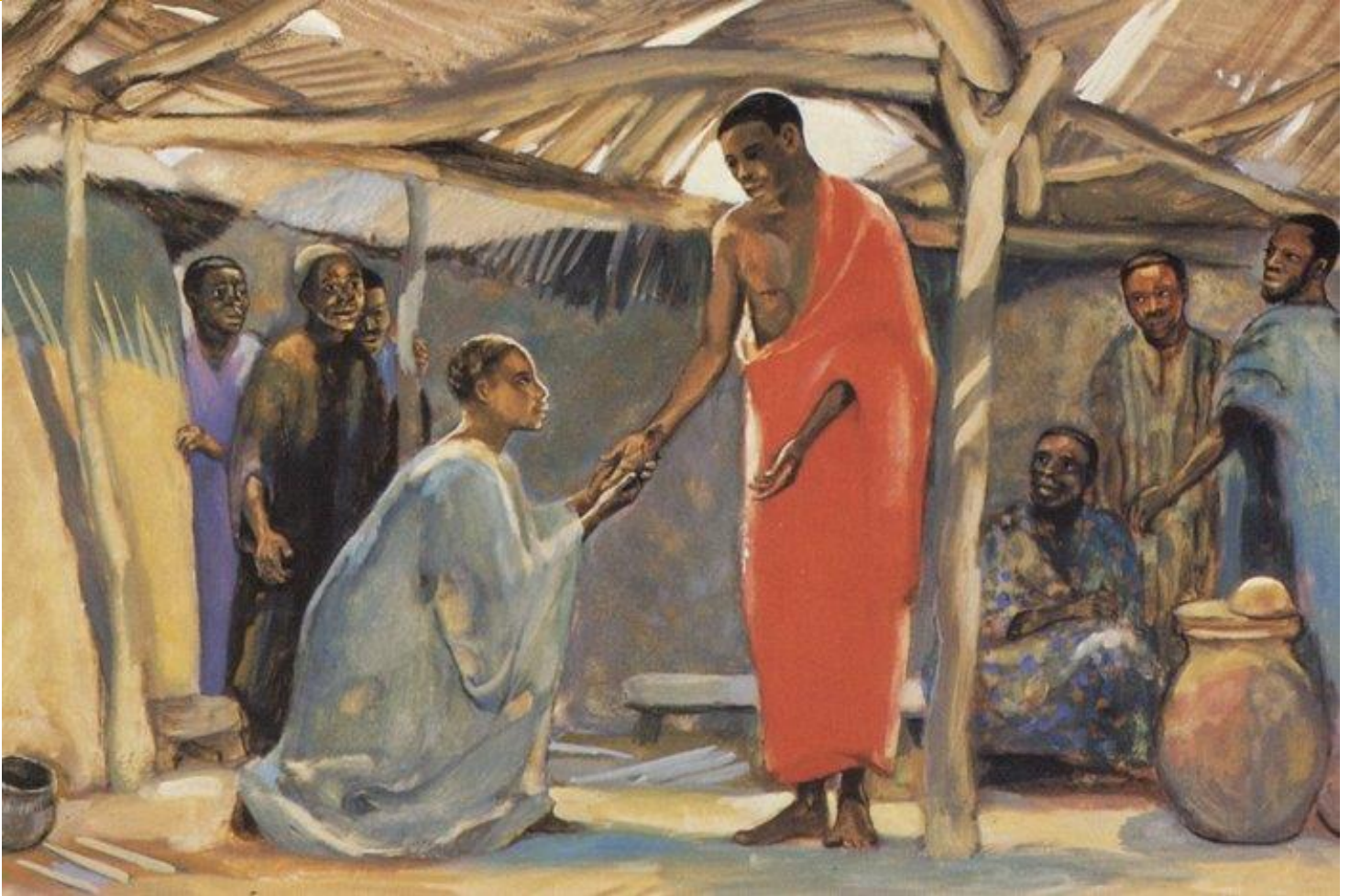


SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Penn Hills, Pennsylvania

April 27, 2025 ♦ 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 altar rail. As you come forward, take a glass from the trays in front of the baptismal font: 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: **Second Sunday of Easter, Year C**

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In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

**Cover image:** "Jesus appears to Thomas" – Jesus MAFA project

# Gathering

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## Prelude

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

*The assembly stands.*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

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

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks. Response:*

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that open the hearts of believers  
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,  
that our every day is shaped by these waters  
that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**Amen.**

Processional Hymn: Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain  
stanzas 1, 2 – all, 3 – men, 4 – women, 5 – all

ELW 363

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.


**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

**And also with you.**

Canticle of Praise: This is the Feast


*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
 Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

*Refrain*  
 hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

*Refrain*  
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Prayer of the Day

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, 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.*

### Word

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#### First Reading: Acts 5:27–32

When they had brought [the apostles], they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.

God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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

**Psalm:** Psalm 150

*The refrain is introduced by the choir and repeated by all.*

*Refrain*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

*The psalm verses are sung by the choir and cantor:*

Praise God in the holy temple,  
praise God in the firmament.  
Praise God for exceeding greatness;  
praise for God’s almighty acts. **Refrain**

Praise God with the trumpet sounding,  
praise God with the lyre and harp,  
praise God with the drum and dancing,  
praise to God with strings and pipe. **Refrain**

Praise God with resounding cymbals,  
praise God with loud clanging cymbals,  
oh, let everything that has breath  
praise the Lord, hallelujah! **Refrain (2 times)**

## Second Reading: Revelation 1:4–8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him,

and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

## Gospel Acclamation

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*The verse is sung by the choir, then all repeat the refrain.*

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. (*John 20:29*)

**Gospel:** John 20:19–31

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side.

Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Children’s Sermon**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day:** The Risen Christ

*The assembly stands to sing.*

**ELW 390**



## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Response:* **Your mercy is great.**

## 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.*

## Announcements

## Meal

### Offering

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

### Offertory Anthem: We Walk by Faith

Anne Krentz Organ

*Sung by the choir. The text of the anthem can be found at ELW 635.*

### Presentation Hymn: Now the Green Blade Rises

**ELW 379**

*The assembly stands as the offering is brought forward and the table is set.*

### Offering Prayer

*Response: Amen.*

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

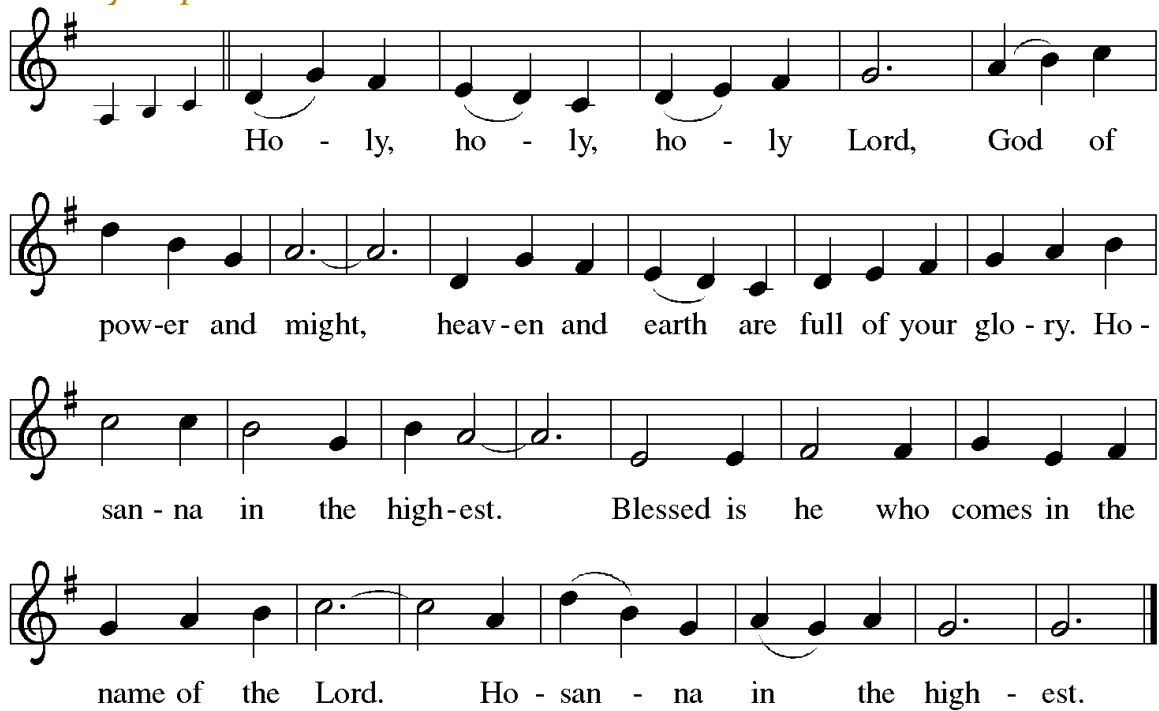
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues with the eucharistic prayer:*

Holy God...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

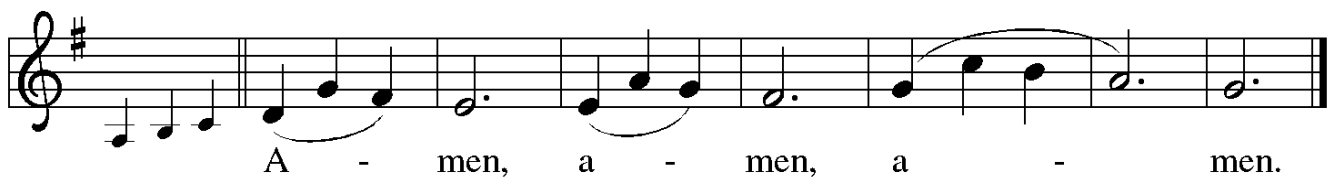
With this bread and cup...all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God...sharing your bounty with all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and benevolent God...in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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.**

### Communion

When we eat this bread, we share the Body of Christ.  
When we drink this cup, we share the Blood of Christ.  
**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**  
*The assembly is seated. (See communion instructions on page 2).*

*The following songs are sung during communion as time allows.*

Be Not Afraid

ELW 388

Alleluia! Christ is Arisen, *st. 3-5*

ELW 375

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

### Prayer after Communion

*Response: Amen.*

### Sending

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### Blessing

*Response: Amen.*

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.  
 Go in the peace of the risen Christ.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Special Congregational Meeting

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	<b>Worship Leaders</b>	
	<b>Today</b>	<b>Next Week (May 4)</b>
<b>Presiding Minister &amp; Preacher</b>	Rev. Richard Neumann	Rev. Richard Neumann
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Brenda Wolfe	Rhonda Pope
<b>Organist &amp; Choir Director</b>	Andrew Sabol	Andrew Sabol
<b>Musicians</b>	Pickup Choir	Zion Church Choir
<b>Ushers</b>	Tony Lamorte Charlotte Fraser	Tony Lamorte Charlotte Fraser
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bill Hauser Pat Hauser	Bill Hauser Pat Hauser
<b>Tech Ministers</b>	Tom Felmley Alex Fitzroy	Tom Felmley Alex Fitzroy
<b>Communion Bread</b>	Sallie Lazar	Sue Clydesdale
<b>Offering Count</b>	Mary Lou D'Ambrosio Chris Dippold	Sue Clydesdale Cindy Pierce

Today at Zion

**Special Congregation Meeting Today:** There will be a special congregation meeting after worship to discuss the hillside project. Please plan to stay a few extra minutes.

**Good Shepherd Ministry:** This week our cards are for Ed & Jan Barnett, Marion Ertel, Jenny Fabrizi, Doris Meyers, and Don Cook. 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

**Bible Study:** Diane Santoriello is leading our new Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons! The topic is “Psalms.” We meet at 1:00 pm in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom. Everyone welcome!

**Property Work Day:** Zion members and friends: Please, please join us for a work day on **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 9:00 am-12:00 Noon. Rain or shine. There is plenty to do, inside and out. If you can hold a paintbrush, screwdriver, or pull a weed, we need you. Some light work and some moderate work. Refreshments provided.

**Annual Congregation Meeting:** Our annual Congregation meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** immediately after worship.

**Annual Committee Reports:** Please submit your annual report to Julie no later than **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Also, please remember to sign your report. Thank you.

**Sharing Talents - Building Faith Community** A wonderful way to grow our faith community at Zion is by sharing our time and talents with one another. We can learn more about each other as we spend time together in a fun activity, learning something new or sharing some special gift or skill we may have. Our first venture will be learning how to paint an easy landscape in acrylics, led by our own Laura Patchen. Laura has spent years developing her artistic talent and is willing to show us how to create our own “masterpieces” or at least, a small painting we can take home with us! It will be a nice way to learn something new and also get an opportunity to socialize with one another in a casual setting.

We will meet after church on **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15 am** in the Chapel. Take some time for refreshments in the Gathering Space first if you like. Please let either Laura or Pastor Neumann know you will be attending or call Julie at the church office at 412-242-2626 to register so we will know how many people plan to anticipate.

All the materials will be provided. The session should last no longer than an hour and a half. Also, if you have a special talent or skill; cooking, baking, simple home repairs, car maintenance tips, knitting, or whatever you would like to share with others, please let Pastor Neumann know so we can schedule future events. Plan to join the fun and fellowship of time spent together building Christian community and who knows, perhaps discovering hidden talents!

## Announcements

**Anniversary Offering:** This year, our Anniversary offering will be designated for the interior signs. Please see your offering envelope dated April 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**Food Pantry:** Thank you to all you helped with April's Food Pantry distribution. We served 165 households! Thank you also for the contributions of soap, shampoo, etc. The cart will be available at our May Food Pantry distribution (weather permitting). These products are always so appreciated.

**ULLA:** Thank you to everyone who has already returned their responses for our Unified Lutheran Lenten Appeal. We have received \$5,785 toward a goal of \$10,000. More importantly, we will ensure that more elderly, youth, homeless, hungry and others in need of human and social services will be served.

**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](mailto:manyneumanns@gmail.com)

**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!

## Finances

### Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of March 31, 2025

Offering Income:	\$51,161.52
Other Income:*	\$17,703.50
Total Income:	\$68,865.02
Total Expense:	\$78,341.29
Net:	\$(9,476.27)

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

## Prayer Requests

- Thank you for your prayers as God brought us 2 Honduran dentists that will join us, making 4 dentists total!! Pray for our health and travelling mercies and wisdom for us dentists as we teach and mentor the students in faith. We left on April 23rd and will be coming back on May 8th. Thank you, Annette Felmley
- Please pray for Tom Felmley and his team as they travel to India in May to help with a refugee crisis

## 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 OREMUS) 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)

Paul and Mary Lou Feathers (Presbyterian Homes, Oakmont, Room 204)

### **Memory Care Facility:**

Don Cook (Redstone Highlands in Murrysville, Room 0046)

### **Prayers Requested for:**

Jenny Fabrizi

Elouise Brooky

Sandra Short

John Carter

Ken Wagner

Marion Ertel

Wayne Stumpf

Elaina Yoon

(daughter-in-love 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)

Shelly Clarke (friend of Kara Albrecht)

Audri Erfort

(cousin of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio)

Maggie Watson (daughter of Kathy Kraf)

Michael Gerdich (friend of Rhonda Pope)

Josh Cummings

(nephew of Tony Lamorte)

Patti Wunderley

(sister of Linda Neumann)

Sandy Kovacs

(sister of Linda Neumann)

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 Capobiano (friend of Sandra Short)



## This Week at Zion

- Sunday, April 27:** 8:30 am Pickup Choir  
*Second Sunday of Easter* 9:30 am Worship  
10:45 am Special Congregational Meeting  
– Hillside Project  
10:45 am Sunday School/Confirmation  
11:00 am Worship & Music Team (*G. Lounge*)  
4:30-5:30 pm EAYC
- Monday-Friday:** 6:30-8:30 am Thomas Learning Academy  
2:30-6:00 pm Before/After School Program
- Tuesday, April 29:** 6:30 pm Property Team (*G. Lounge*)
- Wednesday, April 30:** 1:00 pm Bible Study (*G. Lounge & Zoom*)
- Thursday, May 1:** 7:30 pm Choir (*Chapel*)
- Saturday, May 3:** 9:00am-12Noon Property Work Day at Zion

### 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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