

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Penn Hills, Pennsylvania

August 24, 2025 at 9:30 am

Welcome to Worship at Zion!

Following the Liturgy:

- You are invited to speak the responses in **bold type**.
 - **ELW #:** a hymn from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (red hymnal).
 - **ACS #:** a hymn from *All Creation Sings* (purple hymnal supplement).
- Hymn numbers are in the upper outside corners of the pages.

Holy 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 bottom of the chancel steps. As you come forward, take a glass from the trays in front of the first pews: empty glasses for wine or a filled glass with grape juice. You will then receive a piece of bread and then the assisting minister will distribute the wine. If you would like gluten-free bread or wish to only receive a blessing, please tell the pastor when you come forward. For those in need of mobility assistance, please let the ushers know, and communion will be brought to you in your pew.

Restrooms are located at the rear corner of the sanctuary.

The Playground on the rear balcony side of the church is a space specially designed for children and families in worship. Toys, books, and coloring materials are available there for your use.

Hearing Assistive Technology is available for those who need it. Please see an usher or tech minister at the desk at the back of the sanctuary.

Introduction to the Day: **Lectionary 21, Year C**

Remember the Sabbath day. Call the Sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

Gathering

Prelude and Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Merciful God,
**you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life.**

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ☩ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen

Gathering Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW 858

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 103:1-8

The psalm is read responsively by verse.

- ¹ Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- ² **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—**
- ³ who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R**
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**
- ⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R**

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord**

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Children's Sermon

Blessing of Students and Backpacks, Teachers, Staff and Parents

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: How Firm a Foundation

ELW 796

The assembly stands to sing.

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

Response:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

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

The assembly is seated.

Meal

Offering

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

Offertory:

Presentation Song: Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord

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

Let the vine- yards be fruit- ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore- taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

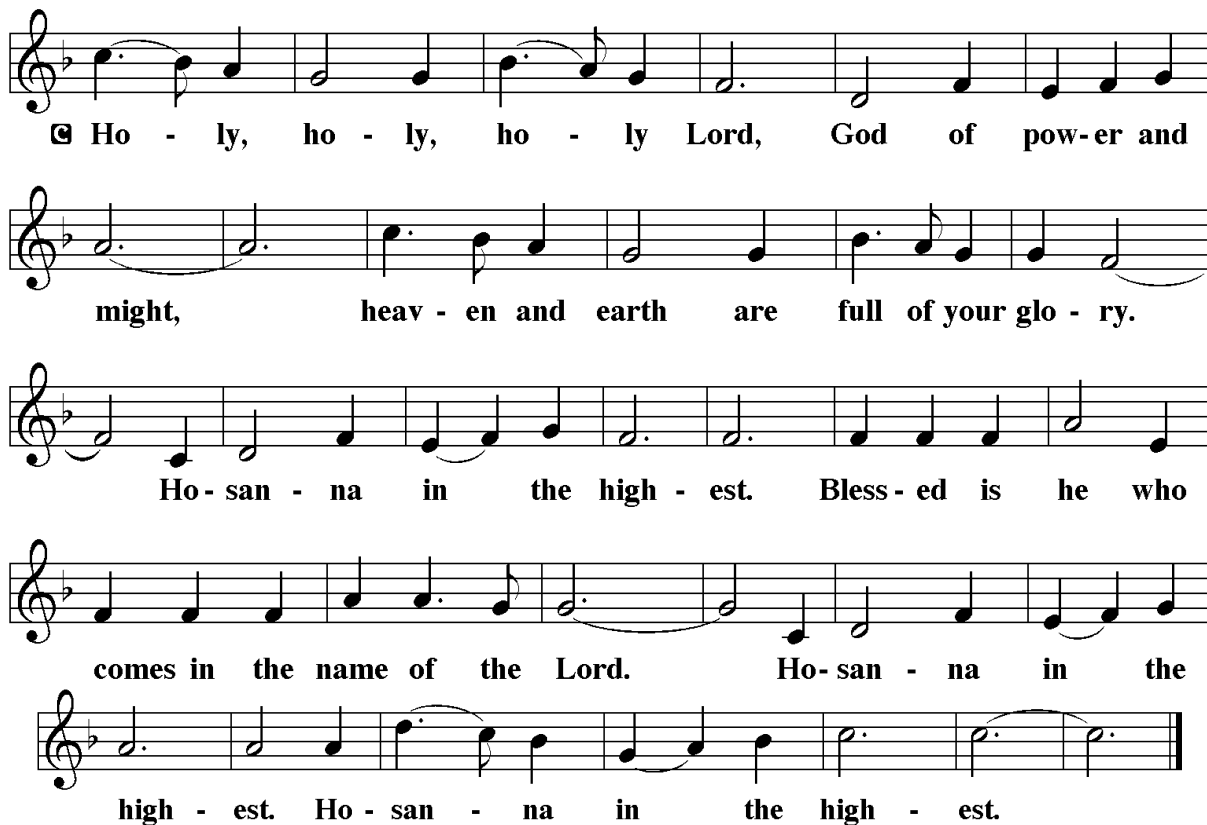
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season.

The assembly responds:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presiding minister continues with the eucharistic prayer. The assembly responds:
Amen.

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.

Communion

The assembly is seated. (See communion instructions on page 2).

The following song is sung during communion.

O Day of Rest and Gladness

ELW 521

Come, We That Love the Lord

ELW 625

Once all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Sending

Blessing

Response: Amen.

Sending Hymn: God’s Work, Our Hands

ACS 1000

Dismissal

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.
Go in the peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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	Worship Leaders	
	Today (Aug. 24)	Next Week (Aug. 31)
Presiding Minister & Preacher	Rev. Richard Neumann	Rev. Richard Neumann
Assisting Minister	Sue Clydesdale	Sue Clydesdale
Organist	Andrew Sabol	Andrew Sabol
Ushers	Curt Baumann Sue Baumann	Barry Fraser
Altar Guild	Debbie Rall Charlotte Murray	Debbie Rall Charlotte Murray
Tech Ministers	Tom Felmley Alex Fitzroy	Alex Fitzroy
Communion Bread	Jeannette Christensen	Lori Smith
Offering Count	Mary Lou D’Ambrosio Jean Betker	Sue Clydesdale Laura Patchen

Today at Zion

The Sanctuary candle is given today in honor of Vergene Wolfe’s birthday, Reid’s mother, from Brenda & Reid Wolfe.

Blessing of the Backpacks at Zion Today: We will be blessing all school bags during our worship. This includes all students, teachers, school support staff, bus drivers, etc.

Sharing Talents – Building Faith Community – Everyone is invited to share their golf putting talents, for better or for worse, but all in fun! Following worship **TODAY**, please 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!

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Kay Clydesdale, Evelyn Lamm, Carol Stephany, and Ken Wagner.

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.

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

ALL WOMEN OF ZION – Come to a women’s Bible study on **Tuesday, August 26**. This Bible study was prepared by the Rev. Dr. Brooke Petersen and is offered through GATHER Magazine on the topic “Where Two or More are Gathered: Flourishing in Relationships.” Your conveners are Helen Williams, Board Member of WELCA in the SWPA Synod, and Rev. Linda Theophilus, Pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. We will meet from 1:00-2:30 pm in an air-conditioned room at Zion Lutheran Church (the Gerhard Lounge). For information, please call Pastor Linda at 412-824-4525.

God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday: Come prepared to worship and work on **September 7th** as we use our hands and hearts in service. After a shorter worship service, we will embark on numerous projects from cleaning up our section of highway on Jefferson Road to various activities around Zion. If you have ideas for this day of service, please give your suggestions to Pastor Neumann or a member of Church Council. Feel free to wear your working clothes to Church.

Zion Long Range Plan small group discussion. Based on feedback from the initial feedback session of the Zion Long Range Plan, we are scheduling opportunities for small group discussion that focus on specific areas of the plan. Our first small group will be on **September 14, 2025** immediately after worship. The topic will focus on **Outreach**. Alex Fitzroy will expand on this area from the plan and field any questions, suggestions or concerns. If you are interested in attending, please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space.

Bishop Stoller Installation Service: If you have not yet signed up to attend the Installation Service for Bishop Stoller at Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church on **Saturday, October 18 at 1:00:PM**, please sign the form in the Narthex at the entrance to the church **TODAY**. We need to have a firm count on as many people are expected to attend.

Announcements

Anniversary Congratulations:

Maryan and Stan Yoder.	8/24/56	69 years
Casey and Carl Haftl.	8/2/75	50 years

Zion Mission Trip Fund: It is time for our annual recognition and support of mission trips taken by our members. Annette and Tom Felmley have set an example for mission work and their enthusiasm has spread to other members. A special envelope is with your September offering envelopes to contribute to this fund during September, but you can give any time to this fund using a pew envelope clearly marked for this purpose. Any checks should be made out to Zion Lutheran Church with “Zion Mission Trip Fund” on the memo line.

Memorial envelopes: If you need a memorial envelope, they are now located on the table in the Narthex instead of the pews.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Outdoor Worship and Picnic on August 17th as One with Emmanuel Lutheran in Eastmont; Trinity Lutheran in Verona; Good Shepherd Lutheran in Monroeville and Zion such a delightful experience. It was a wonderful celebration of our oneness in Christ with our East Hills Lutheran Church neighbors.

Hospitality Hour: If you would like to volunteer to bring some goodies for Sunday after worship hospitality, there is a calendar in the Gathering space to sign up. Thank you!

Pastor Neumann Office Coverage: Pastor Neumann’s office days are Monday: 10–2; Wednesday: 11–3; and Thursday: 1–5. If you need to meet with him after those hours, the best way to reach him is on his cell phone. Here are other ways to get in touch with him:

Cell: 412-401-5720 Home: 412-822-7652 Email: manyneumanns@gmail.com

Finances

Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of July 31, 2025

Offering Income: \$122,132.52

Other Income:* \$ 42,069.88

Total Income: \$164,202.40

Total Expense: \$151,154.90

Net: \$ 13,047.50

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

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.



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:

Diane Santoriello

Elouise Brooky

Sandra Short

John Carter

Ken Wagner

Marion Ertel

Wayne Stumpf

Ariel Valdes (friend of Sallie Lazar)

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)

Audri Erfort (cousin of Mary Lou 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)

This Week at Zion

Sunday, August 24:
11th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Worship
Blessing of Backpacks

Monday-Friday:

7:00am-5:30pm Thomas Learning Academy
Before/After School Program

Tuesday, August 26:

1:00 Women's Bible Study (*Gerhard Lounge*)

Friday, August 29:

Between 9-11am Food Pantry truck delivery

Zion Lutheran Church, Penn Hills

Rev. Richard Neumann, *Transitional Interim Pastor*
Mr. Andrew Sabol, *Director of Music Ministries*
Mrs. Julie Nieser, *Administrative Secretary*
Rev. William L. Hauser, *Pastor Emeritus*
Dr. Stanley E. Yoder, *Cantor Emeritus*

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