



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

July 2026

A Message from Pastor Kat

Cheers to 250 Years!

This year is a special one for our nation as we celebrate two-hundred-and-fifty years of independence on July 4th. It's amazing to think that during the entire history of our country the people of Zion have been praising God and doing God's work in this small corner of New Jersey. The people of Zion have played a role in many key historical events in our nation's history, including the Revolutionary War, the underground railroad, and the Civil War.

On our Anniversary Sunday on August 2nd, we will celebrate and remember this history as well as ponder how the people of our congregation will continue to be a faithful influence in our community, nation, and world.

A Quarter of a Millennium

Compared with two-thousand-year history of the Church, a quarter of a millennium for our nation – and even three-hundred-and-twelve-years for our congregation – is certainly put into perspective. What a wonder and a sign of God's mysterious power that a small following of disciples in the first century has evolved into a global community of believers counting in the billions.

As we take time to remember historic anniversaries, let us also take time to imagine and dream what God might have in store for our future. God's promise in Christ to be with us to the end of the age can comfort us when events of the present age cause us anxiety. We can have confidence in our God, who is Alpha and Omega, to have every beginning and ending, every new chapter, in hand. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,
Pastor Kat



Worship Services Moving to the CEB

During the months of July and August our **9:30 a.m. worship service will be held in the air-conditioned Christian Education Building (CEB)**, located at 18 Miller Avenue, one block behind the church.

Church Council Highlights



The Church Council met on June 18th. Highlights from that meeting are below.

- Zion's budget is on track — currently \$8,684 in the black.
- Byungjin Kim has been hired as Zion's new Director of Music. Sam Wilson will continue to serve as interim through the end of August.
- Jaime VanNostrand is looking for a new Sunday School teacher and volunteers to work in the nursery on Sundays beginning in September.
- There will be no Confirmation Class in 2026-2027 due to an age gap in our enrollment.
- Planning for the 2027 National Youth Gathering is underway. Students completing grades 8-12 in 2027 will be eligible to attend.
- The Evangelism committee will be sponsoring a prayer wall to be hung on the fence in front of the church, as a way for those in the community to request prayer from Zion's members.

Thank you to:

- * The members of the Director of Music search committee.
- * Sarah Chardoussin for her leadership of the AED safety training on June 14th.
- * VBS Director Melanie Hodges and all volunteers for their dedication to Zion's annual Vacation Bible School ministry.
- * Sunday School teachers and Confirmation Class aides for their giving of their time to Zion's youth.

The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 16th. Meetings are open for all to attend.



Welcome, Byungjin Kim!

Please join us in welcoming Byungjin (BJ) Kim to Zion! On June 9th, Zion's council voted unanimously to hire BJ as our new **Director of Music**. BJ will begin his work with us in September. Please see the ABOUT page of Zion's website (zionoldwick.com) to learn more about BJ and his family.



Community 5K Fun Run/Walk — September 12th

The sixth annual 5K Fun Run/Walk benefitting The Good News Home for Women is just around the corner. Between now and September 12, you have plenty of time to break in those new running shoes and get ready for this fun-filled event. The 5K course takes you through our Oldwick neighborhood and surrounding beautiful rolling farmlands.



Pre-race snacks and a light lunch will be provided for all participants, and the event/race will start at 10:00 in the CEB parking lot. This is a wonderful way to show your support for the Good News Home and to have an opportunity to provide fellowship with our friends from the GNH.

More details will be forthcoming as the day gets closer, but for now, please add the date to your calendar. Also be on the lookout for a volunteer sign up sheet coming in early August. Help will be needed to sign in participants, get pre-race snacks prepped and post-race lunch ready. Thank you for your support of this important ministry.



Youth & Family Ministry at Zion

by Jaime VanNostrand

With much of our Youth and Family programming on hiatus until the fall, we would like to offer Zion's families a few Faith at Home practices this summer! We hope that these practices support you and your children as you continue to grow in faith during these summer months.

This month, in keeping with the spirit of summer break, we encourage you to consider different ways in which your family might develop a sabbath practice in the coming months.

Sabbath rest is an essential and formative part of the Christian life. And when many of us feel driven and sometimes even defined by doing, sabbath invites us to focus instead on being. Sabbath reminds us that we are finite, that rest is sacred, and that our worth is not something to be earned or chased after but rather an unconditional gift from God to be received and savored.

Certainly there are communities that have developed very specific ways of observing the sabbath. But this does not have to be our approach. We encourage you to think about variations of sabbath practice that would be both meaningful and achievable in your own home and family. Consider experimenting with one or more of the suggestions below!

Tech Sabbath

Turn off your electronic devices. Take a break from the internet, spend intentional time in a low or no tech environment, let God's world surprise you as you reconnect with creation.

Chore Sabbath

Take a break from the labor that goes into managing your household. Let the cleaning and other chores wait, save errands for another time, remember that God made you to be more than what you do.

Shopping Sabbath

Take a break from shopping and buying things. Use what you have, spend time in a place with free admission, practice relying on God's provision.

Practicing Solitude or Silence

Spend some time alone or just take an intentional break from conversation. Give God room to move in and around you without having to compete for your attention.

Feel free to adjust these suggestions in ways that make the most sense for you. The elements of a meaningful sabbath practice will vary widely from family to family! You may want to dedicate a whole day to your sabbath practice or you may want to carve out particular 30 minute windows that better suit your family's rhythms. You may initially feel drawn to one practice only to realize that a different one is more resonant for your family. Regardless of how you choose to explore a sabbath practice, we hope that you will find it to be restful, restorative, and a meaningful way for your family to connect with God this summer.



Needles & Hooks Club

Zion's Needles & Hooks Club will continue to meet throughout the summer. Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, July 21st.



Blood Drive — July 28th

The Social Ministry committee is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Tuesday, July 28th, at the CEB. Please sign up to donate via the link that was emailed from the Parish Office.

Open Cupboard Food Pantry

Here is this month's list of suggested donations for the Washington Basket location of the Open Cupboard Food Pantry. Since it's summertime, it's a good time to focus on personal care items.



Shampoo & conditioner, soap & bodywash, toothpaste & toothbrushes, toilet paper, paper towels, diapers & baby wipes.

As always, ShopRite Gift Cards (\$10 increments) are always welcome as they are helpful in emergency situations. Thank you!

Faith Kitchen Update

On June 4th, the team of Steve Surhoff, Audrey Ruland, Bonnie Stanski, Rita & Tom Groendyke, John Minerowicz, and John McAleer, made meals of meatball hoagies, garden salad, chips & a banana. We served 35 in-house plates and 60 takeouts. Plenty of seconds and extras went to 70 guests. For many, this is their only meal of the day.



Saturday's Faith Kitchen volunteers of Cindy Rupprecht, Sue Swanson, Kathryn Koch, Rita & Tom Groendyke, and Helen Livingston served a delicious meal of Cindy's very own "Mexican Lasagna," with a green salad, watermelon, and brownies, for 30 sit-down meals and 64 takeout meals. Guests loved the food with several coming back for seconds and thanking our team for a "really good meal." And as always, thank you to Zion for supporting this mission and feeding the hungry!



Inspired Investment: Building Our Potential Income

From the Stewardship Committee — Issue 5 of an ongoing series



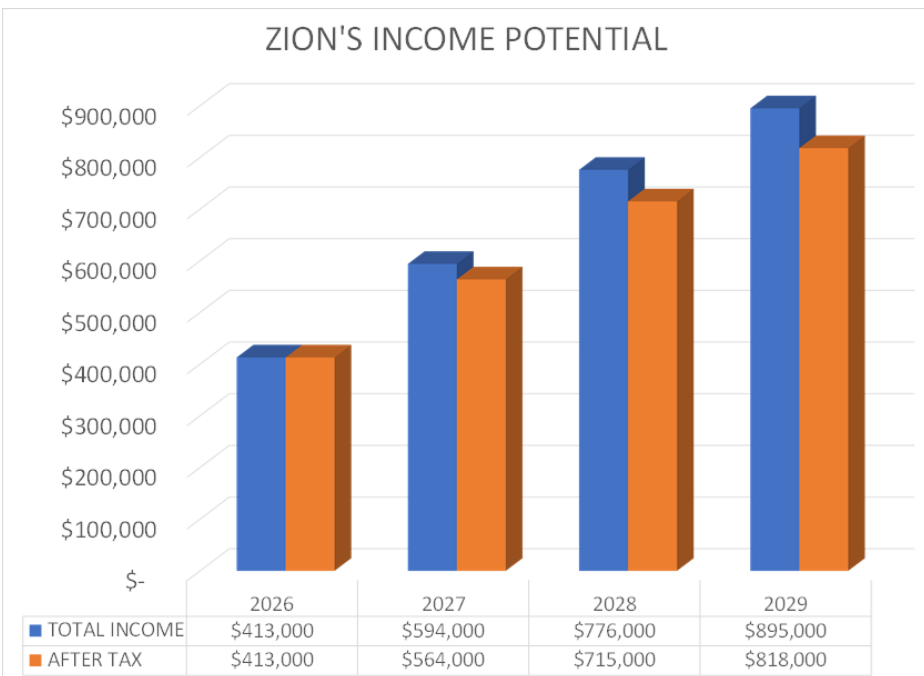
STEWARDSHIP

Last month we learned about some areas of property upkeep and maintenance that will need to be addressed in the near future. To take care of these issues will call for an adequate response in giving from the congregation. The best way to fund our projects is for each of us to develop a multi-year plan for our giving. We are all asked to give proportionately and to give first fruits.

What steps can guide that plan? First, determine your current 2026 level of giving. Then ask yourself if that giving is 5%:

- If not, consider getting to 5% over a 2-year period.
 - * Identify what the first step will be in 2027.
 - * When you get to 5%, continue increasing by 1% per year until you reach a tithe of 10%
- If you are currently at or above 5%:
 - * Consider increasing your giving by 1% per year until you reach a tithe of 10%.

This is what Zion's growth could look like using these guidelines:



Notice there are two paths. This addresses the age-old question of looking at the percentage with before-taxes or after-taxes income. Since the key is to take action to develop your plan, our recommendation is to use after tax income for your planning. Then when you have reached 10%, assess your giving using total income and continue to grow. Looking at our giving potential highlighted above, approaching this level of giving would more than cover our emergent capital needs.

What can you do?

Begin your plan using the suggested table below. It is based on monthly income and highlights the 5% intermediate (i.e.-within 2 years) goal and the 10% goal of tithing.

Monthly Income	Entry Level Giving			Growth Giving			Discipleship Giving			Challenge Giving		
	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	12%	15%
\$ 3,000	\$ 30	\$ 60	\$ 90	\$ 120	\$ 150	\$ 180	\$ 210	\$ 240	\$ 270	\$ 300	\$ 360	\$ 450
\$ 4,000	\$ 40	\$ 80	\$ 120	\$ 160	\$ 200	\$ 240	\$ 280	\$ 320	\$ 360	\$ 400	\$ 480	\$ 600
\$ 5,000	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 150	\$ 200	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 400	\$ 450	\$ 500	\$ 600	\$ 750
\$ 6,000	\$ 60	\$ 120	\$ 180	\$ 240	\$ 300	\$ 360	\$ 420	\$ 480	\$ 540	\$ 600	\$ 720	\$ 900
\$ 7,000	\$ 70	\$ 140	\$ 210	\$ 280	\$ 350	\$ 420	\$ 490	\$ 560	\$ 630	\$ 700	\$ 840	\$ 1,050
\$ 8,000	\$ 80	\$ 160	\$ 240	\$ 320	\$ 400	\$ 480	\$ 560	\$ 640	\$ 720	\$ 800	\$ 960	\$ 1,200
\$ 9,000	\$ 90	\$ 180	\$ 270	\$ 360	\$ 450	\$ 540	\$ 630	\$ 720	\$ 810	\$ 900	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,350
\$ 10,000	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 300	\$ 400	\$ 500	\$ 600	\$ 700	\$ 800	\$ 900	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500
\$ 11,000	\$ 110	\$ 220	\$ 330	\$ 440	\$ 550	\$ 660	\$ 770	\$ 880	\$ 990	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,320	\$ 1,650
\$ 12,000	\$ 120	\$ 240	\$ 360	\$ 480	\$ 600	\$ 720	\$ 840	\$ 960	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,440	\$ 1,800
\$ 13,000	\$ 130	\$ 260	\$ 390	\$ 520	\$ 650	\$ 780	\$ 910	\$ 1,040	\$ 1,170	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,560	\$ 1,950
\$ 14,000	\$ 140	\$ 280	\$ 420	\$ 560	\$ 700	\$ 840	\$ 980	\$ 1,120	\$ 1,260	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,680	\$ 2,100
\$ 15,000	\$ 150	\$ 300	\$ 450	\$ 600	\$ 750	\$ 900	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,250

Thank you for your continued commitment to Zion's ministries.

The Stewardship Committee