WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

19th Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024

Pastor Caitlin M. Kurtz

Every Week at Zions: @ 10:30 Worship, 9:15 Sunday School

Wednesday night activities 5:30 meal, 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits worship, 6:50 Bible Study

Zion's worship services are live-streamed and archived on YouTube. While the focus is always on the worship leaders and the sanctuary at large, your voice and image may be included as part of the recording. If you do not wish to appear on film, please sit in, or under, the balcony and ask an usher for communion to be brought to your seat. If you have any other questions, please speak with Pastor Caitlin. Thank you for your understanding and support in spreading the Gospel message!

*(Congregation please stand as able)

Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. C: Amen.
- P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **C: Amen.**

*Opening Hymn: WOV 719 God Is Here!

You are invited to face the rear of the sanctuary and turn towards the cross as it passes.





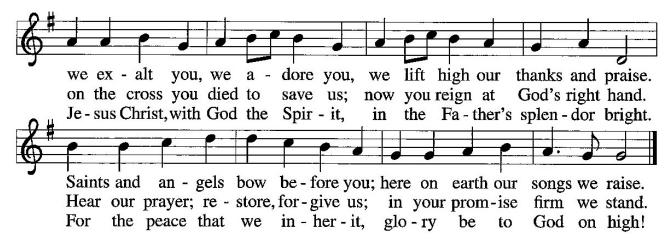
*Apostolic Greeting

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.

*Hymn of Praise





*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Numbers 11:4-6,10-16, 25-29 (pg. 113 in pew Bible)

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.' Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, 'Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favour in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, "Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child", to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, "Give us meat to eat!" I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favour in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.' So the Lord said to Moses, 'Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!'

After the Reading: Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19:7-14 (pg. 433 in pew Bible, next) (read responsively)

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

Congregation: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

L: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

C: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

- L: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
- C: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
- L: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

C: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

SECOND READING: James 5:13-20 (pg. 983 in pew Bible)

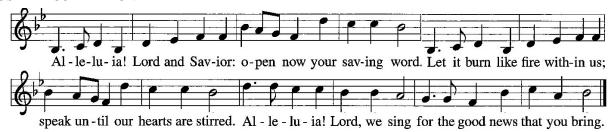
Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

After the Reading: Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON as the children come forward, please join in singing:

Serve Him, serve Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love. Serve Him, serve Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Gospel: Mark 9:38-50 (pg. 821 in pew Bible)

Before reading: P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark, the 9th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell., And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

After the reading: P: The Gospel of our Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 580 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000 Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918 Text @ 1982 Hope Publishing Company REPTON 868866

OUR OFFERINGS: OUR TRUST, PRAYERS & GIFTS

*Apostles' creed

P: Let us confess our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

Note: the word "catholic" here means the church around the world.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(after hearing, "Lord in you mercy," respond: Hear our Prayer)

(after hearing the final prayer petition, "We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior." respond: **Amen**)

*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all. C: And also with you.

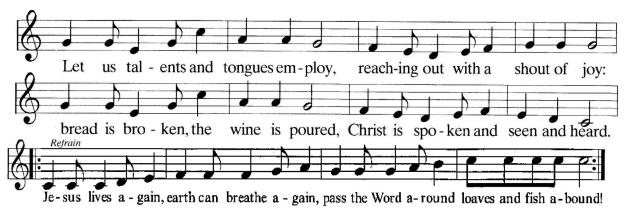
CHOIR ANTHEM

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

During this portion of the worship service, we offer to God a portion of what God has first given us, trusting that God will use these gifts to do God's work in the world. We offer thanks to God with financial gifts, song, and prayer. Or you can scan this QR code to go to our electronic giving website: http://www.zionsjonestown.com/giving/, where you can choose to give either through PayPal, or Simply Giving, which is our regular electronic offering service, offering both one-time, and regular, automatic options.



*Offertory Hymn



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929 Music: Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980 © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. LINSTEAD L M and refrain

*Offering Prayer and Blessing of Quilts

P: Lord God, in You there is always more than enough. By your grace, you transform the humble gifts we offer into food that nourishes mind, body and soul: like scraps of cloth that together create beautiful blankets to protect, warm, and comfort. Bless these quilts that they would be signs of hope, wrapping our neighbors in love. Bless those who receive them, those whose hands helped create them, and the work of Lutheran World Relief. Together, we are your body in the world: use us to your purposes of life and love in the world.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

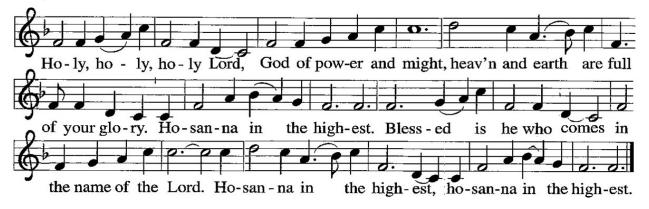
Please stand as you are able.

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.

P: 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, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: **HOLY, HOLY:**



*Words of Institution

P: Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving Creator. In the beginning your hands reached into the earth and formed humanity in your own image. You breathed into us your breath of love and gave us hearts and hands and voices to live your loving purpose in the world.

Throughout the history of your people, you never abandoned us, but brought us into community with one another and with you, guiding us through your prophets. With endless patience and love, you called us time and again to return to life with you.

In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus, born into a human family, raised in a hometown, who gathered around himself a community formed by your love, and yearned to gather all people like a mother hen.

Sitting at dinner with friends and knowing one would break the bonds of love, 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.

In the same way 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation:.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send your Spirit upon this meal, that we would overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we pray:

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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.

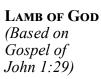
* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

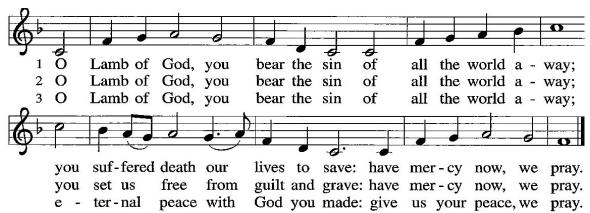
P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

This is the Lord's table where all are welcome. At the ushers instruction, you are invited to come forward, pick up either a pre-filled grape juice cup, or empty communion cup, and kneel or stand at the communion railing. (gluten free wafers are available for those who need that, please let Pastor know when you are communing) Here, you will first receive the bread, and then either a blessing of your grape juice, or the wine poured into your glass. After consuming both elements, return to your seat by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray.

Those who are worshipping at home this morning are invited to **pray this prayer**, trusting that Christ's spiritual presence is with you at all times and places. If you would like Pastor Caitlin to bring communion to your home, call her at 717 865 3652 and she will be glad to do so.

"Loving Jesus, since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine according to your promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion, I ask you to come to me in Spirit. Feed me, for I am hungry; strengthen me, for I am weak; enliven and sanctify me with Your sacred Body and Blood. Deliver me from all sin and make me always obedient to Your commands. Let me never be separated from You, my Savior, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God forever and ever. Amen."





DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: #737 There Is a Balm in Gilead

(WOV- blue book) #783 Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

#789 Now the Feast and Celebration

*Post Communion Prayer

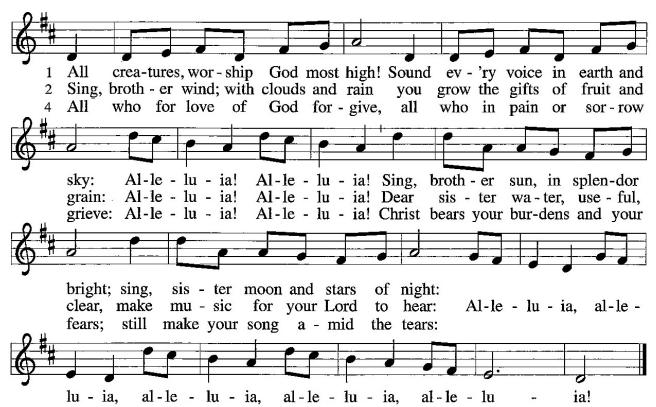
P: Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. **Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn: ELW 835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High v. 1,2,4,5 & 6

As the cross is recessed, you are invited to turn your body towards the rear, symbolic of our desire to follow Christ out into the world.



- And you, most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia! Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that leads us home. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 - O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia! All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623 Text @ 1997 Augsburg Fortress LASST UNS ERFREUEN 888 88 and attetutas

*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world! C: Thanks be to God.

We're glad you're here! Whether today is your first day at Zion's, or your thousandth, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to worshiping with you. If you're new, or it's been a while, we invite you to fill out one of the "We're glad you're here" white envelopes located in the pew back to ensure our records are correct, and so we can connect with you further. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you, and welcome!

Welcome, Cindy Funck, thank you for supplying our worship music today!

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Bruce Northridge, Nancy Winklebleck, Betty Kleinfelter, Pastor Ted Hummel, Marta, Alexa, Luke, Tom Keefer, Jean Fowler and the people of war-torn countries.

This Week at Zions:

Oct. 1, Tuesday @ 9:00 am Quilting *** NOTE CHANGE TO TUESDAYS ***
Oct. 2, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship,
6:50 Bible Study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

Next Week at Zions:

Oct. 7, Monday @ 6:30 pm Finance committee meeting

Oct. 8, Tuesday @ 9:00 am Quilting ** NOTE CHANGE TO TUESDAYS **

Oct. 9, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship, 6:50 Bible Study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

Other News from Zions:

Today is Quilt Sunday! We'll be blessing and sending forth the 50 quilts that have been created this year for Lutheran World Relief. When you arrive, they will be draped over the pews--please sit on them and fill them with your love and prayers. After worship, they'll be boxed and sent for distribution around the world.

Bishop Jim Dunlop will be with us on Sunday, October 6. Bishop Dunlop as served as the Bishop of our synod since 2013, and will be retiring next year. We invited him to worship with us, and share a word about the state of the Church, as he sees it, before his retirement. You are invited and encouraged to attend the adult forum beginning at 9:15 AM that morning, followed by worship at 10:30 AM. This is a great time to ask questions, learn from his experiences, and participate in the life of the larger Church.

Men's and Women's Bible studies will begin in October and will meet on the second Sunday of the month (October 13 would be the first). Donuts and coffee will be available.

We have kicked off a "Loaves and Fishes" campaign in celebration of the 50th Year of ELCA World Hunger. Over the next months, we hope to raise \$3000 in special offering to fund six fish farms (\$250/each) and thirty home gardens (\$50/each including seeds, tools, and agricultural training). You can give through Simply Giving, PayPal, or the yellow envelopes in your pews. THANK YOU for your generosity!

Weekly Sunday School: Children ages four through fifth grade *with their adult (parent, grandparent, friend)* meet in a downstairs classroom. Students in Confirmation (typically 6th - 8th grade) meet with Pastor Caitlin in the "Martin" room. Ann Kulp teaches the adult class which meets in the "Katie" room. The adult class will be looking at "Holy Places" in September, and beginning a study on nature in scripture in October.

Wednesday night activities have begun, including a new Bible study. It's a great mid-week pick-me-up, and an opportunity to gather with others for a warm meal, worship, and Bible study. Dinner begins at 5:30 followed by Rejoicing Spirits worship at 6:15 PM, adult Bible study at 6:50 PM, and adult choir at 7:30 PM. Bible study is led by Pastor Caitlin and will look at the book of Ephesians--no Bible study experience needed!

YOUTH CHOIR has begun: Youth choir will meet after church in the sanctuary on for practice. There are no age restrictions to participate, and we can't wait to have you help us make a joyful noise and help to lead worship this year! Contact Joanna Guldin (joanna.guldin@gmail.com or 717-228-9846) for information.

Like to cook? Want to support life-giving ministry? Twice a month, our Wednesday night meal is pot-luck style (casseroles one time, soups another), with participants asked to bring a dish to share. Some weeks we run short for a variety of reasons, including difficult household situations (for whom the hot Wednesday night meal and fellowship time is especially helpful!). If you'd be able to contribute a casserole or pot of soup from time to time, it would be a gift! Please let Pastor Caitlin or Judy Merkel know so we can include you on communications--you can prepare a dish to freeze and keep at church for when it's needed, or sign up for a date that would be convenient for you. Thank you!

Need a study Bible? We have multiple, brand new paper back copies of the Lutheran Study Bible, and we'd love to give you one! We used to give these to our Confirmation students but have found that they don't always hold up to their use, so now we give them hardback versions. In addition to scripture, these Bibles are full of informational tidbits and devotional questions. Pick up on today in the Gathering Area!

The NL Ministerium is preparing for the 2024-25 Release Time program, which teaches Bible stories to third grade students from the Northern Lebanon Elementary School. We could use a few more teachers, and substitutes for this program (curriculum provided). If you're interested in helping, please let Pastor Caitlin know. You can also sponsor a student by marking a portion of your offering for "Release Time": \$15 purchases a Bible for the student to keep, \$30 funds transportation for a student for the school year, and \$45 fully sponsors a student by providing a Bible and transportation. THANK YOU for your support!

Now hiring: Wednesday Meal Coordinator. This person will be primarily responsible for the meal we serve before Rejoicing Spirits--either cooking meatballs or chicken nuggets, or arranging pot-luck contributions and preparing the salad and drinks. A complete job description is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office, or available at www.ZionsJonestown.com Resumes and cover letters should be emailed to pastorckurtz@gmail.com by Sunday, September 29. Please help spread the word!

Serving at Zion's		Today	Next Sunday	
Lector		Christine Techky	Linda Toth	
Prayer		Nancy Ludwig	Grace Ludwig	
Children's sermon		Terry Ludwig	Christine Techky	
Comm. Assts.		Kelly Rittle, Deb Long	Linda Wenrich	
Greeter			Ann Kulp	
Acolyte		Daryl Root	Gracie Bucks	
Crucifer		Logan Livingston	Daryl Hess	
Altar Guild		Strattan/Wenrich	Merkel family	
Elevette		Tom Frey	Steve Bucks	
Ushers	Septen	eptember: Luke Hiester, Linda Toth		

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin
SOUND: Houser family
ZION'S OFFICE: 717-865-2848
zions@comcast.net

VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino
PASTOR: Caitlin M. Kurtz
PASTOR'S OFFICE: 717-865-3652
pastorckurtz@gmail.com

The Peace from Pieces quilting day has changed to Tuesday beginning at 9 AM, effective immediately

Council Highlights are available. You can pick up a copy from the large bulletin board in the gathering area.

Check out "September's Member to Remember" on the bulletin board. Maryann Nelson is this month's star! You can read about her faith and experiences at Zion's in the weekly e-mail or on the bulletin board by the church office.

Thank you Zions for your help on God's work, Our hands day. - Louise Schaeffer

LARGE PRINT bulletins are now available with the elevette bulletins and the ushers.

An USHER sign-up sheet has been posted on the large bulletin board in the gathering area. If you can share your gifts as an usher, please sign-up! Positions are still available!!

NEW GREETER SIGN-UPS are available, if you are able to serve in this way, please contact Noel Strattan, dns@telecommute.net.

Zion's is looking for a few more CRUCIFERS. A crucifer is someone who carries a cross. At Zion's, this involves leading the procession at the beginning and end of the service. Our crucifer also helps by refilling the chalices (the wine cups) from the flagon (the large pitcher of wine) as needed. Any adult or confirmed youth who can carry the cross is eligible to be a crucifer. Crucifers serve one week at a time, scheduled around your availability. If you are willing to serve in this way, please contact the Church Office or call or text Michelle McQuaide at (330) 958-3399.