



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

September 2023

A Message from Pastor Kat

The Program Year Begins!

This past month has been one of preparation and building excitement as staff and volunteers have been getting ready for the beginning of the program year in September. God's Work Our Hands, a day of service across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, takes place on Saturday, September 9th with a 5K for The Good News Home for Women. The next day, on Sunday, September 10th, our worship schedule returns to two services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., and we'll have Rally Day activities at 9:45 a.m. at our Christian Education Building to mark the beginning of Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Café Zion.

I look forward to the opportunities for service, learning, and relationship-building that the new program year will bring to our congregation. I am also grateful to begin this season in partnership with our new Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Jaime VanNostrand. Please join me in welcoming her if you have not yet had a chance to meet her!

Growing Together in Christ

In worship this fall, we will hear texts from scripture that teach us how to live together in community. Our church family at Zion brings us much joy, but no family is without its challenges! Let us open our hearts to lessons from Jesus and Paul, who urge us to follow God's way of neighborly love, forgiveness, and compassion. May we be alert to God's calling on our lives in the here and now!

In Christ,
Pastor Kat



Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met via Zoom conference call on August 17th. Below are the highlights of that meeting.



- This year's virtual adult education opportunity, A Year of Growing in Faith, just completed the summer semester entitled "Let Us Pray". The fall sessions will run in October and November and all are welcome!
- Jaime Van Nostrand has been in conversation with last year's Sunday School teachers as well as potential new ones in hopes of creating teaching teams for each of the three classes.
- The ELCA National Youth Gathering is coming in 2024. Jaime has met with leaders from New Jersey and will be reaching out to families in the coming month.
- Property chair Helen Livingston has contacted two construction companies asking for bids on the work that needs to be done at the church to create a second means of egress. She plans to get one more quote, and the council will decide which vendor should be hired by the end of September.
- Volunteers are needed for the September 9th Community 5K Fun Run/Walk. Please sign up via the link that was emailed from the Parish Office.
- The Evangelism committee is working on plans for the Halloween Hospitality event to be held on October 31st. Please let Debra Kaufman know if you are available to help greet the Oldwick trick-or-treaters and their families.
- The Social Ministry committee is hosting a pet supplies drive during the months of September and October. Please see page 6 for more information.
- Upon the suggestion of the 2023 Synod Assembly, the council voted to adopt the stigma-free pledge of the National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI). More information about this pledge can be found on NAMI's website — www.nami.org.
- A team of volunteers interested in collating and digitizing Zion's archives has been invited to begin this important work in September.
- Thank you to:
 - * Jeff Livingston for ten years of teaching Confirmation Class. Jeff is retiring from his position this year.
 - * Shellie & Eric Evers for hosting the anniversary reception on August 6th.
 - * All those who have volunteered to begin serving as worship assistants this fall.
 - * Jaime VanNostrand for hitting the ground running!

The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 21st. 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.

Upcoming Committee Vacancies

Have you been thinking about participating in one of Zion's ministries, but haven't found the right fit? Or are you already involved, but want to take on a leadership position? We have just the role for you – and BONUS! We will train you!

Who cares if the pay is no good – the benefits are amazing! Both of these committees have great team members and plenty of volunteers, so you'll be able to jump right in and work with amazing people and FOR amazing people.

Opportunity #1 – Parish Life Committee Chairperson – The Parish Life committee plans and runs fun activities for Zion's members, friends, and family. Parish Life also leads the annual military recognition and supports Women of Zion activities. (The Women of Zion is a subcommittee of Parish Life with its own chairperson.)

Opportunity #2 – Shepherding Committee Chairperson – The Shepherding committee facilitates our card ministry, and provides support for Zion's members in their times of need through provision of meals and running errands.

If you are interested in serving in either of these capacities, please contact Shellie Evers or the Parish Office.



Zion's Anniversary Was a Happy One!

On August 6th we recognized Zion's anniversary and it was a great time of fellowship. In honor of the Come Home to Zion theme, parishioners were invited to donate Shop Rite gift cards to be given to the clients of Family Promise, who do not have a home.

In correlation with our celebration, Zion's council voted at their July meeting to make a contribution in the amount of \$3,090 to Family Promise in honor of our 309th anniversary, using monies from Endowment Fund earnings.

We're looking forward to celebrating our 310th next year!



Lunch Bunch — September 14th

Join friends from Zion for the return of Lunch Bunch at 12 p.m. on Thursday, September 14th, at Janina Bistro in Lebanon. Please contact the Parish Office to reserve your place at the table!



Rally Day — September 10th



It's that time again! Kids of all ages (PreK—high school) are invited to kick off the new program year with us at our special Rally Day celebration! This All-School event will be held on September 10th at 9:45 am in the CEB. There will be crafts and activities centering on the idea that we are heading into this new school year “Blessed to be a Blessing!”



Sunday School Registration

Be sure to register your kids for the 2023-24 Sunday School year! Registration forms are available on the website and there are classes available for children of all ages. Our PreK through 6th grade students will be following a lectionary-based curriculum with our dedicated volunteer teachers, confirmands will be studying with Pastor Kat, and Jaime will be leading a class for our high school aged youth. There's something for everyone!

Back-to-School Blessing

Pastor Kat and Jaime led the congregation in sending our students and teachers into the coming school year with a blessing for the important work ahead. We offer a special note of gratitude to David Blackwood who provided pocket copies of the New Testament and the Psalms, making sure that the comfort and guidance of scripture is always within arm's reach! Let's hold all of our teachers and students in prayer as the new school year begins.





NJ SYNOD

YOUTH RETREAT



REJOICE!

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2023

FOR YOUTH GRADES 6-12 & ADULT LEADERS


REGISTRATION: SEPT 1 - OCT 30 = \$225

OCT 31 - NOV 13 = \$250

(SCHOLARSHIPS AND PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE)

WWW.NJSYNOD.ORG/YOUTH-EVENTS

SHERATON EDISON

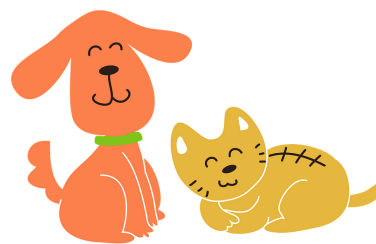


**JOIN THE SYNOD BAND
WITH LARRY OLSON!**

Animal Shelter Help

September 17th through October 31st

Social Ministry is collecting items in support of no-kill animal shelters in New Jersey through Jersey Cares. All donations can be dropped off at the CEB entry from September 27th through October 31st. The list of accepted items is below. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



- unopened dog and cat food-- dry or canned
- unopened cat and dog treats
- new dog and cat toys
- new or washed pet beds or cots
- new or gently used collars and leashes
- unopened kitty litter
- KMR milk replacement for puppies and kittens

Faith Kitchen News *by Debra Kaufman*

FAITH KITCHEN - August was a record month for serving God's people in Dover!

250 meals, 17 volunteers and 5 first time volunteers!

Zion volunteers continue to meet the growing needs for meals at Faith Kitchen. Usually, we prepare around 100 meals, but this month Zion volunteers served 140 meals during the third Saturday service.

Many thanks to the new volunteers and to the wonderful Thursday and Saturday volunteer teams (dependable choppers, warm-hearted, funny, world travelers, etc.!). New volunteers are always welcome to join us - First Thursday and Third Saturdays. Praise God for this wonderful opportunity to serve His people.



Fifth Annual Military Recognition

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

The list of suggested donations is as follows.

Multi-packs of Food, Gum, and Snacks

Energy/protein/granola bars, Chex mix/trail mix/nuts, chips/pretzels (small bags), beef jerky/Slim Jims, pudding/fruit cups, gum/hard candy, sunflower/pumpkin Seeds, microwave popcorn/mac & cheese, Ramen noodles, cookies, Pop Tarts, etc.

\$25 Gift Cards

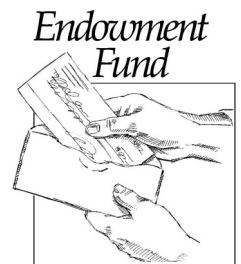
Walmart, Amazon, Target, restaurants, gas, etc.



Endowment Fund News

The final Endowment Sunday for 2023 will be All Saints Sunday, November 5th.

There was \$25,282 made available from the Endowment Fund earnings for new ministry opportunities in 2023. This is determined by taking 3% of a 3-year average of the fund. The Church Council is open to suggestions on ways to 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, \$396.77 to purchase Prison Prayer Books, \$325 for ELCA Good Gifts and \$3,090 to Family Promise (in honor of Zion's 309th anniversary), leaving a current balance of \$14,970.23 available to support 2023 ministries.



Please consider giving to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund on November 5th 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 in the church on November 5th. 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.

Ink Cartridge Recycling



Please bring your empty ink cartridges to the CEB or the narthex to be recycled. Zion participates in the Staples rebate program and we receive \$2 credit for every cartridge. Thank you!

DON'T FORGET - SEPTEMBER 9th - 5K to BENEFIT GOOD NEWS HOME



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

\$20
Suggested donation to The Good News Home for Women

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

www.zionoldwick.com
www.goodnewshome.org

**COMMUNITY
5K Run/Walk**



Zion Lutheran Church of Oldwick Presents :

THREE DUDES WITH GLASSES

- Dan Metz - Vocals/Guitar
- Shaun Krimmel - Harmonica/Bass
- Matt Piedl - Lead Guitar

9 | ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BUILDING | Start At **10:00 AM**
September 2023 | 18 Miller Avenue Oldwick, NJ 08858 | **1:00 PM**

Come see us at Zion Lutheran Church's Annual 5K Fun Run Benefiting The Good News Home for Women

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YTD 2023

GENERAL FUND	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
January	\$26,594.04	-\$26,150.29	\$443.75
February	\$35,166.23	-\$29,485.32	\$5,680.91
March	\$36,556.41	-\$29,869.57	\$6,686.84
April	\$33,910.13	-\$29,324.04	\$4,586.09
May	\$25,292.29	-\$28,576.13	-\$3,283.84
June	\$23,501.85	-\$23,937.96	-\$436.11
July	\$30,808.96	-\$32,992.29	-\$2,183.33
Year To Date Total	\$211,829.91	-\$200,335.60	\$11,494.31



TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE
Checking Account	\$49,557.21
Money Market Plus	\$278,240.16
Cash On Hand	\$327,797.37
Directed Funds	\$195,443.20
Operating Funds	\$132,354.17
Cash On Hand	\$327,797.37

8/3/2023
7/31/2023



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

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE
CFNJ	\$511,320.74
THRIVENT	\$376,855.17
TOTAL	\$888,175.91

6/30/2023
7/31/2023

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	-\$325.00
Family Promise - Come Home to Zion	-\$3,090.00
2023 Endowment Funds Remaining	\$14,970.23

A Little Giggle

from the Shepherding Committee

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld 02-16-2009

I'VE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT HE'S GOING TO BE WITH ME FOREVER, BUT HE JUST DOESN'T GET IT

