



Zion's News

*Zion's Mission Statement: Reflecting Christ, we
are called to share God's gifts*



Pastor Caitlin Glass

Feb. 2017

A Message from Pastor Caitlin

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)

God's grace and peace to you this day! As I write this, I am T-5 days away from my Holy Land pilgrimage. Amid the packing piles, to-do lists, and background books, I'm filled with both excitement and fear. I've wanted to go to Israel for about a decade now and this trip is a near-perfect opportunity to fulfill that dream. But traveling to the Middle East isn't without potential sticky points, especially for people (like me) who don't consider themselves "travelers" in the first place.

And so I consider it a God-incidence (as opposed to a coincidence) that Psalm 27 is the appointed reading for Sunday. *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?...For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover his tent; he will set me high on a rock.* What words of promise and peace!

No matter the century, no matter the place, no matter the challenges that surround, since the beginning of time there have been a million and one reasons to despair, two million and three reasons to fear. Which is why, since the beginning of time, God has shined Light into the darkness, Light that cannot and will not be overcome. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God...what came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people (John 1:1, 4).* Throughout our lives, we experience times when we are surrounded by great and glorious Light, as well as times when it feels as though *darkness* is all that exists. Knowing this, Jesus created the Church to be "*the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden*" (*Matthew 5:14*). In good times and bad, we are called together to be the Church: to receive Christ's light as it shines through worship, scripture, and the presence of one another, and to share Christ's light in a world that is hungry for hope. In this season after Epiphany, may we continue to share God's gifts by inviting others to experience *hope* in and through Zion's: invite a friend or neighbor to join you for worship, or Wednesday night Bible study and community meal, or Lunch Bunch, or Lunch N Learn with Luther, or any of the many other opportunities listed in this newsletter. Each of these, alone, may only provide a *glimmer* of Light, but when the darkness closes in, even a single candle lights up a room with its glow.

Thank you, people of Zion's, for all the ways you shine Christ's light in the world. Seth and I feel so fortunate to be starting our married lives together with you, doing God's work in this place. As you are able, we invite you to share the light of our joy by joining us for worship on Saturday, March 25 at 2 PM as we are united in marriage at Trinity Lutheran Church in Robesonia. We humbly thank you for your prayers, and look forward to all that is to come.

In hope

Pastor Caitlin

Social Ministry

Chair: Sharon Davis (dsdavis11@comcas.net; 865-2781)

Lebanon County Christian Ministries

(LCCM) Wish List:

Food Bank:

Canned Soups Canned Mixed Vegetables
Mac-n-cheese Peanut Butter & Jelly
Canned Chili/Stews

Other:

Mens & Womens coats Men's Plus Size apparel
Boys & Girls coats Men's Boots (9-13)
Men's Pants (28-38) New Socks (all sizes)
Mens & Womens jeans
Mens New White Undershirts
Reusable Plastic Containers

Place contributions in the container marked "LCCM" in social hall. (Watch expiration dates)

Thank You

Thanks to the social ministry group for my package, it is very much appreciated, especially all the black pens. Thanks, Lucas Keefer

To the Congregation: Thank you so much for the snacks and supplies to help get me through finals week. It was greatly appreciated. Thank you so much, Kylee Moyers

Thank you for all the thoughtfulness, gifts, cards and visits received this holiday season. - Elvin Heller

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia and Christmas greetings, my heartfelt thanks. - Ingrid Erb

Thank you for the shawl and for your continued prayers as I recover from my six bypass surgery. Also thanks to Sharon Davis for her visit and delivering the shawl. - Kathy Koons

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift you gave to me on Christmas Eve, as well as all the Christmas cards and baked goods! I am touched by your kindness, and grateful for these expressions of care. In hope, Pastor Caitlin

Jonestown Outreach Pantry (JOY)

Wish List:

Food Bank:

Mac-n-cheese
Canned meats/chicken
Baked Beans
Canned Stew/pasta
Peanut butter
All soups

Other:

Toilet Tissue
Hamburger helper
Canned Pasta
Spam

Canned beets/potatoes/fruit

Place contributions in the container marked

"JOY" in social hall. (Watch expiration dates)

Joy no longer needs egg boxes, baby food or plastic bags.



Homebound Birthday (Cards, Calls, Visits)

Ingrid Erb PH: 865-5850
48 Supervisor Dr. Birthday Feb. 26
Jonestown, PA 17038

"Praying in Color and Crafting with Friends"

Save the Date: Saturday, March 4 from 9-2

PM. Beat the end-of-winter blues with a day spent praying in a new way, and working on personal craft projects in the company of friends. We'll begin with a guided prayer and meditation time, then spend the rest of the day working on whatever you bring! Breakfast snacks and lunch will be provided. This event is

FREE and open to all.

Bring a guest! But please RSVP on Facebook or in the Gathering Area Questions? See Pastor Caitlin.



Christian Education & Youth

Chair: Tracy Hoy (tlh328@verizon.net;272-6542)

Children's Sunday School Helpers NEEDED: Christian Education is looking for a few people to be a helper in the Level 1 Sunday school classroom. Please consider helping once a month or so. This past fall this class has had on average 10 children each week - YEAH!!! We just need an extra pair of hands - no lesson preparation is required! This person must have State required clearances. If interested please contact Tracy Hoy or Pr. Caitlin.

Sunday School Specials!



Mark your calendars for 2 upcoming Lenten and Easter Family Sunday school dates! These Sunday activities are for the entire family. Both of these activities will have lots of hands on activities for the children. We will meet in the Social Hall at 9:15.

March 5th - we will meet in the Social Hall for a family activity to introduce the 40 days of Lent. There will be ashes, pretzel bread and a lot of the number 40! We will meet at 9:15 in the Social Hall.

April 9th - we will again meet in the Social Hall for another family activity - Passport to Holy Week! We will learn about what happened during Holy Week. This will include feet washing, the Last Supper, Good Friday and the Resurrection!

Zion's Youth Update

We had Jr. Youth Group on January 11th. Another fun evening with 5 youth!!

January 13th (Triskaidekaphobia Game Night) we had a really fun game night!! Sundaes with M&M's, Hershey's Syrup, Caramel Syrup etc. Yum! I believe we had 18 at the event this time.

*Please note the Jr. Youth Group will meet on Wednesday, February 1st for this month. *

For February 5th, We have a special guest- Charlie Roberts for the church service. **We will have a special Youth Group Meeting for 4th-12th graders/plus Parent's/Guardians after church. Please plan to attend.**



Sunday, February 12th. The Youth Group will provide lunch, after church, for the Martin Luther Event.

Upcoming for the entire congregation: Mark Your Calendar(s) Talent Show -Sunday, March 19th (more details in the March Newsletter). ---Joy! Jim and Laurie Gill



Lunch and Learn with Martin Luther!

After worship on Sunday February 12. For people of all ages! Featuring a very special guest! Noon to 2 p.m. Come to the Castle! Come for lunch and Luther. Dr. Kevin Fry portrays Martin Luther - Reformer of our world. Lunch is a fund-raiser for the Youth Group.

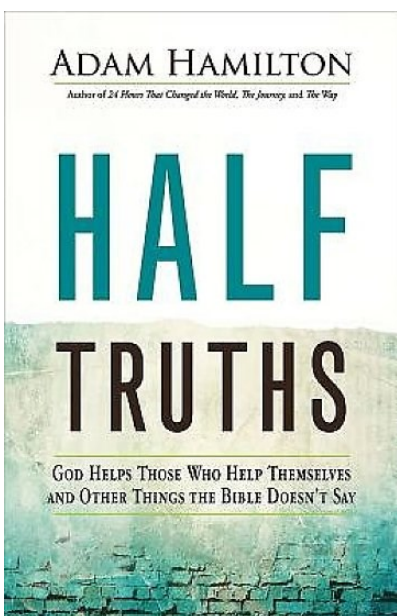
Evangelism

Chair: Elaine Ludwig (eludadv@comcast.net; 865-3757)

Teddy Bear Ministry



Teddy bears seated on the window sills in our sanctuary are for Zion's Teddy Bear Ministry. No matter a person's age, those who are celebrating, sad, ill, grieving, or in need of love, would welcome a bear to hug. If you know someone who would appreciate a Zion's bear, they are available for purchase. Bears have a tag saying: *"I have been living at the Zion's Lutheran Church in Jonestown, PA. I have been loved by members, learned from sermons and scripture, and heard songs of praise. I have been soaked in God's love and come to you with blessings of hope and love from our congregation."* The back of the tag gives the church's name, address, telephone number, web address, and Facebook page, and asks the bear owner to drop us a line to let us know what receiving the bear has meant to them. Bears cost \$10.00, which sustains the ministry. You're welcome to take a bear from the window sills. When a bear is purchased, another takes its place in the sanctuary. Please give cash, or a check payable to Zions, to Christine Techky.



Two Opportunities to Read and Continue Discussing Adam Hamilton's book *Half Truths: God helps those who help themselves, and other things the Bible doesn't say*:

Women's Bible study on Thursday, February 23 at 7 PM, at the home of Deb Long.

"Lunch Bunch" Book and Bible Study on Thursday, February 23 at 1 PM at Tony's on Market Street in Jonestown. You're welcome to purchase lunch or coffee if you want, but it's not required. Open to all, and your friends!

At both of these gatherings, we'll look at the second chapter: "God helps those who help themselves". What do you think? Does God only help those who do what they can to help themselves? Are we to only help others when they're trying to help themselves? What does scripture teach us? What are the implications? You are welcome to order the book off Amazon and read the chapter before we gather, but that is not required. Future meeting days for both of these groups are: Thursday, March 30, Thursday, April 27, and Thursday, May 25.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends:

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: Have you signed up for your 2017 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend? Marriage Encounter invites married couples on a journey—a deepening of your love. The program allows husband and wife to eliminate all distractions and focus solely on each other for the weekend. A \$100 per couple registration fee gets you signed up; plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. The 2017 Northeast US Weekends are:



- **March 24-26, 2017** at Toftrees Golf Resort Conference Center -- a peaceful resort nestled in 1500 wooded acres in State College, PA.

- **April 28-30, 2017** in Lancaster, PA, at the all newly-renovated Heritage Hotel Lancaster, home of the unique tree-house-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."

To sign up online, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and pay the \$100 registration fee using your credit card, or mark the option to mail in a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net. Registrations are limited, so act TODAY to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice!

COUNCIL

President: Ed Ludwig (eludadv@comcast.net; 865-3757)

Council Highlights from January 12, 2017 meeting:

- A personnel Committee has been established to work on job descriptions, carry out annual evaluations and serve as a sounding board when and if issues with staff arise. Pastor noted she would like this to be a primary goal this year.
- New Council Officers were elected:
President - Ed Ludwig Vice President - Tom Mohn
Treasurer - Cathy Houser Recording Secretary - Kelly Rittle
Financial Secretary - Deb Long
- Pastor is planning a congregational Lenten Devotional .

Electronic Giving

Interested in simplifying how you give to the church? You can now sign up for Electronic Giving through the internet. You can also go to our website and click on the "Giving" link.

Worship

Chair: Noel Strattan (dns@telecommute.net; 865-7747)

Have you ever noticed that list of names in your bulletin titled "**Serving at Zion's Today**" and wondered how you could become one of them? Any time is a good time to consider how you can become involved in worship at Zion's for the coming year. We have opportunities for all ages. All participation is on a rotating basis, so the frequency of service depends upon the number of people doing each job. The following are brief descriptions of the various ways to serve during service.

Altar Guild

Someone who serves on altar guild is responsible for setting up for and cleaning up after the sacraments. Altar guild prepares the chancel area and all of the worship related resources within it for worship. This preparation includes changing the paraments, the hymn boards, and filling candles with oil. However, the primary job is to make sure the bread/wafers and wine/juice are ready for communion. For baptism, altar guild fills the font and ensures the bibs and candles are ready. During festivals of the church, additional items including banners, flowers, extra candles, as well as additional services will need attention. The time commitment needed to serve is 1/2 - 1 hour of cleaning and set-up time late in the week (time varies on whether there are paraments to change or things to be polished). Additional commitment time is coming early enough to put out the bread/wafers and wine/juice Sunday morning, and about 15 - 20 minutes to clean up after the service. How often you are serve depends upon how many groups we have functioning at the time. Altar guild works as a set of 2 people at a time. If you find this interesting and would like to volunteer Noël Strattan (717) 865-7747.

Communion Assistant

A communion assistant is someone who assists Pastor by serving wine during communion. This is done by pouring the wine from the chalice and declaring the promise "This is the blood of Christ shed for you" for each communicant who presents a cup. Communion assistant also offers both communion elements to the pastor after the congregation is finished communing. This occurs once every other month. Training will be provided to anyone who would like to serve in this capacity. If you find this interesting and would like to volunteer, contact Tovie Kleinfelter (717) 865-5678 or Noël Strattan (717) 865-7747.

Acolyte

An acolyte is a youth (grades 3-8) who lights the candles on the altar at the beginning of worship and extinguishes them at the end of worship. If you would like to receive training to assist in volunteering your time and talent to be an acolyte during the church service, please contact Steph Livingston, maslogmama@gmail.com or 717-304-7320.

“40 ACTION TEAMS IN 40 DAYS”

This Lent, everyone here at Zion’s is invited to participate in a new generosity campaign. As approved by Council and announced at the Congregational Dinner on January 22, we have set the goal of accomplishing 40 Thrivent Action Teams during the 40 days of Lent (from March 1 through April 15). This will be an opportunity for us to respond to God’s call to live generously and to focus our attention on the Lenten discipline of giving.

But what is a Thrivent Action Team? It’s a simple and fun way to bring your family, friends, and neighbors together for a fundraiser, service activity, or educational event. Anything that benefits others will qualify – and it does not need to be connected to the church. Thrivent members receive \$250 of seed money from Thrivent for each Action Team they lead.

Many Zion’s members have already led over 30 Action Teams to support programs and causes important to them. These have included the Lego Club, DDS, Jim Northridge Spaghetti Miracle, two job fairs, the Hollyberry Bazaar, the Fall Carnival, carry bags for JOY, the Resurrection Egg Hunt, replacement of the Jonestown churches signs, care kits for refugees, and much more!

Over 60 members of our congregation have access to Thrivent Action Teams. By using this program, Zion’s members could secure up to \$10,000 of support (40 Action Teams x \$250 each). Consider the generosity and outreach that we could create if each of us led just one Action Team during Lent!

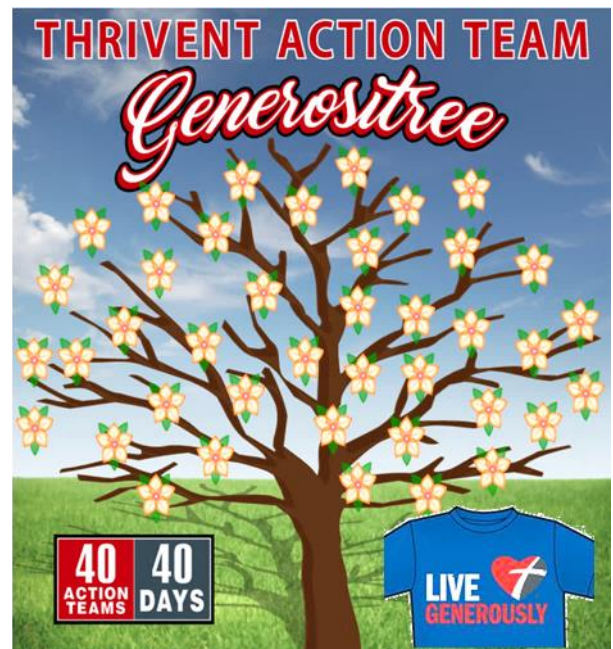
If you have already led an Action Team in the past, please consider leading another one this Lent! If you are a Thrivent member but have not led an Action Team before, learn how easy it is by asking someone who has. We can help! And, if you’re not a Thrivent member, please join us by participating!

We want your ideas, too! Do you have a passion for animals? Does your heart cry out for children in distress? Would you love to help end homelessness, or brighten up a Veteran’s day? You can! Whatever your ideas, please share them and watch as the “Generositree” in the gathering area starts to bloom! You’ll also be able to follow our progress, view photos, and read stories on Zion’s website and on our Facebook page.

Questions? Suggestions? Please ask us!

Jim Gill (867-1500), Laura Bush (443-8761),

Dylan Houser (865-6693), Michael Johnsen (917-699-4805), Kelly Rittle (926-1785)



Save the Date! St. Patrick’s Day, Friday March 17 at 7:00pm in the Social Hall

Zion’s is excited to host “The Great Date Night” with Mark Cable! As an accomplished guitarist, singer, songwriter and humorist, Mark has released 17 CDs and has been touring fulltime for over 25 years. You’ll love his insightful everyday-life songs and his off-the-wall sense of humor (as a father of six, he needs it!).

www.markcable.com

This will be another Thrivent Action Team and benefit the Children’s Hospital at Hershey Medical Center. Bring your friends! Tickets are \$10 each and available by



proceeds will
Don’t miss it!
contacting Jim Gill.



Zion's Koinonia Annual Shore Weekend

June 16-18, 2017

We are again staying at the Roman Holiday. It is a beachfront property in North Wildwood, 6 (short) blocks north of the Boardwalk, and off Exit 6 of the Parkway. All units there are suites.

A block of rooms is not set aside for our group, so you must book early to guarantee a room. Some families will arrive Thursday, June 15 and leave Monday, June 19, and others will spend just the weekend.

****Note that the 2017 rate for nights past June 18 will be set after February 1.**

We will have our church service at 9 AM Sunday.

Everyone is welcome.

*****GROUP RATES*****

\$123: 1- Bedroom Efficiency Suite (sleeps 6/limit 6)

\$175: 2-Bedroom Efficiency Suite (sleeps 8/limit 8)

Sales & occupancy taxes are 14%.

There are no extra charges for additional persons –within the occupancy limit.

Any families staying Thursday or Sunday Nights receive a \$15.00 discount for each night (does not include Friday or Saturday night). The discounts will be given upon check in when paying the balance.

Reservations may be made after February 1 by mailing the form, calling the Roman Holiday directly (609) 522-3111, or logging on to www.romanholidayresort.com
This special group rate is only guaranteed until May 1.

If you have questions, call Janet Bird 865-5636 or contact the Roman Holiday directly.

Mail the reservation form and a one-night deposit to:

Roman Holiday Motel
1000 (10th) JFK Boulevard
North Wildwood, NJ 08260

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____
Phone _____
Nights requested _____
Type of room _____
Adults _____ Children _____
Amount enclosed _____



JANUARY NEWSLETTER FROM LUKE SWANSON, OUR SPONSORED YAGM MISSIONARY IN ARGENTINA

Hello Friends,

It has now been over four months since I left the United States and arrived in Argentina, and almost four months since I arrived at my placement site. The time certainly is flying by and at times I struggle to keep up with how all the things that are going on here. This time has been an extremely eventful, exciting, and tiring process. I know I said the exact same thing two months ago in my last newsletter and I'll probably say the same thing in the next one as well. Some things will just never change no matter where I will be in this year long journey. The truth is, I do not see this whole YAGM process getting any easier. The more I learn, the more that is expected of me. This is the foundation of any work experience, but it proves just the more tiring in a country where the direction and the pace is still very foreign to me. Despite the experience being just as challenging as it has ever been, the fulfillment I have at the end of the day is as rewarding as ever.

There are numerous differences that I am experiencing here in Argentina. Spending the end of 2016 in the southern hemisphere is a challenge in itself. Whereas in the United States, we predominantly associate November and December with important holidays, the southern hemisphere is doing just the same but rushing around wrapping up all that that they need to do in their work, family, and personal lives, before they begin their summer vacations. Imagine all the work we do before going on vacation and then combine all of that chaos with the commercialized Christmas season.

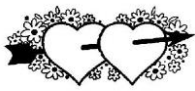
The temperature is one of the most iconic factors that has made this time especially interesting. Never in my life have I gone to church on Christmas Eve wearing shorts and a t-shirt. Not only does this make up the biggest difference physically between my hemispherical experiences during the holidays, it challenges what I understand to be the Christmas atmosphere. Much of the Christmas songs we sing speak of a quiet winter night with gentle snow. That image is completely irrelevant here. A couple months ago, somebody asked me how I was doing and whether there was anything that I wanted or needed. I told them that what I really wanted was a snowy Christmas. I knew it would be impossible, but it was nonetheless what I really wanted at that time. At that point I began thinking of what I really wanted and what I really needed during this incredibly difficult time to be away from home. Knowing that being away from home for Christmas really makes you want to be with family, I began to realize that what I really needed was a family to be around. At that time I was unaware of how much support I would be getting from my host community. There was so much love pouring out at me that I had to decline several invitations for Christmas as I had already accepted the invitation to spend Christmas with my pastor.

It was very difficult declining invitations to spend Christmas with people who I have grown so close to, specifically those at El Arca, who have made it abundantly clear that birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays are a cause for great joy and a time where we can celebrate as a community. Nonetheless, I very much enjoyed spending Christmas at my pastor's house. Not only was this a great opportunity to get away, it provided me with the opportunity to better understand him, his family, and his friends. It was also great to be able to spend some time outside in his garden, taking in the warm summer air in the midst of the chaos that is Buenos Aires.

I am now entering what will be a fairly quiet time during my YAGM year. Many of the residents in my house have left permanently or for long stays with their families over the summer. I have time away from my placement site, which will mean less confident interaction with people I have grown close to and have provided that social interaction that an introvert like me often desperately needs. Nonetheless, it provides some much-needed time for rest. I trust that God will be by my side through this major shift in my experience, and will guide to greater understanding in how to proceed with much more confidence when my work resumes in a month's time.

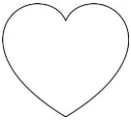
Thank you all for your support! God Bless!

Luke



February 2017



SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Bulletin deadline is every Tuesday		(31 January Evangelism mtg. 7PM)	1 5:30 Family Meal 6:15 JOYFUL SPIRITS 6:45 Bible Study/ Kings kids/ Junior Youth Group	2 Committee Night	3	4
5 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Following worship - Youth gp meeting with parents!	6 7 PM Reformation 500 mtg at MJ's Coffee House	7 7PM Preschool Board Meeting	8 5:30 Family Meal 6:15 JOYFUL SPIRITS 6:45 Bible Study/ Kings kids	9 7:00 pm Council	10	11 8:00 am Men's Bible study
12 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Noon- Lunch N Learn with Martin Luther	13	14 	15 5:30 Family Meal 6:15 JOYFUL SPIRITS 6:45 Bible Study/ Kings kids	16 7 PM Worship and Music	17	18
19 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	20	21	22 9:00 am sewing 5:30 Family Meal 6:15 JOYFUL SPIRITS 6:45 Bible Study/ Kings kids	23 1:00 pm Lunch w/Pastor Caitlin 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	24	25
26 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Getting to know you time	27	28	March 1 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins	Newsletter deadline is the 15 th of each month for the following month's newsletter.		

Upcoming Events:

- March 1 - Ash Wednesday
- March 4 - 9-2 PM, Praying & Crafting
- March 5 - Special Sunday School event
- March 19 - Youth Group Talent Show
- April 9 - Special Sunday School event



The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania

Sunday February 26 is Camping Sunday! Zach Weiss, director of Camp Kirchenwald, will be visiting Sunday School classes this day to share summer camp opportunities. He will also join us in worship for a Temple Talk. Camp brochures will soon be available. There's something for all ages, and scholarships are available!

Worship Participants for February

	Lectors	Crucifer	Acolytes	Counters	Children's Sermon	Nursery	Prayers of the People
5	Jean Fowler	Jim Adams	Xander McQuaide Joe Beidler	Larry & Sharon Houser	Sharon Houser	Kelly Rittle Grace & Stella Ludwig	Christine Techky
12	Becca Hoffer	Brian Adams	Gavin Bush Nick McFarland	Ken Nelson Jr.	Stephanie Livingston	Jackie Mohn	Tracy Hoy
19	Linda Wenrich	Daryl Hess	Lillyana Harris Cassie Bortz	Darryl Bush Deb Reiner	Linda Toth	Darryl Bush, Elly Ludwig, Katie Boisvert	Elaine Ludwig
26	Donald Davis	Mike Johnsen	Mason & Logan Livingston	Kelly Rittle Deb Long	Pastor Caitlin	Gizelle McFarland Greta Kauffman	Matt Wolfe

Altar Guild

5,12 Karen/Noel
19,26 Jen/Noel

Ushers

Al Reiner, Steve Wolfe,
Darryl Bush, Philip Mohn

Communion Assistants

5 Burton Williams, Noel Strattan
12 Burton Williams, Tovie Kleinfelter
19,26 Lynn & Tovie Kleinfelter

Getting to know you time

TBD