

## A Message from Pastor Kat

### New Life!



This year, April is a full month of the Easter season, a full month of celebrating life's triumph over death. Along with the disciples, we encounter the risen Christ and learn just who we are as his followers.

In the gospel readings, the disciples are filled with a mix of emotions as they experience the resurrected Jesus. They are terrified and amazed; doubtful and believing; startled and at peace.

If we put ourselves in their shoes, we can understand how seeing their beloved friend and teacher, who had died a painful death on the cross and is now suddenly alive again, would lead to conflicted and heightened feelings.

Their range of reactions to Jesus' resurrection gives us plenty of space for our own experience of new life. For some of us, gardens and parks burgeoning with green growth may feel at odds with our sense of loss or sadness. For others of us, the lengthening of the daylight hours may correspond with a lightening of our hearts. Like the disciples, one day, we may be filled with doubt about God's ability to create new life in the face of death, and, another day, we may be filled with joy and anticipation for God's ongoing work of renewal.

### Following the Risen One

Whatever we may be feeling, Jesus continues to call us to get to know him and to follow after him. Just like in the gospel readings, Jesus is always ahead of us gently beckoning us onwards, patiently letting us take our own path and make our own pace.

At whatever stage of your journey, whether you feel like a seed still buried in the ground or like a tree in full bloom, know that Jesus accompanies you and is at work within you creating new life.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kat



### Calls from the Shepherding Committee

In the coming weeks, members of our Shepherding committee will be calling parishioners to check in and see how everyone is doing. We look forward to catching up with you!

## Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met via Zoom conference call on March 21st. Below are the highlights of that meeting.



- Candlelight Meditation sessions at the church concluded on March 26th. They were a big success. Average attendance was 18 people, many of whom were new to Zion.
- New Member classes will be held on April 21st and new members will be welcomed on April 28th.
- Worship and Sunday School attendance have been lower than usual during the first quarter of 2024.
- Upcoming Youth & Family Ministry events include the Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th, Camp Sunday on May 12th, Youth Sunday and the Operation Christmas Child box build on June 2nd, Graduation Recognition on June 9th, and Vacation Bible School on June 24th-28th.
- The Oldwick Town Wide Tag Sale is coming on April 20th, and volunteers are needed. Please see the article below for more information.
- The Feed My Starving Children MobilePack sign-up will open on April 13th.
- Upcoming Parish Life events include Living Stations of the Cross at St. John Neumann on March 29th, followed by the Women of Zion luncheon at Max's Market & Eatery, a night of country line dancing on March 30th, and the Women of Zion Beginner's Ballet Class on April 5th.
- As requested by council at the February 15th meeting, Helen Livingston obtained reviews of recent work completed by the potential contractor for the construction of the second means of egress at the church. The reviews were quite positive, and served to reassure council members that the proposal is from a reputable contractor who can be trusted. The council voted unanimously to award the job to this contractor. Helen will be in communication with the contractor to finalize the contract and develop a schedule for the work.
- The amplifier in the church narthex is being replaced, as it is no longer working.
- Thank you to:
  - \* Ron Rupp, who passed away on March 20th, for his many years of dedicated service to Zion.
  - \* Steve Surhoff for taking care of needed electrical work at the church and CEB.

The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 18th on Zoom. 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.



### Oldwick Town Wide Tag Sale — Volunteers Needed

Are you available during the weeks of April 8th and 15th to help sort and price the items being donated for the Tag Sale? Can you work at the sale on April 20th? Please sign up via the link that was emailed from the Parish Office, and contact Rebecca Melick at 908-229-3744 with any questions you may have.



### Feed My Starving Children — May 31st & June 1st

Join friends from Zion and the surrounding community for the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack. Turn hunger into hope with your own two hands by packing nutritious meals for hungry children around the world. Watch your email for the sign-up link that will go live on April 13th, and please share this service opportunity with your friends and neighbors.



## Youth and Family Ministry at Zion

by Jaime VanNostrand

Spring has finally sprung! And the young people at Zion are seeing (and sharing!) signs of it everywhere.



On Friday, March 15, the Parish Life committee offered the families of Zion a St. Patrick's Day themed Parent's Night Out! Adults and youth from our congregation hosted several of Zion's youngest members for an evening of games, a movie, snacks, crafts, fellowship, and fun! Many thanks to Cindy Rupprecht for her leadership of this event.



On Sunday, March 17th, students of all ages gathered during the Sunday School hour for our Egg-Stravaganza All School Event! Kids and adults alike had a great time stuffing eggs for the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt and coloring hard boiled eggs that were then donated to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Washington.



On Palm Sunday, March 24th, many of our Sunday School students gathered in worship to share with the congregation a song they had been practicing before class each Sunday for several weeks! What a joy to watch our kids sing and dance to "Hosanna Rock" on such a celebratory Sunday.

We'd like to extend a special thanks to Michelle Stevens for providing our choreography and spending several weeks helping the students to learn it. We're also grateful for the teenagers who took on leadership roles and helped to guide and support our singers from the pews on Sunday morning. And, finally, thanks to our Zion parents for listening to this song with your kids, helping them to learn it, and supporting their participation in this special moment in worship!







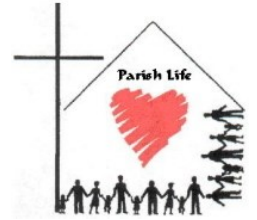
## Lunch Bunch — Thursday, April 11th

Join friends from Zion for Lunch Bunch at 12 p.m. on Thursday, April 11th, at Long Valley Brew Pub. Please contact the Parish Office to reserve your place at the table!

### Join the Fun!

The Parish Life committee's quarterly meeting will be held over Zoom on Wednesday, April 17th at 7 PM. Anyone interested in planning fun things for us to do as a congregation, please join us! Contact the Parish Office for the link to join the meeting.

Some of our events this year include country line dancing, enjoying live music by The Big Fuss (James Rustwick is in the band!), a Somerset Patriots baseball game, and Parents Night Out. Please email Cindy Rupprecht at [cindyrupprecht@gmail.com](mailto:cindyrupprecht@gmail.com) for more information or with any questions.



### Thank you from Faith Kitchen



Thank you for your 101 pounds of coffee donations to Faith Kitchen of Dover. They were so grateful to receive it, especially because their supplies were running very low. They feed about 50 to 75 people six days a week who look forward to a hot cup of coffee.



### Faith Kitchen Update

Thursday, March 8th — John McAleer led Zion's experienced team of John & Wendy Minerowicz, Todd & Michelle Stevens, Steve & Barb Surhoff, Chris Clark, and Sue Swanson in providing over a hundred meals. There was a delicious chicken and vegetable soup, cornbread, salad and bananas. Great team, great fellowship! The soup kitchen manager was also delighted to receive beautiful oven mitts handmade by Jann McAleer!



Saturday's Faith Kitchen on March 16th was a huge success! A group effort from Liz Degen, John McAleer, John & Wendy Minerowicz, Cindy Rupprecht, and Sue Swanson. We had just enough salad, cheesy cornbread, and 84 QUARTS of John McAleer's chicken veggie soup to feed 80 guests and provide 40 take home meals! One guest came back for seconds, thirds, and fourths—John's soup recipe was a winner!



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YTD 2024

GENERAL FUND	INCOME	EXPENSE	DIFFERENCE
January	\$ 22,712.19	\$ (29,323.60)	\$ (6,611.41)
February	\$ 29,240.48	\$ (40,034.87)	\$ (10,794.39)
<b>Year To Date Total</b>	<b>\$ 51,952.67</b>	<b>\$ (69,358.47)</b>	<b>\$ (17,405.80)</b>

TD BANK FUNDS	BALANCE	
Checking Account	\$ 141,087.90	03/03/24
Money Market Plus	\$ 228,309.17	02/29/24
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>\$ 369,397.07</b>	
Directed Funds	\$ 268,138.48	02/29/24
Operating Funds	\$ 101,258.59	02/29/24
<b>Cash On Hand</b>	<b>\$ 369,397.07</b>	

ENDOWMENT FUNDS	BALANCE	
CFNJ	\$ 514,279.37	01/31/24
THRIVENT	\$ 407,887.44	02/29/24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 922,166.81</b>	

### ENDOWMENT MISSION OUTREACH

<b>Available Funds for 2024</b>	<b>\$ 25,850.00</b>
Synod Compensation Aid Fund	\$ (1,500.00)
<b>2023 Endowment Funds Remaining</b>	<b>\$ 24,350.00</b>



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

## Endowment Fund News

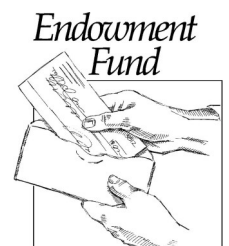
The Endowment Committee will sponsor our first Endowment Sunday for 2024 on Mother's Day, May 12th. The other Endowment Sundays for 2024 will be on Father's Day, June 16th and All Saints Sunday, November 3rd.

There is \$25,850 from the Endowment Fund earnings available for new ministry opportunities in 2024. 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. Year-to-date, \$1,500 has been donated to the New Jersey Synod Compensation Aid fund leaving a current balance of \$24,350 still available to support 2024 ministries.

Please consider giving to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund on May 12th as a tribute to all mothers 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 church on May 12th. 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.



# Oldwick Town-Wide Tag Sale

Saturday, April 20th (Rain Date: April 27th), 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
to benefit the children of Family Promise in 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 Monday, April 1st. 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 area 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: **P.O. Box 41, Oldwick, NJ 08858** or drop off in Zion's Parish Office at 18 Miller Avenue in Oldwick.

## Sign me up for the event!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Tag Sale Location: *(please choose an option below)*

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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