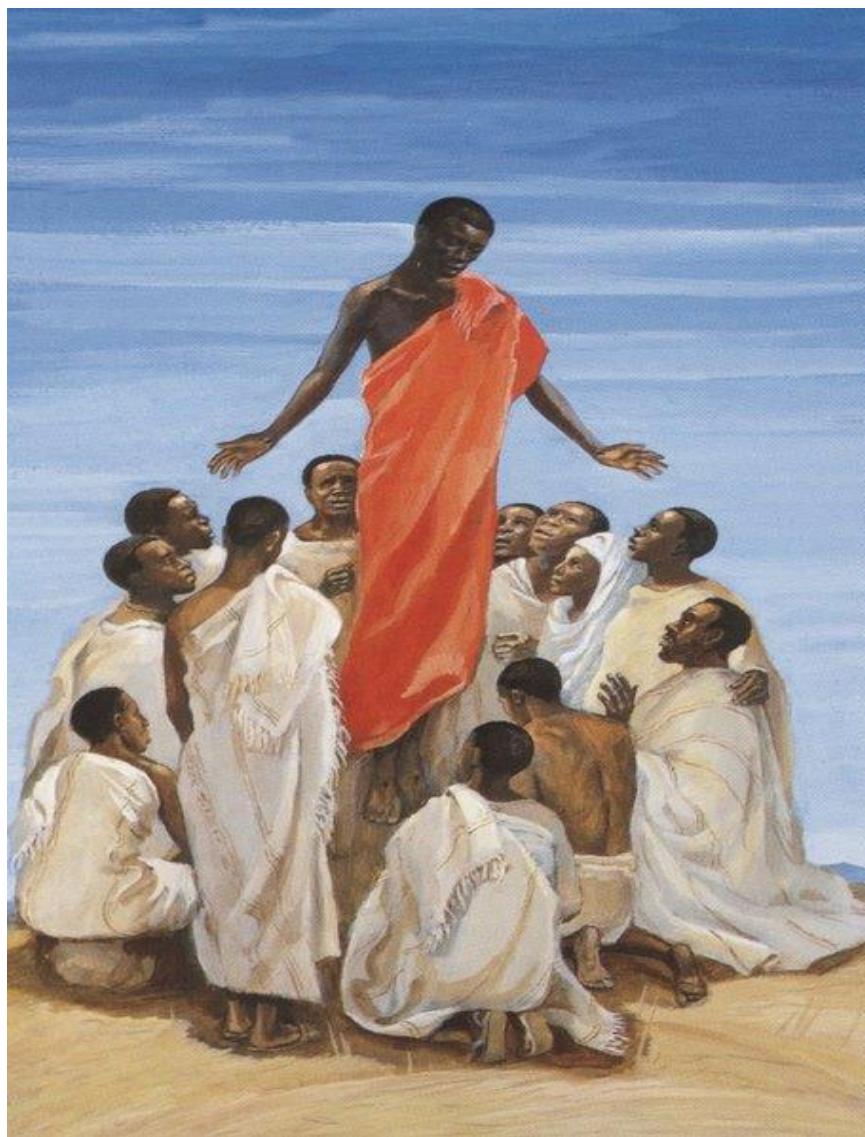


SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 21, 2023



JESUS MAFA. "The Ascension" from **Art in the Christian Tradition**,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. 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: "Improvisation on Song 1 (inspired by Jehan Alain)"

Wolfgang Rübsam

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The assembly stands.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,
you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.
In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ, who, with you and the Spirit, reigns forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 657 Rise, O Sun of Righteousness

SONNE DER
GERECHTIGKEIT

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

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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: Acts 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’ Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

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



Sing to God, who rides up - on the clouds.

The verses are sung responsively to the following tone:



¹Let God arise, and let God’s ene-¹mies be scattered;
let those who¹ hate God flee.

²As smoke is driven away, so you should drive¹ them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres-¹ence of God.

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice¹ before God;
let them also be mer-¹ry and joyful.

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to God’s name; exalt the one who¹ rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice¹ before God! **Refrain**

⁵In your holy habita- | tion, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;
⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in | desert places.**
⁷O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,
when you marched | through the wilderness,
⁸**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the | God of
Sinai,
at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.**
⁹You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance | when it languished.
¹⁰**Your people found their | home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor. *Refrain***
³²Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;
sing praises | to the Lord.
³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.**
³⁴Ascribe pow- | er to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.
³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God! *Refrain***

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Alleluia, Song of the Spirit” Tony Alonso

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

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

Cantor: I will not leave you orphaned, says the Lord. I am coming to you. (*John 14:18*)

GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 463 Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed **SONG 1**

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 sits or kneels.

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds: Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly may share a sign of peace with one another.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

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

OFFERING ANTHEM: "Unless You Lead Me, Love"

Thomas Keesecker

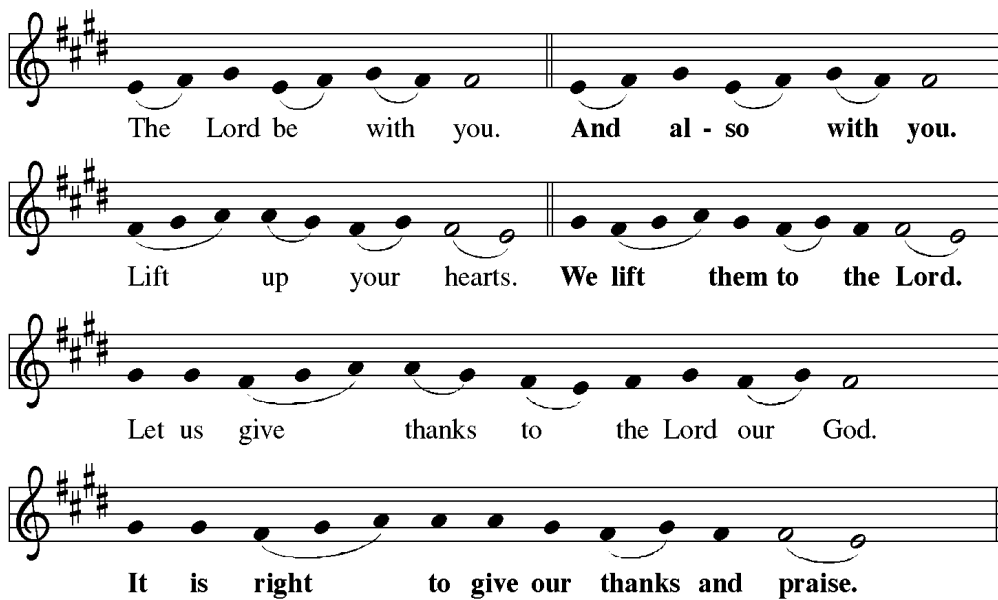
Unless You lead me, Love,
I cannot dance.
Would You have me leap and spring,
You, Yourself, dear One, must sing—

And then I will spring with Your love,
from Your love to understanding,
from understanding to delight,
delight beyond all human comprehension,

And there I will remain, dancing still.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

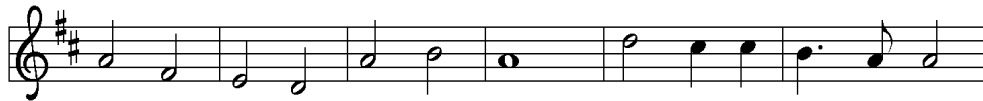
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
 for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
 the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
 who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
 And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
 with earth and sea and all their creatures,
 and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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 God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:

the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt,

the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets;

and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,

who proclaimed the good news in word and deed

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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 risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup

we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection,

we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,

that we who share in Christ's body and blood

may live to the praise of your glory

and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,

and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest

until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

All are welcome to the table Jesus Christ sets for us. This morning communion will be distributed at the bottom of the steps. You will be dismissed pew by pew by an usher beginning with the pulpit side. As you come forward, take an empty cup (for wine) or a filled glass (with grape juice) from the tray on either side of the front pew, receive the bread from the pastor, and then move to the assisting minister to receive the wine. If you wish to receive only a blessing, simply hold your hands to your side. Gluten Free wafers are available. For those in need of assistance, please let the ushers know, and we will commune you in your pew.

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION SONG



The dis - ci-ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break-ing of the bread.

All: The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Cantor: The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

All: The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Cantor: One body are we, alleluia, though many we share one bread.

All: The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ACS 1037 Christ, Our Peace

CHRIST, OUR PEACE

ELW 826 Thine the Amen

THINE

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The assembly stands.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 579 Lord, You Give the Great Commission **ABBOT'S LEIGH**

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "Abbot's Leigh"

Benjamin Culli

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Sanctuary Candle: Our Sanctuary candle is given today in memory of Kenneth Alfred Moyer, Jr., and Elizabeth Addison McRae Moyer, parents of Linda Neumann from Pastor Richard and Linda Neumann

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

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.

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

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.

Blood Pressure Screening: We will have a blood pressure screening after worship **TODAY** in the Gathering Space hallway. Stop by and get yours checked.

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

We Want to See Red Next Sunday, May 28th: Next Sunday, wear something “Red” to celebrate Pentecost. This color reminds us that the basis of our faith in God is the “blood shed for us by Jesus.” It is also the color of fire, a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Recognition of all 2023 Graduates: If you are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, etc., please notify Julie at our Church office (julie@zionpennhills.org) or 412-242-2626 with your date of graduation, degree, and name of school by **May 26th** for inclusion in our Zion Newsletter and Prayers of Intercession.

Food Pantry Donation for May: We will be collecting toothpaste and denture cleaning tablets. As always, thank you for your gifts!

Pastor Martha Family Leave: Pastor Martha is away on family leave and in her absence, Pastor Neumann is the local interim for Zion. This means that he will be available on a limited basis for pastoral care needs, i.e. hospital visits, funerals, etc. (In other words, he is the pastoral presence while Pastor Martha is away). You can reach Pastor Neumann at 412-401-5720. If you wish to set-up a time to meet with him at the office, please reach out to Pastor Neumann or the Zion office to set-up an appointment time as his time in the building will be very limited. Any questions, please see Kathy Gaberson. Thank you!

Adult Forum after worship. We will meet today, Sunday, May 21 to discuss chapters 9-10. We meet at 10:45 in the Gerhard Lounge. During the Adult Forum focusing on people of African descent, we participants encountered aspects of American history and the Church in America about which we were not aware. Ephesians 4:15 talks about “speaking the truth in love”; to accomplish that we must first know the truth. We will be reading and discussing the book, *The Color of Compromise* which addresses the American Church’s complicity in racism. If you are interested, please contact Rhonda Pope.

Midweek Bible Study on Wednesdays: Join us on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm in the Gerhard Lounge. We are watching episodes of “The Chosen: Season 2” together and discussion afterwards. If you have questions or want more information, please see Pat Pope.

Annual Committee Reports Due: Please submit your annual report to Julie no later than **May 28th**. Also, **please remember to sign your report.** Thank you. All reports will be available for the congregation on June 11th.

The Congregation Council's Call for Special Congregation Meetings

Sunday, May 28 – A special meeting of the congregation is called for the purpose of closing the nominations for Council and electing the voting members to the Synod Assembly.

Sunday, June 11 – A special meeting of the congregation is called for the purpose of adopting the updated Constitution and Bylaws for this congregation. The updates are posted in the narthex and are recommended for adoption by the Congregation Council.

Sunday, June 25 – The Annual Meeting of this congregation will be held after worship service. All voting members of Zion please plan to attend! Copies of the Annual reports will be available by June 11th.

Please note these dates on your calendar so that you are present to participate in the various actions necessary for the functioning of our congregation. Thank you.

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Nancy Fabel, Wanda Kojcsa, Elouise Brooky, 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.

Are you interested in assisting with our Healing Services? This service consists of praying for a person and anointing their head with oil in the sign of the cross as a blessing. Ideally we would like to have 5 volunteers for this service so that we can have two “teams of two” stationed at the foot of the stairs (one for prayer and the other for anointing) and another person who can walk into the congregation to serve anyone who cannot come forward. These services are usually scheduled 4 times a year on the 5th Sunday. The future dates are **July 30th, and October 29th**

Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of April 30th:

Offering Income: \$77, 866.75
Other Income: \$19, 413.25
Total Income: \$97, 280.00
Total Expense: \$85, 976.61
Net: \$11,303.39

Usher Schedule:

Sunday, May 21, 2023	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, May 28, 2023	Tony Lamorte	
Sunday, June 04, 2023	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
Sunday, June 11, 2023	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, June 18, 2023	Mike Patchen	Ray Rall
Sunday, June 25, 2023	Tony Lamorte	

OREMUS:

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

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

Prayers Requested For: Chris Dippold, Laura Patchen, Marion Ertel, Elouise Brooky, Claudia Agnew, Mary Lou & Paul Feathers, Patti Lamorte (wife of Tony), Marge Lamorte (mother of Tony), Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Diane Marburger, Sandra Short, Bob Beresky, Wayne Stumpf, Doreen Varuolo (friend of Charlotte Murray), Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks), David Mochetta (friend of Mary Lou D’Ambrosio), Samara Davis (sister of Diane Santoriello) Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello), Kim Anthony (brother-in-law of Kathy Conrad), Peggy Curran (aunt of Kara Albrecht), Ellen Conrad (mother of Kara Albrecht), Andrea Shissler (friend of Annette Felmley), Lorraine Ahiemer (friend of Debbie Marks), Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short), Michele Williams (cousin of Rhonda Pope), Kristen Lozer (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, Ezra & Emery Jordan (great grandchildren of Sandra Short), Lynn Santoriello (sister-in-law of Diane Santoriello), Theodore Stolp, Jr., Mary Jean Hawkins (cousin of Diane Santoriello), Rachel Faulkner, Margaret Thompson (mother of Darren Thompson), 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).

ZION EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sunday, May 21:** 9:30 Worship in person, Livestream on Facebook
10:45 – Blood Pressure Screening
10:45 – Sunday School and Confirmation
10:45 – Adult Forum – G. Lounge
11:30- CCC Church – Chapel
6-7:30 - EAYC
- Tuesday, May 23:** 7:00 – Budget & Finance – G. Lounge
7:00 – Parish Life meeting
- Wednesday, May 24:** 1:00 – Bible Study – G. Lounge
- Thursday, May 25:** 1:00–Accessibility & Inclusivity Task Force-G. Lounge
7:30 – Choir
- Friday, May 26:** Between 9-11am – Food Truck delivery
- Monday, May 29:** Memorial Day – Office Closed