



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

January 2023

A Message from Pastor Kat

The Big Reveal

The Season After Epiphany and its attendant feast days all focus on the revelation of Christ to the world. Jesus is in the limelight: revealed by a star to the wisemen, blessed by the Spirit at his baptism, and then transfigured on the mountaintop at the height of his ministry.

Who is this man, Jesus, and how are we called to be his followers? These are the questions that we will ponder together over the course of the coming weeks as we hear stories from the beginning of Jesus' ministry on earth. Ultimately, every lesson points us back to the fact that Jesus is God's Son come to reveal God's love to the world and offer salvation to all.

As we start a new year together, we have the opportunity in this upcoming season to see Jesus anew: to view his teachings with fresh eyes and to reflect once more on how he is calling us to live.

The Path Forward

January is also the time when we will gather as a congregation for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 29th. At this time, we will celebrate the ministry we accomplished this past year and prepare ourselves for another year of doing God's work in this place.

I pray that you will join us for this important time of reflection and planning for our congregation. We will gather for a single worship service at 10:00 a.m. at the church, and then the meeting will follow in our Christian Education Building directly after worship.

May the light of Christ illumine our path as together we step into this new year!

In Christ,
Pastor Kat



Annual Meeting of the Congregation — January 29th

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held at the Christian Education Building at 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 29th. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the 2022 Annual Report, approve the 2023 church budget, and install 2023 Council members.

On that day, we will worship together at a **single service at 10 a.m.**, and the meeting will be followed by a potluck luncheon. If you are available to help with set up or clean up, please contact Shellie Evers at 804-678-8993. Watch for an email from the Parish Office to sign up for the potluck.

Church Council Highlights



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

- Council members reviewed the 2023 budget and approved the version to be received by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 29th.
- The Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be held during a single service at 10 a.m. on December 18th.
- The Social Ministry committee will sponsor a Coffee Drive for Faith Kitchen in January and February
- On January 14th, the Evangelism committee is sponsoring a faith-sharing program at the CEB.
- Pastor Kat plans to assemble a team in January to begin the process of searching for a new Director of Youth & Family Ministries.
- Helen Livingston is working with an architect specializing in historical preservation to address the need for a second means of egress at the church.
- The Council thanked Linda Held for serving as President in 2022.
- Thank you to:
 - * Helen Livingston and Debra Kaufman for their leadership of the Thanksgiving Adopt-a-Family program.
 - * The Bredeson, Brokaw, Bryson, DiCriscio, and Ronaldo families for lighting the Advent wreath during Sunday worship services.
 - * Linda Held for creating the Alternative Giving crafts.

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

Christmas Purse Thank You

Dear Zion friends and family,

Thank you for the generous gift of the Christmas Purse given by the members of the congregation. Each one of us is grateful for our Zion family and the opportunity to serve the congregation with love. Happy New Year to all!

Pastor Kat, Rod Briscoe, and Jenny Gelson



Feed My Starving Children

SAVE THE DATE!

The Feed My Starving Children MobilePack will be back at Zion on May 19 and 20th. Many volunteers will be needed for this food packing event that provides vital nutrition to children in regions around the world. Shift reservations will become available early April. Please mark your calendar and help spread the word to your friends, family or organizations who might be able to help.

Youth & Family Ministry at Zion



Sunday School News

Sunday School classes will resume on January 8th at 9:45 a.m.

On January 15th, Sunday School students will participate in an all-school event about Baptism. Baptism is the washing away of our sins, and we will be learning about the many ways we make things clean in our lives. One thing we work to keep clean is our clothes. Harvest Family Success Center has let us know that many of their clients are unable to afford laundry detergent, and we would like to help. As we begin a fresh new year, we are asking for **donations of laundry detergent** for these families. Please deliver your detergent to the church or CEB no later than Sunday, January 22nd.



Martin Luther King Day of Service

Monday, January 16th

All youth ages 13 and up are invited to join with area youth groups for an afternoon of service at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. We will gather at Living Waters Lutheran Church in Ringoes at 1 p.m. for pizza and fellowship, and leave for the soup kitchen at 2:30 p.m. Pick up will be at Living Waters at 5:30 p.m. Please contact Pastor Kat to sign up.



Youth of Zion Christmas Pageant

THANK YOU to the children, youth, and parents who made this year's Christmas Pageant possible! It was a celebration of God's good news heard in the story of Christ's birth. A special thank you to Sandy Matsen and Linda Held for their help with planning and coordination.



Faith Kitchen Annual Coffee Drive - 2023

Zion is collecting cans of coffee during January and February



A Zion tradition continues! Join us in supporting our friends at Faith Kitchen. Faith Kitchen serves 90+ meals each day and their patrons LOVE Coffee! Let's fill up the Faith Kitchen pantry.

Please drop off your coffee cans at the CEB or church no later than February 28th.

Thank you for your support of Faith Kitchen.

P.S. If you find a sale on coffee, please post the info in the Zion Friends and Family Facebook group!

For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me. *Matthew 25:35*

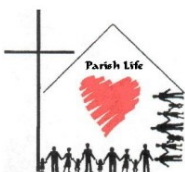


Lunch Bunch — January 12th

Join Pastor Kat and friends from Zion for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, January 12th, at 12 p.m. This month's gathering will take place at River Mill View in Clinton. Please sign up via the link emailed from the Parish Office to reserve your place at the table!

Volunteers Needed for Parish Life and Shepherding Committees

Join the Parish Life or Shepherding Committee – Or Both!



Parish Life is about connecting to each other and to God's grace – and having fun together whenever possible! Parish Life sponsors the annual military recognition – and 2023 plans also include a visit to Beneduce Vineyard, craft and game nights, a parents' nights out with chaperones and older youth hanging with the kids at the CEB, dance lessons, and our annual Somerset Patriots game.

The Women of Zion (WOZ) are a vibrant and wonderful part of Parish Life as well. WOZ leaders organize events for ladies of all ages around four categories – Spiritual, Health, Arts & Crafts, and Fellowship. In short, Parish Life and WOZ spearhead the social activities of Zion and would love to have new volunteers and participants in any capacity.

Women
of
ZION



The **Shepherding Committee's** role is caring for the Zion flock and assisting those of us in need. Along with our wonderful card ministry we provide prayer shawls, pray for the sick, offer assistance to those in crisis, deliver flowers to homebound members, and provide meals and/or transportation for those who need it. We welcome new volunteers and new ways to provide support!

Next Parish Life/Shepherding Committee Meeting: Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 7PM at the CEB.

All are welcome!

An Invitation from the Evangelism Committee

Do you struggle with finding ways to share your faith with others? The Evangelism committee invites you to attend a two-hour course at the CEB on January 14th at 10 a.m. that will teach practical ways to share your faith with confidence. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

EVANGELISM



Faith Kitchen News *by Debra Kaufman*

It's a wrap for 2022! Zion volunteers prepared and served more than 1,700 meals in 2022.

Join us First Thursdays or Third Saturdays in 2023!!



We welcomed a new volunteer this month to our Saturday crew- Mara Livingston! Many thanks to the other volunteers; Helen Livingston, John McAleer, John Ruland, and Ron Rupp. We served Ham and Potato Chowder, fresh fruit salad, homemade cheesy biscuits, steamed green beans and delightful Christmas cookies donated by Chocolate in the Oven Bakery in Milford - Helen approached them and offered to pay but they wanted to donate them!

Thursday Faith Kitchen crew closed out 2022 lunches at Faith Kitchen with the most meals we've ever served - 120! There wasn't a drop of soup left (Soup Masters John McAleer and John Minerowicz - stellar job). One patron said it was the best soup he had eaten since he was in the army! It took a village to make the corn pudding - Tom and Rita Groendyke chopped all the onions and jalapenos and Wendy Minerowicz and Barb Surhoff cracked 48 eggs and magically got it to cook on time! John Ruland, our expert watermelon slicer and dishwasher extraordinaire and Audrey Ruland with her beautiful apple pie slices (5 huge Costco pies!) rounded out the meal and the crew. God bless this ministry and all the faithful Zion volunteers.



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
September	\$21,300.48	-\$22,943.33	-\$1,642.85
October	\$27,938.20	-\$29,796.40	-\$1,858.20
November	\$25,721.34	-\$31,498.06	-\$5,776.72
Year To Date Total	\$315,963.89	-\$331,254.72	-\$15,290.83

TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$81,364.20	12/3/2022
Money Market Plus	178,160.85	10/31/2022
Cash On Hand	\$259,525.05	
Directed Funds	\$149,577.49	11/30/2022
Operating Funds	\$109,947.56	11/30/2022
Cash On Hand	\$259,525.05	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$494,035.12	10/31/2022
THRIVENT	\$351,773.61	11/30/2022
TOTAL	\$845,808.73	

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
Good News Home for Women	-\$1,388.00
Feed My Starving Children (Transfer)	-\$9,000.00
Cokesbury UMC Shoprite Gift Cards	-\$1,000.00
2022 Endowment Funds Remaining	\$6,760.00



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

