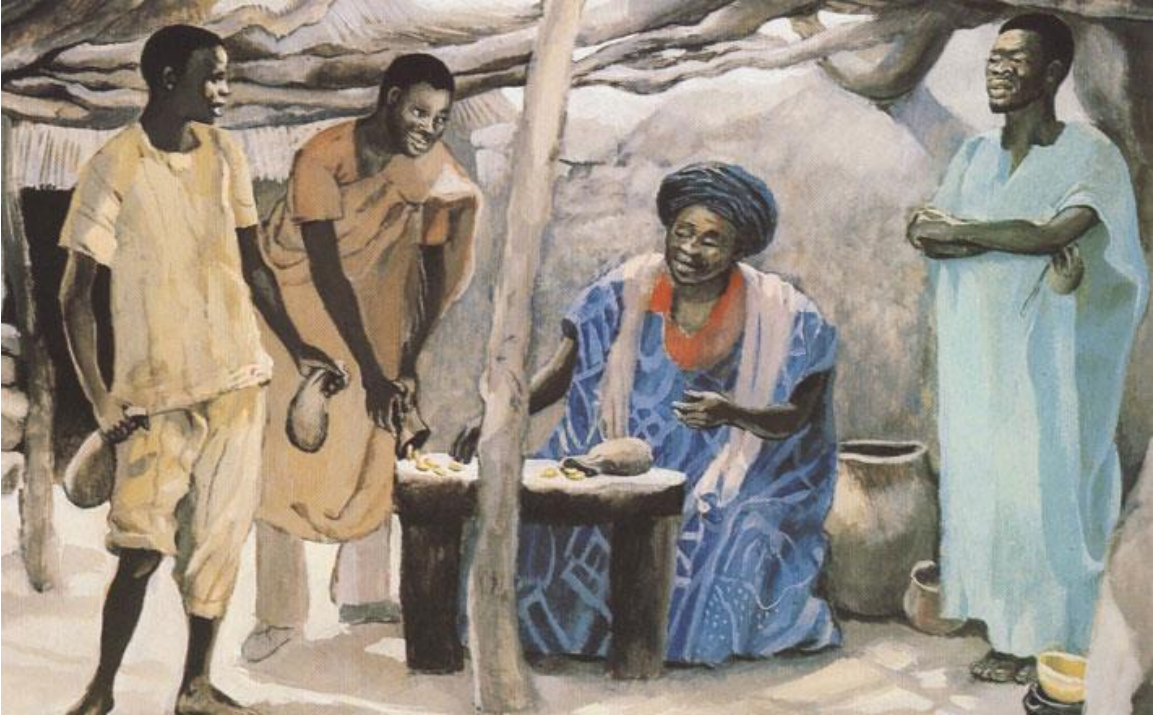


Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 19, 2023



JESUS MAFA. Parable of the Three Servants, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tenn.

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 Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235
412-242-2626

www.zionpennhills.org

www.facebook.com/zionpennhills

PRELUDE:

“Tocatta in E minor”

Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 632

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

The assembly stands to sing.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

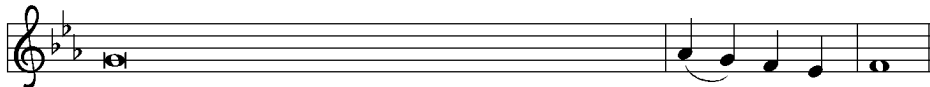
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



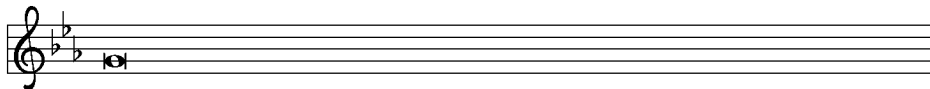
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.


A - men, a - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: Glory to God


Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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. 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 on us; you are seat - ed at the




right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



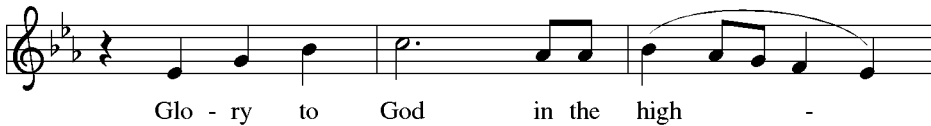
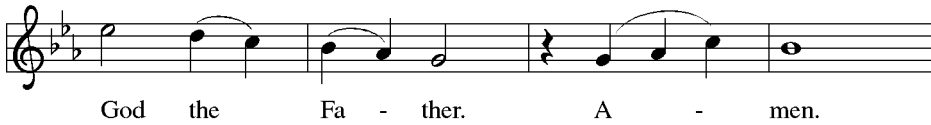
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray, Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time, I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save

them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 90:1-8, 12

The psalm is chanted responsively to the following tone.



- ¹Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
- ²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.**
- ³You turn us back to the | dust and say,
“Turn back, O child- | ren of earth.”
- ⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night;**
- ⁵you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
- ⁶**in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**
- ⁷For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
- ⁸**Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.**
- ¹²So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be

sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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.

Cantor: Abide in me as I abide in you; those who abide in me bear much fruit.
(John 15:4, 5)

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things,

I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 688

Lord of Light

ABBOT’S LEIGH

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

The assembly is seated or kneels.

PEACE

The assembly stands.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly greets 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.

ORGAN OFFERTORY:

“Récit de Cromorne en taille”

G-A. Calvière

OFFERING SONG

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



We come to you for we hun-ger; in your bod - y we find rest.

Cantor: Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **Refrain**

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls. **Refrain**

for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. **Refrain**

OFFERING PRAYER

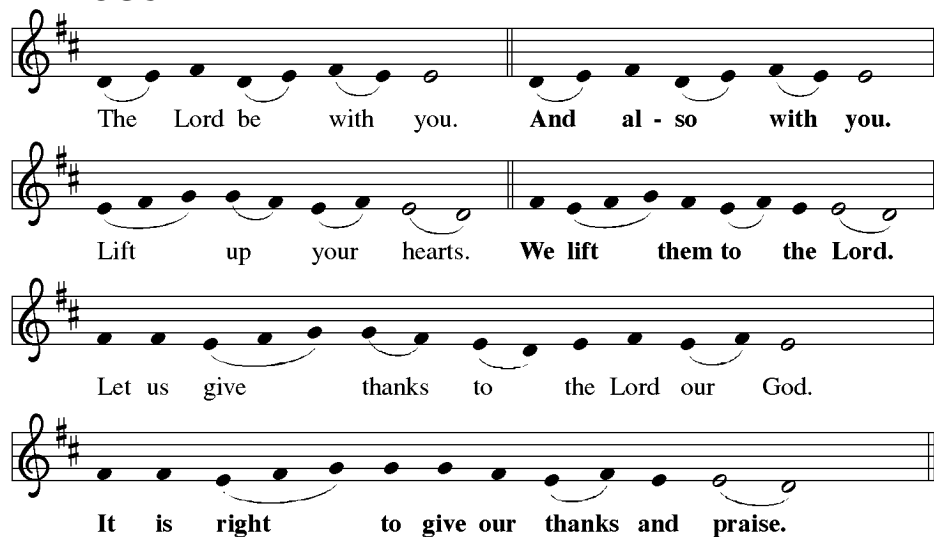
Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen

DIALOGUE

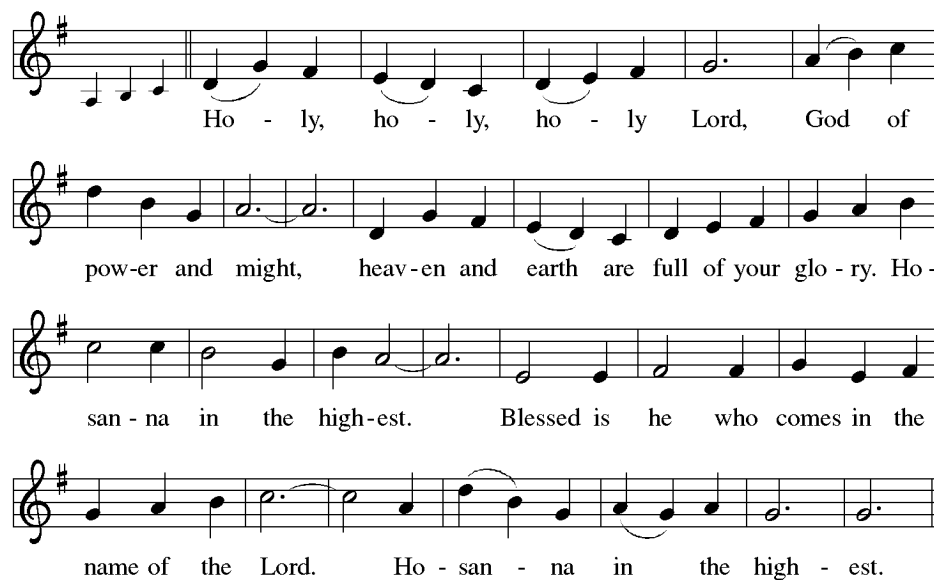


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,

so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at the table Jesus Christ sets for us. You will be dismissed section by section by an usher to come forward to the bottom of the chancel steps. As you come forward, on either side of the front pew is a tray of empty glasses (for wine) or a filled

glass (with grape juice). Please take one before you come up to the steps. You will then receive a piece of bread and then the assisting minister will distribute the wine. If you wish to only receive a blessing, please motion to the pastor. Gluten Free wafers are available and can be given by motioning to the pastor. For those in need of assistance, please let the ushers know, and we will commune you in your pew. For those in need of assistance, please let the ushers know, and we will commune you in your pew.

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW 715 Christ, Be Our Light

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

ELW 711 O Day of Peace

JERUSALEM

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

your favorite pie from a shop around town? Feel free to bring one to share with your fellow Zion members during this “Season of Generosity!” Coffee, orange juice, iced tea, and apple cider will be provided.

Zion Book Club: We will meet tomorrow, Monday, November 20th at 1:00pm in the Gerhard Lounge to discuss the book, “The German Wife” by Kelly Rimmer. Everyone welcome to join us!

Julie Away on Vacation: Julie will be away on vacation starting this Wednesday November 21st – Tuesday November 28th. Pastor Martha will provide office coverage while she is away. If you have a newsletter article to contribute for December, please email it to Julie no later than Wednesday November 29th when she will be back in the office.

Decorating for Advent Next Sunday November 26th: We will be decorating the sanctuary after worship next Sunday (Christ the King Sunday) in order to prepare for the Advent season. If you are stay to help a bit, that would be great! Thanks in advance!

25 Days of Being a Good Steward: The Zion Stewardship Team has compiled a calendar of ways to give back daily (akin to an Advent calendar) for folks to participate in during the month of December. Calendars will be distributed next Sunday (November 26th) as we all seek out ways to give back during the holiday season.

Memorial Candles for 2024: There are still plenty of dates left for 2024! If you would like to reserve a candle in honor or memory of someone, please call the office and let Julie know. They are \$5.00 each.

Hospitality Volunteers Needed: Do you enjoy a nice treat and a cup of coffee after worship? Well, we are in desperate need for volunteers to bring an item to share with others on a given Sunday. If you are able to help, please check out the calendar posted in the Gathering Space and sign up for the Sunday that you would like to contribute! No need to worry about the coffee – we’ll take care of that! Thank you in advance for considering! Questions? Please see Charlotte Murray or Joe Balaban!

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Paul Agnew, Evelyn Lamm, Charles Long, James Snider, Carol Stephany, and Ed & Jan Barnett. 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.

Worship Volunteers Needed: Do you have an interest in serving as an usher, on altar guild, as a lector, or even as a communion presenter (i.e. bring forward the communion elements?) If so, please contact Pastor Martha or call the church office so that we can get you assigned a Sunday to volunteer! Thank you!

Food Pantry Donations: For the rest of this year, we will not be specifying which items we are collecting each month. Instead, we will at any time gladly accept your donations of soap, shampoo, deodorant, cleaning products or any other personal care product. The collection bin is in the narthex by the coat rack. Please put the food pantry on your shopping list! Thank you so much.

Community Thanksgiving Friday, November 24th: We will host our annual Community Thanksgiving Meal in the Parish Hall the day after Thanksgiving, Friday November 24th. As always, many hands make light work! We'll be looking for volunteers for set-up on Wednesday, teardown and working the meal on Friday, and bakers of desserts to provide to the guests. This year the meal will be from 12:00pm – 3:00pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space.

Upcoming Special Music at Zion:

Sunday, November 26 – Christ the King Sunday

- **Zion Church Choir** sings Carson Cooman's setting of the *Te Deum*
- **Trumpet player Kevin Vargas**

Living Lutheran: As you might have read in the March issue of *Living Lutheran*, they will not be printing any more beginning with the November/December 2023 issue. You may still access this publication online at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/>

Annual IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD): If you are 72 or older, please consider Zion Lutheran Church as the recipient of a charitable gift from your RMD without incurring income tax on the gift amount. These gifts can be designated to Current Expenses, Major Maintenance, the Zion Mission Endowment Fund (in honor or memory of loved ones), and/or any other special fund. A form is available in the tract rack in gathering space to indicate your preferred designation(s). Talk to Pat Pope if you have questions about the form. You should consult your IRA custodian, tax advisor, or an attorney for this distribution. Distributions from your IRA plan must be made payable directly from your IRA custodian to Zion Lutheran Church. You must act before December 31 of each year.

Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of October 31st:

Offering Income: \$184,735.75

Other Income:* \$ 46,180.75

Total Income: \$230,916.50

Total Expense: \$209,261.86

Net: \$ 21,654.64

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

OREMUS: If there is someone that we can prayerfully take off of the prayer chain, please let the Church office know. If you or someone you know (who is not on the OREMUS) is in need of a pastoral visit, please let Pastor Martha know at 406-565-3592. Thank you.

OREMUS

Rehab Facility:

Evelyn Lamm (Concordia, Monroeville, Room 110)

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

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

Jenny Fabrizi (Canterbury Place – Rehab, Room 303)

Prayers Requested For: Fred Ross, Georgia Kirkpatrick, Sandra Short, Marion Ertel, Elouise Brooky, Diane Marburger, Bonnie Goff (friend of Pat Pope), Angie Williamson (aunt of P. Martha), Sol Williamson (cousin of P. Martha), James McCreight (father of P. Martha), Amy Schifrin (friend of Pastor Martha), Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Bob Beresky, Wayne Stumpf, Latica Green, Pari Bailey (friend of Pastor Martha), Mary Rex (friend of Kathy Gaberson), Kelly Hammond (niece of Kathy Gaberson), Chris Nieser (cousin of Julie), Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks), Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello), Andrea Shissler (friend of Annette Felmley), Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short), Michael Ladonne (friend of Audri Erfort), Ron Jeroski (friend of Charlotte Murray), Steve Bell (brother of Rhonda Pope), Chris Vuocolo (nephew of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio), Beth Rall, Sarah, Tom & Carolyn Schuler, Marsha Balaban, Joe Hesketh, Lynn Santoriello (sister-in-law of Diane Santoriello), Mary Jean Hawkins (cousin of Diane Santoriello), Rachel Faulkner, Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Patrick Taylor, for the family and friends of Jean Meyer.

ZION EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sunday, November 19:** 9:30 – Worship in person, livestream on Facebook
10:30 – Annual Pie Social - Gathering Space
10:45 – Sunday School/Confirmation
12:00 – CCC Church – Chapel
6-7:30- EAYC
- Monday, November 20:** 1:00 – Zion Book Club – G. Lounge
7:30 – Choir
- Wednesday, November 22:** Set-Up for Community Thanksgiving Meal
- Thursday, November 23:** Happy Thanksgiving – Office Closed
- Friday, November 24:** Office Closed
12-3 – Community Thanksgiving Meal – P. Hall

Usher Schedule:

Sunday, November 19	Tony Lamorte	TBD
Sunday, November 26	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 03	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
Sunday, December 10	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 17	Tony Lamorte	Ray Rall
Sunday, December 24	Tony Lamorte	Joe Balaban