



Alter copy

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Thankoffering Sunday

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Zion Lutheran Church

230 Cemetery Road

P. O. Box 4

West Jefferson, Ohio 43162

614 879-8107

Jon Meister, Presider

www.zionlutheranwj.org

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a World filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

C **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One,
C **we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ✝ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C **Amen.**

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

One time

"Lord I Lift Your Name On High"

[Chorus:]

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from Heaven to Earth
To show the way
From the Earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high.

[Chorus:]



LITANY FOR GATHERING

- L Bless the Lord, O my soul.
 C **O Lord my God, you are very great.**
- L Today brings all we need to praise our loving God.
 C **Creator, you have made us in your image.**
- L Today brings all we need to live in peace and purpose.
 C **Redeemer, you have called us to new life.**
- L Today brings all we need to live abundantly.
 C **Renewer, you have brought us together to sing your praise.**
- L Today brings women of many generations who grow together in faith and affirm and support one another.
 C **Companion, you guide us to your beloved community.**
- L Today brings a world in need of healing and wholeness.
 C **Healer, you inspire us to ministry and action.**
- L For the church, the society and the world, Lord our God, we humbly enter into worship.
 C **Prepare our hearts. Amen.**

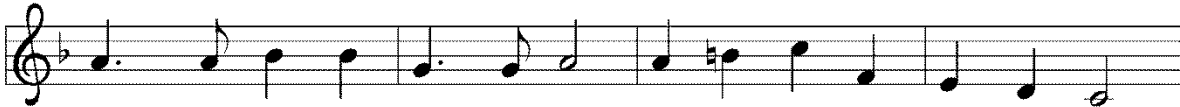
ENTRANCE HYMN: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (ELW 693)

Sing only verses 1, 3, and 4.

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



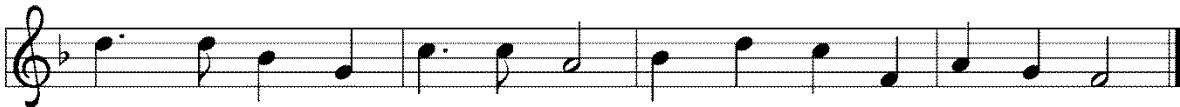
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the Earth and all the peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspires us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of thee day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18*Please be seated.***L** A reading from Zephaniah.

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in previous lessons) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and rath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the Earth.

L The word of the Lord.**C** **Thanks be to God.****PSALM: Psalm 90: 1-12***Read responsively*

¹LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the Earth and the World,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

³You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

**⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.**

⁵You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.

**¹⁰The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is
only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

¹¹Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

¹²So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

SECOND READING: 1st Thessalonians 5: 1-11

L A reading from 1st Thessalonians.

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we have faithfully in the here and now as we anticipated the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

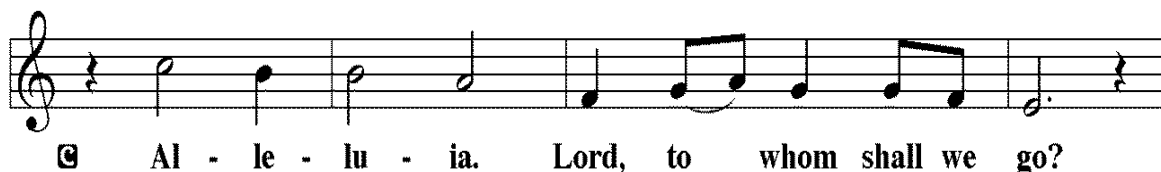
¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand as you are able.



GOSPEL: Matthew 25: 14-30

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

¹⁴For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Please be seated

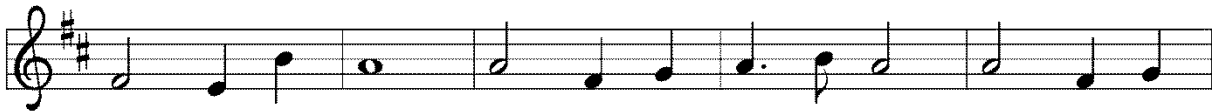
HYMN OF THE DAY: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* (ELW 759)

Please stand as you are able.

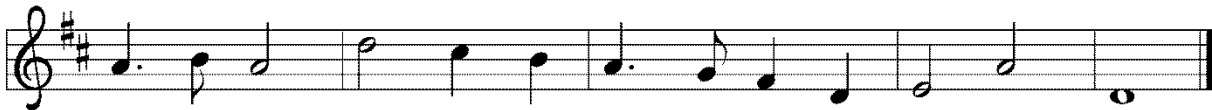
My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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APOSTLES' CREED

- A** Join me in confessing our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.
C **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.

THANKOFFERING LITANY

- L** With the whole people of Christ Jesus, let us call upon God for the sake of the Church, the World and all in need of prayer. God who made all things good, you create us to be caretakers and stewards in your creation. You equip us to provide for the people, places and ministries that you have entrusted to our care. Draw us together in the light of faith and hope so that we may recognize our calling to this work. We pray in abundance,
- C** **Creator, draw us in.**
- L** God who blesses our labor, you light our paths with the histories of women who acted boldly on their faith to change the world—women like The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA; Jean Wise, a freelance writer, speaker, and spiritual director; and other women in our community and around the World. Bring their influence to our attention and their stories to our lips and ears. May we see in them our own potential to live boldly. We pray in abundance,
- C** **Creator, draw us in.**
- L** God who provides, you endow us with all we need to nurture, harvest and share the fruits of creation. In this abundance, direct our eyes and feet to our neighbors who are on the margins, both near and far. Give us curiosity and courage to live into the fullness of our communities. We pray in abundance,
- C** **Creator, draw us in.**
- L** God who was and is and will be, through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Women of the ELCA, you have called us more deeply into relationship with you and the world. Bless every church, everywhere, that through our work, all may know your grace and accept your call to love one another. We pray in abundance,
- C** **Creator, draw us in.**
- L** God who reaches every people, turn our hearts to see those with us now, gathered at this Thankoffering Service to give thanks and praise to you. Urge us on to the fullness of life, in the name of Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A** Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the Church, the World, and all who are in need.
- A brief silence.*
- A** Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the Church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.
- C** **Your mercy is great.**
- A** You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the Earth's resources. Hear us, O God.
- C** **Your mercy is great.**
- A** You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.
- C** **Your mercy is great.**

A You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you especially Michael, Niki, and Aurora and those whom we hold in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

SHALOM

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Let us share the peace among one another.

PRAYER OF THANKS

P Let us pray. God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather our gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C **Amen.**



DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also 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

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
(Preface is in the pocket of the Pastor's binder.)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "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." The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and a triplet of eighth notes on the word "heav-en".

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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P With all the saints of the World, we praise you, O God, for you created all the Earth. With all the baptized, the old and the young, the weak and the strong, the famous and the forgotten, we bless you for you provide us with water and food. With all the faithful in cities and on farms, in mansions and huts, past and present, we worship you, O God, for you shelter the generations. With all your holy people, those who ministered in the Church, those who served the poor, and all who walked the way of the cross, we glorify you, O God, for in Jesus you journeyed with us on Earth.

With Paul and the evangelists, we remember the meal of your Son. 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.

With the Virgin Mary and all who sang of your greatness, we pray for the power of the Spirit. Visit this gathering, this bread, and this cup, with the presence of the body and the blood of Christ. Form us into a communion of service, and infuse your Earth with the wholeness we seek. With all the Saints, with the Church universal, and especially with our beloved Saints, lead us to a future we cannot yet see, and at the end draw all humanity to yourself. Now with all of the family you saved by your love we shout your blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might, be to our God forever and ever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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

P There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

COMMUNION will be done individually at your seats.

Please be seated.

P The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

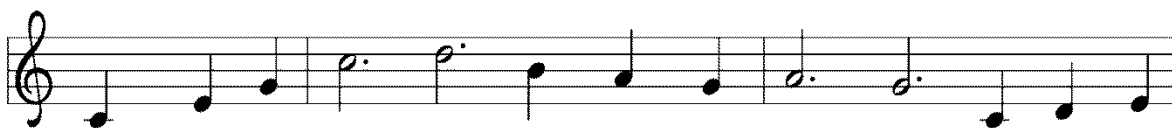
P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C Amen.

**BLESSING**

P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

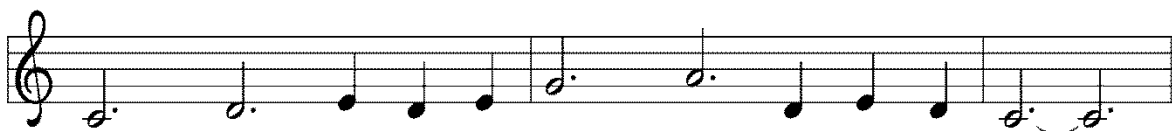
C Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Praise and Thanksgiving* (ELW 689)*Sing only verses 1, 3, and 4.***Praise and Thanksgiving**

1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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DISMISSAL

A Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God. We go out - *Reaching in for the Holy Spirit, Reaching up for God's Grace, Reaching out with Christ's love.* Amen! (The words in italics are Zion's mission statement.)****POSTLUDE**

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Serving during worship this morning:

Presider: Jon Meister
Musician(s): Jerry Gossett
Food fund donations:

Serving during worship next week:

Presider: Jon Meister
Musician(s): Jerry Gossett
Food fund donations:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome our guests and visitors this morning. Please take a moment to speak with Jon, Jerry, or Louise before you leave. All Baptized persons, at Christ's invitation, are welcome to commune.

CONTACT THE PASTOR

Communications requesting pastoral care should be made directly to Pastor Larry Baker, (614) 257-8560.

COMING EVENTS AT ZION

SUNDAY DISCUSSIONS BEFORE CHURCH We

have Sunday morning Bible discussions every Sunday before Church. We meet at 9:45 each week. We are going to be reading a book by C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* and discussing it. I am looking forward to the new format. Please come and bring your Bible and your favorite morning beverage with you.

NOVEMBER 19th Thankoffering Service and we will be having our annual Congregational meeting.

NOVEMBER 23RD is Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 26th Christ the King Sunday.

DECIEMBER 3rd Happy Church New Year and the beginning of Advent.



VILLAGE EVENTS

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9:00-10:00 AM Here at the Community Center they are instructor –led Workouts. Want some exercise this is where to find it.

NOVEMBER 25TH Shop on Small Business Saturday at the Community Center from 9 AM until Noon. They have over 15 local businesses who will have displays for the shoppers. Support our local businesses.

FINDING US ON THE INTERNET Some of you may know that the church has a wonderful website that was designed by Susie Taylor. She does a wonderful job updating it every week. Susie also has her own page on Facebook that I have referred to on several occasions. There are many items on her site that are great for thoughts of the day. It is *Stix-N-Stonez*. Check it out. However a new blogger on the scene is Alex Meister. Find him at “christianameister.wixsite.com/blog”. Alex has posted many of his essays on different topics relating to Christianity. Some we have discussed in our Sunday Bible Studies. I invite you to check out all of these sites. Then come to Bible Study and discuss your feelings.

PRAYERS



Aurora is finished with her chemo treatments. We are all hoping and praying that her treatments were successful. Please continue to keep her and her parents and Grandma in your prayers. (Possibly the best way to reach Aurora and her family is through Margret, 8461 Silverbell Ave., Galloway, 43119.)

We are also praying for Nicole Biler Robinette, (Tim's daughter). She is on the transplant list for a new heart. We pray that this will happen soon. She is currently at home but will be called back to the hospital soon until an organ becomes available. Tim says that she is in good spirits. Keep her; her husband, Stephen; and her parents and family in your prayers.

Please keep these people in your prayers as well: Michael Koch; Wesley and JoAnn Porter; Mike and Donna Toy, and all of those who are suffering from diseases or other health issues and their families. Please remember all of our shut-ins and sick, especially Arlene Castor.

The address for Michael and the Koch family is 224 West Romany Loop, Beverly Hills, FL 34465. Michael has moved to *The Grove*, a facility that is much closer to his home. You can get updates from Linda at www.caringbridge.org/visit/michaelkoch2?fbclid Keep all of the Koch's in your prayers.

If you hear or know of anyone who should be on our Prayer List, please let me know, my number is 614-398-6302



Lutheran
Disaster Response

Thank you for your outpouring of prayers and generosity for our siblings impacted by the conflict in the Holy Land. The humanitarian crisis continues to worsen — almost 70% of Gazan residents are displaced, and resources such as food, water and medical supplies are in short supply. The death toll has far surpassed those of previous conflicts in the region in recent decades.

[Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response have equipped us to respond to this and other disasters whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be restricted to and used in full \(100%\) for those affected by this crisis and others in the region.](#)

I'd like to tell you some of the ways Lutheran Disaster Response already accompanies our partners in the Holy Land. Lutheran Disaster Response supports:

- **Augusta Victoria Hospital.** The hospital procures medical supplies and provides accommodations for patients and staff unable to return to their homes in Gaza.
- **The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.** The church provides emergency education support for families who have lost income due to the war and are unable to pay school fees.
- **ACT Alliance.** Through implementing partners Lutheran World Federation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, ACT Alliance responds to immediate needs for psychosocial support, shelter, household items, public health centers and direct cash assistance, focusing on the Palestinian communities in Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

These are just the first steps of what will be a long-term response. Our accompaniment of and solidarity with our partners endures, and we will work together to address other emerging needs. We continue to pray for peace with justice in the region.

I encourage you to visit the ELCA's "[Conflict in the Holy Land](#)" resource page, where you'll find worship resources, advocacy opportunities, statements from the ELCA and our partners, and more.

The trick is to be able to ask the right questions.

