



# Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

November 2023

## *A Message from Pastor Kat*

### **Celebrating the Community of Saints**

Each November, we begin the month with All Saints Sunday. In this service, we remember and honor those who have died in the past year with a special ritual of candle lighting. This lighting of the candles reminds us that each saint in the church bears the light of Christ. Each flame recalls the candle received in baptism, lit from the Christ candle and handed on by a member of the church, who then encouraged the newly baptized to share their light with the world.

On All Saints Day, we remember all the ways in which those who have died shared Christ's light during their lifetime. As we remember our brothers and sisters in Christ, their journeys inspire us to keep God's mission alive.

### **Remembering the Past and Envisioning the Future**

Without the work of the saints who have gone before us, the church wouldn't be here today. May this year's celebration of All Saints encourage us to continue that work – the work of sharing the good news and of connecting people with God's grace.

I give thanks to God for each one of you and for the ways in which you make Zion's ministry possible. Know that your contribution helps to create a future where God's light continues to burn brightly!

In Christ,  
Pastor Kat



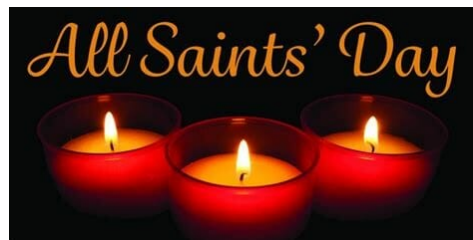
## Church Council Highlights



The Church Council met via Zoom conference call on October 19th. Below are the highlights of that meeting.

- Nine families have been invited to attend this fall's New Member Class on November 12th. New members will be received by the congregation on Sunday, November 19th.
- The Christian Education & Youth, Evangelism, and Shepherding committees are in need of chairpersons for 2024.
- Upcoming opportunities for youth include Operation Christmas Child on October 28th and a fall hike on the Columbia Trail on November 12th.
- The Council voted to receive four Confirmands into membership — Chloe Brokaw, Lauren Janssen, Maisie Ronaldo, and Chase Wieder.
- There are five families who have shown interest in the 2024 National Youth Gathering to be held in New Orleans.
- The Evangelism committee will be hosting Halloween Hospitality on October 31st, welcoming Oldwick Trick-or-Treaters to the neighborhood.
- The Social Ministry committee has distributed Shop Rite gift cards to three Family Promise families during our "hosting period" this month.
- Alternative Giving gifts will be available for purchase beginning November 12th.
- 38 responses to the Building Connections survey have been collected. The survey is still available for those who have not yet had an opportunity to fill it out.
- The Nominating Committee will be reaching out to members in the coming month to identify folks who would like to serve on Council next year.
- Thank you to:
  - \* Debra Kaufman for her work of building up and chairing the Evangelism committee.
  - \* Shellie & Eric Evers for their years of leadership of the Parish Life and Shepherding committees.
  - \* Rod Briscoe for his October 15th presentation of the All Creation Sings hymnal supplement.
  - \* Peter Melick for digging holes in the Memorial Garden whenever asked.

The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 16th. 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.



### All Saints Day — November 5th

Join us for worship on All Saints Day, November 5th, when we will honor those we have lost in the last year. The names of those who have passed will be lifted in prayer by Pastor Kat and there will be an opportunity for congregation members to light a candle in remembrance. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to have the name of your loved one added to the list.



## Youth and Family Ministry at Zion

There are lots of opportunities to get involved with Youth and Family Ministry in the coming weeks!



**Operation Christmas Child** is right around the corner and it will be a great opportunity for some intergenerational fun and fellowship! Volunteers of all ages will be gathering in the Great Room to assemble shoeboxes full of toys and other items that will be distributed to children around the world. So come join the fun at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 28th! There will be opportunities for the whole family to be a part of this special holiday ministry.

It will be a busy weekend for Zion's youth! On the following day, Sunday October 29th, we will recognize four of our 9th grade students as they confirm their faith in a **youth-led Reformation Day worship service**. Please join us in celebrating Zion's young people at all ages and stages in their faith journeys!



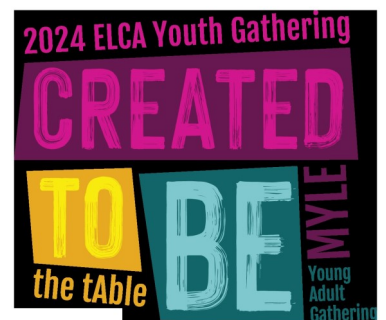
There is also a **fall hike** on the horizon for our young people. Let's take one last opportunity to get out and enjoy the beauty of God's creation before winter settles in! All confirmands, high school youth, parents, and youth mentors are invited to join us on the Columbia Trail on Sunday, November 12th with a rain date of November 19th. (Younger children are welcome to attend with their parents.) We'll meet at 12:00 noon at the CEB for a pizza lunch and pre-trip restroom breaks before we carpool together to the trailhead. Please sign up via the link emailed from the

Parish Office to let us know you're coming!

Participants under the age of 18 who have not yet submitted a 2023-2024 Permission Form will be required to complete one before the trip. The form can be found on our website and copies will be available at the pre-hike lunch. If you'd like to submit your completed form to us ahead of time, please send it to Jaime at [youth@zionoldwick.com](mailto:youth@zionoldwick.com). Hope to see you there!

### 2024 National Youth Gathering

The summer of 2024 may seem like it's a long way away but we, like ELCA congregations around the country, are already making plans! Having not been held since 2018 due to Covid, the National Youth Gathering will be making its long awaited return next summer in New Orleans, Louisiana. We are excited to put together a group of high schoolers from Zion and to connect them with Lutheran youth from across the country!



## Military Recognition Sunday — November 12th

Join us for worship on November 12th when we will recognize members and friends of Zion who are in the military and those who are veterans. Pastor Kat will bless the care packages being mailed to those who are currently serving. Thank you to all for your service.



### ZION FRIENDS and RELATIVES WHO ARE CURRENTLY SERVING

Name and Address	Rank/Job Branch/Where Stationed	Affiliation with Zion
<b>Robert Heinke</b> 1509 Judith Court Virginia Beach, VA 23464	FCA2 U.S. Navy USS Nitze	<i>Brother-in-law of Meghan &amp; Jon Holman</i>
<b>Ben Hubert</b> 205 Ridgeview Road Southern Pines, NC 28387	Sergeant 1st Class Psychological Operations 1st Special Forces Command U.S. Army Fort Bragg, North Carolina	<i>Nephew of Judy Formalarie</i>
<b>Erik Lindquist</b> 5500 Boxwood Court N, unit B Fort Belvoir, VA 22060	E6, 25B, IT Tech White House Communication Agency with Presidential Airlift Group at Andrews AFB U.S. Army Fort Belvoir, Virginia	<i>Nephew of Debra Kaufman</i>
<b>Hunter MacKenzie</b> 217 Summit Road Media, PA 19063	E5, Petty Officer 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Electrician’s Mate U.S. Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	<i>Son of Shellie Evers</i>
<b>Patricia Oelschlager</b> 205 Ridgeview Road Southern Pines, NC 28387	Major Bravo Company Commander U.S. Army Fort Bragg, North Carolina	<i>Niece of Judy Formalarie</i>
<b>Kurt Rossi</b> CMR 415 Box 6148 APO, AE 09114-0062	Captain 41st Fires Brigade U.S. Army Europe/Africa	<i>Nephew of Lynn Fuller</i>



## ZION MEMBERS WHO ARE VETERANS

Name	Branch	Rank	Where Served	Dates
Einar Bredeson	U.S. Army	First Lieutenant Rifle Platoon Leader Airborne Ranger	Fort Benning, GA; Baumholder, Germany; Bosnia Herzogovina	1992-1996
P.J. Ehmann	U.S. Army	SP-4	Germany	1960-1962
Tom Fesenmaier	U.S. Army	SP-4	Tank at Fort Hood Killeen, Texas	1966-1968
Fred Herder, Jr.	U.S. Army	Sergeant E-5 Rifle Platoon Leader	South Carolina; Vietnam; Kentucky	Sept. 1966- May 1969
Ted Jermansen	U.S. Army  U.S. Army Reserve	Staff Sergeant E-6	Fort Dix, NJ  304 Chemical Company New York, NY	Sept. 1962- March 1963  March 1963- Sept. 1968
Bill Kover	U.S. Air Force	Airman First Class	26th Weather Squadron, Detachment 34 Dyess Air Force Base Abilene, Texas	1966-1967
John McAleer	NJ Army National Guard	Sergeant Tank Commander	50th Armored Division, 5R/117th Cavalry	1965-1971
John Ruland	U.S. Navy	Lieutenant	Newport, RI and 7-month tour in Vi- etnam	1965-1967
David Wintemute	U.S. Air Force	Major Aircraft Commander C-141	McGuire AFB, Wrightstown, NJ	1971-1991 <i>(combined active duty &amp; reserve service)</i>
Dennis Wuest	U.S. Marine Corps	Corporal	US Embassies in Tripoli, Libya, and Romania	2013-2016



## The Giving Tree

This year Zion will once again be collecting Christmas gifts for the children and families of Family Promise. Stay tuned for details and an online sign up that will be available in early November.

## Alternative Giving

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner! Time to start thinking about all those hard to shop for people on your Christmas list. How many times do they tell you “I don’t need anything for Christmas”? This year, why not donate to a charity they might find meaningful. Alternative Giving is a way you can “gift” a friend or loved one and also do some good in the world. With each donation, you will get a card with the organization’s information and small ornament/gift that represents the charity, which you can give to that special person on your list. **Gifts will be available for purchase at the CEB beginning November 12th.** Here are the four charities for 2023:



### \$5 – Marty’s Place Senior Dog Sanctuary



Imagine the relief and gratitude people feel when placing their senior dogs at Marty’s Place Senior Dog Sanctuary. Due to their own relocation, or medical/financial troubles, they made the heartbreaking decision that they could no longer care for their dogs. They now have the peace of mind knowing that their dogs will have a lifetime of loving care, companionship with staff and other dogs, and engage in enriching activities in a specially designed facility. Visit their website to view

an endearing video about the dogs’ daily routines. For more information, visit [www.martysplace.org](http://www.martysplace.org).

### \$10– Pedals for Progress

A man in Rwanda transforms a bicycle into a taxi. Another man in Guatemala transforms his into a produce truck. A third man in Togo uses his as a mobile bike medic. In addition to using a bicycle for basic transportation, there are many ways new or refurbished bicycles can be put to good use thanks to Pedals for Progress, which has been operating since 1991. Nonprofit partner organizations in these and other countries train children and adults in bicycle repair and maintenance and are provided with the necessary parts, tools, lubricants, and accessories. Pedals for Progress also sends sewing machines to developing countries, as in 2022, receiving countries were Cameroon, Somalia, and Uganda. For more information, visit [www.p4p.org](http://www.p4p.org).



### \$15- Prison Fellowship Angel Tree



The Prison Fellowship Angel Tree program recognizes the importance of strengthening and maintaining the bond between an incarcerated parent and their children. This is one of the vital, Christ centered nationwide programs offered to prisoners and their families by the

Prison Fellowship Ministries, founded in 1976 by Charles Colson. Through partnership with churches, groups, and other organizations, the Angel Tree programs strive to enhance this bond. The Angel Tree enables churches and other groups to purchase gifts and include a personal message of love on behalf of the parents. Angel Tree Camping provides scholarships for children, partnering with churches, to attend Christ centered camps. The Angel Tree Sports Camp sponsors day camps in a variety of sports. The Angel Tree Everyday encourages congregations to integrate the Angel Tree families into their churches’ year-round programs. For more information, visit [www.prisonfellowship.org](http://www.prisonfellowship.org).

### \$20- ELCA Good Gifts – School Fees & Uniforms for Girls

The ELCA hopes to make a difference in the lives of girls whose educational opportunities are impacted by poverty. Worldwide, struggling families find the associated costs of educating children, paying school fees and buying uniforms, a burden. Often, their sons whose earning potential is thought to be greater may be chosen over their daughters to continue their education. The daughters from these impoverished families who drop out of school are more likely to be forced into child labor, marry at a young age and become pregnant with complications, be victims of domestic violence, and suffer with malnourishment. The future for girls who remain in school is brighter with employment opportunities, with health, safety, and prosperity for their families, and an ability to contribute to the welfare of their community. For more information, visit [www.ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://www.ELCA.org/goodgifts).





## Adopt-a-Family Thanksgiving Meals

Matthew 25:31-40 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

The Harvest Family Success Center in Flemington has asked again this year if we could provide Thanksgiving meals to area families in need. They have 60 families who have requested help with this year. Please consider either donating \$75 for one meal or, if you enjoy shopping, purchasing the canned and dry goods for the meal and donate \$40 for the purchase of meat and fresh produce.

Please use the link that was emailed from the Parish Office to sign up, and contact Helen Livingston if you have any questions or would like more information about this ministry opportunity.

### Faith Kitchen Update by Debra Kaufman

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in" Matthew 25:35

I've been blessed to be part of Zion's Faith Kitchen ministry the past few years. God's people serving God's people. Please consider joining the "crews" - first Thursdays and third Saturdays.



Heartfelt thank you to all the Faith Kitchen volunteers who shared meaningful gifts from our time together; beautiful, embroidered towels, a donation to Faith Kitchen, and a beautiful charcuterie board created by our wonderful church members, Timberwood Artistry (Shellie & Eric Evers)! Wonderful memories of time serving God's people with Zion. Peace.



**Debra, Thank you for your tireless dedication to Faith Kitchen. Your compassionate leadership prepared us to carry on this necessary mission. We will remember your kindness and generosity with every meal we serve. God Bless.**

## Stewardship Review

### Third Quarter General Fund Giving-2023

Our 2023 Spending Plan was based on an income of \$364,000 from projected member giving. This amount was determined from having received pledges from 46 families at \$274,000 and an estimate of \$90,000 from 47 non-pledging families. In December, we received checks for pre-pledges at \$58,500. Through September, eight families have met their total 2023 pledge. We have received a total of \$287,500 or 79% of our year-end estimate.

- Twenty-eight families have met or are ahead of pledge by \$28,000. Most of the surplus is from the 8 families who have completed their pledges (\$27,100).
- On the flip side, 18 pledging families are below their year-to-date pledge by \$11,600. Seven of the families who pledged (7.5%) have made no contribution to our operating expenses.
- Actual giving from pledging families (\$222,000) is at 108% of our 3rd quarter milestone.
- Actual non-pledged income (\$65,600) is at 97% of the expected 3rd quarter milestone.
- Actual total giving (\$287,500) is at 105% of the 3rd quarter milestone.

### Additional Generosity

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

- Members have given \$15,200 in support of 12 special appeals
- Members have given \$11,400 in support of Memorials and various other areas.
- Including General Fund donations, total giving to all causes is \$314,100.

### Making Ministry Happen

We pray you will continue to give generously from your heart to make ministry happen at Zion. On Commitment Sunday, 18 families committed to support our 2024 ministries with pledges totaling \$55,562. Pledge cards are still being received — please bring yours to church or send to the Parish Office as soon as you can.

Thank you for your support of Zion's ministries.

*The Stewardship Committee*



## THANK YOU!

Thank you to the 38 members of Zion who responded to our Building Connections survey. Your responses help us understand how people are connected to Zion, and how we can best connect members with our ministries.

You can still participate if you haven't gotten to it yet. It just takes a couple minutes and is an easy way to help the leadership of Zion. Use the QR code to the right to access the survey online.

### What makes Zion the place for you?

It is a very warm, welcoming community with a lot of ministry options and ways to get involved! Pastor Kat has great sermons and we feel a sense of belonging here.

I appreciate the church history, enjoy the camaraderie in church and at special events, and am proud of our church's part in outreach programs such as Feed My Starving Children and Family Promise.

Zion is my second home and has been for sixty years. I know that no matter what is happening in my life I can get answers to problems, support, and find people who truly care about me. The services are uplifting and I come away ready to start a new week. Zion is special in the many ways we reach out to the world around us.

I'm sorry we didn't find Zion earlier. Been members at two other Lutheran churches in NJ. Glad we found Zion!

### Tell us how you are connected to Zion!



BUILDING  
Connections







## Lunch Bunch — November 9th

Join friends from Zion for the return of Lunch Bunch at 12 p.m. on Thursday, November 9th, at Delicious Heights in Bedminster. Please contact the Parish Office to reserve your place at the table!

## Women of Zion Thanksgiving Dinner — November 14th

Join the Women of Zion for a Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration on Tuesday, November 14th at 6:30 p.m. Please use the link emailed from the Parish Office to RSVP and to indicate what you can bring for the meal. Don't forget to invite your mentee, your mom, your sister, your friends. All are welcome!



## SAVE THE DATE — Women of Zion Cookie Exchange

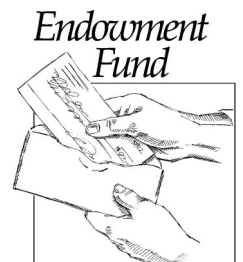


Mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 12th when the Women of Zion will gather for our annual Cookie Exchange. Stay tuned for details!

## Endowment Sunday — November 5th

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

There was \$25,282 in earnings from the Endowment Fund available 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 use the funds to support our ministries. YTD \$1,500 has been donated to the New Jersey Synod Compensation Aid Fund, \$5,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response, \$396.77 to purchase Prison Prayer Books, \$325 for ELCA Good Gifts – Vulnerable LGBTQ Youth, \$3,090 for Family Promise (in honor of Zion's 309th anniversary), \$1,600 for The Good News Home for Women (matching monies raised at the 5K in September), and \$2,000 for Operation Christmas Child, leaving a current balance of \$11,370.23 still available to support 2023 ministries.



The Endowment Committee would like to thank all who donated on Mother's Day, Father's Day and throughout the year.

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 at the back of the church on November 5th. If you are worshipping virtually, please consider mailing a check marked "Endowment Fund" to the Parish Office.

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

## In Case You Missed It ...

Since our last newsletter, we welcomed two new children into the Zion family with baptisms on September 24th and October 1st. On October 15th, Rod Briscoe shared a presentation on the new All Creation Sings hymnal supplement. As always, ministry is happening at Zion!



*Josh & Kelly Clark with son Nathaniel*



*Director of Music, Rod Briscoe*



## Sunrise / Sunset

*A reflection by Mary Ann Summer*

*Rev. Mark Summer shared this reflection at Mary Ann's committal service on October 15th*

I have always loved the hours that are part of sunrise and also those twilight hours of sunset.

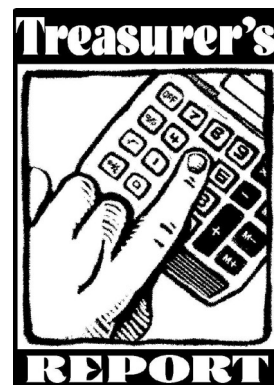
Dawns are quiet, colorful, and hold the promise of newness and beauty of things to come. Most people love beginnings. There is something so exciting about first things. Our first child, our first job, our first house, our first whatever. It is so special because we have nothing to compare it to. It has not been with us long enough for us to turn it around and perhaps to see an ugly side. We have not held it long enough for it to become worn and tattered on the edges. We have not grown tired of living with it every day and desire something new.

Sunsets too have special qualities. Colors glow in brilliant patterns, the heat of the sun is gone, coolness and quiet enfolds us. It can become a time to mentally review past events. To treasure wonderful warm memories, to put to bed mistakes and resolve how to do it better next time. There is a sense of completion, of jobs finished, of rest that will relax us from the stress of our work and worry.

We all have sunrises and sunsets in our lives, and most of us prefer dawns. We want newness, freshness, beauty that is not tarnished, lovely things with no damage or signs of use. Perhaps as we get older, we learn to appreciate those sunset times of our lives. Like old, tattered slippers that perfectly fit the misshapen form of our foot, we love and value sunset things. We long for old friends that really have known us since square zero and we don't have to explain ourselves. We love old furniture that is not just a physical presence but carries with it a certain essence created through memories of living. We enjoy reading old books and poetry once again and gain more meaning each time we read them.

I am grateful that God has been part of my life in both sunrises and sunsets. He was there at my beginning and was a part of all my firsts. He held my hand for all sunsets and will be there with welcoming arms when my final sunset comes.

## 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
August	\$27,563.54	-\$36,428.12	-\$8,864.58
September	\$25,884.36	-\$26,811.00	-\$926.64
<b>Year To Date Total</b>	<b>\$265,277.81</b>	<b>-\$263,574.72</b>	<b>\$1,703.09</b>

TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$74,538.36	10/3/2023
Money Market Plus	\$228,261.70	9/31/23
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>\$302,800.06</b>	
Directed Funds	\$183,329.32	8/31/2023
Operating Funds	\$119,470.74	8/31/2023
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>\$302,800.06</b>	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$513,924.95	8/31/2023
THRIVENT	\$358,924.85	9/30/2023
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$872,849.80</b>	

### ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH

<b>Available Funds for 2023</b>	<b>\$25,282.00</b>	
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	
Family Promise (Zion's 309th anniversary)	-\$3,090.00	
Good News Home for Women (5K match)	-\$1,600.00	
Operation Christmas Child	-\$2,000.00	<i>(designated, not spent)</i>
<b>2023 Endowment Funds Remaining</b>	<b>\$11,370.23</b>	



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