

Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 27th, 2024



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Reverend Martha McCreight – *Pastor*
Mr. Andrew Sabol – *Director of Music Ministries*
Mrs. Julie Nieser – *Administrative Secretary*
The Reverend William L. Hauser – *Pastor Emeritus*
Dr. Stanley E. Yoder – *Cantor Emeritus*

11609 Frankstown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235
412-242-2626

www.zionpennhills.org
www.facebook.com/zionpennhills

GATHERING SONGS: ELW 513 Listen, God Is Calling

NENO LAKE MUNGU

ELW 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN FESTE BURG

The assembly stands to sing the second song.

GREETING

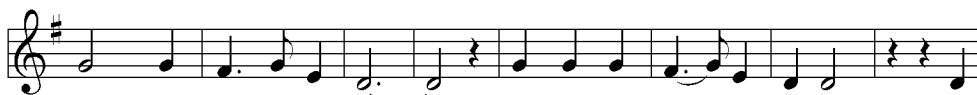
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: GLORY TO GOD



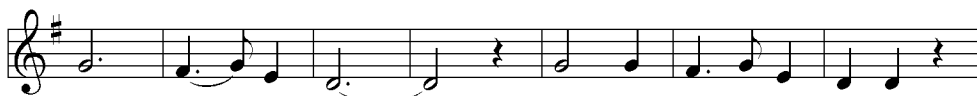
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy, have mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed



at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the LORD’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

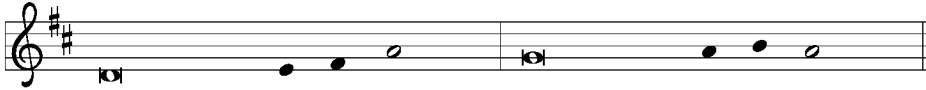
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

The refrain is sung by the children.

The verses of the psalm are chanted by all to the following tone.



¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;

³though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.

⁶The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. *Refrain*

⁷The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁸Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

¹⁰“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”

¹¹The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For ‘no human being will be justified in his sight’ by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, irrespective of law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no

distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN: ELW 517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word ERHALT
UNS, HERR
The assembly stands. *v. 1-2 before gospel, v. 3 after gospel*

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to St. John in the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS 1006

The assembly stands to sing.

By Grace We Have Been Saved

refrain – kids, verses – adults

BY GRACE

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assembly is seated or kneels.

...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERTORY HYMN: ELW 590 Salvation Unto Us Has Come ES IST DAS HEIL

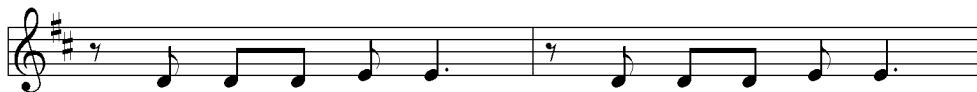
The assembly stands to sing on the final verse as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

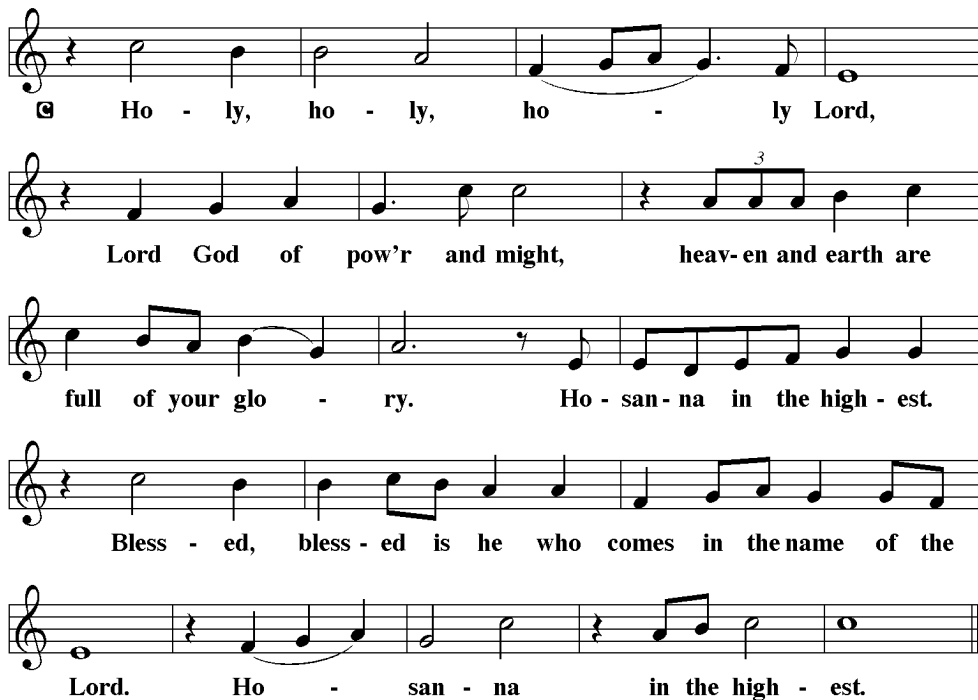


C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary ... And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise:
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile,
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the incarnation of your Son:
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:
his eating with outcasts and sinners,
and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb,
his ascension to the seat of power,
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,
when Christ will come again in beauty and power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place, and unite them
with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION

All who believe and are baptized are welcome at the table Jesus Christ sets for us. You will be dismissed pew by pew by an usher to come forward to the railing. As you come forward, in front of the baptismal font is a tray of empty glasses (for wine) or a filled glass (with grape juice). Please take one before you come forward. You will then receive a piece of bread and then the assisting minister will distribute the wine. If you wish to only receive a blessing, please motion to the pastor. Gluten Free wafers are available and can be given by motioning to the pastor. For those in need of assistance, please let the ushers know, and we will commune you in your pew.

COMMUNION HYMNS

**ACS 1035
ELW 729**

Though the Earth Shall Change
The Church of Christ, in Every Age

WE WILL NOT FEAR
WAREHAM

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The assembly stands.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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The Sanctuary Candle is given today in memory of Kenneth William Moyer, brother of Linda Neumann, from Pastor & Linda Neumann.

Welcome to All Visitors: We welcome you to Worship at Zion Lutheran Church this morning. Bulletins may be found from one of the ushers or on the table in the back of the Narthex. Families and Children are welcome to worship – please feel free to worship from your pews or to make use of our Prayground Space at the back of the sanctuary along with provided coloring materials.

We hope your worship here is fruitful and fulfills what you may need in your spiritual life this morning. If you would like to speak more with Pastor Martha, you can reach her over email pastormartha@zionpennhills.org or by calling the office 412-242-2626.

Reformation Sunday: Today we commemorate Reformation Sunday in the Lutheran Church. We remember the work of the reformers of the past, we give thanks for the work of the church as it is now, and we look towards the ever-evolving church of the future. We oftentimes wear the color red today to signify the work of the Holy Spirit in the church and in our midst. Saved by grace and justified by the grace and love of God, we live out this calling to share the good news of Jesus Christ every single day of our lives.

Reformation Sunday Sundaes: Join us **TODAY** after worship for ice cream sundaes in honor of the occasion!

Sunday School and Confirmation: After worship, Sunday School will meet downstairs and Confirmation will meet in the Christian Education office.

Stewardship Campaign 2024: Pledge cards are asked to be returned **TODAY, (October 27th) Reformation Sunday!** Thank you in advance for your discerning and considering how God is calling you to serve in 2025.

Daylight Savings: Just a reminder to turn your clocks back next **Saturday, November 2!** Enjoy that extra hour of sleep.

All Saints Sunday – November 3rd: We will be remembering all those Zion saints who have joined the Church Triumphant since the time of All Saints last year during our worship together. In addition to that remembrance, you are invited to bring a photo of your loved one(s) who have joined the Church Triumphant at any point in time and we will display them up front during worship.

Julie Out of Office: Julie will be away on vacation from November 1-11. Pastor Martha will be in the office Friday (November 1st) – Friday (November 8th) for office coverage while she is away.

Maggie Watson Blood Drive: Maggie Watson, daughter of Kathy Kraf, is in need of blood. If you are able to donate blood on Sunday, November 3rd at the Plum Community Center, please do so to help Maggie in her recovery. Thank you!

Christmas Stockings for Military Personnel Servant Project: In partnership with Military Connections Corp of Pittsburgh, we will be filling Christmas stockings for service personnel after worship on Sunday November 10th in the Gathering Space. We have requested 30 stockings (which are on the smaller size) from the organization (which will be picked up prior to November 10th) and brought to church. Requested items to fill these stockings are any of the following:

Granola Bars	Individual Bags of Trail Mix	Chocolate Candy
5 Hour Energy	Cheez Its	Pretzels
Candy Canes	Fruit Snacks	Candy
Mints And Gum	Individual Bags of Nuts	Snacks
Pop-Tarts	Power Bars	Crackers
Lollipops	Single Serve Powered Gatorade	
Skittles	Slim Jims	
Starburst	Individual Bags of Snacks	
Rice Krispie Treats	Individual Bags of Cookies	

We will begin accepting donations towards this on Sunday, October 27th and going through November 10th. Donations may be dropped off at the office or the Gathering Space. Volunteers are also needed for filling these stockings after worship on November 10th. Thank you in advance!

Adult Bible Study: We are meeting again as a group on Wednesday afternoons at 1pm in person in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom. For this session, we will be studying Dietrich Bonhoeffer, using a study that was recently published by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale and LAMPa. Pastor will have printed copies of the study guide for those in person and will send out via email to those who wish to attend over Zoom. Pastor Dennis Orsen may also be joining us as a participant for some of our sessions in preparation of leading it at Emanuel Lutheran - Eastmont. If you have questions, please see Pastor Martha.

Election Prayer: As we move forward to November's elections let us remember that, regardless of our political perspectives, we are all children of God. Please consider making the following part of your prayer life.

- 1) The safety and health of all who are running for office, as well as their families.
 - 2) The importance of voting and making sure that our polling places / workers are safe.
 - 3) That the outcome of November's election will be clear / decisive.
 - 4) That November's election results will be honored.
 - 5) That after the election we, as Americans, will unite to work for the good of all.
- Thank you on the behalf of Health Ministry

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Alice & Robert Bartley, Paul & Mary Lou Feathers, Theodore Stolp, Jr., and Paul Agnew. Please take a moment to sign the cards and share a smile with those unable to join us for worship. Also remember them in your prayers this week.

Annual IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD): If you are 72 or older, please consider Zion Lutheran Church as the recipient of a charitable gift from your RMD without incurring income tax on the gift amount. These gifts can be designated to Current Expenses, Major Maintenance, the Zion Mission Endowment Fund (in honor or memory of loved ones), and/or any other special fund. A form is available in the tract rack in gathering space to indicate your preferred designation(s). Talk to Pat Pope if you have questions about the form. You should consult your IRA custodian, tax advisor, or an attorney for this distribution. Distributions from your IRA plan must be made payable directly from your IRA custodian to Zion Lutheran Church. You must act before December 31 of each year.

Memorial Candles for 2025: Thinking about next year already! If you would like to reserve a candle in honor or memory of someone, please call the office and let Julie know. They are \$5.00 each.

Update from the Long-Range Planning Team

Dear Fellow Zion Members:

Did you know the Church Council has a constitutional mandate to do long-range planning? To help fulfill this, the council moved to hire Pastor Graham Standish. He has helped many churches in the area, after membership tripled and attendance doubled at his church in Zelienople, PA. His method is to form a group representing the congregation and including the pastor. They then do the legwork and study to create a proposal as the final output. The process is in-depth and takes 8 -12 months to complete. We have provided updates on our work every month.

Now we are moving on to the last phase, the proposal development. Graham suggested we offer this summary of what we have done and what is up next.

After Graham was brought on, he asked Pastor Martha to assemble a group of members that was both representative of the church's past, its present, and its future. We began our work in earnest in January of this year.

We started by reviewing several books and a film. These books and the DVD are all available in our library. They all pertain to strategic thinking, rebirth, and/or following the lead of the Holy Spirit. We discussed our views, memories, and hopes for Zion in relation to these thought-provoking works:

Think Again - Grant

Start with Why - Sinek

The Grace Outpouring - Godwin and Davis

Switch - Heath & Heath

The Jesus Revolution (2023)

After this phase, we began exploring strong local churches that have experienced success and growth. The goal was never to impose their style on Zion. Yet they are doing some things very well, and there are things we can learn and use here. We visited two churches whose worship style was inviting, especially toward people who had walked away from more typical churches. We also visited a historically black church on the North Side to help us better understand being a church in a changing area. Finally, we had a video visit with a Lutheran pastor from the area who is growing his church.

Now we ask for your prayers as we enter this closing step. We will synthesize all our work into a document that we will share with the Church Council and then with the congregation. It will contain suggestions for improving our church life and growing our congregation. This document will challenge us all to move into the future so that Zion will be a vibrant church now and into the future.

Yours in Christ,

The Graham Standish Task Force: Sue Clydesdale, Tom Felmley, Alex Fitzroy, Kathy Gaberson, Andrew Sabol, Reid Wolfe, and Pastor Martha

Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of September 30th

Offering Income: \$165,671.25
Other Income:* \$ 58,021.31
Total Income: \$223,692.56
Total Expense: \$209,392.54
Net: \$ 14,300.02

*Thomas Child Care and Learning Center, AIU, Apartment, and other groups who use our facilities.

OREMUS: If there is someone that we can prayerfully take off the prayer chain, please let the Church office know. If you or someone you know (who is not on the OREMUS) is in need of a pastoral visit, please let Pastor Martha know at 406-565-3592. Thank you.

OREMUS

Rehab Facility:

Evelyn Lamm (Concordia, Monroeville, Room 110)
Nancy Fabel (Rosebrook Living Facility, Sarver, PA, Room 116)
Paul and Mary Lou Feathers (Presbyterian Homes, Oakmont, Room 204)

Prayers Requested for: Donna Federoff, Paul Gaberson, John Carter, Jenny Fabrizi, Sandra Short, Robert McClure, Marion Ertel, Maggie Watson (daughter of Kathy Kraf), Michael Gerdich (friend of Rhonda Pope), Arela Mascaro (friend of Sallie Lazar), Richard Sabol (father of Andrew Sabol), Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte), Theresa Miller (Godmother of Kara Albrecht), Patti Wunderley (sister of Linda Neumann), Jerri Jacob (friend of Sallie Lazar), John Hayes (friend of Tom & Annette Felmley), Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Wayne Stumpf, Pari Bailey (friend of Pastor Martha), Mike Walsh (friend of Kathy Gaberson), Mary Rex (friend of Kathy Gaberson), Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks), Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello), Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short), Ron Jeroski (friend of Charlotte Murray), Steve Bell (brother of Rhonda Pope), Chris Vuocolo (nephew of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio), Beth Rall, Sarah, Tom & Carolyn Schuler, Marsha Balaban, Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Patrick Taylor, Bonnie Hanssen (mother-in-law of Pastor Martha), for those affected by Hurricane Milton

ZION EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sunday, October 27:** 9:30am – In person, livestream, Facebook
10:30am – Sunday School/Confirmation
Reformation Sundaes after worship – Gathering space
4:30-6:00 – EAYC
- Monday-Friday:** 6:30am-8:30am, 2:30pm-6:00pm – Thomas LA
Before/After School Program
2:30-6:00 – AIU Afterschool Program
- Tuesday, October 29:** 6:00 Property Team – Gerhard Lounge
- Wednesday, October 30:** 1:00 – Bible Study – G. Lounge

We are in need of Ushers! If you are interested in helping to collect and present the offering, doing a head count for record keeping, dismiss rows for communion, please let Tony Lamorte know at: tlamorte@steelcityproducts.com. Thank you

USHER SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024

Sunday, October 20, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, October 27, 2024	Ray Rall	Mike Patchen
Sunday, November 03, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, November 10, 2024	Ray Rall	Mark Mauro
Sunday, November 17, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, November 24, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 01, 2024	Ray Rall	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 08, 2024	Mike Patchen	Mark Mauro
Sunday, December 15, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 22, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, December 29, 2024	Ray Rall	Tony Lamorte

BREAD SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024

- October 27: Sue Clydesdale
November 3: Lori Smith
November 10: Jeannette Christensen
November 17: Sallie Lazar
November 24: Chrissa Clark