

# ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Gospel Acclamation*

*Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord.*

*All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4, 6)*



# SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Congregational participation in bold font.

## CHORAL PRELUDE

'Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God'

LAFFERTY

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We rise in body and spirit as we are able.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Those present may make the sign of the  $\text{†}$  cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\text{†}$  one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free. **Amen.**

We come before the living God in confession. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation, **we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here,  $\text{†}$  Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

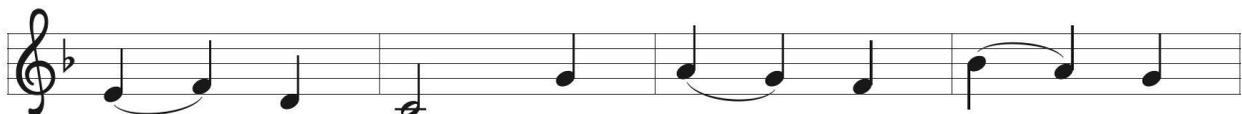
## GATHERING SONG

'Hark, the Glad Sound!'

ELW 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

# LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

SONG

'O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL' (STANZA 1)

ELW 257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.  
O Emmanuel, **Prepare us for your coming.**

We gather together to get ready for what? Only heaven knows.  
O Emmanuel, **Prepare us for your coming.**

We wait for the day when God will create a prevailing peace on the earth,  
and natural-born enemies turn into newborn friends.  
O Emmanuel, **Prepare us for your coming.**

We get ready for God to come close by laying our lives open to Jesus,  
asking him to sort through all our mixed motives.  
O Emmanuel, **Prepare us for your coming.**

Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope. You are the shoot brought forth from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people. Turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on you, root of Jesse, Jesus the Christ, the hope of all nations. O Emmanuel, **O people of hope, come, let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.**

SONG

**'O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL' (STANZA 6)**

**ELW 257**

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

### **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.**

We pray: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Be seated.*

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah, the 11th chapter.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans, the 15th chapter.

[Saint Paul writes] Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We rise in body and spirit as we are able.*

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

*Be seated.*

## REFLECTION SONG

## 'Jerusalem The Golden'

EWING

*We rise in body and spirit as we are able.*

## APOSTLES' CREED

We profess our faith saying: **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  $\text{‡}$  resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of promise, your reign has come near. Call your people to the way of repentance and inspire your church to bear fruit in the world through acts of faithful service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the calf, and all species whose lives are intertwined. Repair and preserve ecosystems, that all life on earth may be sustained. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach those with power and privilege to serve the vulnerable. Give to all leaders wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, and a heart of compassion for the world you so love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the poor, set tables of abundance in all places where hands are empty, where stomachs ache with hunger, and where hearts and minds suffer pain. Feed and heal all who are in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, renew in your people all joy and peace in believing, especially those facing anxiety, depression, or alienation, especially all on our Prayer List, all named as worship began, and all we name now in the silence of our hearts or on the whispers of our lips (*we pause for the offering of names...*). Guide this community of faith to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you promise to take away our sin and gather us in your care forever. We give thanks for those who now rest from their labors on earth, freed from pain and the power of death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## PEACE AND OFFERING

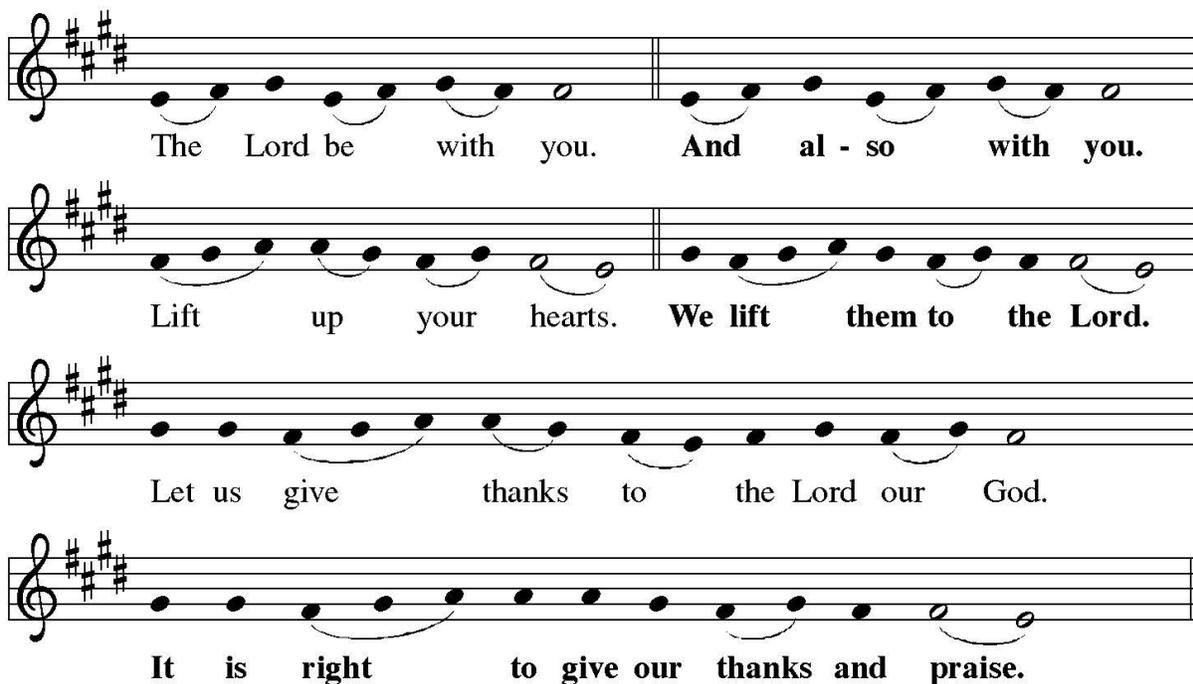
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying "Peace be with you."*

We pray: Giver of every good thing, **we set before you the gifts that you have given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. Amen.**

*Offering envelopes may be placed in the offering plate as you leave worship.  
You may also mail your offering to Zion, or give online at [zionhickory.org](http://zionhickory.org).*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

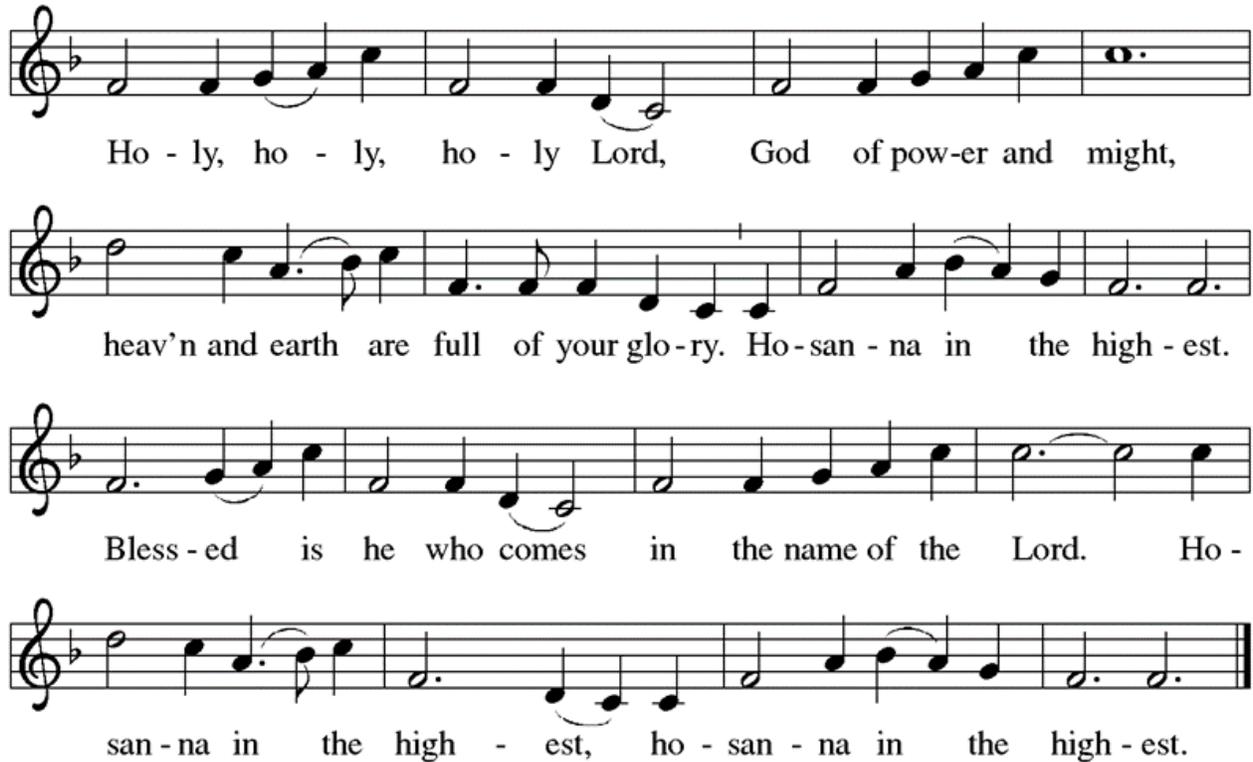
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...with whom forever we sing your praise.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Anointing God...

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's Passover  
from death to life as we boldly proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us saying: **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

Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*Be seated.*

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at Christ's table. For the sake of good order, musicians will commune first. **For those worshipping online:** commencing after worship and until 11:00 a.m. you are invited to come to Zion and receive the sacrament under the copper portico.*

## COMMUNION SONG

### 'On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry'

ELW 249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

*We rise in body and spirit as we are able.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

May the precious and true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

We pray: God of abundance, **we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## **RECOGNITION OF THE MINISTRY AND SERVICE OF AMY JARRETT**

United with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are joined in God's mission for the life of the world. We are called to that mission in our daily lives and in the ministries we share as the church of God.

Today it is our privilege to give thanks for Amy Jarrett as she completes many years of service in ministry to the children and youth within this congregation.

We pray. Almighty God, **your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. We give thanks for the ways these gifts have been shown forth among us through your servant Amy. We praise you for shared joys and accomplishments, and we commend all her faithful and loving work to you. Grant that we all may continue to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

O God of wisdom, **in your goodness you provide faithful teachers for your church. You provided Amy to this congregation, stirring up in her the desire to teach about the faith she has in you. As she has led by her example, help us all to study your word and engage your world, that together we may grow in knowledge and love, pursue what is good, and seek to do your will; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

O God of our salvation, **you sent your Son to gather the whole world into your embrace. Through her service to children and youth, Amy has been a witness to Christ in word and deed, proclaiming boldly the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection. Thank you for calling her to share her faith story with this flock; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

O God of mercy, **your Son washed the feet of his disciples and commanded us to love one another as he loves us. Thank you for Amy's energy, passion, and love poured into the**

doing of ministry in word and deed. Send us all forth with her example in mind as we strive to serve others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give Amy - and all of us - faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us. As a new year stands before us all, grant us the gifts of wonder and discernment to heed your call to new ministry adventures; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### BLESSING

May God, who gathers us in love,  
lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice.  
May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves,  
lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.  
May God, who fills us with good things,  
lead you in pathways of equity and abundance.  
The blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God,  
be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

### SENDING SONG

### 'Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding'

ELW 246



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we  
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age  
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don  
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,  
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,  
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,  
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy  
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"  
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
and with words of love draw near.  
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
We will! Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE**

**'Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates'**

LEMKE

**PARTICIPANTS**

*If anyone is interested in reading scriptures, please contact the Church Office.*

Presiding Minister.....Rev. David T. Drysdale II  
Organist / Choir Director.....John Eckard  
Assisting Minister.....Becky Ladnier  
Pre-K/Toddler Class.....Sherry Beard, Martha Wrike  
Ushers.....Wayne Vaughn, Elsie Eudy, Roger Bass  
Tellers.....Elaine Vaughn, Rick Foster

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

*Please contact the church office to add a name for 30 days to the prayer list.*

*Please pray for those who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially the following:*

**Zion Members...** Ellen Cooke, Donna Daily, Elsie Eudy, Barbara Haas, Bill Hefner, Ron Herman, Mary Jo Hilton, Terrell Huffman, Janice Jeffreys, Lynn Kahill, Leigh Ann Lackey, Barb Latimer, Mike McRee, Violet Michael, Joe Miller, Jean T. Pitts, Martha Propst, Benelia Reese, Barbara Scronce, Gene Ward, Lois Whitener, Janey Whitener, Stephen Whitener, Carter Wright, and Jerry Yoder.

**Homebound...** Peggy Austin, Revonda Harris, Charles Hunt, Nellie Lutz, Catherine Miller, JoAnn Stafford, and Dottie Yoder.

**Friends of Zion...** Patrick Barker, Beth & David Blue, Landon Elks, Paul & Sarah Fakler, Sandra & Stamey Hardin, David Hollars, Lovenia Icenhour, Beth LaBarbera, Bryar Long, Terry Mooneyham, Pastor Pam Northrup, Wayne & Brenda Reed, Kip Robinson, Landon Scronce and family, Grant Taylor, Nadine Williams, Joyce Wood and Jim Yoder.

**2022 General Fund Giving Report**

October Year-to-Date Giving	October Year-to-Date Budgeted Giving	November Giving Thru 11/27/22	November Budgeted Giving
\$256,993.57	\$288,009.17	\$21,336.90	\$28,800.92