteers to pick up this work and determine our next steps. What should volunteers do? What should we pay experts to do? (There is some money set aside for this work.) Once the documents are digitized, we plan to have them posted on our website, so they are available to genealogical researchers.

If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact the Parish Office.





## New Beginnings — Sunday School at Zion

We celebrated the beginning of the Sunday School year during worship on September 11th with the theme “In the Beginning,” followed by some fun events for everyone. We added animals, people, stars, fish, and birds to our creation mural and made some cool clay creatures for an animal parade. Creation tag got rained out, but that left more time to eat ice cream.

Regular classes began on the 18<sup>th</sup>. We have five groupings of kids this year: a 2 year-old class led by Reina Schumann, Pre-School with Tiffany Shin, Grades K-2 with Linda Smith, Grades 3-6 with Sandy Matsen, and Confirmation Class with Pastor Kat and Jeff Livingston.

We had a great turnout for the first day of individual classes. Everyone is welcome – come when you can!



## 2022 Military Recognition

Zion began formalizing our appreciation for the military in 2018 with our first Military Recognition project, and we have been grateful for the continuing support of our congregation members and the assistance from Thrivent. Zion's fifth annual Military Recognition project kicked off on Memorial Day 2022 with Facebook posts expressing appreciation and cards sent to those currently serving.

The annual project involves the support of many congregation members including the Sunday School classes, especially when it comes to the care packages. In 2021, eleven care packages containing candy, thank you notes, gift cards, Thrivent t-shirts, snacks, toiletries, entertainment and sports items, and a bluetooth beanie were mailed to service members across the United States.

We will be collecting items for this year's care packages throughout the month of October. Please watch for the sign-up that will be emailed from the Parish Office. This year's project will culminate in November on the Sunday before Veterans Day with Military Recognition Sunday. During Sunday morning worship on November 6th, our military members will be recognized and the care packages will be blessed.





## Third Annual 5K for The Good News Home for Women — ZION RAISED \$2,500!

A beautiful day was had by all as Zion hosted the Good News Home ladies and the community for a 5K run/walk. It's always been Social Ministry's goal foremost to ensure that the Good News Home ladies enjoy a day at Zion - good food, good music and our intentional conversations with them. This year Social Ministry partnered with Evangelism to encourage the community to join - and they did - Zion members met people who saw the 5K signs on the Columbia trail and folks from "in town" who wanted to be part of the fundraiser.

Many thanks to the planning team who passionately supported this event - Shellie Evers, John Minerowicz, Laura Bredeson, Janet Hornich and Debra Kaufman. And thanks to Dan Metz and the Country Rebel band - great music! Sincere thanks to the many volunteers in the kitchen, at the registration table and those who participated in the event with the Good News Home ladies and their families. And much appreciation to Zion's Endowment Fund which matched the funds raised during the event to bring the total for the Good News Home to \$2,500.

Who's ready for the 4th Annual 5K - coming in 2023!





## Faith Kitchen News by Debra Kaufman

### September, First Thursday Service

Kyrie Eleison, Lord Have Mercy... **that we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor.** Faith Kitchen - September - answering God's call. Barb made a copy of the Kyrie in Spanish to share with the patrons on this morning. Many of them tucked it in their shirt pocket as they left the kitchen. Thanks Barb. We served 90+ meals with John McAleer's chicken taco soup and a Mexican rice/bean salad and watermelon. Many thankful people - **praise God for guiding us to this ministry.** Thanks to the volunteers! John McAleer, Steve & Barb Surhoff, John & Audrey Ruland, and Christine Clark.



Por la Paz en el mundo, por la salud de la iglesia  
por la unidad de todos;  
Por esta santa casa, por todos los que adoran y alaban;  
Para que podamos vivir nuestra respuesta  
apasionada a la hambrientos y pobres;  
Que podamos vivir la verdad, la justicia y la gracia;  
Por la paz en nuestros corazones, por la paz en nuestros  
hogares, para amigos y familiares;  
Oremos al Señor, Oremos al Señor

Kyrie



### September, Third Saturday Service

No pictures this time because ... we were a mighty team of 3 creating 90 meals! Thank you, Helen McCloskey Livingston and Dan Metz, for your incredible work - Helen single-handedly made 160 ham sliders and soup master, Dan made cheddar broccoli soup. Saturdays have become very busy at Faith Kitchen - we are now seeing families and many taking home meals to their spouses/families. **SO, ZION - we really need more Saturday volunteers.** It's third Saturdays - 9AM to 12:30 at Faith Kitchen. Please talk to any of the Thursday or Saturday volunteers and see if you are called to help even if it's only a few Saturdays a year. Peace. God bless Faith Kitchen.

### Food Pantry Items Needed

The Open Cupboard Food Pantry is requesting the following items this month. Donations can be left in the church narthex or the CEB entryway.

Regular coffee  
Cereal – all types  
Crunchy peanut butter  
Baked beans  
Canned chili  
Canned spinach  
Canned pineapple  
Canned oranges

Chicken soup  
Lentil soup  
Pea soup  
Beef soup  
Paper towels  
Laundry detergent  
Toothpaste  
Women's deodorant



## Endowment Fund News

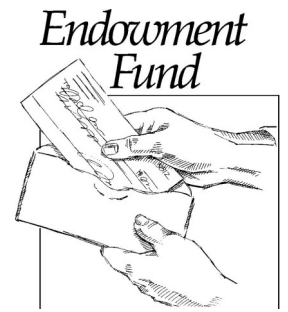
The final Endowment Sunday for 2022 will be All Saints Sunday, November 6th.

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.

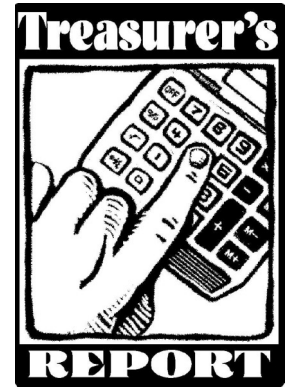
Please contact any member of the Endowment Committee (Mike Donnelly, Ted Jermansen and Rick Schroeder) if you have any questions.



## A Little Giggle from the Shepherding Committee



## 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	-\$24,339.35	\$6,045.91
August	\$20,041.19	-\$28,712.24	-\$8,671.05
<b>Year To Date Total</b>	<b>\$241,003.87</b>	<b>-\$247,016.93</b>	<b>-\$6,013.06</b>

TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$94,570.75	9/3/2022
Money Market Plus	178,138.64	8/31/2022
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>\$272,709.39</b>	
Directed Funds	\$157,971.73	8/31/2022
Operating Funds	\$114,737.66	8/31/2022
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>\$272,709.39</b>	

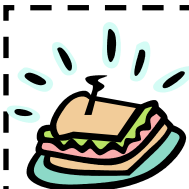
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$517,400.24	8/31/2022
THRIVENT	\$343,038.64	8/31/2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$860,438.88</b>	

### 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
NJ Synod Faithful Journey	-\$500.00
<b>2022 Endowment Funds Remaining</b>	<b>\$18,148.00</b>



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



### Lunch Bunch — October 13th

Join Pastor Kat for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, October 13th, at 12 p.m. This month's gathering will take place at Janina Bistro in Lebanon. Please sign up via the link emailed from the Parish Office.