



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

August 2023

A Message from Pastor Kat

A Blessing Worth Fighting For

All summer we have been hearing stories about the ancestors of God's people from the book of Genesis. As we step into August, we hear a well-known story about Abraham's grandson, Jacob, who wrestles a mysterious "man" – potentially God in disguise! This "man" puts Jacob's hip out of joint before finally giving heed to Jacob's demand for a blessing.

During this conversation, Jacob gets a new name. Just like his grandfather who is renamed to reflect his character as "father of nations," Jacob's new name tells us about his character too as "one who wrestles with God." Jacob's new name is Israel. Later, this name is used to refer to all God's people, the Israelites.

We are not so different from Jacob and our ancestors, the Israelites. We too wrestle with God – to find meaning, to understand our purpose and the world in which we live. We too know that there are some things worth are worth fighting for – even if we are left scarred by the experience.

The Blessing of Zion Lutheran Church

In the beginning of August, we also celebrate our congregation's anniversary. Three-hundred and nine years ago, a group of freed slaves and German immigrants thought that a church home was something worth fighting for. Our first pastor, Justus Falckner wrote about this in the hymn, "Rise, O Children of Salvation":

Saints and martyrs long before us firmly on this ground have stood;
see their banner waving o'er us, conqu'rors through the Savior's blood.
Ground we hold, whereon of old fought the faithful and the bold.

Today, we continue to strive to bring God's blessing to our congregation and community – to feed the hungry, to give shelter to the homeless, and to connect all kinds of people to the grace of God.

In Christ,
Pastor Kat

Happy Anniversary, Zion!

August 3rd is Zion's 309th anniversary! Join us for treats on the lawn following the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

Let's Celebrate!

Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met via Zoom conference call on July 13th. Below are the highlights of that meeting.



- Zion will celebrate our 309th anniversary on August 6th with a reception on the church lawn following 9:30 a.m. worship.
- Jaime VanNostrand, Director of Youth & Family Ministry, reported that she has hit the ground running and expressed her enthusiasm for the opportunity to serve at Zion.
- The Property committee has received renderings from the architect for the required second means of egress at the church. The committee is aiming to have a minimum of three bids from local contractors by the end of September.
- The Communications committee has added an "I'm New" page to Zion's website to welcome visitors.
- The congregation raised \$675 for ELCA Good Gifts in support of vulnerable LGBTQ youth. The council approved a motion to add \$325 from Endowment Mission Outreach funds to make a total donation of \$1,000.
- The Stewardship committee is planning at Time & Talent campaign for fall.

The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 17th. Meetings are open for all to attend. If you would like to join an upcoming meeting, please let the Parish Office know and we will send you the Zoom link.



Nonprofit, faith-based, short and long-term residential treatment facility for women with chemical dependencies and co-occurring disorders.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
OLDWICK, NJ · SINCE 1714

Benefit for
**GOOD NEWS HOME
FOR WOMEN**

Saturday, September 9th
9:30 Registration 10:00 5K Start
Rain or Shine!

18 Miller Avenue
Oldwick, New Jersey

Register at: www.zionoldwick.com
www.goodnewshome.org

Questions: 908-439-2040

**COMMUNITY
5K Run/Walk**





Sunday School Rally Day!

Rally Day will take place on Sunday, September 10th. Join us at the CEB at 9:45 a.m. for the first day of Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Café Zion.

Social Ministry Update

Blood Drive Thank You

Thanks to everyone who donated (or tried to donate) at our July blood drive. We exceeded our goal and collected 33 units.



Family Promise ShopRite Gift Card Drive

Zion continues to support Family Promise, the only organization that houses homeless families with children in Hunterdon. They have been working to open a new facility in Flemington targeted to be ready in the fall. In the meantime, we have been providing ShopRite gift cards to families 5 weeks of the year.

Social Ministry is now collecting ShopRite gift cards (preferably in \$25 increments) through the third week of August to be distributed to families currently housed by Family Promise in local hotels. Donations by check are also appreciated with a note in the memo line. Please drop your gift cards or check in the Sunday collection plate or at the Parish Office Tuesday—Thursday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Cards or checks may also be mailed to Zion at P.O. Box 41, Oldwick, 08858.

Faith Kitchen News *by Debra Kaufman*

Faith Kitchen - July! We welcomed back our friends, Sue Swanson and Christine Clark, and a new volunteer, Jodi Ennis joined us. And of course, the "regulars" worked hard to prepare over 200 meals. A wonderful ministry feeding those in need in Dover. New volunteers are always welcome! Just call Debra Kaufman at 703-402-2158 or dkaufman1977@yahoo.com. We serve on first Thursdays and third Saturdays.



Stewardship Review

2023 Second Quarter General Fund Giving

Our 2023 Spending Plan was based on a projected income of \$373,500 from members. This was comprised of pledges from 46 families of \$274,000 and an estimate from 47 non-pledging families of \$99,500. We received pre-pledges of \$58,500 in December. Through June, seven families met their total 2023 pledge. We have received a total of \$226,100 or 62% of our year end estimate.

- 30 families have met or are ahead of pledge by \$53,000. Most of the surplus is from the seven families who have completed their pledges (\$51,100).
- On the flip side, 16 pledging families are below their year-to-date pledge by \$8,000. In total, 13 families (14%) have made no contribution to our operating expenses.
- Actual giving from pledging families (\$182,000) is over 133% of a 2nd quarter milestone.
- Actual non-pledge income (\$44,100) is at 98% of the expected 2nd quarter milestone.
- Actual total giving (\$226,100) is 124% of a 2nd quarter milestone.



Additional Generosity

Members have provided support in areas outside of the General Fund.

- Members have given \$12,200 in support of nine special appeals.
- Members have given \$4,200 in support of memorials and various other areas.
- Total giving to all causes is \$232,500.

Stewardship Special Appeal

Twelve families responded to the special appeal to support our new Director of Youth and Family Ministry.

- Five made a one-time contribution.
- Three made a new pledge.
- Four updated their previous pledge amount.

Thank you for your support of Zion's ministries.

Stewardship Committee

A vibrant poster for a musical performance. The background is a warm orange and yellow sunburst pattern. At the top, it reads 'Zion Lutheran Church of Oldwick Presents :'. Below that, the title 'THREE DUDES WITH GLASSES' is written in large, bold, black, stylized letters. A list of performers follows: '• Dan Metz - Vocals/Guitar', '• Shaun Krimmel - Harmonica/Bass', and '• Matt Piedl - Lead Guitar'. The date '9 September 2023' is on the left, and the location 'ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BUILDING, 18 Miller Avenue Oldwick, NJ 08858' is in the center. The start time 'Start At 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM' is on the right. At the bottom, it says 'Come see us at Zion Lutheran Church's Annual 5K Fun Run Benefiting The Good News Home for Women'. The bottom edge of the poster features a row of colorful musical instruments including guitars, drums, and a keyboard.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YTD 2023

GENERAL FUND	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
January	\$26,969.67	-\$27,037.86	-\$68.19
February	\$35,166.23	-\$30,400.70	\$4,765.53
March	\$36,556.41	-\$31,024.54	\$5,531.87
April	\$32,573.13	-\$29,884.46	\$2,688.67
May	\$25,292.29	-\$23,658.45	\$1,633.84
June	\$23,501.85	-\$27,248.75	-\$3,746.90
Year To Date Total	\$180,059.58	-\$169,254.76	\$10,804.82



TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$59,608.24	7/3/2023
Money Market Plus	\$278,228.34	6/30/2023
Cash On Hand	\$337,836.58	
Directed Funds	\$206,326.90	6/30/2023
Operating Funds	\$131,509.68	6/30/2023
Cash On Hand	\$337,836.58	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$496,058.08	5/31/2023
THRIVENT	\$365,470.30	6/30/2023
TOTAL	\$861,528.38	

ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH	
Available Funds for 2023	\$25,282.00
Synod Compensation Aid Fund	-\$1,500.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	-\$5,000.00
Prison Prayer Books	-\$396.77
ELCA Good Gifts - LGBTQ Youth	-\$325.00
Endowment Funds Remaining	\$18,060.23



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

Running to Church

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday School. As she ran, she prayed, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!'

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again.

As she ran, she once again began to pray, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late... But please don't shove me either!'

