

**The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 13th, 2024**



Андрей Николаевич Миронов (A.N. Mironov), CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG: ELW 669

Rise Up, O Saints of God

FESTAL SONG

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray, Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore, the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 90:12-17

The psalm is read responsively by verse.

¹²So teach us to number our days

that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

¹³**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?**

Be gracious to your servants.

¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;

so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us
and as many years as we suffered adversity.**

¹⁶Show your servants your works,

and your splendor to their children.

¹⁷**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;**

prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.”’ He said to him, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’

They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’

Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 655

The assembly stands to sing.

Son of God, Eternal Savior

IN BABILONE

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

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

PIANO OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION SONG: ELW 689

Praise and Thanksgiving

BUNESSAN

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.


DIALOGUE



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

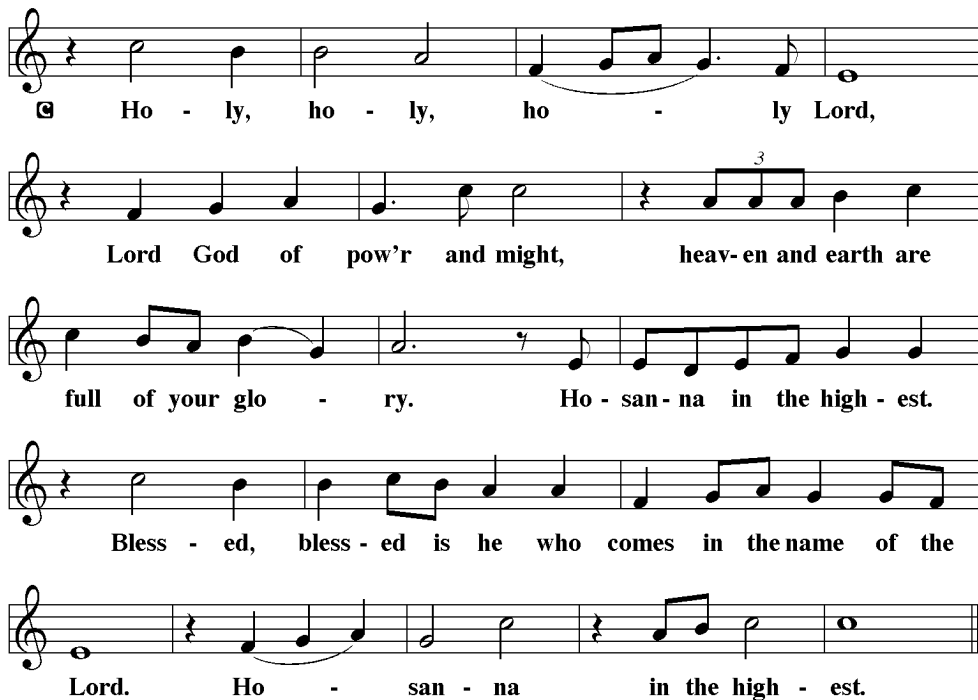


C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise:
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile,
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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 incarnation of your Son:
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.
We remember the sacrifice of his life:
his eating with outcasts and sinners,
and his acceptance of death.
But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb,
his ascension to the seat of power,
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.
We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,
when Christ will come again in beauty and power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
and may 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 honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen.

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 pew by pew by an usher to come forward to the railing. As you come forward, in front of the baptismal font 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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 479

We Come to The Hungry Feast

HUNGRY FEAST

ELW 705

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The assembly stands

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

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

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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.

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.

Sunday School and Confirmation: After worship, Sunday School will meet downstairs and Confirmation will meet in the Christian Education office for their time of learning together.

Substitute Pianist: We welcome Jeff Denlinger, a member of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Shadyside and thank him for leading us in worship today.

Food Pantry: A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped out with our October distribution this weekend. If there are additional food items leftover, you are welcome to take them with you before you leave church today. A volunteer will meet you down in the Community room after worship for those items.

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

Stewardship Campaign for 2025 – Answering God’s Call: Faith promise cards were mailed out last week in anticipation of the annual Stewardship campaign here at Zion. You are invited to discern and pray over your time/talents/financial commitment for 2025 and to bring your card back to worship on Reformation Sunday – October 27th. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for all the ways in which you give back here at Zion.

Mark Your Calendar: Reformation Sunday – October 27th: We will be remembering Reformation Sunday during worship on Sunday October 27th. The children will be singing and we will have the annual “Reformation Sundaes” after worship as provided by Mike and Laura Patchen. Don’t forget to wear your **RED!**

Come Join the Choir!: Choir rehearsals practice on Thursdays 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 rehearsal attendance. 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!

Adult Bible Study: We are meeting again as a group on Wednesday afternoons at 1pm in person in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom. For this session, we will be studying Dietrich Bonhoeffer, using a study that was recently published by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale and LAMPa. Pastor will have printed copies of the study guide for those in person and will send out via email to those who wish to attend over Zoom. Pastor Dennis Orsen may also be joining us as a participant for some of our sessions in preparation of leading it at Emanuel Lutheran - Eastmont. If you have questions, please see Pastor Martha.

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/>

Update from the Long-Range Planning Team

Dear Fellow Zion Members:

Did you know the Church Council has a constitutional mandate to do long-range planning? To help fulfill this, the council moved to hire Pastor Graham Standish. He has helped many churches in the area, after membership tripled and attendance doubled at his church in Zelienople, PA. His method is to form a group representing the congregation and including the pastor. They then do the legwork and study to create a proposal as the final output. The process is in-depth and takes 8 -12 months to complete. We have provided updates on our work every month. Now we are moving on to the last phase, the proposal development. Graham suggested we offer this summary of what we have done and what is up next.

After Graham was brought on, he asked Pastor Martha to assemble a group of members that was both representative of the church's past, its present, and its future. We began our work in earnest in January of this year.

We started by reviewing several books and a film. These books and the DVD are all available in our library. They all pertain to strategic thinking, rebirth, and/or following the lead of the Holy Spirit. We discussed our views, memories, and hopes for Zion in relation to these thought-provoking works:

Think Again - Grant

Start with Why - Sinek

The Grace Outpouring - Godwin and Davis

Switch - Heath & Heath

The Jesus Revolution (2023)

After this phase, we began exploring strong local churches that have experienced success and growth. The goal was never to impose their style on Zion. Yet they are doing some things very well, and there are things we can learn and use here. We visited two churches whose worship style was inviting, especially toward people who had walked away from more typical churches. We also visited a historically black church on the North Side to help us better understand being a church in a changing area. Finally, we had a video visit with a Lutheran pastor from the area who is growing his church.

Now we ask for your prayers as we enter this closing step. We will synthesize all our work into a document that we will share with the Church Council and then with the congregation. It will contain suggestions for improving our church life and growing our congregation. This document will challenge us all to move into the future so that Zion will be a vibrant church now and into the future.

Yours in Christ,

The Graham Standish Task Force: Sue Clydesdale, Tom Felmley, Alex Fitzroy, Kathy Gaberson, Andrew Sabol, Reid Wolfe, and Pastor Martha

Mark Your Calendar: Antisemitism 101 Training – Sunday October 20th 1pm: Noah Schoen, director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, will lead a workshop on confronting antisemitism. We will meet together with members of St John’s Lutheran – North Versailles, The Good Shepherd – Monroeville, and Emanuel Lutheran – Eastmont for our training together. St John’s Lutheran – North Versailles has graciously offered to host us for our time together. We will eat lunch and be led in the workshop by Noah with potential wrap-up by 3pm that day. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Martha

Mark Your Calendar: Annual Trunk or Treat at Zion – October 26th: Join us on Saturday October 26th from 2pm-4pm at Zion for our annual trunk or treat! We will have plenty of candy, hot chocolate, games, and a craft as well for the kiddos to partake in. If you are interested in sponsoring a trunk, please sign-up in the Narthex. *Also, if you would like to donate candy, we are accepting donations through Friday October 25th.* Thank you in advance for your generosity!

All Saints Sunday – November 3rd: We will be remembering all those Zion saints who have joined the Church Triumphant since All Saints last year during our worship together. In addition to that remembrance, you are invited to bring a photo of your loved one(s) who have joined the Church Triumphant at any point in time and we will display them up front during worship.

Election Prayer: As we move forward to November’s elections let us remember that, regardless of our political perspectives, we are all children of God. Please consider making the following part of your prayer life.

- 1) The safety and health of all who are running for office, as well as their families.
- 2) The importance of voting and making sure that our polling places /workers are safe.
- 3) That the outcome of November’s election will be clear / decisive.
- 4) That November’s election results will be honored.
- 5) That after the election we, as Americans, will unite to work for the good of all.

Thank you on the behalf of Health Ministry

Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of September 30th

Offering Income: \$165,671.25

Other Income:* \$ 58,021.31

Total Income: \$223,692.56

Total Expense: \$209,392.54

Net: \$ 14,300.02

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

OREMUS: If there is someone that we can prayerfully take off 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, Paul Gaberson, John Carter, Jenny Fabrizi, Sandra Short, Robert McClure, Marion Ertel, Maggie Watson (daughter of Kathy Kraf), Richard Sabol (father of Andrew Sabol), Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte), Theresa Miller (Godmother of Kara Albrecht), Patti Wunderley (sister of Linda Neumann), Jerri Jacob (friend of Sallie Lazar), 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, Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Patrick Taylor, Bonnie Hanssen (mother-in-law of Pastor Martha)

ZION EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 13: 9:30am – In person, livestream, Facebook
10:30am – Sunday School/Confirmation

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

2:30-6:00 – AIU Afterschool Program

Wednesday, October 16: 1:00 – Bible Study – G. Lounge

Thursday, October 17: 7:30 – Choir

We are in need of Ushers! If you are interested in helping to collect and present the offering, doing a head count for record keeping, dismiss rows for communion, please let Tony Lamorte know at: tlamorte@steelcityproducts.com. Thank you

USHER SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024

Sunday, October 13, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, October 20, 2024	Tony Lamorte	
Sunday, October 27, 2024	Ray Rall	Mike Patchen
Sunday, November 03, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, November 10, 2024		Mark Mauro
Sunday, November 17, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, November 24, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 01, 2024	Mike Patchen	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 08, 2024	Mike Patchen	Mark Mauro
Sunday, December 15, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 22, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, December 29, 2024	Tony Lamorte	

BREAD SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2024

October 13: Mary Lou D’Ambrosio
October 20: Pat Hauser
October 27: Sue Clydesdale



WHO’S WHO OF ZION LEADERSHIP

<u>Church Council 2024-2025:</u>	<u>Property Committee:</u>
Pastor Martha McCreight (President)	Tony Lamorte
Brenda Wolfe (Vice President)	Ray Rall
(Music & Worship Liaison)	Tom Felmley
Diane Santoriello (Secretary)	Pat Pope

Mike Patchen (Treasurer)
Sue Clydesdale (Financial Secretary)
Debbie Rall (Stewardship Secretary)
Tom Felmley (Communications Chair)
Vacant (Parish Life & Facilities Liaison)
Vacant (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
Gail Snyder
Mike Patchen
Pat Pope
Debbie Rall
Gail Snyder
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Christian Education Committee:

Deb Rall (Liaison)
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)
Janet Mauro (Chair)
Mary Lou D'Ambrosio
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Health Ministry:

Rhonda Pope
Jeannette Christensen (Liaison)
Rachel Dolney
Sandra Short
Shirley McClure
Laura Patchen
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Curt Baumann
Reid Wolfe

Music and Worship Committee

Andrew Sabol (Chair)
Pastor Martha (Liaison)
Brenda Wolfe (Liaison)
Gail Snyder
Cindy Pierce
Pat Hauser

Parish Life Committee:

Tammy Belohlavek (Facilities)
Charlotte Murray (Co-chair)
Rachel Dolney
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

Stewardship Committee:

Pastor Martha (Chair)
Debbie Rall (Stewardship Secretary)
Jeannette Christensen
Charlotte Murray

Mission Endowment:

Pastor Martha (Chair)
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)
Mike Patchen (Treasurer)
Mark Mauro
Vacant
Vacant