

Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022



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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*

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GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly remains seated or kneels.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Holy Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
In the name of ✝ Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.
Amen.

The assembly stands.

PROCESSION and KYRIE

At the sound of the singing bowl, the assembly stands.

Cantor *All*

The Spirit and the church cry out: Amen. Come, Lord Je-sus.
All who await his ap-pear-ance pray: Amen. Come, Lord Je-sus.
The whole cre-a-tion pleads: Amen. Come, Lord Je-sus.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN: ELW 247 “Come Now, O Prince of Peace” OSOSO, OSOSO

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.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

The refrain is sung by the choir. The verses are sung by all, using the following tone:



- ¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
²that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;
³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. *Refrain (sung by the choir)*
⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
⁶Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men.
Amen. *Refrain (sung by the choir)*

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



The choir chants the following verse. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.
(Luke 3:4, 6)

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to St Matthew the 3rd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 249“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”
PUER NOBIS

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

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 may be seated or kneel for the prayers of intercession.

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.

ANTHEM: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" Aaron David Miller

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

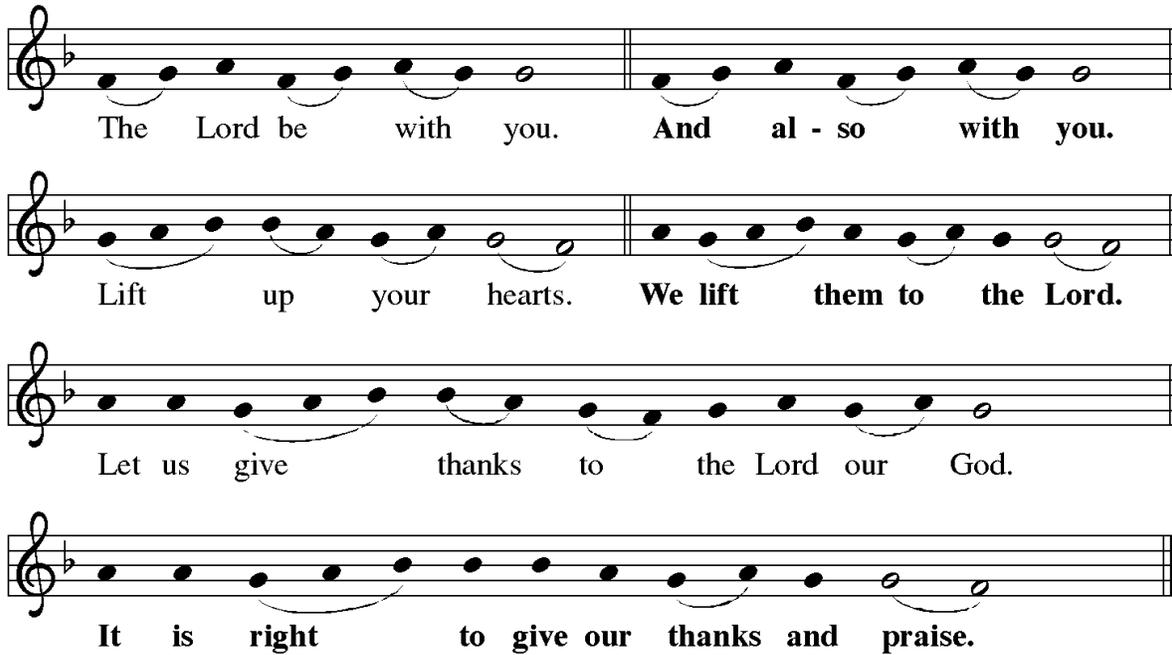
OFFERTORY SONG: ACS 1078 "There Is a Longing in Our Hearts"
st. 1, 4 LONGING

The assembly stands to sing as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

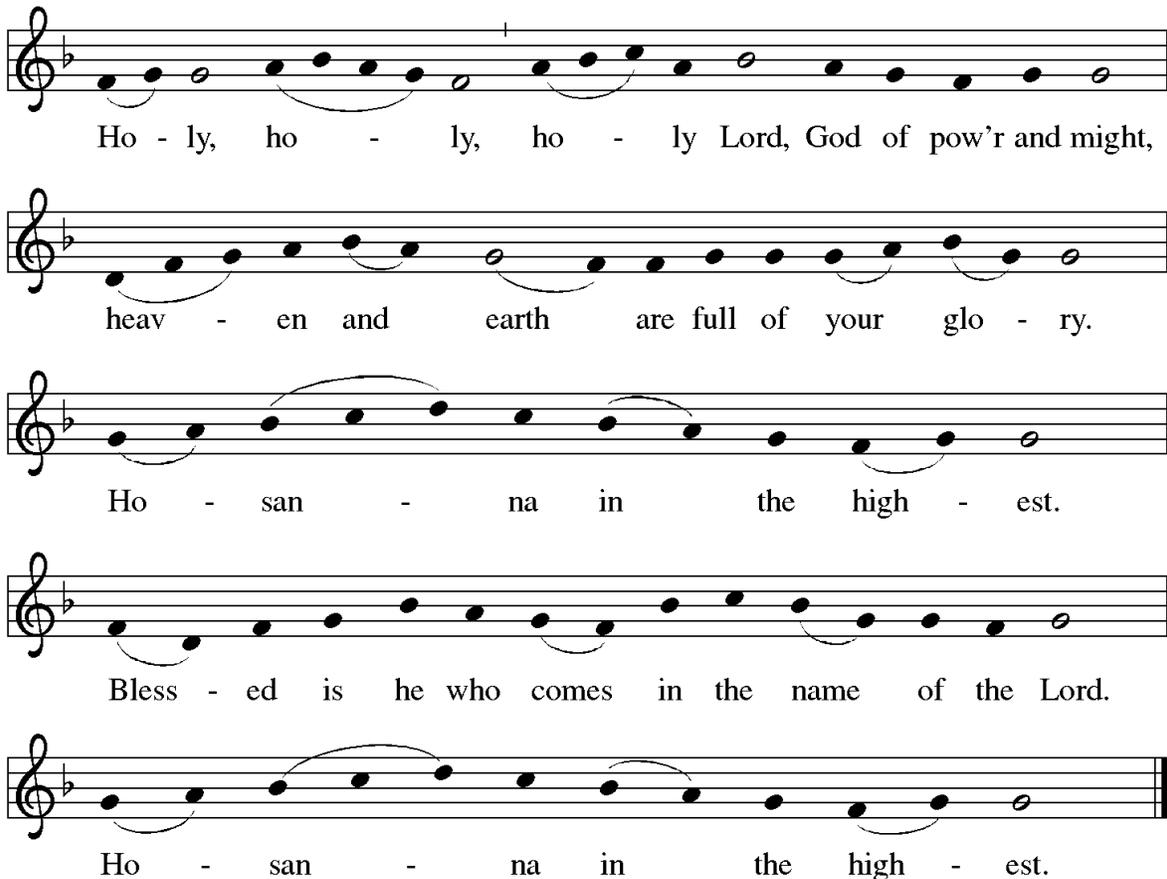


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed, right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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 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 One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

All those who believe and are baptized are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. When you come forward, please take an empty glass in one of the trays beside the front pews. If you are in need of communion in your pews, please let the usher know. For those in need of a gluten-free option, please let the pastor or assisting minister know and we will bring you a gluten-free wafer. For those who only wish to receive a blessing, let the pastor or assisting minister know.

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION SONGS

ACS 949 "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

ELW 254 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

JEFFERSON

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly may stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN: ELW 264
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” Zach Unke
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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.

Welcome to Valisa Thomas-Dutrieuille and Family: We welcome Valisa, the owner and director of the Thomas Child Care and Learning Academy and members of her family as they join us this morning for worship and a time of greeting afterwards in the Gathering Space! Please introduce yourselves as we celebrate this new partnership together!

Worship: The last 2 full length pews on the left-hand side of the Sanctuary will be reserved for those that choose to be masked during worship.

Covid-19 Protocols: Allegheny County continues this week in a “low transmission” level. In light of this, masking at Zion moves to “optional status” for indoor, in-person gatherings. As with any contagious illness (flu, cold, etc), 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!

Sunday School and Confirmation: Sunday School and Confirmation will meet in their usual places. (Sunday School down in the nursery and Confirmation down in the Community Room). If you need to have your child/youth or grandchild enrolled, please see Ashley Faas, Debbie Rall, or Pastor Martha.

First Communion Instruction: Formal First Communion instruction began last Sunday and will be happening after worship at the table in the hallway towards the offices today and next Sunday. If your child or grandchild is in need of instruction, please see Pastor Martha. First Communion will be celebrated during worship on Sunday December 18th.

Zion Giving Tree: The Zion Stewardship Team has been working on Advent practices that you can choose to complete “give back” to the congregation and/or local community and we invite you to partake in one (or more!) of the options. The official Zion Giving Tree is displayed in the Narthex with paper ornaments corresponding to different opportunities, which you can then place on the tree during the season. Please grab an ornament corresponding to a “give back” opportunity that you would like to take up during the season of Advent!

Advent at Zion: In addition to worship on Sunday mornings, we will be holding:

Midweek Advent Bible Study and Worship on Wednesday afternoons at 1pm in the Gerhard Lounge. We will be using poems by EE Cummings to aid in our journey.

We will gather on Wednesday evenings from 5pm-6:30pm down in the Parish Hall for Advent Soup Suppers. Signup sheets to bring soup are located in the Narthex!

Midweek Advent Evening Worship will be on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Sanctuary. This season we will focus on Scripture and prayers and songs which remind us of God's presence in the midst of darkness.

Blue Christmas Service at Zion: On Wednesday December 21st, we will hold our annual Blue Christmas Service at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Prior to the service, there will be a special dinner served in the Parish Hall. Join us!

There is also a daily Advent calendar of activities that you can complete as an individual or as a family which is available in the Narthex!

Please plan to join us at one or many of the available options this Advent season!

Truth Be Told: Antiracism Art & Conversation This Afternoon: This exhibit engages the art of 7 black women and 7 white women reflecting on racism in their lives. Pastor Brian Bennet and artist Debbie Jacknin will lead a conversation on the intersection of art, race and faith. **TODAY Sunday, December 4th from 4:00 to 5:00pm** at the Lutheran University Center, 4515 Forbes Ave, Oakland. If you have not registered and wish to attend, please let Pastor Martha know, so that you can be added!

Health Ministry Update: Take time to stop by our **Health Ministry Kiosk** in the Gathering Space. It has been updated to include information on recent or upcoming health observances including Bullying Prevention, Family Caregivers & Coping with the Holidays.

IRS Deadline: In accordance with both the ELCA and IRS requirements, all year 2022 contributions should be received in the offering by December 25 (last Sunday of the year). If sent by mail, the submitted check must be dated in the year 2022 and the envelope postmarked no later than December 31, 2022. Any contributions that miss these deadlines will be recorded as year 2023 donations regardless of the date on the check or the offering envelope used. Please plan ahead! December 25 is also Christmas Day!

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Nancy Fabel, Wanda Kojza, Diane Marburger, and Jean Pletcher. 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.

Zion Lutheran Church Weekly Finances: November 27, 2022

Week No.	48
Weekly Budget	
Amount:	\$5,508.29
Income for the	
Week:	\$1,824.00
YTD Budget:	\$264,397.85
YTD Income:	\$238,872.56
YTD	
(Short)/Over	(\$25, 525.29)

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!

It's Not Too Late to Get Your Updated COVID-19 Vaccine & Flu Vaccines Many will be gathering with friends and family for the upcoming winter holidays. There is still time to get vaccinated to protect yourself and those with whom you plan to gather, especially if anyone is immunocompromised. Since the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration has been extended to January 11, 2023 continued access to free COVID-19 vaccines, testing, contact tracing, and treatments, among other provisions will continue to be free.

Message from the Stewardship Team: The Bible asks us to acknowledge God in all our ways, so that He will direct our paths. One way to do that is by starting each day with prayer. Start by pouring out your heart to God and commit the rest of 2022 unto His hands. He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly and more than we can ever ask. Whatever situation you, or your family is going through at the moment tell God, tell Him what you need.

“Trust with all thine heart; and leave not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path.” Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV.

OREMUS:

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

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

Prayers Requested For: Dorothy Long, Marion Ertel, Claudia Agnew, Mary Lou & Paul Feathers, Neil Santoriello, Laura Patchen, Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Charlotte Bulkoski (mother of Brenda Wolfe), Diane Marburger, Sandra Short, Bob Beresky, Alan Dippold, Wayne Stumpf, Lorraine Ahiemer (friend of Debbie Marks), Bill Bush (friend of MaryLou D'Ambrosio), Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short), Michele Williams (cousin of Rhonda Pope), Ron Jeroski (friend of Charlotte Murray), Tammy Harkins (cousin of Nick Harkins), Kim Anthony (brother-in-law of Kathy Conrad), 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, John & Margaret Thompson (mother & father 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), James McCreight (father of Pastor Martha.), for the family and friends of Mark Schneider, for the friends and family of Nicholas Theofilis and family, and for the family and friends of Delores LaSota (mother of Diane Marburger).

- Sunday, December 4:** 9:30am – Sunday Worship in person and Zoom
10:45am – Sunday School (Nursery) and Confirmation
10:45am – First Communion Instruction
11:30am - CCC Church – Chapel
4:00pm – Truth Be Told: Antiracism and Art
- Monday, December 5:** 7:00 – Health Ministry Team – G. Lounge
- Tuesday, December 6:** 6:30 – Property Meeting – G. Lounge
7:00 – Stewardship Meeting – G. Lounge
- Wednesday, December 7:** 1:00 – Mid-week Advent Bible Study
5:00-6:30 – Advent Soup Supper – Parish Hall
7:00 – Mid-week Advent Worship
7:30 – Executive Meeting – G. Lounge
- Thursday, December 8:** 7:30- Choir - Chapel
- Friday, December 9:** Between 9-11am–Food Truck delivery/Food Pantry prep
- Saturday, December 10:** 9-11 – Food Pantry Open – Hybrid procedure