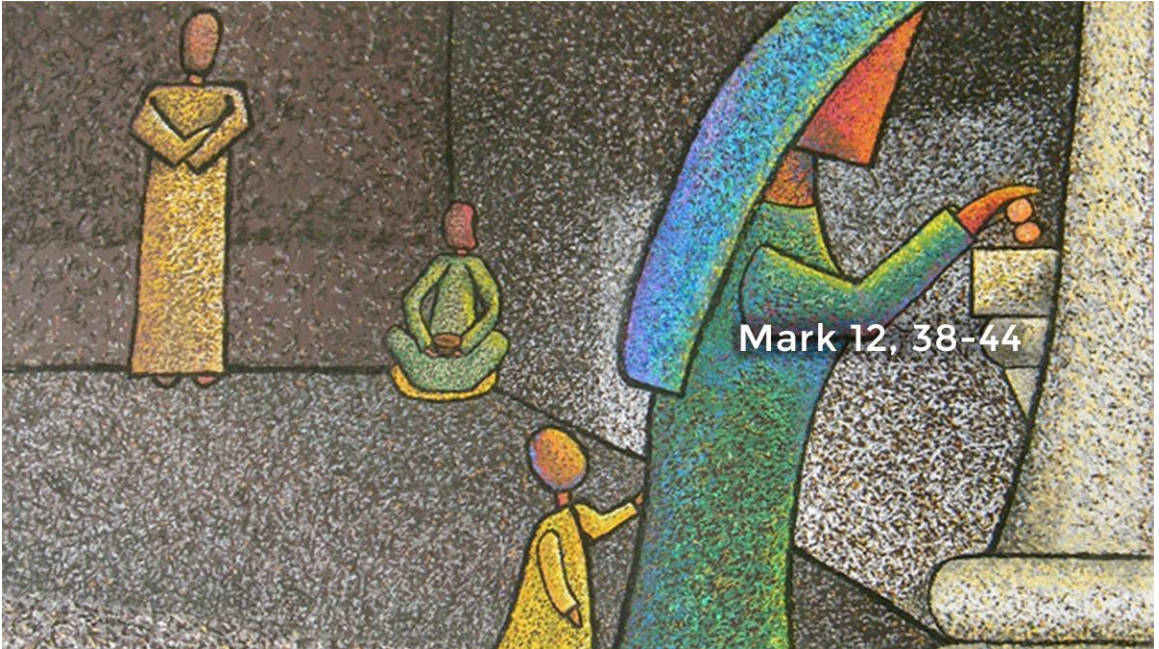


**The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 10th, 2024**



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

GATHERING SONGS: ELW 583 Take My Life, That I May Be TOMA MI VOLUNTAD
ELW 707 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us HYFRYDOL

The assembly stands to sing the second song.

GREETING

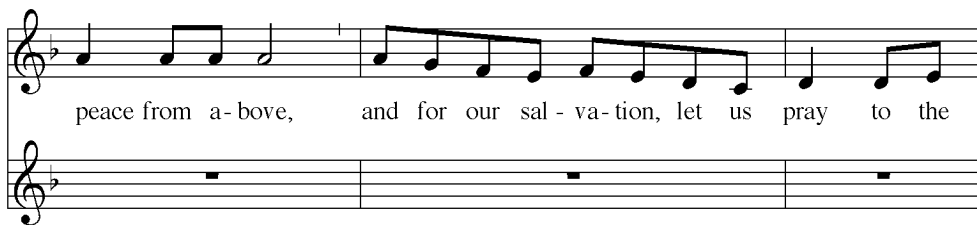
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

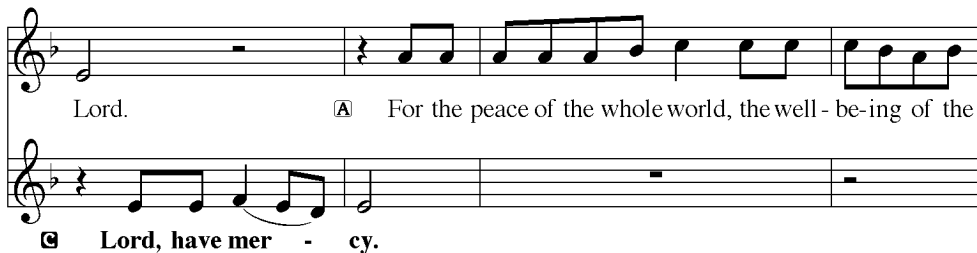
KYRIE



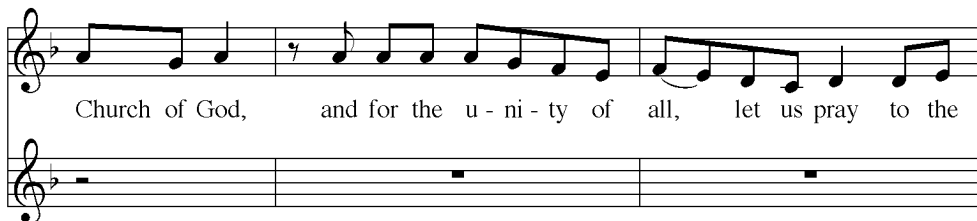
A In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the
B Lord, have mer - cy.



peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the



Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - being of the
B Lord, have mer - cy.



Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. [A] For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their

[C] Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

[C] Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] Help, save, com - fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

[C] A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:8-16

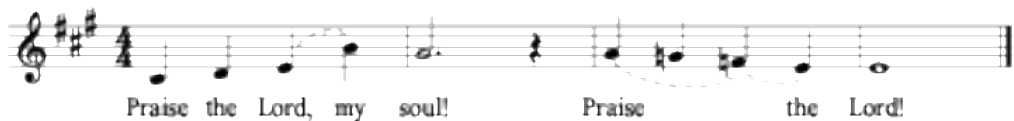
Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146

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



The verses of the psalm are chanted by the choir. The refrain is repeated as indicated.

¹ Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴ When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

and in that day their thoughts perish. **Refrain**

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

- ⁶ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
 who keeps promises forever;
- ⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
 The LORD sets the captive free.
- ⁸ The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
 the LORD loves the righteous. **Refrain**
- ⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;
 the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- ¹⁰ The LORD shall reign forever,
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! **Refrain**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24-28

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al- le- lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 12:38-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark in the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 725

When the Poor Ones

EL CAMINO

The assembly stands to sing.

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 Christ 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:

“As Saints of Old”

arr. Mark Sedio

PRESENTATION SONG: ELW 695

As Saints of Old

FOREST GREEN

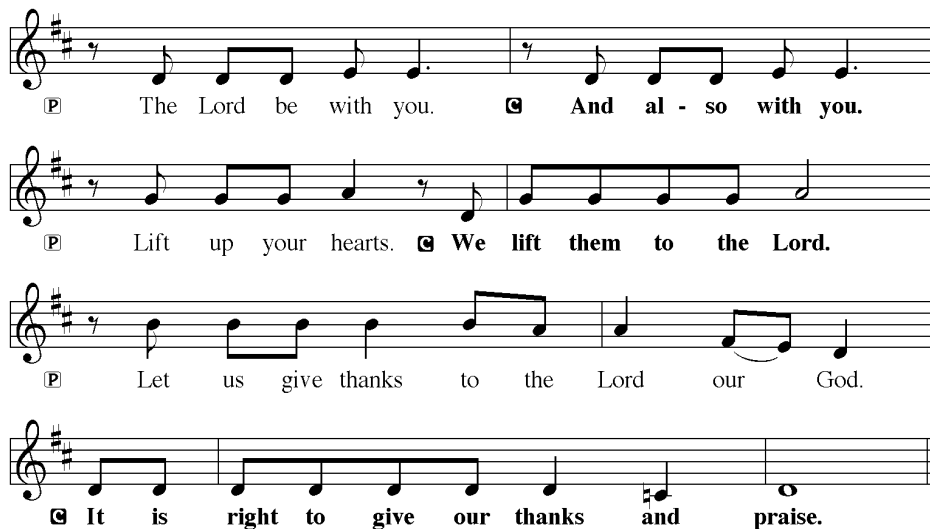
The assembly stands to sing as the gifts are brought forward.

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.

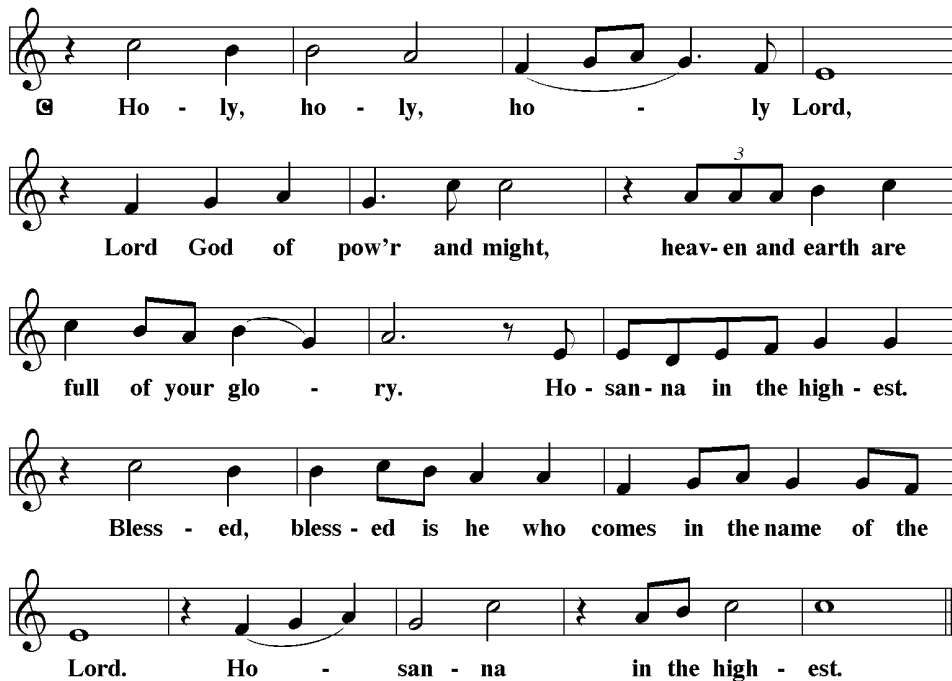
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

SANCTUS



C 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 MUSIC

ANTHEM:

“Blessed, How Blessed”

Susan & David Cherwien

1. Blessed, how blessed, those who thirst for goodness,
open and hoping for God’s righteous rain:
God sends forth rivers to water the desert;
God’s love lasts ever; how blessed are they.
2. Blessed, how blessed, those who sigh in sorrow,
furrowed and harrowed by sadness and pain:
God walks beside them and enters their absence;
God’s voice gives solace; how blessed are they.
3. Blessed, how blessed, those who live in mercy,
giving, receiving from God’s warming grace:
God’s sunlight blesses all those who love kindness;
love never ceases; how blessed are they.
4. Blessed, how blessed, those who work for concord;
nation and neighbor abandon the blade:
sword turns to plowshare, and fortress, to forest;
all in God’s Oneness; how blessed are they.
5. Here God is reigning, here God’s love sustaining,
where all the blessed see God’s dawning day:
wounded and grounded, by mercy surrounded,
foretaste and harvest; how blessed are they.

ELW 471

Let Us Break Bread Together

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

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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The Sanctuary candle is given today in memory of Dr. John Feist from Zion friends.

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.

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Marion Ertel, Jennifer 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.

Food Pantry: A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped out with our November 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.

Christmas Stockings for Military Personnel Servant Project: In partnership with Military Connections Corp of Pittsburgh, we will be filling Christmas stockings for service personnel after worship TODAY in the Gathering Space. We have requested 30 stockings (which are on the smaller size) from the organization

Stewardship Campaign 2024: If you have not turned in your pledge card, you can still do so. Extras are in the pew or tract rack. Thank you in advance for your discerning and considering how God is calling you to serve in 2025.

Mark Your Calendars – Friday November 29th: We will be holding our annual Thanksgiving meal this year on Friday November 29th from 12pm – 4pm in a takeout format. We are in need of the following: bakers of desserts, folks to serve and to cleanup. Signup sheets are located in the Narthex – thank you in advance for your help!

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 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.

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

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, Marion Ertel, Maggie Watson (daughter of Kathy Kraf), Michael Gerdich (friend of Rhonda Pope), Arela Mascaro (friend of Sallie Lazar), 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), 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, November 10: 9:30am – In person, livestream, Facebook
10:30am – Sunday School/Confirmation
10:45 – Military Package building
4:30-5:15 – EAYC

Monday-Friday: 6:30am-8:30am – Thomas Learning Academy
2:30pm-6:00pm Before/After School Program
2:30pm-6:00pm – AIU Afterschool Program

Wednesday, November 13: 1:00 – Bible Study – G. Lounge
7:00 – Council – G. Lounge

Thursday, November 14: 7:30 – Choir – Chapel

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 NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2024

Sunday, November 10, 2024	Ray Rall	Mark Mauro
Sunday, November 17, 2024	Tony Lamorte	Mike Patchen
Sunday, November 24, 2024	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
Sunday, December 01, 2024	Ray Rall	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	Ray Rall	Tony Lamorte

BREAD SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2024

November 3: Lori Smith
November 10: Jeannette Christensen
November 17: Sallie Lazar
November 24: Chrissa Clark