

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 28th, 2024



Icon of Christ the True Vine (late 20th century), Dormition Convent, Parnes, Greece, based on an early 15th century by Angelos Akotantos at Malles, Hierapetra

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Reverend Martha McCreight – *Pastor*
Mr. Andrew Sabol – *Director of Music Ministries*
Mrs. Julie Nieser – *Administrative Secretary*
Dr. Stanley E. Yoder – *Cantor Emeritus*
11609 Frankstown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235
412-242-2626

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

PRELUDE:

“O Blessed Spring”

David Cherwien

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 377 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

EARTH AND ALL STARS

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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: Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:25-31

setting by Tony Alonso

The refrain is introduced by the cantor and then repeated by all as indicated.

I will praise you, Lord, I will praise you, Lord, in the as-
sem - bly of your peo-ple, I will praise you, Lord.

The verses are sung by the cantor.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May your hearts live on forever and ever! *Refrain*

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him. They have eaten and adore him, all who sleep in the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. *Refrain*

And my soul shall live for him, my descendants serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his saving justice to peoples yet unborn: "These are the things the Lord has done." *Refrain*

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Cantor: I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. (*John 15:5*)

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 447 O Blessed Spring

BERGLUND

The assembly stands to sing.v. 1 – women, 2 – men, 3 – duet, 4-5 – all

APOSTLES CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

...For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

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

ORGAN OFFERTORY: "Petite Offertoire (*Homage à César Franck*)" David P. Dahl

OFFERING HYMN: ELW 184 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

The assembly stands to sing as the offering is brought forward.

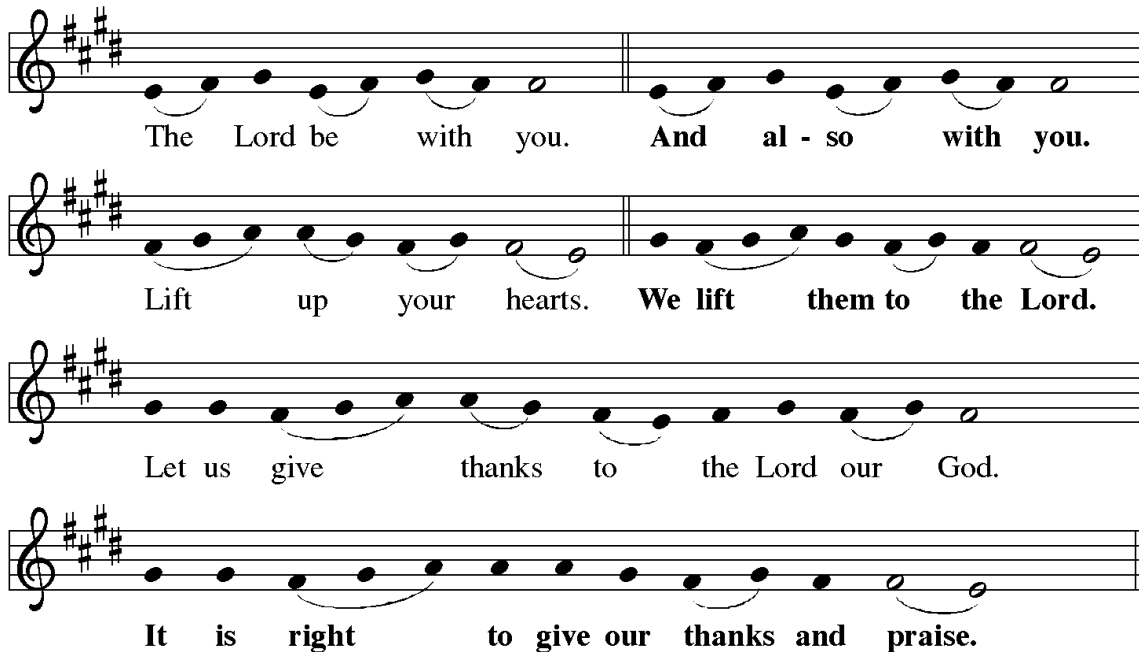
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

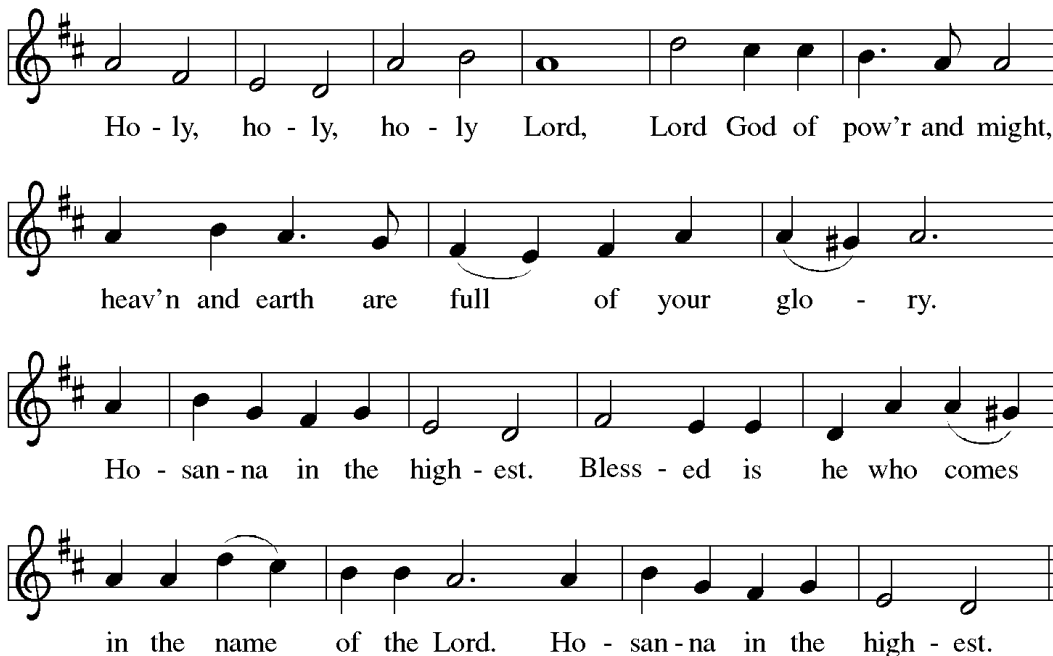
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...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'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:

the promise to Israel,

the rescue from Egypt,

the gift of the promised land,

the words of the prophets;

and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,

who proclaimed the good news in word and deed

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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 life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection,

we await his coming in power

to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,

that we who share in Christ's body and blood

may live to the praise of your glory

and 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 glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 may be seated.

INVITATION TO 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.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONGS

ACS 931 Where Charity and Love Are Shown **DONDE HAY CARIDAD**

ELW 362 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing **SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT**

v. 1, 3, 5, 7-8 – sung by all; v. 2, 4, 6 – organ only

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly stands.

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 449 We Know That Christ Is Raised **ENGELBERG**

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

“Earth and All Stars”

Carol Wahl

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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The Sanctuary candle is given today in memory of my maternal & fraternal grandparents from Samara Davis

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 Playground Space at the back of the sanctuary along with provided coloring materials and special children’s bulletins.

Sunday School/Confirmation: During the months of September – May, we offer Sunday School and Confirmation for children and youth after worship as well as Adult Study time in our Gerhard Lounge. You and/or your family are welcome to drop-in and join us at any time.

We hold a Hospitality time after worship throughout the year in our Gathering Space with goodies provided by volunteers from the congregation. Please feel free to stay after worship and partake in this time as you get to know more about the life of Zion Lutheran Church

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.

Spring Work Day: Zion will be having a work day on Saturday, **May 4th** from 9am-12noon. Help us make Zion look even more beautiful!



Our **Hymn of the Day**, “O Blessed Spring” (ELW 447), by the late Lutheran poet and hymnwriter Susan Palo Cherwien, was inspired by Paul Granlund’s sculpture *Life Tree*, which hangs above the baptismal font at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis. She says of the hymn, “This hymn was shaped by the seasons of life portrayed in the sculpture and was written for the baptismal life of Good Shepherd parish. It is based on the scripture verse Granlund chose: ‘I am the vine, you are the branches.’”. The hymn accompanies us from youth until old age, from birth to death, and connects each stage of living with Christ the vine. The “spring” is baptism.

Special Congregational Meeting – TODAY: A reminder that we will hold a special congregational meeting after worship today in order to vote on the names of individuals to serve as Zion’s voting representatives at this years’ synod assembly in June. All those who are voting members of Zion, please plan to stay after worship for this short meeting. Thank you!

Annual Congregation Meeting – June 2nd: Our annual Congregation meeting will be on Sunday, June 2nd immediately after worship. All names of nominees to serve on council should be given to the Nominating Committee – Marc Schuler, Chris Dippold and Rhonda Pope. All those who are voting members of Zion, please plan to stay after worship for this meeting. Thank you!

Annual Committee Reports: Please submit your annual report to Julie no later than May 24th. Also, please remember to sign your report. Thank you.

Graham Standish Zion Consult in April: The working group met Wednesday, April 3rd at 7pm in person and over Zoom to discuss the book “The Grace Outpouring.” A reminder that you are also welcome to read these books (which are now in Zions’ library) and watch these movies on your own for your own edification and discernment.

Please continue to keep these monthly consult sessions and members of the working group in your prayers. The members of the working group are: Tom Felmley, Andrew Sabol, Kathy Gaberson, Sue Clydesdale, Reid Wolfe, Lauren Fitzroy, and Pastor Martha. If you have further questions about the group, please see one of them. Thank you!

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Joe Connors, Marion Ertel, Jennifer Fabrizi, Ed & Jan Barnett, Doris Meyers. 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.

A message from Lutherlyn: “Your generous support of the *Building for the Future* Capital Campaign is changing the way Lutherlyn’s campus looks. The Amphitheater’s renovations are nearly complete, with just finishing touches like hand-rails and landscaping left. We are so excited to fill the space with prayer and song! I hope that you will consider joining us when we re-dedicate the Steininger Memorial Amphitheater on the morning of May 11th.”

If anyone is interested in attending the re-dedication of the Amphitheater on May 11th, please contact Kathy Gaberson. Maybe we can carpool, or, if enough people are interested, we can get us a convoy!

May 11 is also the day of Lutherlyn’s annual Camp Blast! This is a free, fun day at Lutherlyn for kids and grown-ups. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No registration needed – just show up. If your kids have never been to Lutherlyn, this is an excellent way for them to “dip their toes in the water” and see what it might be like for them to be campers. Any questions – contact Kathy Gaberson.

Lutherlyn Campership for Summer 2024: Is your child or grandchild interested in attending Lutherlyn this summer? Did you know that Zion has camperships available to help offset the cost of attending? If interested, please see Pastor Martha.

Food Pantry:

We all want to save money when we go to the store.

Buying extra for someone else would mean spending a little more.

But if you can, put that food pantry item in your cart.

You'll have less money in your wallet, but you'll have shown the love in your heart.

All cleaning and toiletry items accepted in the bin by the coat rack. Thank you! 😊

Zion Lutheran Food Pantry Leadership

OREMUS: If there is someone that we can prayerfully take off of 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.

Please pray for Annette Felmley and the dental students from Pitt as they travel to Honduras on their annual mission trip April 20-May 5.

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)

Robert Beresky (Concordia Rebecca Residence Rehab - Allison Park)

Prayers Requested for: John Carter, Jenny Fabrizi, Sandra Short, Marion Ertel, Amy Santoriello, Mary Jane Anthony, Patricia Lamorte (wife of Tony), Marge Lamorte (mother of Tony Lamorte), Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte), Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Wayne Stumpf, Natalie Kuehn & family, Joe Nepsa & family, Pari Bailey (friend of Pastor Martha), Mary Rex (friend of Kathy Gaberson), Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks), Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello), Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short), Michael Ladonne (friend of Audri Erfort), 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, Betsy Heston, Marylene Gingras-Roi (friends of Barbara Stolp), Lynn Santoriello (sister-in-law of Diane Santoriello), Rachel Faulkner, Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Patrick Taylor, Bonnie Hanssen (mother-in-law of Pastor Martha), for the family and friends of Tony Harrigan (friend of Rhonda Pope).

ZION EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 28: 9:30 – In person, Livestream on Facebook
10:45 – Sunday School/Confirmation

Tuesday, April 30: 6-8 – Property Team meeting – G. Lounge
7:00- Executive – via Zoom

Wednesday, May 1: 1:00 – Zion Bible Study – G. Lounge and Zoom

Thursday, May 2: 8:00 – Choir

Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of March 31st:

Offering Income: \$55,033.99
Other Income:* \$14,934.34
Total Income: \$69,968.33
Total Expense: \$68,020.02
Net: \$ 1,948.31

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

BREAD SCHEDULE FOR APRIL/MAY 2024

April 28: Sallie Lazar
May 5: Brenda Wolfe
May 12: Chrissa Clark
May 19: Jeannette Christensen
May 26: Pat Hauser

USHER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL/MAY 2024

Sunday, April 28, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
Sunday, May 05, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, May 12, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, May 19, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, May 26, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban