



Good News from Zion

Connecting People with God's Grace

October 2026

A Message from Pastor Kat

Reformation Day

October is a month when, as Lutherans, we anticipate the celebration of Reformation Day. This day is a day to remember October 31st, 1517 when Martin Luther shared his 95 Theses critiquing practices of the medieval church. This was a watershed moment not only for Christianity but for the wider world. The events of the Reformation led to widespread societal changes like increased literacy, the formation of the economic middle class, and empowerment of the individual over and against authority figures.

For us as Lutherans, this day is a reminder not only of our history, it is a time for us to celebrate the gift of having direct access to the stories of the Bible, greater knowledge of the good news of Jesus Christ, and complete assurance of grace and salvation as free gifts from God. It is also a day when we consider how God, through the work of the Holy Spirit, is continuing to reform and renew the Church today.

Confirmation Day

At Zion, we also celebrate the baptismal affirmation of our confirmands on Reformation Day. On this day in worship, our confirmands confirm their faith, taking ownership for answering the call God placed on their lives in their baptism. They are reminded that God has claimed them as beloved children and that God has given them gifts through the Spirit to do the holy work of serving their neighbor. In the eyes of the church, confirmands become adult members on this day with the ability to vote, serve on council, and represent our congregation in the wider church.

Please join us on this special day, **Sunday, October 25th at single service at 10:00 a.m.** as we celebrate our faith as Lutherans and lift up our confirmands as they take the next step in their lifelong journey of faith!

In Christ,
Pastor Kat

Stewardship Campaign Kickoff



On Sunday September 20th, our Stewardship campaign: "Inspired Investment" kicked off.

Over the next few weeks, we'll have a series of email updates, temple talks and other touch-points to highlight the aspirations that inspire us to make annual financial commitments to our church.

If you had the chance to attend the Ministry Fair which was held on the September 13th, you may remember our discussions on proportional giving, level and depth of participation, and achievable goals that will help us both sustain and grow our mission. We also shared what our potential needs will be related to maintenance our infrastructure, mainly the CEB.

Please mark your calendars for Commitment Sunday, October 18th.

Church Council Highlights



The Church Council met on September 17th. Highlights of the meeting are below.

- The September 13th Rally Day and Ministry Fair was a success. Kids and adults visited tables at the fair and several committees gained new members.
- Zion's budget is on track — currently \$7,824 in the black.
- Members of the 2027 Nominating Committee are Janet Hornich, Rebecca Melick, Joanne Rupp, and Pastor Kat.
- The livestreaming equipment at the church will be upgraded this month.
- The Church Mutual Ministry Committee is being reformed and will be launched by the end of the year.
- The 2027 Stewardship Campaign began on September 20th. Commitment Sunday is October 18th.
- The Parish Life committee has two potential events in mind for the coming months — a visit to a winery and a trip to hear a performance of Handel's Messiah.
- Several youth have indicated an interest in attending the 2027 National Youth Gathering. The group from Zion will join a larger contingent organized by Cross Roads Camp.
- The final session of Pastor Kat's "A Year of Growing in Faith" will be held on November 9th at 9:45 a.m. at the CEB.

Thank you to:

- * Cindy Ruprecht and Janet Hornich for providing coffee hour food and beverage during summer worship at the CEB.
- * Cait O'Neill, Tom Held, Janet Hornich, Jenny Gelson, and committee chairs for their planning and coordination of the Ministry Fair
- * Jaime VanNostrand for providing the photo booth at the Ministry Fair.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 15th. Meetings are open for all to attend.

Animal Shelter Helpers Drive

Through the end of October, Zion's Social Ministry committee is hosting an Animal Shelter Helpers Drive, sponsored by Jersey Cares. Donations can be left in the entryway at the CEB any time between now and October 31st.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unopened dog food - dry or canned• Unopened dog treats• New dog toys• New or gently used raised pet beds• New or gently used collars and leashes• 3-quart stainless steel dog bowls• Unopened cat food - dry or canned• Unopened cat treats• New cat toys• Kitty litter• KMR milk replacement formula for kittens & puppies | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dust pans• Nail clippers for cats• Turbo scratcher replacement pads• New blankets & towels for bedding• Paper towels• Spray bottles• Scrubber sponges• Disinfecting wipes• Bleach• Laundry detergent• Dish detergent• Hand soap |
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Youth & Family Ministry at Zion

by Jaime VanNostrand

We are so excited to welcome our young people and their families back to another program year at Zion! We know that the school year fills up quickly with events and activities so we've included the 2026/2027 calendar below in order to give you an opportunity to consider the best ways for your family to get involved this year. We can't wait to see what the new year brings!

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
<u>Oct</u> Community	4 Bible Class, Confirmation Capstone	11 Stewardship All School Event	18 Bible Class, Confirmation Rehearsal AT THE CHURCH	25 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Single Service for Confirmation	
<u>Nov</u> Gratitude	1 All Saints All School Event Fall Social: Hike!	8 Veterans Service Project	15 Bible Class	22 Bible Class	29 College Cone Packages Service Project
<u>Dec</u> God with Us	6 Bible Class	13 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal AT THE CHURCH	20 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Single Service for Christmas Pageant	27 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Christmas Break	
<u>Jan</u> God's Family	3 Birthday Kits Service Project	10 Baptism All School Event	17 Bible Class	24 Bible Class	31 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Single Service for Congregational Mtg.
<u>Feb</u> God's Light	7 Lenten All School Event Winter Social: Bowling!	14 Luminaria Service Project	21 Bible Class	28 Bible Class	
<u>Mar</u> Getting Ready	7 Bible Class	14 EggStravaganza Service Project	21 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Single Service for Palm Sunday	28 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Easter Break	
<u>Apr</u> New Life	4 Bible Class	11 Bible Class	18 Camp All School Event	25 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Single Service for Camp Sunday	
<u>May</u> The Church	2 Church Year All School Event Spring Social: Mini Golf!	9 Bible Class	16 Bible Class	23 Closing Celebration!	30

Needles & Hooks Club

All are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of every month at the CEB, 4:00 to 5:30. We gather to work on our individual projects and share a time of fellowship. Bring along your crocheting, knitting, needlepoint, or whatever else you enjoy or want to work on. We are also happy to teach crocheting to anyone who would like to learn, and we have plenty of yarn and hooks. Pack up your project and join us! The next two meetings are October 20th and November 17th.



Open Cupboard Food Pantry

The Washington Basket location of the Open Cupboard Food Pantry has seen an increase in the number of clients. The Food Pantry needs the following items:

Canned soups, canned fruits & vegetables, boxed pasta (such as spaghetti, ziti, macaroni), toilet paper & paper towels, baby wipes, baby & adult diapers.

Please place items in the large bin in the entryway of CEB. Thank you for your support of our neighbors in need.

Faith Kitchen Update

September 3rd's Faith Kitchen crew, led by John McAleer, included Audrey Ruland, Chris Clark, Barb Surhoff, Bonnie Stanski, and Tom Groendyke. We provided a delicious meal of a meatball sub, fruit salad, chips, and a banana. We served a grateful crowd and there were many take out meals. Once again, we had some wonderful fellowship at break time enjoying Audrey's banana blueberry bread!



Saturday's Faith Kitchen volunteers of Kathryn Koch, Sue Swanson, Helen Livingston, Ken & Liz Degen, and Cindy Rupprecht prepared a delicious meal of breakfast burritos with chorizo, spicy rice and beans, Cindy's zucchini bread, and a fruit cup for grateful guests. There were 40 meals served to eat-in guests and 70 takeout meals. As always, THANK YOU, Zion, for supporting this much needed ministry!





Lunch Bunch — October 8th

Zion's lively group of retirees meets for lunch on the second Thursday of each month at 12 p.m. On October 8h we will gather Brasserie 513 in Califon. Please see the sign-up link emailed from the Parish Office to reserve your place at the table.

News from the Evangelism Committee

On Saturday September 12th, the sixth annual 5K Fun Run/Walk benefitting the Good News Home for Women was attended by 40 people, and approximately \$1,100 was raised for the GNH. Thank you to all the Zion volunteers who came out and helped make this event a success. And a big thank you to Helen Livingston who was able to get a Thrivent gift card and tee shirts to help our committee put on this event.



Next up, the committee will be hosting our neighborhood Halloween Hospitality event at both the church and CEB on October 31st. If you would like to be a part of this fun evening, please contact John Minerowicz. Costumes for the adults are optional, but encouraged!



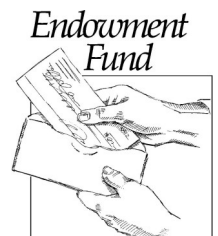
Women of Zion Thanksgiving Dinner — November 11th

Please join us for Women of Zion annual Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration on Wednesday November 11, at 6:30 in the CEB. All women are welcome, including family members and friends. Please use the sign up link emailed from the Parish Office to RSVP and to indicate if you can bring a dish. You can also respond by calling the Parish Office. Any questions, please call Barb Surhoff or Wendy Minerowicz.

Endowment Fund News

The final Endowment Sunday for 2026 will be All Saints Sunday, November 1st.

There was \$30,077 from Endowment Fund earnings available for ministry opportunities in 2026. This amount 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 NJ Synod Compensation Aid Fund, \$5,000 to Feed My Starving Children, \$250 to the American Cancer Society/Clinton Twp. Relay for Life, \$336.74 for an Apple TV in the Youth Room, \$1,613.95 for new batteries and pads for the AED Unit in the CEB, \$1,000 for the House Next Door Pastor's Retreat, \$2,000 for the Operation Christmas Child Box Build, 1,205.52 for an Eagle Scout project, \$948.40 for Jaime VanNostrand's upcoming trip to the ELCA Youth Ministry "Extravaganza" conference, \$1,000 to the NJ Synod in honor of LuAnn Barnes retirement (\$500 to Global Refuge and \$500 to the Amazon Synod), and \$54.20 to United Lutheran Seminary in honor of their bicentennial celebration, and \$2,000 earmarked for Harvest Family Success Center Thanksgiving Meals. This leaves a balance of \$13,368.19 still available to support 2026 ministries.

Please consider giving to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund on November 1st as a tribute 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. Please 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 mission-oriented programs ... forever.

Envelopes marked "Endowment Fund" will be available at the church on November 1st. If you are worshipping virtually, please consider mailing a check marked "Endowment" to the Parish Office, or you can give through Venmo.

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Can you knit or crochet? Zion has a long-standing tradition of creating Prayer Shawls to share with those who are in need of prayers of love and hope. These are then available to anyone who would like to use one or to share with a loved one. These shawls are approximately five feet long by 18 inches wide. You can make them at home so there's no need to come to a meeting! Instructions are given below, but you can create your own pattern using whatever stitches you prefer. More information is available regarding the prayer aspect of the project, including prayers that can be said by the crafter. Please feel free to call Barb Surhoff with any questions.



Prayer Shawl Instructions

Shawl Ministry ~ www.shawlministry.com

Knitting and Crochet

Materials:

Knitting: Knitting Needle size 11 or 13

Crochet: Size 'M', 'N' or 'P' crochet hook

Amount of yarn needed:

Knitted: 555 yards (*slightly bulky*) in the yarn of your choice.

Crochet and larger shawls:

740 yards (*slightly bulky*) for longer shawls and 60+ stitches

Or, use the recommended needle size listed on label, adjusting pattern to obtain the desired width.

Before You Begin:

Because this is a spiritual practice, before one begins the knitting (crochet) process, a ***blessing, prayer or wish*** can be said, dedicating the work of your hands and the intentions of the receiver. You may want to light a candle and play soft music to enhance your knitting time, remembering that this is a prayerful time. When working in a group, you may want to pass the work-in-progress around the circle, asking each person to add some stitches to the shawl, or to just hold it for a while to add their prayers, energy and good wishes.

The Original Prayer Shawl - Knitting Pattern

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Written & Developed By Victoria Galo and Janet Severi Bristow

Cast on stitches in multiples of three - 54, *57, or 60. For example, if you use size 11 needles and cast on 54 stitches, 3 skeins of 'slightly bulky' yarn is enough. Some yarns vary in elasticity that will affect your outcome, as will your knitting tension. If the yarn you have chosen has a multicolored stripe, be careful when tying on a new skein. Make sure the color sequence is correct. Also, tie on the new skein in the body of the shawl, instead of an edge, as the ends tend to show.

* First Row: k3, p3, to end

* Second Row:

Always start the next row with the opposite stitch of what you see. For instance, if the first stitch on the needle is a knit, then start with a purl. Knit the purls and purl the knits. It should NOT look like ribbing.

**Note: If you cast on 57 stitches you will always start with K3*

The same can be said if you make the pattern in multiples of 6's + 3 (add) stitches

The Original Prayer Shawl Crochet Pattern

Developed by Rita Glod

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Chain 54 stitches or desired width of shawl.

Chain 1, turn, single crochet in each of the stitches to end. Chain 3 and turn.

Double crochet in top of each single crochet. Repeat this row 2 more times.

Chain 1 and do 1 row of single crochet to end. Chain 3 and turn.

Do 3 rows of double crochet. Repeat pattern to end (1 row single, 3 rows double)

End with 1 row of single. Finish with fringe.

**Note: that crocheting typically uses more yarn than knitting, so you might have to adjust the width and size of hook or use another 1/2 skein.*

It has been suggested that skeins of the same dye lot be purchased.

To Complete the Shawl:

Knit (crochet) until the piece measures from wrist to wrist, or approximately 57-58" long. (Knitting: bind off with a knit row). Use what you have left to cut fringe.

Suggestion for fringe: you can also do this before using the last skein. Divide the pile in half and slip knot them to the ends, evenly spaced.

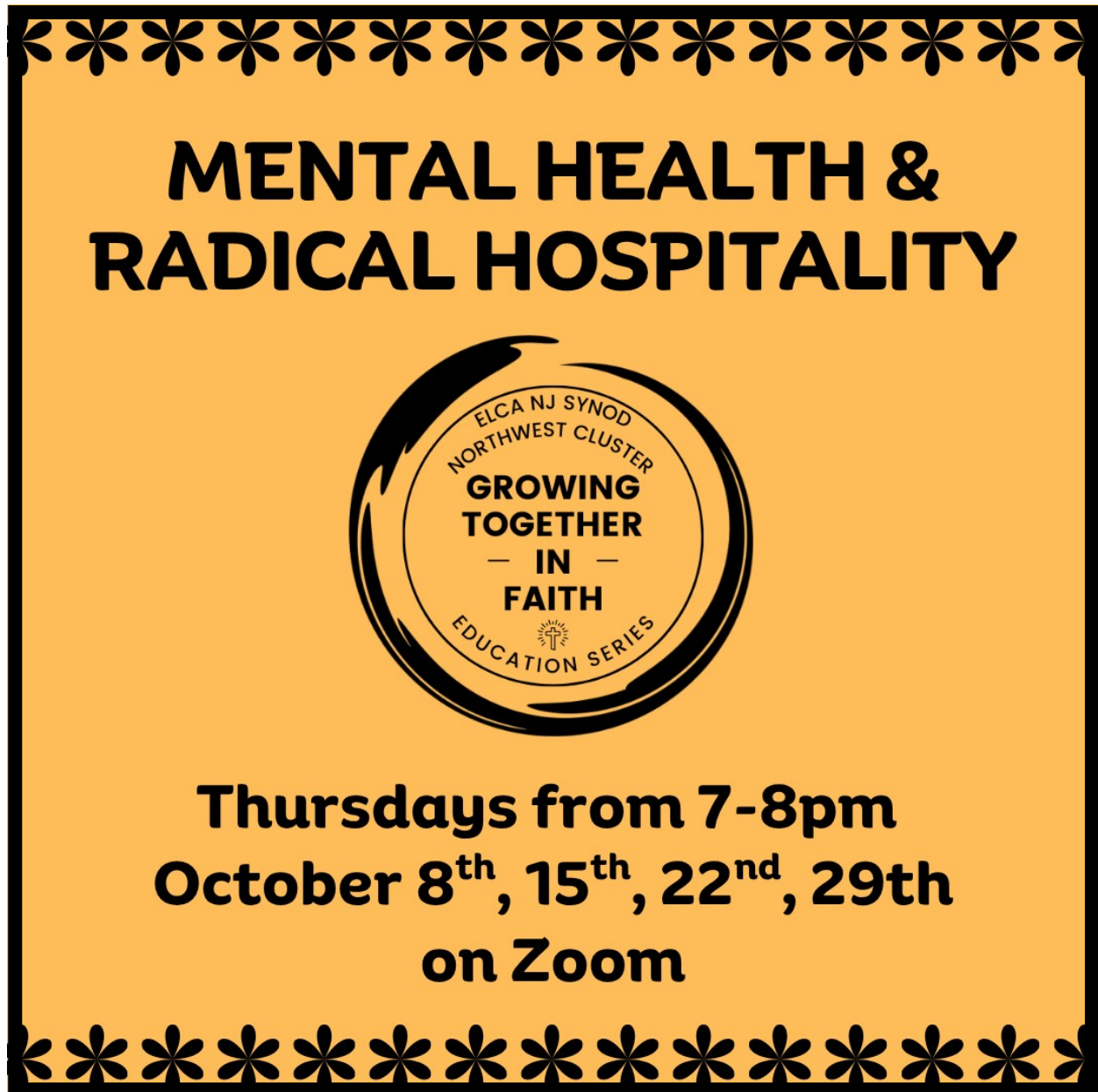
If the yarn is manufactured loosely wound, you might have to knot the ends of the fringe to keep it from unraveling.

Now that the shawl is completed:

Before you give it away, say a ***blessing, prayer or wish*** over the shawl, keeping the receiver in mind.

Growing Together in Faith

Join local Lutherans on Thursdays in October for a study on how to show radical hospitality as a congregation with awareness for those with mental health conditions. All sessions will be held online via Zoom. An invitation and Zoom link will be shared with the congregation closer to the date. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Kat.



**MENTAL HEALTH &
RADICAL HOSPITALITY**



**Thursdays from 7-8pm
October 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
on Zoom**