

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia. (Ps. 85:7)*

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Congregational participation in bold font.

Please silence your cell phone.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

*Invited by the minister, we rise in body and spirit as we are able.
All are invited, but none are compelled, to make the sign of the cross,
✠ the sign that is marked at baptism, as the minister begins.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

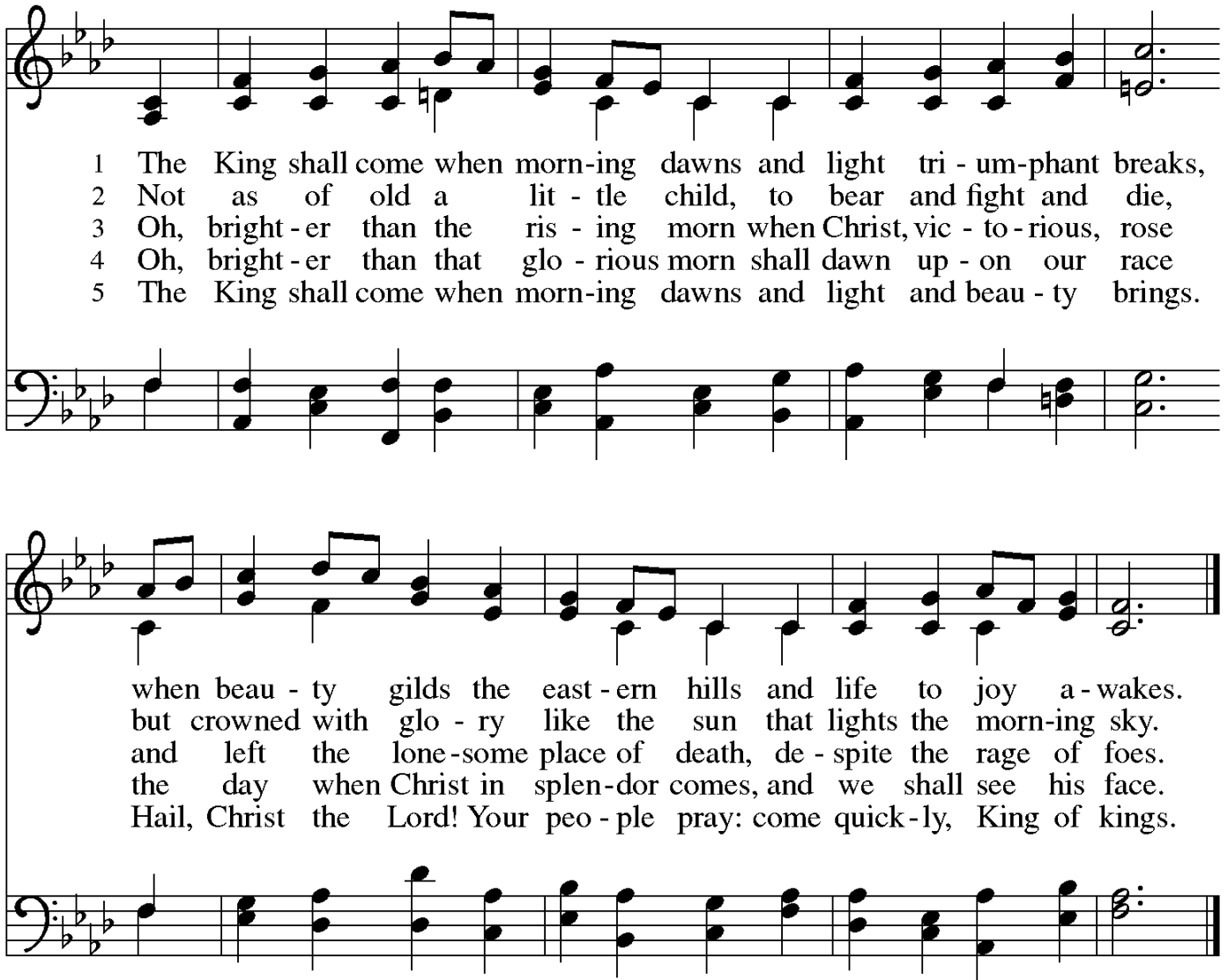
Amen.

We confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**
Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
✠ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lord, grant us your light, that, being rid of the darkness of our hearts, we may come to the true light which is Christ.

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

Light the first candle.

GREETING, PRAYER OF THE DAY, AND BLESSING OF LECTOR

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection, save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Spirit and the church cry out, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Everyone who awaits his appearance cries out, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

The whole creation cries, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

We pray. Come to us, Lord Jesus, **as Pam reads for us your holy word. Keep us attentive to the truth of the scriptures; turn us away from myths; and turn us in faith to you, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.**

Be seated.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah, the 2nd chapter.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans, the 13th chapter.

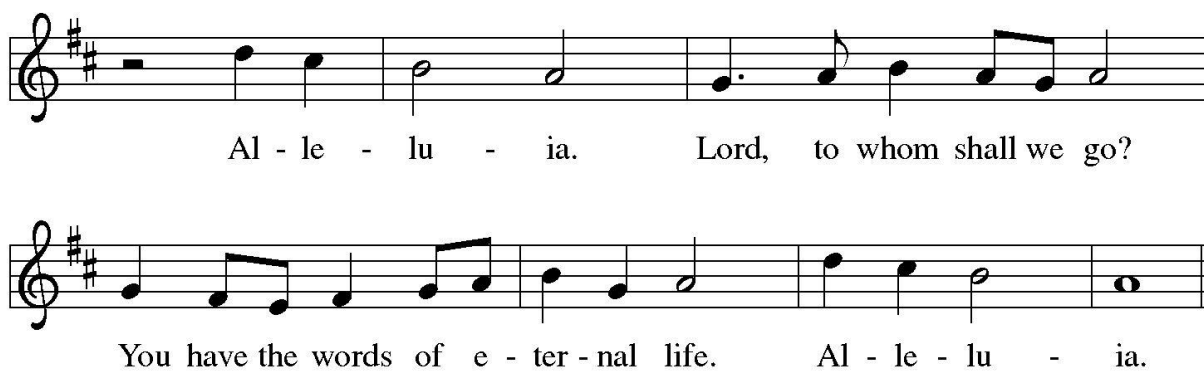
Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

We rise in body and spirit as we are able.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

Be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG

We rise in body and spirit as we are able.

NICENE CREED

We profess our faith saying: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the $\pm$ resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes with the following:
God of grace, receive our prayer.

PEACE, OFFERING, AND NOISY OFFERING

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

As you greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," we thank you for joining us in sharing God's love. You can share your gift either by scanning the QR code provided, giving online at zionhickory.org, or placing your offering in the offering plate as you leave worship.



Sung: **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above you heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

We pray: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. **Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

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.

This musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second line also contains two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third line contains two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth line contains two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with many notes beamed together in groups of four or six.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

This musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (D major). It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains two measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second line contains two measures: 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' The third line contains two measures: 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes'. The fourth line contains two measures: 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with many notes beamed together in groups of four or six.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have granted to us through Jesus, the Word made flesh, the child of Mary; the Light of the world, our Immanuel. Send the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, that as your beloved children we may welcome our Savior who comes to us in his body and blood.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was handed over, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.

In the same way, he also took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

THE 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND LAMB OF GOD

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised. **Thanks be to God!**

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.

*Be seated. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at Christ's table.
Today, we receive by intinction, dipping bread into wine. For the sake of good order, musicians will commune first.
After communing, you may kneel at the rail or return to your seat for private prayer.*

COMMUNION SONG

'Christ, Be Our Light'

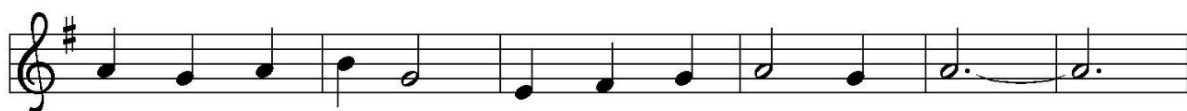
ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

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 our host, **at this table you fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in Jesus' name. Amen.**

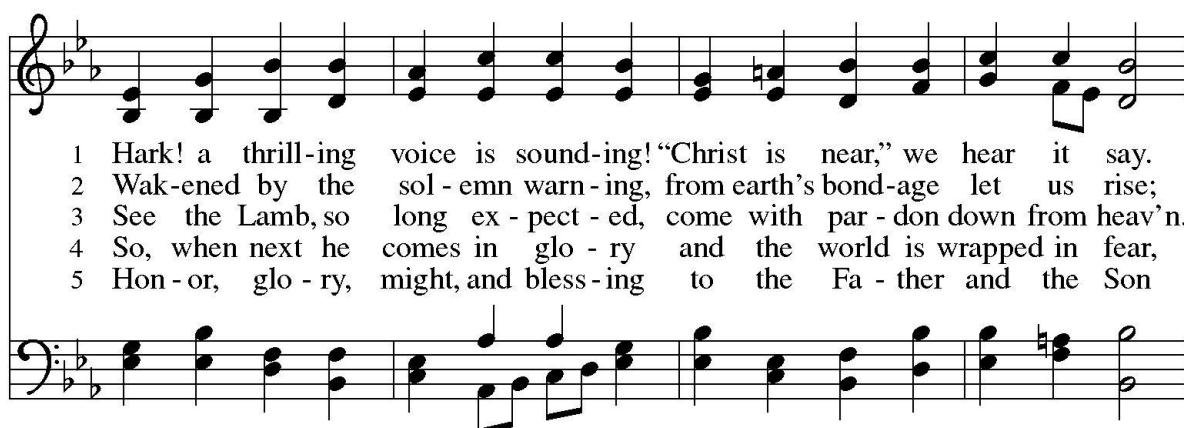
BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

'Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding'

ELW 246



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



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Go in peace! Keep awake!
We will! Thanks be to God!

PARTICIPANTS

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

Senior Pastor.....	The Rev. David T. Drysdale II
Guest Musician.....	Rev. Rhonda Smith
Assisting Minister.....	Pam Lail
Children's Message.....	Patrick Dodd
Altar Guild.....	Pam Lail, Kay Bolick
Ushers.....	Greg Walters, Doug Eckard, Milton Wrike
Tellers.....	Milton Wrike, Todd Jarrett, Curtis Schultz

PRAYER CONCERNS

*Please pray for those who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially the following:
(Names in BOLD have been added or updated this week.)*

Zion Members... Joey & Jennifer Brown, Jack Cooke, Elsie Eudy, Randy Hefner, Ron & Sandra Herman, Ruth Ann Hollar, Kim Hollars, Maxine Huffman, Amy Jarrett, Janice Jeffreys, Gary Kanipe, **Leigh Ann Lackey**, Mike McRee, Kenny Mull, Kenny Lee Mull Family, Patrick Mull, Barron & Lois Whitener, Matthew Whitener, Stephen Whitener, Martha Wrike, Rosie Yoder.

Homebound... Bill Hefner, Mary Jo Hilton, Gary & Hippie Johnson, Nellie Lutz, Violet Michael, Barbara Scronce, Janey Whitener, Dottie Yoder, Jerry Yoder.

Friends of Zion... Gary Abernethy, Ann Arney, Michelle Barger, Davey Beard, Jeff Beck, Charlie Boger, Sue Bolick, Easton Case, Patty Cook, Ruth Cook, Ulrike Cox, Bryant Early, Cindy Elder, Kathy Freeman, Alice Greer and Family, Sandra & Stamey Hardin, Sandra & Don Hefner, Pastor Betty Helms, Tim Hewitt, Myrtle Hilton, Alice Huffman, David Icenhour, **Dixie Icard**, Alma Jacobs, Gary Jarvis, Anaisha Jaykumar, Patsy Kanagy, John Keck, Alice Keenan, Caroline Keller, Toni Kenerly, Savannah Klein, Joyce Ladnier, Kay-Kay Ladnier, Jay Lamb, John Lentz, Dale Love, Sophia Marlowe, **Tim Martin**, Teresa Mays, Jim & Anne Rhyne McCoy, Frances McCracken, Mario Molina, Terry Mooneyham, Randy Neill, Sharon Oxford, Meghan Paris, David Pruett, Fred Prince, Wayne Reed, Lacey Reeves, Dr. J. David & Jena Rhyne, Rusty Rhyne, Bryson Romero, Betty Shook, Gina Sigmon, Troy Stallings, Pat Stilwell, Andy Tomah, Michelle Whitener, **Gary Wood**.

Condolences... Please remember **Carol Ann Lackey Mundy and her family** in your prayers upon the death of her husband, Christopher Thomas Mundy. Chris passed away on November 22 following a brief and courageous battle with cancer.

Featured Homebound Member... Please encourage this special member with a card or note this week: **Barbara Scronce, 2025 Zion Church Road, Hickory, NC 28602.**