

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 1, 2024



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Reverend Martha McCreight – *Pastor*
Mr. Andrew Sabol – *Director of Music Ministries*
Mrs. Julie Nieser – *Administrative Secretary*
The Reverend William L. Hauser – *Pastor Emeritus*
Dr. Stanley E. Yoder – *Cantor Emeritus*

11609 Frankstown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

412-242-2626

www.zionpennhills.org

www.facebook.com/zionpennhills

OPENING SONGS: **ELW 879** For the Beauty of the Earth DIX
 ELW 512 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil GOOD SOIL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

The assembly stands.

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. O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST LESSON: DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

All sing the following refrain at the beginning and where indicated.



LORD, who may dwell in your tab - er - na - cle?

The verses are chanted responsively to the following tone:



¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: JAMES 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore, rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 7th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 806 O God, My Faithful God WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT

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

...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people stand and 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.

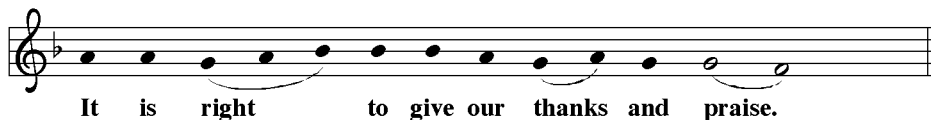
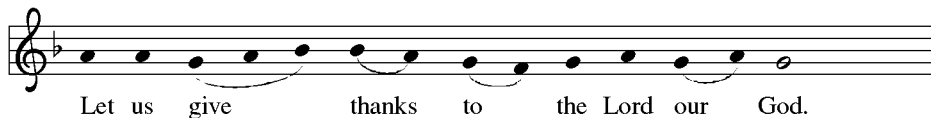
OFFERING SONG: ELW 680 We Plow the Fields and Scatter SAN FERNANDO

The assembly stands at the final verse as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE



PREFACE

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

SANCTUS



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. Ho -



san-na. 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.

The assembly is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who believe and are baptized 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 forward. 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.

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION SONGS

ELW 801

Change My Heart, O God

CHANGE MY HEART

ELW 772

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

EVAN

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG: ACS 987

Guide My Feet

GUIDE MY FEET

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Prelude in F, BWV 556

J.S. Bach

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

The Sanctuary candle is given today in honor of Vergene's birthday, mother of Reid Wolfe.

Welcome to All Visitors: We welcome you to Worship at Zion Lutheran Church this morning. Bulletins may be found from one of the ushers or on the table in the back of the Narthex. Families and Children are welcome to worship – please feel free to worship from your pews or to make use of our Prayground Space at the back of the sanctuary along with provided coloring materials.

During these warm summer months, if you find yourself getting overheated while in worship here, please know that you are welcome to cool down at any point in our Gerhard Lounge, located just off of the Gathering Space. The lounge has worship playing on the TV (via our Facebook page) and it has an A/C unit to keep the space cool. There are also extra water bottles in the fridge in the Gathering Space.

We hope your worship here is fruitful and fulfills what you may need in your spiritual life this morning. If you would like to speak more with Pastor Martha, you can reach her over email pastormartha@zionpennhills.org or by calling the office 412-242-2626.

September Birthdays: We will celebrate all the September birthdays today after worship in the Gathering Space with a cake or cupcakes. Stop by and have a treat with some coffee or tea.

Food Pantry Needs: We are in need of soap and shampoo. Thank you for any help you can give! You can drop it off in the bin underneath the coat rack in the hallway.

Food Pantry Weekend: The Zion monthly Food Pantry for September is next weekend, **September 14th**. If you are able to help out on Friday, September 13th to receive items from the food truck and help with set up, please arrive at the Community room by 9am. If you are able to help with distribution on Saturday, September 14th, please arrive at the Community room by 8am to receive instructions and an assigned task. The pantry runs from 9-11am and then a time of clean up afterwards. Thank you in advance for your help!

Next Sunday – God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday 2024: After a short worship service, we will be cleaning up our section of Jefferson Road, baking cookies for the Penn #7 Volunteer Fire Station and card-making for all ages to participate in. We will then partake in sandwiches and goodies after we wrap up!

Rally Day Kickoff – Sunday September 15th – It’s that time of the year again! Our Sunday School, confirmation, and adults learning programs will be kicking off starting the week of September 15th. Sunday School and Confirmation will continue to meet after worship on Sundays starting on September 15th and Adult Bible Study will continue to meet on Wednesday afternoons at 1pm in person in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom! If you need to have your child or grandchild enrolled in learning, please see Janet Mauro (Sunday School) or Deb Rall (confirmation).

Come Join the Choir!: Choir rehearsals will resume Thursday, September 5th at 7:30 pm in the chapel. Come learn, pray, and sing together with us. All skill and experience levels are welcome, and we're flexible about rehearsals. It's a great time and a wonderful way to get involved in the musical life of our congregation. See Andrew or email him at andrew@zionpennhills.org with any questions!

Graham Standish August Update: The working group met with Graham on Wednesday August 7th. The group met in the sanctuary for their time together and talked aloud the overall experience of Zion worshippers on a given Sunday morning (from pulling into the parking lot to entrance to pre-worship to worship to post-worship, etc). The group will next meet on Wednesday September 4th at 7pm. We will be Zooming with Pastor Sourwine (of House of Prayer - Aliquippa) and start work on a proposal. Please continue to keep the members of this working group in your prayers: Andrew Sabol, Tom Felmley, Reid Wolfe, Kathy Gaberson, Sue Clydesdale, Alex Fitzroy, and Pastor. If you have questions or wonderings about this group or what is discussed, please reach out to a member to learn more – folks are more than willing to chat!

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

New Signage at Zion: The new outdoor signage has been installed around the grounds of Zion. Feel free to take a walk (or a drive) around the building to see all of the doors labeled and given a number. Special thanks to Reid Wolfe as well as members of Property Committee, Accessibility and Inclusion Task Force and council for all of their hard work on this very important project at Zion!

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Alice & Robert Bartley, Paul & Mary Lou Feathers, Theodore Stolp Jr., and Paul Agnew. 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.

Reconciling in Christ Journey: After receiving a recommendation by the Accessibility and Inclusion Task Force, the Zion Executive Committee and Council approved a motion for Zion to embark on the journey towards becoming a Reconciling in Christ

congregation. The next step is the need for a working group to be formed to embark on this work over the course of the next year (with frequency of meetings to be determined by members of that working group). If you are interested in serving on this working group, please see a member of council to submit your name. If you would like to learn more about the RIC program, you can visit: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/>

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)

Prayers Requested for: Donna Federoff, Rachel Dolney, Paul Gaberson, John Carter, Jenny Fabrizi, Sandra Short, Marion Ertel, Richard Sabol (father of Andrew Sabol), Mary Jane Anthony, Patricia Lamorte (wife of Tony), Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte), Patti Wonderley (sister of Linda Neumann), Paula Tecak (friend of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio), John Hayes (friend of Tom & Annette Felmley), Blanca (friend of the Felmley family), Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Wayne Stumpf, Pari Bailey (friend of Pastor Martha), Mike Walsh (friend of Kathy Gaberson), Mary Rex (friend of Kathy Gaberson), Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks), Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello), Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short), 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, Lynn Santoriello (sister-in-law of Diane Santoriello), Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Patrick Taylor, Bonnie Hanssen (mother-in-law of Pastor Martha), for the family and friends of Marge Lamorte (mother of Tony Lamorte).

ZION EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 25: 9:30am – In person, outdoor worship, livestream, Facebook

Monday-Friday: 6:30am-8:30am, 2:30pm-6:00pm – Thomas LA
Before/After School Program

2:30-6:00-AIU Afterschool Program

Monday, September 2: Office Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 3: 7-Executive Committee

Wednesday, September 4: 7-Church Consult – G. Lounge

Thursday, September 5: 7:30 – Choir

Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of July 31st:

Offering Income: \$127,799.00

Other Income:* \$ 44,168.31

Total Income: \$171,967.31

Total Expense: \$164,115.98

Net: \$ 7,851.33

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

BREAD SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

September 1: Lori Smith
September 8: Sallie Lazar
September 15: Jeannette Christensen
September 22: Chrissa Clark
September 29: Pat Hauser

USHER SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

Usher Schedule		
Sunday, September 1, 2024	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
Sunday, September 8, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, September 15, 2024	Mike Patchen	
Sunday, September 22, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Marc Schuler
Sunday, September 29, 2024	Mike Patchen	Joe Balaban
Please encourage the kids to assist:		
Ask their parents if their kids want to hand out Bulletins		
or assist with the Offering.		



WHO'S WHO OF ZION LEADERSHIP

Church Council 2024-2025:

Pastor Martha McCreight (President)

Brenda Wolfe (Vice President)

(Music & Worship Liaison)

Diane Santoriello (Secretary)

Mike Patchen (Treasurer)

Sue Clydesdale (Financial Secretary)

Debbie Rall (Stewardship Secretary)

Tom Felmley (Communications Chair)

Joe Balaban (Parish Life & Facilities Liaison)

Marc Schuler (Property Chair)

Mark Mauro (Budget & Finance Chair)

(Food Pantry Liaison)

Jeannette Christensen (Health Ministry Liaison)

Pat Pope

Kathy Gaberson

Budget and Finance Committee

Mark Mauro (Chair)

Sue Clydesdale

Charlotte Murray

Mike Patchen

Pat Pope

Debbie Rall

Gail Snyder

Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Christian Education Committee:

Deb Rall (Liaison)

Janet Mauro (Chair)

Property Committee:

Marc Schuler (Chair)

Ray Rall

Tom Felmley

Pat Pope

Curt Baumann

Reid Wolfe

Tony Lamorte

Music and Worship Committee:

Andrew Sabol (Chair)

Pastor Martha (Liaison)

Brenda Wolfe (Liaison)

Gail Snyder

Cindy Pierce

Pat Hauser

Parish Life:

Tammy Belohlavek (Facilities)

Joe Balaban (Liaison and Co-chair)

Charlotte Murray (Co-chair)

Rachel Dolney

Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Stewardship:

Pastor Martha (Chair)

Debbie Rall (Stewardship Secretary)

Jeannette Christensen

Charlotte Murray

Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Mary Lou D'Ambroio
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Mutual Ministry Committee:

Brenda Wolfe (Council VP)

Health Ministry:

Rhonda Pope

Jeannette Christensen (Liaison)

Rachel Dolney

Sandra Short

Shirley McClure

Laura Patchen

Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Pastor Martha

Mark Mauro

Gail Snyder

Cindy Pierce

Mission Endowment:

Pastor Martha (Chair)

Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Mike Patchen (Treasurer)

Linda Neumann

Mark Mauro