

# Zion News

Pittsburgh, PA 15235

412-242-2626

August, 2025

[www.zionpennhills.org](http://www.zionpennhills.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/zionpennhills>

*The church in the heart of Penn Hills that is the heart of Penn Hills*



Thoughts from the Transitional Interim Pastor

## **“Remembering to Forget”**

We are bombarded with a constant barrage of information every day, day after day. We are virtually “run over” on the information super highway on the internet or the media with truths, half-truths, and false statements that we find things easy to forget. And there are many things that we should instantly forget or ignore. Our memories are loaded to the max.

It is important to note that the Bible tells us that God likes to forget at times.

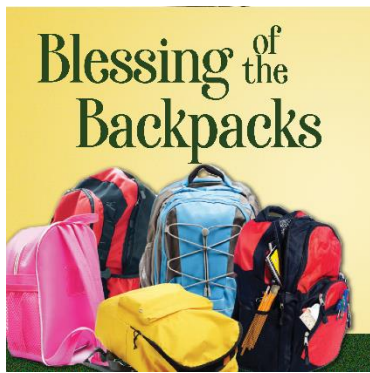
How does our omnipotent, omniscient God forget even the slightest things when scripture says that not a sparrow falls to the ground without God knowing? (Matthew 10:29) Yes, God does not remember some things as Isaiah 1:18 tells us, “Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord, though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” The Bible tells us God will forget our sins when we seek God’s forgiveness. God just doesn’t forgive, God forgets. God wipes our slate clean. God does not remember.

If past sins or failing or misdeeds still haunt us, it is time to move on once and for all. Sometimes people just can’t forgive themselves or others for past wrongs. We need to know that God’s memory is short but he is long on grace and mercy. We need to remember to forget, forget things we have done or things done to us. It is time to stop dragging the garbage around with us. That is the power of confession and forgiveness for us and forgiveness and pardon for others. After all, in the Lord’s Prayer we say, “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” If we do not forgive others, we better not pray the Lord’s Prayer for we are saying in effect, “Do not forgive me Lord, because I am not forgiving so and so for what they did to me.”

So, you may not remember all 50 state capitals, as you may have learned at some point in your education. Maybe even recalling half of them now is an accomplishment. But you need to remember to forget bad past experiences. Learn from them and move on. You cannot see your way forward always looking in the rear view mirror of life. Just remember that God forgives and forgets. As God has shown us grace and mercy, so be gracious to others. May we be a “light bringer” of God’s love to a dark world.

In Christ,

Pastor Neumann



**Blessing of Backpacks:** We will hold our annual blessing of the backpacks, packs, and briefcases during worship on **Sunday, August 24, 2025** during the Children's message time. Bring your item(s) to be blessed as you begin a new school year as a student, teacher, or caregiver of a young one!



Thank you to all who helped to prepare for and serve at the Food Pantry in July! We ended up serving over 130 households!

Our next pantry meets on **Saturday, August 9th**. Therefore, and if you are able to help, with set-up on Friday, August 8th from 9am-12pm in the Community Room or during the pantry on the 9th from 8:30am-12:00pm, that would be most appreciated!

Thank you again for all of your time, efforts, prayers and support towards making a difference in our local community and beyond!



**Congregational Picnic:** Please join us for worship and fellowship on **Sunday, August 17th at the Boyce Park, Silver Beaver Pavillion.** We will begin with worship at 10:30am followed by a picnic and fellowship. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, will be provided. If you'd like to bring drinks, a side dish or a dessert, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on the table. Bring a folding chair for extra comfort.

Friends and Family are also welcome! And speaking of friends, the congregations of Emmanuel Lutheran (Eastmont), and Good Shepherd (Monroeville), and Trinity Lutheran (Verona) will also be joining us! Looking forward to seeing you there!



**Sharing Talents – Building Faith Community** – Everyone is invited to share their golf putting talents, for better or for worse, but all in fun! On **Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>** following worship, gather in the hallway off the Gathering Space for a miniature golf “putt off.” Putters and golf balls will be provided or you can bring your own. If you are new to golf, help and instructions will be available. Prizes will be awarded for some contests. So don't just “putter” around home; putt with a purpose. Stay after church and enjoy the fun and fellowship and refreshments. There just might be a golf professional in the making!



**Summer Tithing:** A friendly reminder that as you are traveling throughout the summer that ministry at Zion continues on, even during the “slower” months of June, July and August! Thank you in advance for continuing your financial gifts and tithes to Zion, even if you are away from worship. A reminder that you can always “snail-mail” your tithe or set-up electronic deposit. Questions? Feel free to reach out to the Zion office or a member of budget and finance. Thank you!



## Farewell Celebration for Bishop Kusserow

**Sunday, August 10**

**Lutherlyn (500 Lutherlyn Lane, Butler, PA, 16001)**

Give thanks for the steadfast and faithful leadership of Bishop Kurt Kusserow, who has shepherded our shared work for 18 years. Join for any or all of the activities; this will be an open-house style gathering where you may come and go as you please.

- **Worship: 2 PM @ Amphitheater**

A shuttle from the main office will be available beginning at 1:30 PM for those who would like assistance getting to the amphitheater. (Rain Location: Chapel)

- **Reception: 3:30 @ Dining Hall**

Please contribute to the cookie table by bringing a dozen cookies to share.

- **Campfire: 4:30 PM @ Friendship Circle**

Top off the afternoon with a classic campfire at the fire pit located directly in front of the dining hall. (Rain Location: Dogwood Pavillion)

## Bishop Stoller Installation Service

**Saturday, October 18: 1 PM**

**Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church**

**517 Sangree Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15237**

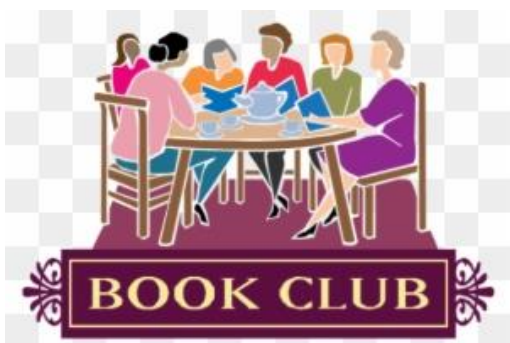
By the grace of Almighty God, your prayers and presence are requested at a celebration of the rite of installation for Pastor Melissa Stoller into the ministry of Synod Bishop.



**Thomas Childcare and Learning Academy Summer 2025 Programming:**  
 Valisa and her staff started up their summer programming here at Zion for ages 5-12 years old and will run from **June 16<sup>th</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00am-5:30pm. When driving on Zion property, please be extra mindful during these hours in the event that children may be crossing the parking lot for an activity or to go in-between buildings. Thank you!



**Newsletter Deadline:** Do you have an idea for an article, update on a project, or a photo from a Zion event or a shout-out or thank you? We would love to have it! All articles are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send them via e-mail to: [julie@zionpennhills.org](mailto:julie@zionpennhills.org).



#### Zion Book Club selections for 2025:

Aug. 18	<i>Rust</i>	Eliese Celeste Goldbach	Sue B
Sep. 15	<i>Thursday Murder Club</i>	Richard Osman	Samara D
Oct. 20	<i>The Ride of Her Life</i>	Elizabeth Letts	Laura P
Nov. 17	<i>The First Ladies</i>	Marie Benedict &	Kathy K
Dec. 15	Book selection potluck		

We meet at 1:00pm in the Gerhard Lounge. Everyone is welcome!



#### Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of June 30<sup>th</sup>:

Offering Income:	\$105,649.52
Other Income:*	\$ 36,051.88
Total Income:	\$141,701.40
Total Expense:	\$132,269.20
Net:	\$ 9,432.20

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



We will celebrate monthly birthdays on the following Sundays:

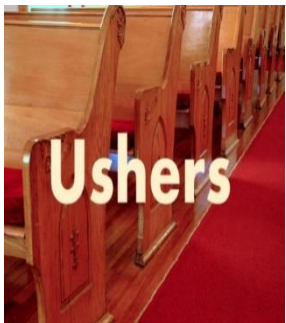
Sunday, August 3  
 Sunday, September 7  
 Sunday, October 5

Sunday, November 2  
 Sunday, December 7

As always, we're grateful for those who participate by bringing both sweet & savory goodies to share. If you would like to bring something, simply just add your name to the calendar in the Gathering Space. Any and all snacks & treats are welcome, and it helps the Parish Life folks know what we need from one week to the next!

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

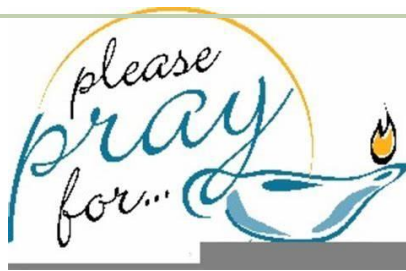
Respectfully – Parish Life Committee



**WE NEED MORE 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: [lamortet@verizon.net](mailto:lamortet@verizon.net). Thank you

Sunday, August 3  
 Sunday, August 10  
 Sunday, August 17  
 (Picnic at Boyce Park)  
 Sunday, August 24  
 Sunday, August 31

Ray Rall	
Tony Lamorte	Rachel Dolney
Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Ray Rall	Curt Baumann
Curt Baumann	Sue Baumann
Barry Fraser	



## WE PRAY FOR...

*We are concerned with maintaining a current Prayer List. If you see a name on this list that can be taken off or wish to add a name, please contact Julie in the church office. If you or someone you know (who is not on the prayer list) is in need of a pastoral visit, please call the church office and let them know. Thank you.*

### **Rehab Facility:**

Evelyn Lamm (Concordia, Monroeville, Room 117)

Nancy Fabel (Rosebrook Living Facility, Sarver, PA, Room 116)

Mary Lou Feathers (Presbyterian Homes, Oakmont, Room 204)

### **Memory Care Facility:**

Don Cook (Redstone Highlands in Murrysville, Terrace Room 0046 in Hospice Care)

### **Prayers Requested For:**

Sandra Short

John Carter

Ken Wagner

Marion Ertel

Wayne Stumpf

Elaina Yoon (daughter-in-love of Kathy Gaberson)

Rick Kline (friend of Kathy Gaberson)

Nancy Miller (friend of Kathy Gaberson)

Barb Kelly (cousin of Bob Page)

Sue Z. (friend of Annette Felmley)

Greg Felmley (brother of Tom)

John Mainarich (son-in-law of Pat Pope)

Shelly Clarke (friend of Kara Albrecht)

Audri Erfort (cousin of M.L D'Ambrosio)

Maggie Watson (daughter of Kathy Kraf)

Bill Lubay (friend of Audri Erfort)

Michael Gerdich (friend of Rhonda Pope)

Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte)

Courtney & Daniel Orsen

Justin Beilstein (nephew of Tony Lamorte)

Sophia Bauserman and family (friends of Kathy Gaberson)

David Uptagraffe (friend of Audri Erfort)

John Hayes (friend of Tom & Annette)

Richard Sabol (father of Andrew Sabol)

Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch)

Mike Walsh (friend of Kathy Gaberson)

Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks)

Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello)

Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short)

Steve Bell (brother of Rhonda Pope)

Chris Vuocolo (nephew of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio)

Beth Rall

Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short)

For the family and friends of Jenny Fabrizi



### **HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY**

8/1	Robert Page	8/13	Megan Houghtelin
8/6	Evelyn Lamm (100)	8/16	Carol Dugan
8/6	Jean Pletcher	8/30	Andrew Sabol
8/9	Nancy Fabel	8/30	Gavynn Thompson
8/10	Pam Bostwick		



### **Anniversaries**

8/2/75	Carl & Casey Haftl
8/24/56	Stan & Maryan Yoder
8/29/15	William & Kelly Stolp
8/30/08	Tristan & Kara Albrecht
8/30/14	Katie & Bryan Kozak



