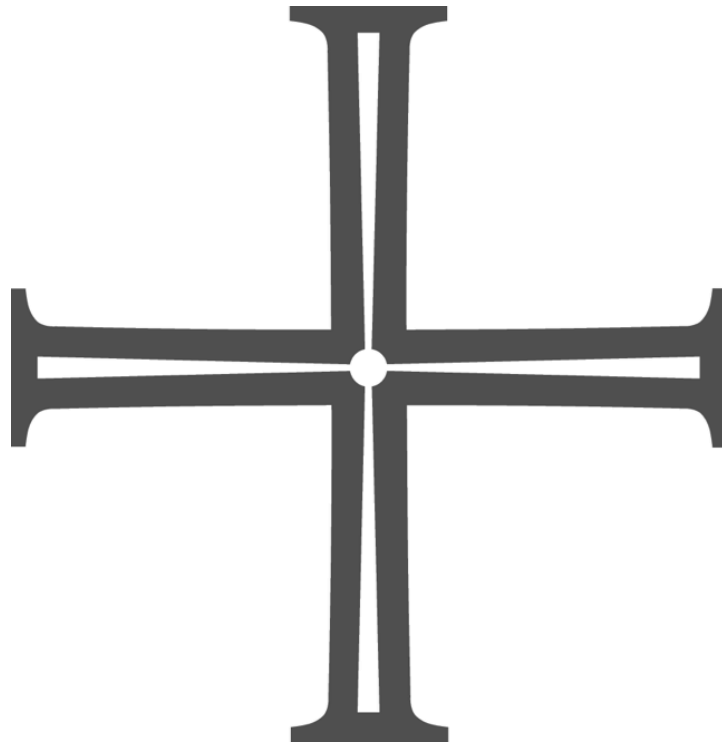


Third Sunday in Lent



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Penn Hills, Pennsylvania

March 23, 2025 ♦ 9:30 am

Welcome to Worship at Zion!

Following the Liturgy:

- You are invited to speak the responses in **bold type**.
 - **ELW #:** a hymn from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (red hymnal).
 - **ACS #:** a hymn from *All Creation Sings* (purple hymnal supplement).
- Hymn numbers are in the upper outside corners of the pages.

Holy 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 altar rail. As you come forward, take a glass from the tray in front of the baptismal font: empty glasses for wine or a filled glass with grape juice. You may kneel or stand at the rail. The pastor will give you a wafer (the bread), and then to the assisting minister will pour the wine into your glass. If you would like gluten-free bread or wish to only receive a blessing, please tell the pastor when you come forward. For those in need of mobility assistance, please let the ushers know, and communion will be brought to you in your pew.

Restrooms are located at the rear corner of the sanctuary.

The Prayground on the rear balcony side of the church is a space specially designed for children and families in worship. Toys, books, and coloring materials are available there for your use.

Hearing Assistive Technology is available for those who need it. Please see an usher or tech minister at the desk at the back of the sanctuary.

Introduction to the Day: **Third Sunday in Lent, Year C**

“Why do you spend your money, your time, your life, on things that do not feed you?” Isaiah asks. “What will it take for you to bear fruit of God’s grace and love in the world?” Jesus’ parable asks. Yet today we hear the astonishing news of God’s graceful gardening – willing to till and nourish us until we do bear fruit – and the prophet’s promise of water, wine, milk, life, without price, freely poured out by God. Let us turn to this God of grace and find life now and forever!

Gathering

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister prays, preparing the assembly for confession.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.
We do not show others
the tender compassion you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others
with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.
We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

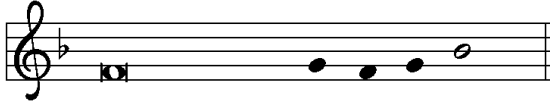
In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

Kyrie

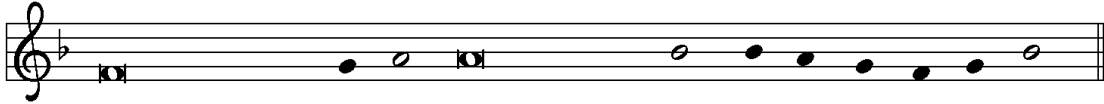
The assembly stands to sing.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



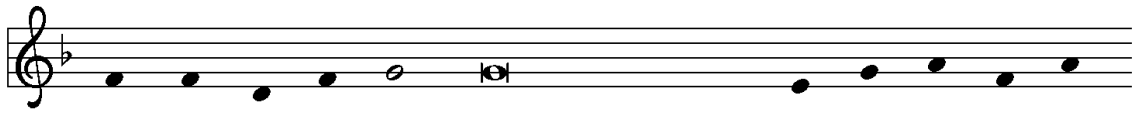
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



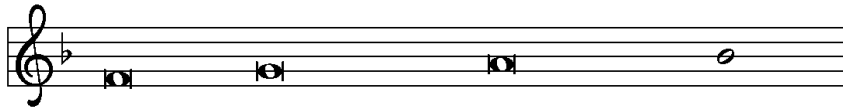
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life,
death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and
bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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: Isaiah 55:1-9

Hear, everyone who thirsts;

come to the waters;

and you who have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread

and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

Now you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake their way

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

The cantor sings an antiphon. The verses are chanted responsively.



- ¹ O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there | is no water.
- ² Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,
that I might behold your power | and your glory.
- ³ **For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;
my lips shall | give you praise.**
- ⁴ **So will I bless you as long | as I live
and lift up my hands | in your name.**
- ⁵ My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,
- ⁶ when I remember you up- | on my bed,
and meditate on you in | the night watches.
- ⁷ **For you have | been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.**
- ⁸ **My whole being | clings to you;
your right hand | holds me fast.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.

And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel. The acclamation is sung by the cantor.

Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (*Matt. 4:17*)

Gospel: Luke 13:1–9

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: As the Deer Runs to the River

ELW 331

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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

Prayers of Intercession

The assembly kneels or sits.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. A - men." The piece is divided into three sections: "Cantor" (first measure), "All" (second and third measures), and "Final time" (fourth measure, which ends with a double bar line). The lyrics "A - men." are spread across the final measure.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

Announcements

Meal

Offering

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

Piano Offertory: Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Thomas Keesecker

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

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Offering Prayer

Response: Amen.

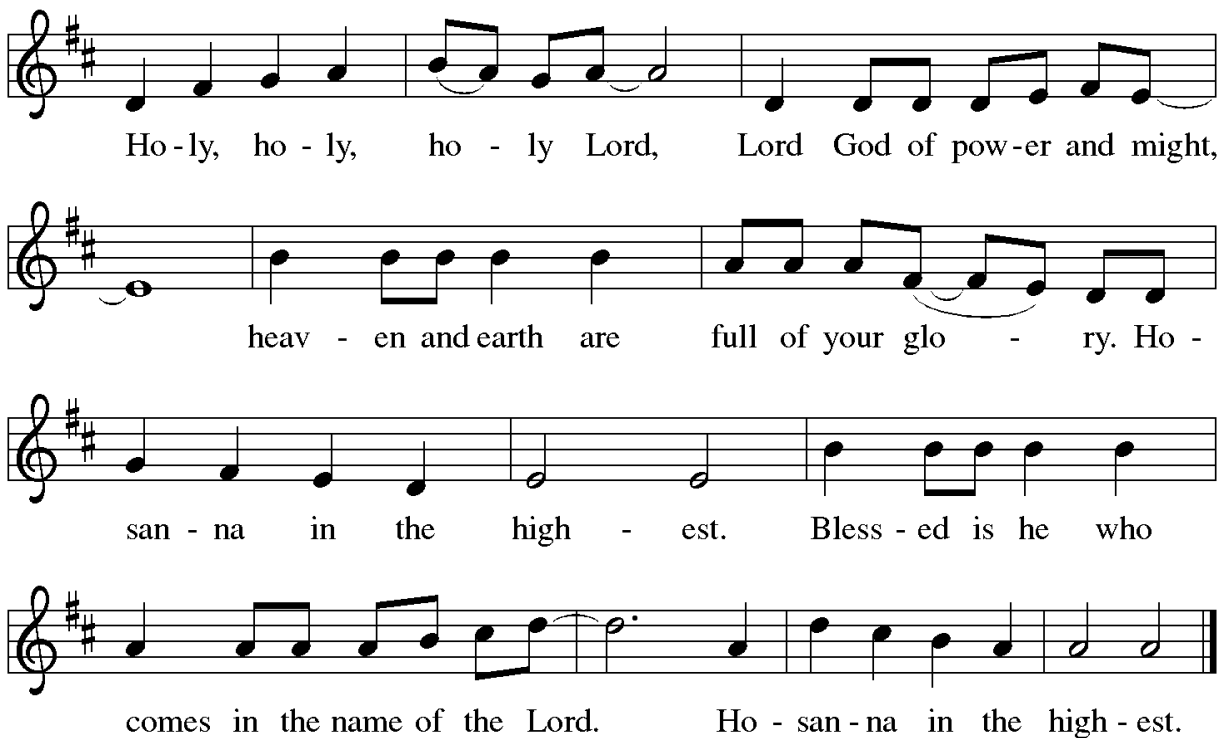
Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also 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.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season. The assembly responds:

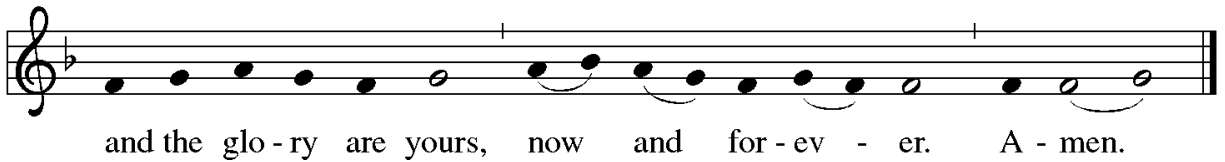
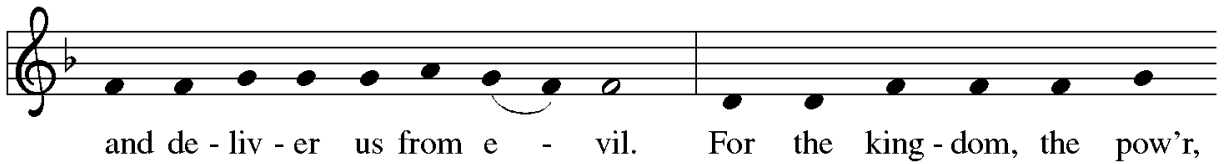
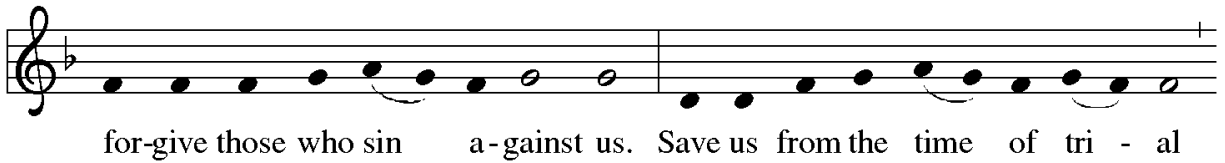
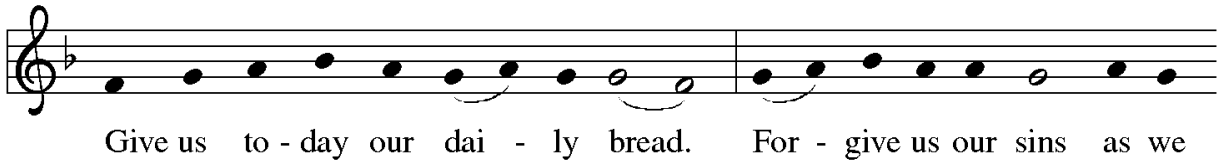
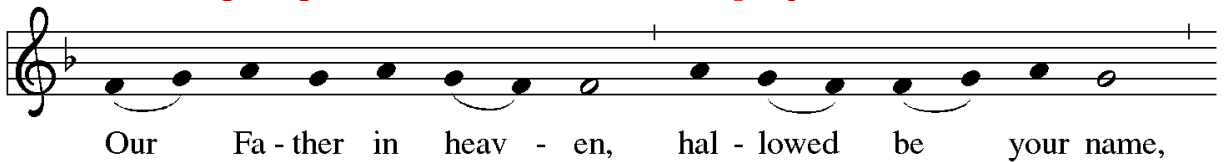


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presiding minister continues with the eucharistic prayer.

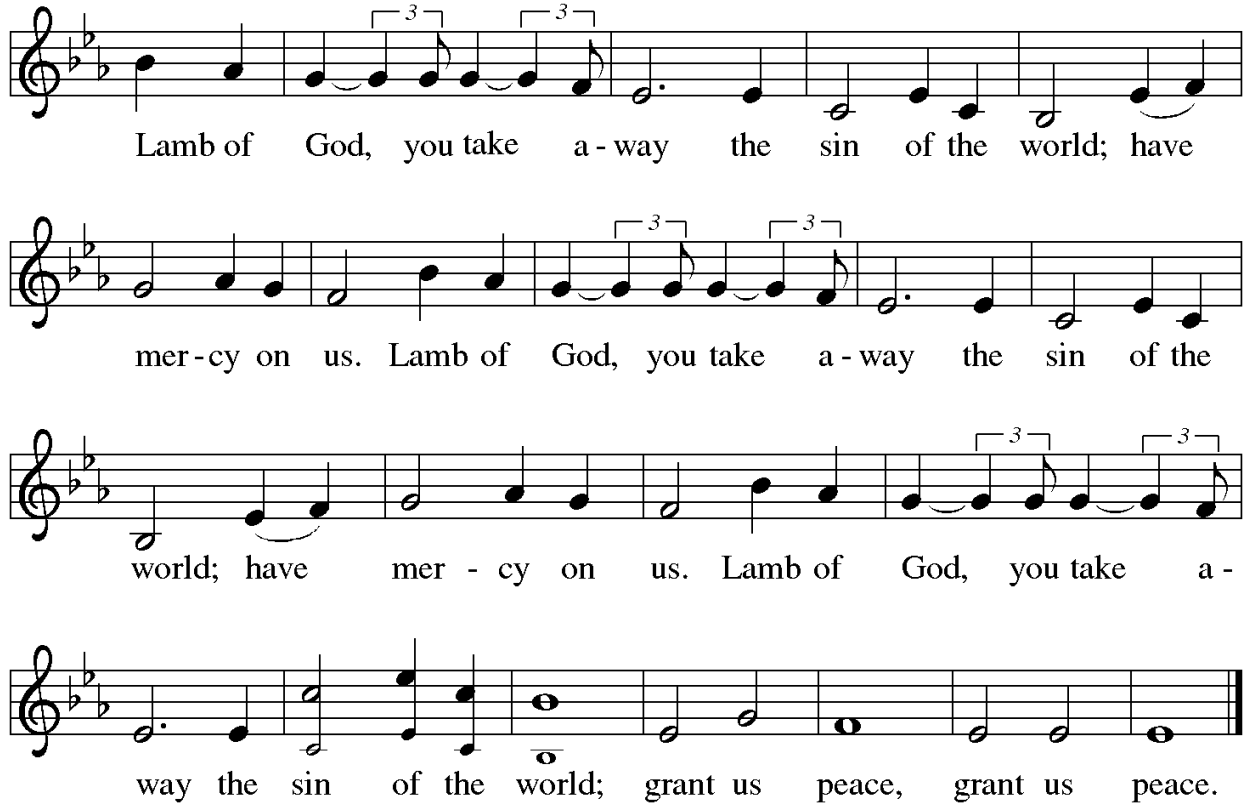
The assembly responds: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving concludes with the Lord's prayer:



Communion

The assembly is seated. (See communion instructions on page 2).



Musical score for Communion, featuring four staves of music in G minor (three flats). The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace." The score includes triplets and a final double bar line.

Eat This Bread

ELW 472

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW 777

Once all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:

may our fasting be hunger for justice;

our alms, a making of peace;

and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing

Response: Amen.

Sending Song: As the Winter Days Grow Longer

ACS 924

Dismissal

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

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Worship Leaders

	Today	Next Week (Mar. 30)
Presiding Minister & Preacher	Rev. Richard Neumann	Rev. William Hauser
Assisting Minister	Gail Snyder	Gail Snyder
Organist & Choir Director	Andrew Sabol	Andrew Sabol
Musicians		Zion Church Choir
Ushers	Tony Lamorte Charlotte Fraser	Tony Lamorte
Altar Guild	Bill Hauser Pat Hauser	Brenda Wolfe Reid Wolfe
Tech Minister	Tom Felmley	Tom Felmley
Offering Count	Tony Lamorte Chrissa Clark	Sue Clydesdale

Lenten Midweek Services
Reflection and Healing with Psalm 103
Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the Chapel

Join us for a quiet time of prayer,
scripture, and song.

Today at Zion

The Sanctuary candle is given today in memory of Merle Neumann, Pastor's brother, by Pastor & Linda Neumann.

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Elouise Brooky, Nancy Fabel, Wanda Kojza, Jean Pletcher, and Sandra Short. 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.

Announcements

We give thanks for the life of Fred (Charles) Long who passed away on February 17th. As per his wishes, there was no viewing or service. The family is planning something in his birthday month of May. Please keep Fred (Charles) and his family and friends in your prayers.

Bible Study: Diane Santoriello is leading our new Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons! The topic is "Psalms." We meet at 1:00 pm in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom. Everyone welcome!

Pastor Neumann Office Coverage: Pastor Neumann's office days are Monday: 10-2; Wednesday: 11-3; and Thursday: 1-5. If you need to meet with him after those hours, the best way to reach him is on his cell phone. Here are other ways to get in touch with him:
Cell: 412-401-5720 Home: 412-822-7652 Email: manyneumanns@gmail.com

Special Offering for Easter: If you would like to purchase an Easter lily or Tulip in honor or memory of someone, or if you would like to donate to our Guest Musician Fund, please see the bulletin insert. You can drop it in the offering plate or mail it along with your check made out to Zion Lutheran Church. **The deadline is April 13th.** Thank you.

Easter Egg Hunt Donations: On Sunday, April 20th, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt here at Zion after worship. If you would like to donate any individually wrapped candy, small trinkets, or make a monetary donation, there will be a basket in the Gathering Space. If you would like to make a cash donation, please see Debbie Rall or Tammy Belohlavek. **The deadline for donations will be Palm Sunday, April 13th.** Thank you in advance!

Lutherlyn Summer Camp: Registration has begun! If you are interested in attending summer camp at Lutherlyn during any of the weeks listed on the flyer posted on the kiosk beginning June 15th, please reach out to Debbie Rall. Zion will pay a portion of the cost. Any questions, please see Debbie Rall.

Food Pantry News: Zion's Food Pantry Leadership received news last week of an Ethel Verney grant award of \$12,000 for the coming year. The news came from the chair of the synod's Mission Endowment Fund Board. This grant, along with donations from the Zion congregation and others, will enable us to continue to purchase food from the Pittsburgh Food Bank and distribute those food items to our neighbors in need.

Thanks be to God for Ethel Verney's life, witness and stewardship! Her generous bequest to the SWPA synod has enabled grants in her name to congregations and ministries throughout the synod, with the provision that the funds provide relief and support for people living in poverty in the area the synod serves.

Food Pantry: Thank you to all who helped with Food Pantry in March. We served 142 households this month!

Our collection of health and beauty items is looking good, but we could use a little more of some certain items. When shopping, please consider buying deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and/or soap. As always, you can put the items in the bin by the coat rack. Those who come to Zion's Food Pantry really do appreciate these items. Thank you so much.

Finances

Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of February 28, 2025

Offering Income:	\$ 28,919.52
Other Income:*	\$ 11,873.00
Total Income:	\$ 40,792.52
Total Expense:	\$58,823.69
Net:	\$ 18,031.17

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

Thrivent Choice: If you are a Thrivent client, you can direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to a charity of your choice at no cost to you. In 2024, Zion received \$593 from Thrivent.

Thank you!

If you have any remaining 2024 Choice Dollars, they must be directed by March 31. Consider Zion for your 2025 Choice Dollars.

Prayer Requests

- Annette Felmley has 19 dental students that want to go on the Christian mission trip to Honduras on May 1st. Please pray for 1 or 2 other Christian dentists to come along to help mentor students.
- Please pray for Tom Felmley and his team to discern if they can go to India in April to help with a refugee crisis.
- Pray for healing for the lead doctors' upcoming surgeries

WE PRAY FOR.....

We are concerned with maintaining a current Prayer List. If you see a name on this list that can be taken off or wish to add a name, please contact Julie in the church office. If you or someone you know (who is not on the prayer list) is in need of a pastoral visit, please call the church office and let them know. Thank you.

Rehab Facility:

Evelyn Lamm (Concordia, Monroeville, Room 117)

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

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

Memory Care Facility:

Don Cook (Redstone Highlands in Murrysville, Room 46)

Prayers Requested for:

Mary Lou D'Ambrosio

Amy Santoriello

Elouise Brooky

Sandra Short

John Carter

Jenny Fabrizi

Marion Ertel

Wayne Stumpf

Ken Wagner

Barb Kelly (cousin of Bob Page)

Sue Z. (friend of Annette Felmley)

Greg Felmley (brother of Tom)

Alanna McGlaughlin, Ella & Meredith
(niece of Gail Snyder)

John Mainarich (son-in-law of Pat Pope)

Shelly Clarke (friend of Kara Albrecht)

Carla Moio (cousin of Linda Mitnik)

Audri Erfort

(cousin of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio)

Maggie Watson (daughter of Kathy Kraf)

Michael Gerdich (friend of Rhonda Pope)

Josh Cummings

(nephew of Tony Lamorte)

Patti Wunderley

(sister of Linda Neumann)

Sandy Kovacs

(sister of Linda Neumann)

David Uptagraffe (friend of Audri Erfort)

John Hayes (friend of Tom & Annette)

Richard Sabol (father of Andrew Sabol)

Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch)

Mike Walsh (friend of Kathy Gaberson)

Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks)

Sandy Hutchins

(friend of Diane Santoriello)

Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short)

Steve Bell (brother of Rhonda Pope)

Chris Vuocolo

(nephew of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio)

Beth Rall

Denise Capobianco

(friend of Sandra Short)

For the family and friends of Debbie

Uccelli. (sister of Janet Mauro)

For the family and friends of Alice Bartley

For the family and friends of Fred

(Charles) Long

This Week at Zion

Sunday, March 23: <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	9:30 am 10:45 am 4:30–5:30 pm	Worship Sunday School/Confirmation EAYC
Monday-Friday:	6:30–8:30 am 2:30–6:00 pm	Thomas Learning Academy Before/After School Program
Wednesday, March 26:	1:00 pm	Bible Study (<i>G. Lounge</i>)
Thursday, March 27:	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Lenten Midweek Service (<i>Chapel</i>) Choir (<i>Chapel</i>)
Friday, March 28:	Between 9-11am	Food Truck delivery

Zion Lutheran Church, Penn Hills

Rev. Richard Neumann, *Transitional Interim Pastor*
Mr. Andrew Sabol, *Director of Music Ministries*
Mrs. Julie Nieser, *Administrative Secretary*
Rev. William L. Hauser, *Pastor Emeritus*
Dr. Stanley E. Yoder, *Cantor Emeritus*

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