

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Sunday, February 5, 2023



**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 Rd  
Pittsburgh, PA  
15235

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

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

**PRELUDE:** Teaching ACS Setting 12 - "Lenten Acclamation" p. 34 and "Holy, holy, holy" p. 36

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING OF A PASCHAL CANDLE ENTRANCE RITE**

*The assembly stands.*

In the name of The Father, + The Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sisters and brothers, today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart this Paschal Candle to the glory of God.

The Paschal Candle represents our Risen Lord shining in the light and splendor of His resurrection. He is the new "Pillar of Fire" leading His redeemed people out of the bondage of sin into the Promised Land of faith.

*The cross is traced on the paschal candle.*

Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today, and forever, the beginning and the ending,

*The Greek letters Alpha and Omega are traced on the paschal candle.*

the Alpha and the Omega.

*The year is traced on the paschal candle.*

His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever.

*Five wax nails are placed into the paschal candle.*

By His wounds, we have healing both now and forever. Amen.

*The paschal candle is lit.*

May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Let us pray, we give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe, for you have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children; and you have invited us to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy.

In Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new Paschal Candle, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Sun of righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

The light of Christ, rising in glory,  
**dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.**

To you, O God, be all glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 532**

Gather Us In

**GATHER US IN**

### **GREETING**

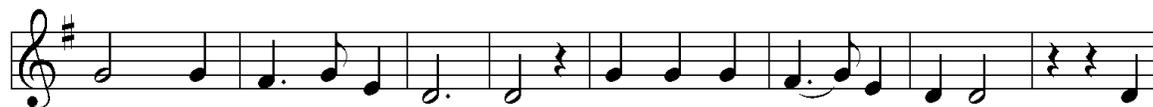
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# HYMN 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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

*The assembly is seated.*

## FIRST READING: ISAIAH 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. ‘Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’ Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to lose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 112:1-10

*All sing the refrain where indicated. The verses are read responsively.*



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in God’s commandments!

- <sup>2</sup>**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
- <sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.
- <sup>4</sup>**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. *Refrain***
- <sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- <sup>6</sup>**For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
- <sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- <sup>8</sup>**Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
- <sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.
- <sup>10</sup>**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish. *Refrain***

## **SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-16**

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him'—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are discerned spiritually. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. 'For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?' But we have the mind of Christ.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



## OFFERING

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

**ANTHEM:** “Many Will Come” Daniel Schwandt  
*Text can be found at ACS 982.*

**OFFERTORY SONG: ELW 460:** Now the Silence NOW  
*The assembly stands.*

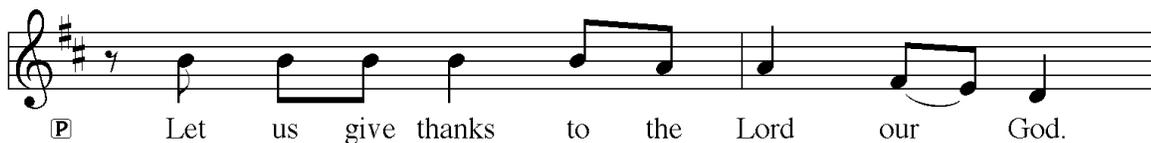
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.

You we magnify and adore, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE



## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you...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

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 your Holy Spirit,  
that by this Holy Communion we may know  
the unity we share with all your people  
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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 DISTRIBUTION

*All 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 communion railing. On either side of the front pew, there is a glass of wine to take (with grape juice in the center of the tray). You will receive a piece of bread and then a distribution of wine. If you wish to only receive a blessing, please motion to the pastor. Gluten Free wafers are available. For those in need of assistance, please let the ushers know, and we can commune you in the pew if you are unable to come forward.*

## LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)



## COMMUNION HYMNS:

<b>ELW 677</b>	This Little Light of Mine	<b>THIS JOY</b>
<b>ELW 815</b>	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	<b>HOUSTON</b>
<b>ACS 1084</b>	God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me	<b>GREEN TYLER</b>

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*The assembly stands.*

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:

**ELW 200** Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

**Amen**

## BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressors rod bless, strengthen, and uphold you today and always, in the name of the Father, ✝ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

## DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go in peace. Follow in the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” Robert A. Hobby

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The Sanctuary candle is given today in memory of my Dad, Chuck Snyder from Gail Snyder.

**Welcome to All Visitors:** We welcome you to worship at Zion this morning! The hymns that we sing will be out of the cranberry hymnal (**ELW**) or the purple hymnal supplement (**ACS**) in the pew. We commune with both gluten and gluten free options available as well as wine or grape juice. Please motion to the usher if you have any questions. You are also welcome to learn more about Zion at our Welcome Table in the back of the church as you first walked in. A greeter will be there to help answer any questions that you may have.

We hold a hospitality time after worship with coffee and goodies in our Gathering Space that you are welcome to visit to learn more about the congregation. 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! We hope your worship here is fruitful and fulfilling of what you may need in your spiritual life this morning.

**Worship:** For those who wish to worship masked and to only sit with other masked individuals, the last 2 full length pews on the left-hand side of the Sanctuary will be reserved for that purpose. (It is not required that you sit there if you are masked, only if you wish to). If you wish to remain masked and sit where you prefer in the sanctuary, you are welcome to do so.

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism:** Baptized at our font this morning is Beckham Joseph Faas, son of Ashley and Regis Faas. Let us respond to God's gracious hand which has accepted him as one of his sons: **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

**Paschal Candle:** Zion has a new Paschal Candle! Just as the candles of the Advent Wreath bring wonderful meaning to the celebration of Advent, so the Paschal Candle is intended to add meaningful symbolism to our celebration of Easter, Baptisms, and Christian funerals. (Its use predates the Advent Wreath by over a thousand years and was first used only 300 years after Christ).

On the Paschal Candle are a variety of symbols, usually a depiction of the Jesus as the Sacrificial Lamb of God, a cross, the means by which we are saved through our baptisms; and two Greek letters, an Alpha [Α] and an Omega [Ω], which remind us of Jesus' words in St. John's Revelation (1:8; 22:13), that He is the Beginning and the End.

The Paschal Candle traditionally stands near the Baptismal Font to visually connect Baptism with the resurrection, proclaiming the message of Romans 6:3-5 (which is also used at the beginning of a burial service): In our Baptism we have already died and been raised with Christ.

**What happened to the sending hymn?!** In the rubrics of our liturgy, sending hymns are one of a couple options to end the service, but not the only way! For this Time after Epiphany, we're taking a break from sending hymns, allowing our Post-Communion Canticle, the Song of Simeon ("Now, Lord you let your servant go in peace" a.k.a. the *Nunc Dimittis*) to be the last words we sing together each week. Pay attention to these words! They are a beautiful, prophetic witness to Christ's incarnation. From Simeon's perspective, the song gives thanks for Christ's appearing in the temple as a child [see Luke 2:25-32]. In our own time, we may sing Simeon's words with joy having experienced Christ in Word and Sacrament during worship. Don't fear! Sending hymns will return in the season of Lent starting on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Inaugural Zion Chili Cook-off TODAY:** The Zion Anniversary committee is holding a Chili Cookoff after worship in the Gathering Space. Stay after to try various chilis and vote on your favorite! A collection will also be taken for ELCA World Hunger, in honor of our usual "Souper Bowl of Caring" collection each year. Prizes will be awarded for the chili event including "Chili Champ" with a traveling trophy to adorn your house for the remainder of the year.

**Sunday School and Confirmation:** Sunday School and Confirmation meet today. Sunday School meets down in the Nursery and Confirmation meets in the Christian Education room (next to the main office). If you need your child or grandchild enrolled, please contact Ashley Faas, Deb Rall, or Pastor Martha. Thank you!

**Adult Forum:** Due to the chili cook off this Sunday, Adult Forum time this week will be postponed until the following Sunday. Grab a bowl of chili instead and vote on your favorite one!

**February Birthdays:** We will celebrate all the February birthdays **next Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** after worship with a cake in the Gathering Space. Happy Birthday to everyone born in February!

**Hospitality on Sundays Update:** As we attempt to find the best system for our hospitality time on Sundays, the parish life committee has decided to bring back the sign-up sheet system. Unlike before, this time, we will need just one person to help set-up and clean-up (and will pair with a member of parish life) and at least two people to help bring a goody to share. Anyone who wishes to bring things to share on a regular basis, you are still welcome to do so. Thank you!

**2023 Offering Envelopes and 2022 Giving Statements:** Don't forget to pick up your envelopes for 2023 on the cabinet and your 2022 Giving Statement on the table in the Gathering Space hallway.

**Good Shepherd Ministry:** This week our cards are for Joe Connors, Marion Ertel, Shirley McClure, and Jeannie Meyer. 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.

**Food Pantry Donations for February:** February's collection item is Shampoo. The collection bin is by the coat rack in the gathering space. Thank you for all the donations of soap in January. I know it is much appreciated by the recipients.

**Food Pantry Next Weekend:** We will be holding our monthly Food Pantry next weekend and as always, volunteers are always needed! For those available on Friday morning (February 10<sup>th</sup>) to help receive food from the Food Bank truck and set-up for the pantry, please arrive at the Community Room by 8:30am. For those available on Saturday morning (February 11<sup>th</sup>) to help with distribution of food and goods, please arrive at the Community Room by 8:00am to receive your assignment. The distribution runs from 9am-11am and then clean-up is immediately after the pantry closes. Thank you in advance for your ability to help!

**Memorial Candles:** If you would like to reserve the Sanctuary candle for this new year of 2023 in memory or in honor of someone, please let the Church office know. A donation of \$5/candle/Sunday is requested. Thank you!

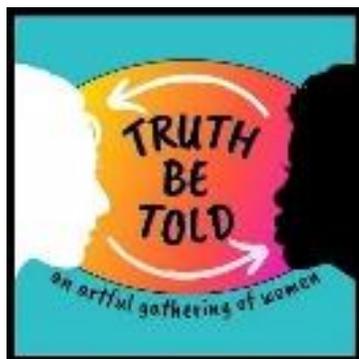
**Covid-19 Protocols:** Allegheny County is in “low transmission” level this week. In light of this, masking at Zion remains at “optional status” for indoor, in-person gatherings. As with any contagious illness (flu, cold, RSV, Covid), if you or someone in your household is sick, please stay home in order to further prevent the spread of illness, especially among our vulnerable members. Thank you!

**2023 Calendars:** Thanks to a donation by Pastor Hauser (from the Longwood Community) there are extra 2023 calendars for you to take if you need in the Gathering Space!

**Bible Study on Wednesdays:** In order to engage in a wider discussion around the topic of accessibility in the church, we will also be discussing Chris Hulhof’s book “Jesus and Disability: A Guide to Creating an Inclusive Church” during our Wednesday afternoon bible study time. We meet on Wednesdays at 1pm in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom for all those interested in joining. Join us!

### **Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of January 31<sup>st</sup>:**

Offering Income:	\$19,594.25
Other Income:	\$ 4,922.50
Total Income:	\$24,516.75
Total Expense:	\$20,606.08
Net:	\$ 3,910.67



Fourteen women artists came together for over a year and shared stories and life experiences around the topic of racism and how they were impacted as artists. Inspired from their group conversations, each artist chose a word of importance to her and designed a 10” X 10” canvas around that word. Many of them created additional artwork. Several of Zion’s members attended their art exhibit while it was in Pittsburgh and were greatly moved.

Though not as tremendous as seeing the actual artwork, we are pleased that we have been able to secure photos of this artwork and to be able to share these photos here at Zion. This will also advance our goal to be more inclusive in our artwork. One of the 14 artists will be shared each month along with her chosen word and a description of her work. This month, the artist is Beverly Poitier-Henderson. She is the daughter of Sydney Poitier! Her chosen word is “DESPAIR.” See the attachment for a description. Also, a large photo of Beverly’s art will be on display in the Gathering Space for the month of February.

**Soda Can Tabs:** Don’t forget to save your tabs from your soda cans to benefit the Shriners Hospital. There is a can by the kiosk for your donations. Thank you!

**Thank you:** Dear Zion family, we want to thank all of you who supported us throughout my mother's illness and passing. Whether it was a kind word, a show of concern, card, or visit, it was appreciated more than this message can relay. We are so fortunate to be part of such a loving and supportive congregation! With gratitude, Brenda & Reid Wolfe.

**Our Zion Family:** There will be a Memorial service for Mark Schneider here at Zion on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. Mark grew up in this church, and along with his wife and daughters, continued to worship and participate in the life and mission of Zion before moving to Alabama in 1988 and then to Florida in 1995. Please join us in remembering Mark and celebrating his life. The family of Mark Schneider.

### **OREMUS:**

**Rehab Facility:** Evelyn Lamm (Concordia, Monroeville, Room 110)

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

**Prayers Requested For:** Wanda Kojza, Marion Ertel, Eloise Brooky, Claudia Agnew, Mary Lou & Paul Feathers, Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Diane Marburger, Sandra Short, Bob Beresky, Alan Dippold, Wayne Stumpf, Landon (grandson of a friend of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio), Lorraine Ahiemer (friend of Debbie Marks), Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short), Michele Williams (cousin of Rhonda Pope), Ron Jeroski (friend of Charlotte Murray), Tammy Harkins (cousin of Nick Harkins), Steve Bell (brother of Rhonda Pope), Connie Shoaf (sister of Shirley McClure), Chris Vuocolo (nephew of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio), Beth Rall, Sarah, Tom & Carolyn Schuler, Joe Hesketh, Ezra & Emery Jordan (great grandchildren of Sandra Short), Tom Santoriello (brother of Neil Santoriello), John Santoriello (brother of Neil Santoriello), Theodore Stolp, Jr., Mary Jean Hawkins (cousin of Neil Santoriello), Rachel Faulkner, Margaret Thompson (mother of Darren Thompson), Kim Paronish (sister-in-law of Kara Albrecht), Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Judy Danik (friend of Charlotte Murray), Bekki Hessong (cousin of Diane Santoriello), Patrick Taylor, Dorothy DeLuca (sister of Evelyn Ross), for the family and friends of Neil Santoriello, and for the family and friends Dorothy Long.

### **ZION EVENTS THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, February 5:** 9:30am – Sunday Worship in person, Facebook, and Zoom  
10:30am – Sunday School (Nursery)  
Confirmation (CE Office)  
10:30am – Chili Cook-off – Gathering Space  
11:30am – CCC Church – Chapel

**Tuesday, February 7:** 7am-8pm-Special Election for Allegheny County-C. Room  
6:30-8:00pm – Property Team – C.E. Office  
7:00pm – Stewardship – Gerhard Lounge

**Wednesday, February 8:** 1:00pm – Bible Study – Gerhard Lounge and Zoom  
7:00pm – Council - Chapel

**Thursday, February 9:** 7:30pm - Choir – Chapel

**Friday, February 10:** 8-12pm - Food Truck Delivery and Pantry Prep – C. Room

**Saturday, February 11:** 9-11am – Food Pantry Open – Hybrid procedure