



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

March 2023

A Message from Pastor Kat

Baptismal Imagery

This Lenten season, we are treated to a sequence of powerful stories from the Gospel of John that offer us beautiful imagery to better understand the meaning of our baptism. Jesus teaches a pharisee named Nicodemus about the power of new birth, offers a Samaritan woman living water from a well, grants a man who was born blind healing, and raises his dear friend, Lazarus, from the dead.

Each story illuminates a different facet of baptismal life. As baptized people, we are given new birth, washed in living water, granted healing, and raised from death to life. Hearing each of these realities in the context of a story helps us to understand how we experience them in our own lives.

Grace Upon Grace

In the early church, Lent was traditionally a time of preparation for adult candidates for baptism. While many of us in the Lutheran tradition are baptized as infants or young children, we can still take time in this season to consider our baptism and what it means to us. How does being a baptized child of God shape our daily life?

One way baptism can inform our daily reality is by reminding us that we are beloved children of God, given the gift of grace anew each day. We will celebrate this gift of grace throughout this Lent in the theme of our daily devotional, in our Midweek Gatherings on Wednesdays, and in our Social Ministry project of distributing books of prayer to those who are in prison.

May the gift of grace we receive in our baptism inspire us to lead lives of mercy and compassion and to share God's love with our neighbors.

In Christ,
Pastor Kat

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday — April 2nd
Single Service at 10 a.m.
No Sunday School

Maundy Thursday – April 6th
Communion Worship at 7 p.m.

Good Friday – April 7th
Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.

Saturday – April 8th
Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m.

Easter Sunday – April 9th
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
No Sunday School

Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met via Zoom conference call on February 16th, the day after this newsletter went to print. Highlights of the February and March meetings will be included in the April newsletter.



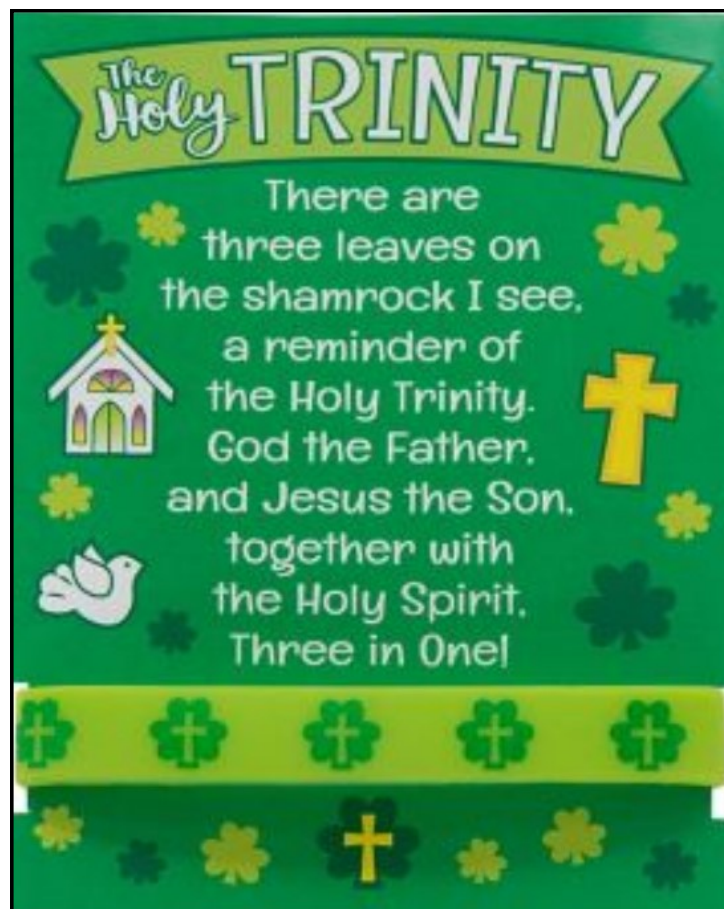
The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 16th. Meetings are open for all to attend. If you would like to attend an upcoming meeting, please let the Parish Office know and we will send you the Zoom link.

HEAR MY VOICE
A Prison Prayer Book

Lenten Midweek Gatherings

Wednesdays in Lent at 6:30 p.m.

Beginning March 1st, we will join in devotion with our brothers and sisters in prison using the resource, “Hear My Voice: A Prison Prayer Book.” We will pray together this book’s Lenten devotions, which invite us to consider how we are “Freed from Our Past.” How is God inviting us to leave behind the burdens of the past, so that we can step lightly into the hopeful future God promises?





2023 Lenten Calendar

Sunday Worship – Sundays at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Worship with us each Sunday as we hear some lovely stories of baptismal renewal from the gospel of John. How is God making you new this Lenten season?

Ash Wednesday Worship – Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Start your Lenten season with a reminder about who we are as a people made from the dust of the earth. There will be no 12 p.m. service this year. There is a midday opportunity at Cross Roads Camp — please visit their website for more information.

Lenten Practice, “A Way to Pray” – Weekly Videos throughout Lent

This Lent, we are embracing grace and sharing it with our neighbors, and an excellent way to do this is through the practice of prayer. Each week in Lent, a short video will be shared via email and to our Facebook page featuring a particular “way to pray.” Let’s lift our voices, hearts, and hands in prayer this Lent!

Midweek Gatherings – Wednesdays in Lent at 6:30 p.m.

This year, we will join our brothers and sisters in prison in devotion using the resource, “Hear My Voice: A Prison Prayer Book.” We will pray together this book’s Lenten devotions, which invite us to consider how we are “Freed from Our Past.” How is God inviting us to leave behind the burdens of the past, so that we can step lightly into the hopeful future God promises?

Living Stations of the Cross – Friday, April 7th at 6:30 p.m.

All are invited to the Living Stations of the Cross at St. John Newman, Califon, on Good Friday at 12:00 noon. Pastor Kat will be part of the one-hour program, featuring the story of Jesus’ passion. Afterwards, the Women of Zion will go to lunch at Max’s Market & Eatery, just down the road.

Holy Week Schedule – Sunday, April 2nd – Sunday, April 9th

Palm Sunday 10:00 AM – *Welcome a Different Kind of King*

Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM – *Celebrate the Last Supper & Embrace the Command to Love*

Good Friday 7:00 PM – *Reflect on Jesus’ Passion in Scripture and Song*

Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 AM at the CEB – *Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!*

Easter Sunday 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM – *Rejoice in New Life Revealed in the Resurrection*

Youth & Family Ministry at Zion



Sunday School News

At our all-school event on February 12th, we learned about preparing for Lent. The children made alleluia banners to be buried on Transfiguration Sunday, and burned the palms from last year to create ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday service.



Youth Mentoring Program

Please see Pastor Kat's February letter to the parents of this year's confirmands, for an update on what's happening with our Youth Mentoring Program!

Dear Parents of Confirmands,

I am so excited for this year's Mentorship Match Process! Seventh graders will participate in an anonymous card exchange on Sundays, Seventh AND eighth graders (along with their mentors) will participate in a "Reveal Celebration" on Sunday, March 5th at 9:45 a.m. in the CEB Great Room. Seventh graders will discover the identity of their new mentor, and everyone will participate in games.

Parents, we ask that you also attend this gathering on *March 5th*. During our time together, you will be invited to spend some time with your child and his or her mentor to brainstorm new ways to connect in the upcoming year.

Thank you for your support of this wonderful program at Zion!



Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8th

10:00 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church's
Christian Education Building
18 Miller Avenue in Oldwick

*Pictures with the Easter Bunny
Crafts and Games
Delicious Treats*

*Bring your family,
friends, and
neighbors!*

CROSS ROADS

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



Middle School / High School Retreat — March 10-12

Gather for an amazing weekend at Cross Roads. Whether a long-time summer camper or a first time participant, attendees are guaranteed to have a wonderful weekend filled with activities, worship, and laughter.

Please visit www.crossroadsretreat.com to register for the event. Click on “Retreats” at the top of the page and select “Youth Retreats” from the drop-down menu.

The deadline to register for the Middle School/High School Retreat is March 3rd.

GET PAID TO HAVE FUN AT CAMP

We are currently accepting applications for our Summer 2023 Staff.



Cross Roads Summer Staff is a professional, vibrant and close-knit community that is hired from mid-June to late-August. During the summer, our Summer Staff has access to a wide range of activities, from rock climbing, arts & crafts, team sports, swimming, nature exploration, and much more!

Visit our website to apply today to help make a difference in the lives of children and youth while being a part of a welcoming and inclusive community providing life changing and sacred adventures for renewal, growth, and joy.

www.crossroadsretreat.com

Women of Zion Meditation & Breathing Class

Join the Women of Zion on Friday, March 10th, at an ideal retreat for mental health! We'll learn simple techniques to handle stress, anxiety and anger, in addition to respiratory issues. Our instructor, Shalini Rajamani, has 20 years of teaching experience as a wellness coach. Bollywood Dancing, Balance, and Chair Yoga are among the classes she's delivered at Zion in the past, proving that healthy exercise can also be fun!



The fee for the class is **\$10/person** (cash or check payable to Zion Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 41, Oldwick, NJ 08858), and is **due by March 5th**. Please sign up using the link emailed from the Parish Office. Then all you need to do is show up in the Great Room on March 10th at 7:00 p.m. in comfortable clothing. Water will be available. March 24th is our alternate date in case of bad weather, so signing up is important so we can notify you if we have to reschedule. Please call Anita Zarate at 908-938-4532 if you have any questions.



April WOZ Event — Save the Date

We're invited to the Living Stations of the Cross at St. John Newman, Califon, at 12 p.m. on Good Friday, April 7th. We will experience a one-hour outdoor program, which include attendees from other churches. Afterwards, our group will go to lunch at Max's Market & Eatery, just up the road. Please call Anita Zarate with any questions.



Lunch Bunch — March 9th

Join friends from Zion for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, March 9th, at 12 p.m. This month's gathering will take place at Bensi's in Whitehouse Station. Please sign up via the link emailed from the Parish Office to reserve your place at the table!



Parents Night Out! March 3rd, 6PM - 10PM

On Friday, March 3rd, the Parish Life committee will host a Parents Night Out for parents of young ones to drop off their children and go enjoy a night out (or a nap!). There will be games, pizza, and a movie, and there is no charge for this event.

Chaperones will include Shellie and Eric Evers, Debra Kaufman, Sandy Matsen, and Cindy Rupprecht. Zion's middle and high school volunteers will also be on hand to join in the fun and assist with the younger children.

Parents who would like their children to participate, or adults who would like to volunteer, should contact Shellie Evers at 804-678-8993. Zion's child safety policy requires all adult volunteers to have completed a background check prior to the event. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to volunteer and have not previously undergone a background check at Zion.

Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors to take advantage of this special opportunity!

Update from the Shepherding Committee

We're Calling You!

As in years past, members of the Shepherding committee will be calling all congregants in the coming month just to say hello and see how you're doing. We also want to hear if you have suggestions for activities or projects to help us connect as a congregation, or to better serve those outside our walls. If we miss you, please call us back at your convenience.



Faith Kitchen News *by Debra Kaufman*

FAITH KITCHEN - First Thursdays and Third Saturdays - Join us in Dover at 9AM!

Our February Thursday crew! Sharing God's grace 100+ meals at a time. Thank you, Zion, for supporting this ministry. And thank you, volunteers, for always being up to the task of chopping, cooking & serving. We give Glory to God for the opportunity to serve HIS people. Please consider volunteering.



Feed My Starving Children MobilePack — May 19-20

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.

Food Pantry Collection for March

During the month of March, we will be collecting food for the newly-opened Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Washington, managed by Gretchen Surhoff who is Barb and Steve's daughter. The pantry is in need of the following items:

- Canned soups: pea, vegetable, tomato
- Canned fruits: oranges, pears, pineapple, peaches
- Beef stew
- Chili
- Crunchy peanut butter
- Regular and decaf coffee
- Tea
- Crackers
- Baked beans
- Pasta – spaghetti, elbow macaroni
- Pancake mix



Thank you, as always, for your support!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YTD 2023

GENERAL FUND	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
January	\$27,034.00	-\$27,001.00	\$33.00
Year To Date Total	\$27,034.00	-\$27,001.00	\$33.00

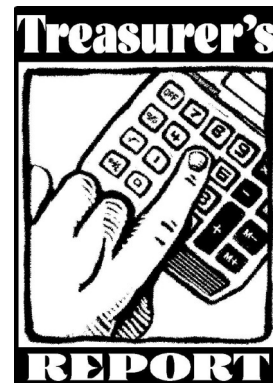
TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$181,626.86	2/3/2023
Money Market Plus	178,175.99	1/31/2023
Cash On Hand	\$359,802.85	

Directed Funds	\$238,026.43	1/31/2022
Operating Funds	\$121,776.42	1/31/2022
Cash On Hand	\$359,802.85	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$502,145.85	12/31/2022
THRIVENT	\$359,317.27	1/31/2023
TOTAL	\$861,463.12	

ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH

Available Funds for 2023	\$25,282.00
NJ Synod Compensation Aid Fund	-\$1,500.00
2023 Endowment Funds Remaining	\$23,782.00



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."

Oldwick Town-Wide Tag Sale

Saturday, April 29th (Rain Date: Saturday, May 6th), 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

to benefit the children of Family Promise, Hunterdon County

For over 30 years, Zion Lutheran Church has supported Family Promise, the only organization to house and care for homeless families with children in Hunterdon County. It is perhaps the children who have touched us the most. All proceeds from registration fees and sale of donated items will go towards a scholarship fund to send children from Family Promise to summer camp at Cross Roads Camp in Lebanon Township.

Have items to donate? If you have items to donate, Zion will sell them at the Tag sale with all proceeds going to our scholarship fund. **No clothing, bedding or books, please.** Drop-off location is at the Christian Education Building on Miller Avenue. Smaller items can be left in the entry any day or time beginning on Monday, April 3rd. For larger bulky items please come during office hours when the building will be open on Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:00 – 2:00, or email to make other arrangements: rrmelick@gmail.com.

Have your own tag sale in Oldwick on the same day! Clean out your closets and have your own tag sale on your property. Keep the proceeds – just send in your form along with the \$25 registration fee. All participants will have a Tag Sale sign placed on their lawn that will be removed the following day. During the sale, maps will be distributed throughout the village with locations marked.

Don't have room to set up a site or live outside Oldwick? Limited spaces will be available for a flea market at the Zion Lutheran Church Christian Education Building (CEB), located at 18 Miller Avenue. Register to sell your items and keep the proceeds, with a \$25 donation at signup.

For additional information about the Tag Sale, please call Rebecca Melick at 908-229-3744.

Please cut out and return the registration form below, with a check payable to Zion Lutheran Church.

Mail to: **PO Box 41, Oldwick, NJ 08858** or drop off in Zion's office at 18 Miller Avenue in Oldwick.

Sign me up for the event!

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Tag Sale Location: _____

___ Tag Sale at my home (\$25 check enclosed)

___ Flea Market area at Zion's CEB (\$25 check enclosed) *Hurry – spaces limited!*

___ Show my support for the children of Family Promise (Check enclosed for \$____)