

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AND THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM:**

**AVARY STOVER**

Sunday, June 16, 2024



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The Reverend Martha McCreight – *Pastor*  
Mr. Andrew Sabol – *Director of Music Ministries*  
Mrs. Julie Nieser – *Administrative Secretary*  
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## PRELUDE

## 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.**

*The assembly stands to sing.*

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel, I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

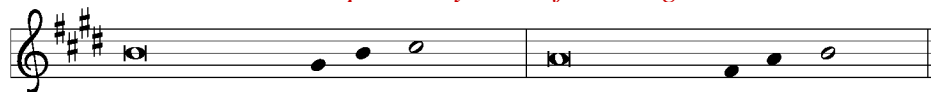
**PSALM: PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15**

*All sing the following refrain at the beginning and where indicated.*



The righ-teous shall spread a-broad like a ce - dar of Le - ba - non.

*The verses are chanted responsively to the following tone:*



<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks <sup>1</sup> to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, <sup>1</sup> O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love <sup>1</sup> in the morning  
and your faithful- <sup>1</sup> ness at night;**  
<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and <sup>1</sup> on the lyre,  
and to the melody <sup>1</sup> of the harp.  
<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your <sup>1</sup> acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works <sup>1</sup> of your hands. *Refrain***  
<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish <sup>1</sup> like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a ce- <sup>1</sup> dar of Lebanon.  
<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house <sup>1</sup> of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts <sup>1</sup> of our God;**  
<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit <sup>1</sup> in old age;  
they shall be <sup>1</sup> green and succulent;  
<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how up- <sup>1</sup> right the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is <sup>1</sup> no injustice. *Refrain***

## **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17**

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore, all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDRENS MESSAGE

### SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS 952**

The Reign of God, like Farmer’s Field

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

DUNLAP’S CREEK

## AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM: AVARY STOVER

ELW p. 234

*The assembly is seated.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The assembly remains seated or kneels.*

...we pray: **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

## 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.*

## PIANO OFFERTORY

## OFFERING SONG

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



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to  
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They  
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we

place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship  
grew in your good plea - sure. What once was com - mon,  
lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now

as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, 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.

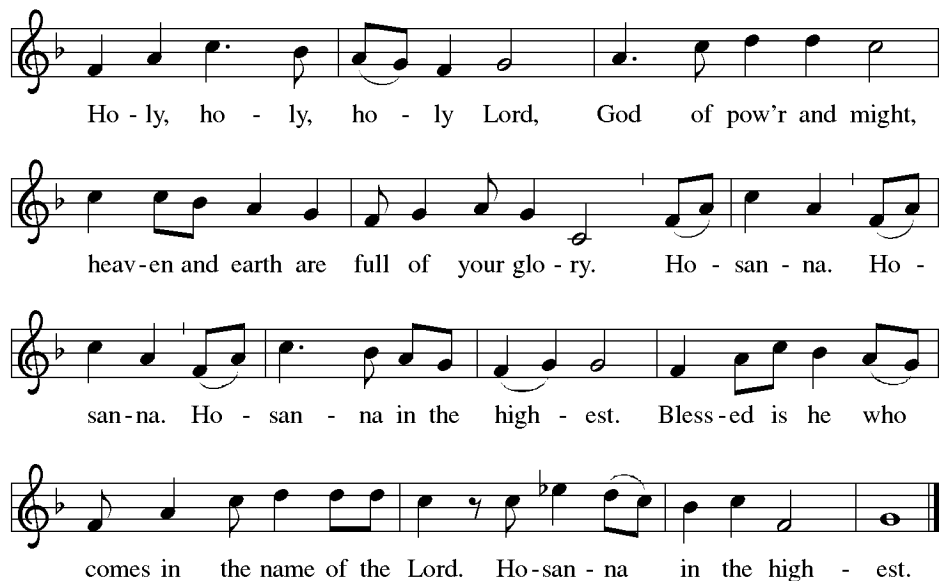


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## 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, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.



Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

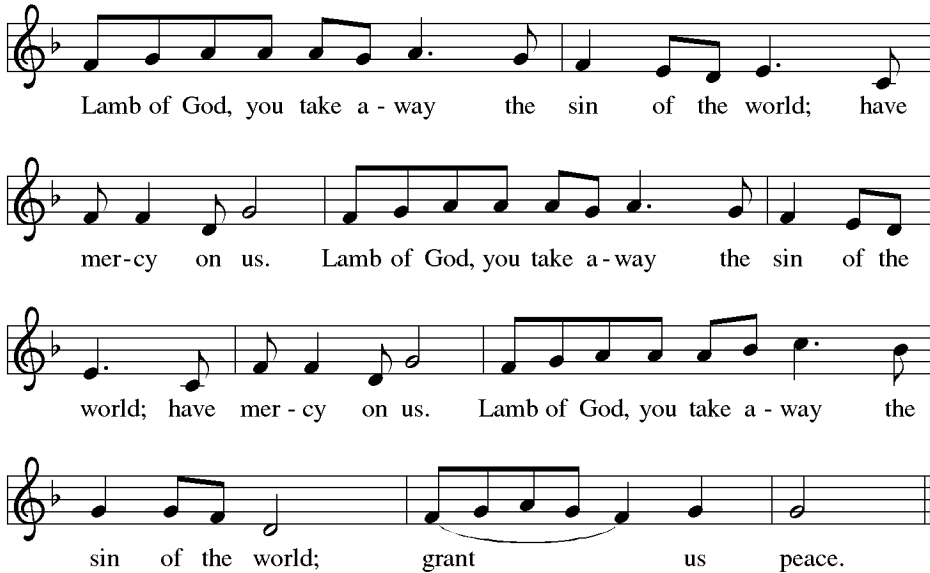
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and 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.*

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*All who believe and are baptized are welcome at the table Jesus Christ sets for us. You will be dismissed section by section by an usher to come forward to the bottom of the chancel steps. As you come forward, on either side of the front pew 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.

## COMMUNION SONGS

ELW 679

For the Fruit of All Creation

DIX

ACS 1063

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

## BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN: ELW 447

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

THE ASH GROVE

## **DISMISSAL**

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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The Sanctuary candle is given today in memory of Hank Pierce from Cindy Pierce.

**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 and special children’s bulletins.

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](mailto:pastormartha@zionpennhills.org) or by calling the office 412-242-2626.

**Rite of Confirmation for Avary Stover – Today:** Avary Stover will be receiving the rite of Confirmation during worship. We will then celebrate afterwards in the Gathering Space with cake and punch. Let us keep Avary in our prayers for this important step in her faith journey.

**Graham Standish June Update:** The working group met with Graham on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> to continue in their work together. They discussed each of the members’ visit to Sanctuary Church in Downtown Pittsburgh, what they liked, what they didn’t like, and what were the takeaways from the visit. The group will next visit Bidwell Presbyterian Church on the Northside of Pittsburgh in preparation for their July meeting with Graham. Please continue to keep this work and its members in your prayers.

**New Signage at Zion:** As one of the suggestions for the use of the ERC funds by the congregation, the Accessibility Task Force, Property Committee, and Council have been working on obtaining options for directional signage to be placed outside on Zion’s property. This will help with not only visitors, delivery workers, and outside group attendees on our property but also emergency responders. The groups have been working

with Jeff at Autograph Signs and we are now approaching the final stages of what this new signage will look like! Once we receive the final mockup by Autograph, it will be displayed in the Gathering Space for all to see. Thank you again to members of each of these groups for all of their hard work on this very important project at Zion!

**Zion Book Club:** We will be meeting on **Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm** in the Gerhard Lounge and via Zoom to discuss the book, “Demon Copperhead” by Barbara Kingsolver. Come and join us!

**Good Shepherd Ministry:** This week our cards are for Nancy Fabel, Wanda Kojza, Elouise Brooky, Jean Pletcher, and Sandra Short. 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.

**Outdoor Worship Next Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>:** We will be holding our first outdoor worship service next Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am on our back lawn. For those who are able to help with either setup or tear down of this service, please arrive to church by 8:30am or plan to stay afterwards. (Any and all help is greatly appreciated!). For those in attendance, please remember to bring a lawn chair, water bottle, sunscreen/bug spray, etc. as it can get to be pretty sunny on the back lawn by the time worship is over. Our liturgy for the morning will be *Of the Land and Seasons* featuring Charles May on fiddle and Tom Godfrey on guitar. Hope you can join us!

**ELCA National Youth Gathering:** The ELCA’s triennial gathering for youth and young adults is quickly approaching. Pastor Martha, along with Brooke Belohlavek and Leia Felmley will be traveling to New Orleans next month to worship, serve, and learn alongside of 30,000+ other youth and young adults. They will be leaving on July 16<sup>th</sup> and returning July 20<sup>th</sup>. Updates will be posted on Zion’s Facebook page throughout the week and a recap by the youth will be presented during worship on Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>. Please keep everyone in your prayers as they prepare for and attend this important week together. Many THANKS to all of you for your financial contributions, well wishes, and prayers thus far!

## **Food Pantry:**

I'll send little reminders throughout the year

To please get products for the Food Pantry and spread some cheer.

But it seems I'm out of poems that make the message more fun.

So for now, these little rhymes are done!

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.

## **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)

Stan Yoder (Hanna Health Care Center)

**Prayers Requested for:** John Carter, Jenny Fabrizi, Sandra Short, Marion Ertel, 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, Tom Brett (father-in-law of Stephen D'Ambrosio), 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), , 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).

## **ZION EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>:** SWPA ELCA Synod Assembly – All Day (CalU)

**Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>:** SWPA ELCA Synod Assembly – All Day (CalU)

**Sunday, June 16:** 9:30 –In person, Livestream on Facebook  
10:30 – Cake in the Gathering Space

**Monday-Friday** 7am-5:30-TCC – Summer program  
7am-6pm – AIU Summer program

**Monday, June 17:** 1:00 – Zion Book Club – G. Lounge and Zoom

## **Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of May 31st:**

Offering Income: \$ 92,985.50

Other Income:\* \$ 26,387.31

Total Income: \$119,372.81

Total Expense: \$115,401.28

Net: \$ 3,971.53

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

## **BREAD SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2024**

June 16: Sue Baumann

June 23: Outdoor worship-wafers

June 30: Lori Smith

## **USHER SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2024**

Sunday, June 16, 2024	Mike Patchen	Tony Lamorte
Sunday, June 23, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Ray Rall
Sunday, June 30, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
<b>Please encourage the kids to assist:</b>		
Ask their parents if their kids want to hand out Bulletins		
Or assist with the Offering.		



ALLEGHENY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

**Allegheny Intermediate Unit Partnership:** In early May, Zion was approached to serve as a Penn Hills site for Allegheny Intermediate Unit for both their summer programming and before/after school programming. After approval by Zion council to pursue a long-term lease agreement with AIU at their May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and AIU's board of directors approving said agreement at their May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, plans are moving forward with this new partnership which per the lease agreement will run through at least May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027.

What does this mean for Zion? The AIU programs will be using our old kindergarten room and the former property committee storage room next door for the children and youth in their programs. In coordination with the Thomas Childcare and Learning Academy (who are very excited for us about this new partnership), the Parish Hall will be shared between the two groups to serve as their gym space this summer.

What about the Zion Food Pantry Storage? Thanks to the work of Marc Schuler, Sue Baumann, and other Zion Pantry leaders, the pantry's storage has been relocated back to the community room and neighboring storage closets for their work each month. (For those who remember the pantry pre-pandemic, this is very similar to how food was stored prior to the indoor shopping experience that we used to offer here.) We give thanks for our many leaders and volunteers for being flexible as they readjust to this setup again.

What about our Anonymous Outside Groups? These groups will continue to meet in the Community Room at their designated days and times.

We continue to give thanks to God for the "word of mouth" that is spreading around the community and surrounding areas as Zion seeks to be not only a safe and welcoming place for all people, but also as a means of serving the children and youth of Penn Hills and Pittsburgh.