

# WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2025

*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!*

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

*\*(Congregation please stand as able)*

Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our creator, our protector, and our wellspring of life. **C: Amen.**

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Merciful God,

**C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **C: Amen.**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** ELW 843 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

*You are invited to face the back of the church for the opening hymn. As the cross is processed into the congregation you may continue to sing toward it.*

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn-ing sand;  
 Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955 Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813 Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company NETTLETON 8787D

**\*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**

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est; glo-ry to God, glo-ry to  
 God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - migh - ty God  
 and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.  
 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est; glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God,  
 and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord  
 God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat -  
 ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God,  
 glo-ry to God in the high - est; glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple

on earth. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men. Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est; glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

### SCRIPTURE & SERMON

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 *(pg. 379 in pew Bible)*

all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

*After the reading:* **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM: 19 *(pg. 433 in pew Bible, also below)*

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**Congregation: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

L: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

**C: yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.**

**In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

L: which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**C: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

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

**C: 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:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (pg. 933 in pew Bible)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be

weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

*After the reading:* **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

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

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

**\*GOSPEL  
ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le - lu - ia. You  
have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL:** Luke 4:14-21 (pg. 835 in pew Bible)

*Before reading:* P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke, the 4th Chapter.

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

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

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

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY:** *We are the Church*

*Refrain (Unison)*

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to -  
geth - er! All who fol - low Je - sus,  
all a - round the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth - er!

1 The church is not a build - ing, the church is not a stee - ple,  
2 We're man - y kinds of peo - ple, with man - y kinds of fac - es,  
5 At Pen - te - cost some peo - ple re - ceived the Ho - ly Spir - it

*to Refrain*  
the church is not a rest - ing place, the church is a peo - ple.  
all col - ors and all a - ges, too, from all times and plac - es.  
and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.

## 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, "God, in your mercy," respond: **Hear our Prayer**)

(after hearing the final prayer petition, "We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people." respond: **Amen.**)

### \*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

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

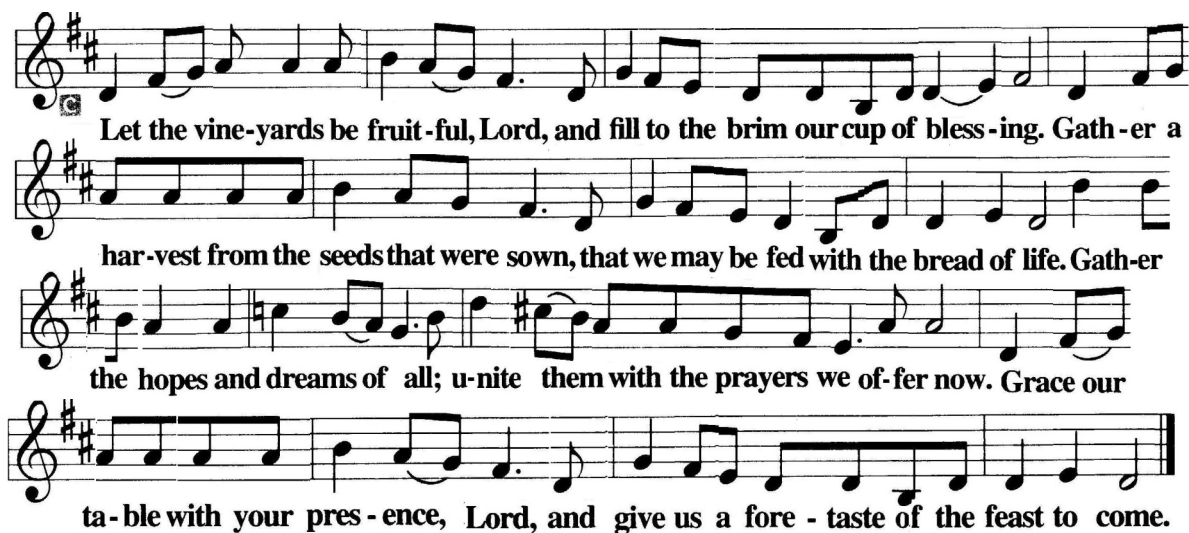
### CHOIR ANTHEM

### OFFERING WITH 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.



### \*POST OFFERING VERSE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a  
har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er  
the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer now. Grace our  
ta-ble with your pres-ence, Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service; our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. C: **Amen.**



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

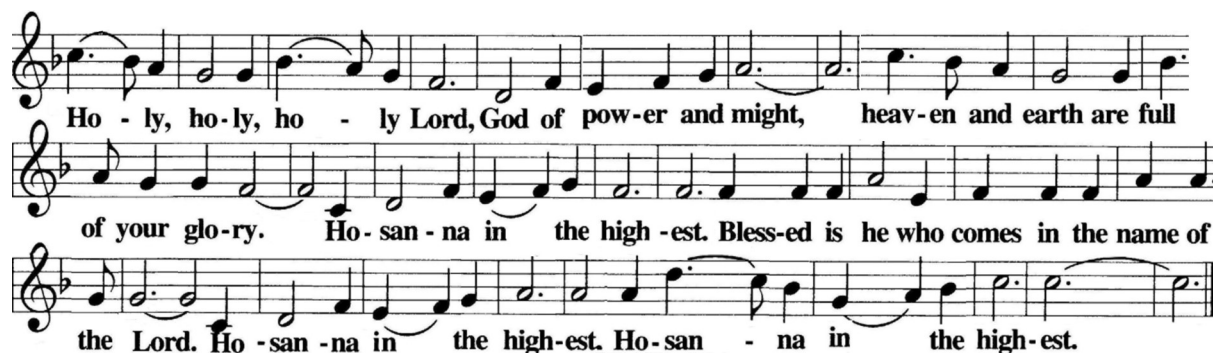
*Please stand as you are able.*

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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, HOLY**



### **\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, in the beginning you formed the heavens and earth and created us in your likeness. You made us guardians of your good creation and left the earth in our care. All through our weary years and our silent tears, you did not abandon us to ourselves, but sought us out in love. When we were captives in Egypt, you did not abandon us.

When we wandered in the wilderness, you did not abandon us.

When we turned to false gods, you did not abandon us. Through your holy prophets you called us to return to your graciousness, to your mercy, and to your steadfast love.

In the crowing act of love you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him will have eternal life. For you sent Jesus not to condemn the world, but to save the world from sin. Through his death on the cross, we who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P: With this bread and cup, we remember Christ's life among us; his association with outcasts, his eating with sinners, his healing of the sick, his care for the poor.

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine, that we who share this meal may become a holy communion, the body of Christ in the world.

**C: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

P: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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: This joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**LAMB OF 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.

*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 accommodation, 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.”

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** #710 *One Bread, One Body*  
(blue book) #719 *God Is Here!*  
#748 *Bind Us Together*

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In then name of Christ we pray. **C: Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **C: Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN:** ELW 551 *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

*As the cross is processed to the rear of the sanctuary as we sing, you are invited to turn towards it, symbolic of our desire to follow Christ out into the world.*



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
 joy like seed and, all our days, to  
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
 share a dream and help the blind to see.  
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Music: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820 Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications CHESTERFIELD, CM

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**This week we especially remember in our prayers:** Christine Techky, Tom Mohn, Andy Bomberger, Nancy Bowman, hurricane victims and all victims of violence.

**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 worshipping 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!

**Zion's Annual Congregational Meal and Celebration will be held TODAY** after worship in the Social Hall and YOU are invited and encouraged to attend. We will look back, with gratitude for what God has done through our congregation this year, and look forward to how God is calling us to serve, and grow, and live in the year to come. **NO reservation is needed!**

**SMILE - IT'S PICTURE TIME!! Zion's new picture directory is upon us!** You can sign up for a photo time at Sunday's Congregational Celebration, or bring your best smile and get your picture taken that day. These photos will help create our new photo directory so we can learn one another's names.

**This Week at Zions:**

Jan. 26, Sunday following worship: Annual Congregational Meal & Celebration

Jan. 27, Monday @ 6:30 pm Mission Ministry meeting

Jan. 29, **Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting NOTE CHANGE IN DAY!!**

Jan. 29, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship, 6:50 Bible Study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

**Next Week at Zions:**

Feb. 4, Tuesday @ 5:30 pm Preschool Open House

Feb. 5, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting

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

**New Communication Plan for Emergencies** As Council worked on congregational communication this last year, we discovered that we needed a good way to contact people in case of a church emergency/closure (namely inclement weather, or a problem with the building). We've decided upon a low-cost text/phone system that will text or call people with a message from our leadership *as necessary* -- this will ONLY be used in case of emergencies. To get set up, **we need you to review your text/call preferences, and phone number, on the sheets in the Gathering Area.** You are welcome to opt out, but please know we will only be using this system, Facebook, and ABC27 to communicate emergency closures. **Today is the last day to review info! !**

**It's not too late to join in the new Book/Bible study** that meets on Wednesday nights at 6:50 PM. Together we are looking at unlikely people through whom God has worked to shine light and love in the world, together with parables that describe God's work in surprising places and ways. Extra copies of the book are available in the Gathering Area, for this week, read "Forward Out of Darkness Pt. 1" and Luke 18:1-8

**Zion's Preschool registration is open for Zion's families (and current and former Zion's Preschool families).** There are two class options: Tu/Th (for children who are at least 3 by September 1) and M/W/F (for children who are at least 4 by September 1). Both classes meet from 9 - 11:45 AM. For a registration packet, email [zionspreschool@verizon.net](mailto:zionspreschool@verizon.net) Registration opens to the public at our Open House on Tuesday, February 4 from 5:30-7 PM.

**Pastor Caitlin will be inducted into the Lebanon County Women's Hall of Fame** for her leadership in the community on Wednesday, March 19 at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Pastor Caitlin's accomplishments! Friends and family tickets are available for purchase at [eventcreate.com/e/lccwhalloffame](http://eventcreate.com/e/lccwhalloffame) until January 31, when they will go on sale for the general public.

**You are invited to complete a Spiritual Gifts Inventory** to learn more about the ways God has uniquely created YOU (more info in the sermon!) Paper copies, which you'll need to manually score, are available in the windowsills downstairs. Or, you can complete an online version using this QR code.



**Highlights from December's Council meeting** are sent out via email after the meeting. Copies are then available at the small bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Serving at Zion's	Today	Next Sunday
Lector	Youth of Zions	Noel Strattan
Prayer	Youth of Zions	Tom Frey
Children's sermon	Youth of Zions	Terry Ludwig
Comm. Assts.	Youth of Zions	Deb Long, Judy Merkel
Greeter	Youth of Zions	
Acolyte	Madelyn Rittle	Annabella Hess
Crucifer	Logan Livingston	Xander McQuaide
Altar Guild	McQuaide family	Merkel family
Elevette	Noel Strattan	Ann Kulp
Ushers	Jim Fowler, Gerald Lengel	

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin	VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino
SOUND: Houser family	PASTOR: Caitlin M. Kurtz
ZION'S OFFICE: 717-865-2848	PASTOR'S OFFICE: 717-865-3652
<a href="mailto:zions@comcast.net">zions@comcast.net</a>	<a href="mailto:pastorckurtz@gmail.com">pastorckurtz@gmail.com</a>