# WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Transfiguration of our Lord

March 2, 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

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: ELW 456 Baptized in Water

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.



Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932 Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress BUNESSAN 558D

# **BAPTISM OF TOMAS STEVENS**

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

P: Jeremy and Eva, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

P: As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people,

bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer,

so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed,

care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

# Parents: We do.

The assembly is addressed:

P: People of God, do you promise to support Tomas and pray for him in his new life in Christ? C: We do.

## **\*PROFESSION OF FAITH**

P: I ask you, together with the whole gathered assembly, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

#### Response: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

# THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen** 

# BAPTISM

P: Tomas, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

P: Sustain Tomas with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.** 

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

P: Tomas, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.** 

# WELCOME

A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized, and a cloth placed over his head.

P: You have been clothed in Christ. All who are baptized have put on Christ. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P: Let us welcome Tomas to the family of God.

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

# \*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.

# \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

# FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-35 (pg. 71 in pew Bible)

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

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

# **PSALM:** 99 (pg. 480 in pew Bible, also below)

Leader: The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! Congregation: The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

L: Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

# C: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

L: Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

C: Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

- L: They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.
- C: He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

# L: O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

# C: Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 (pg. 939 in pew Bible)

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

#### 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



# **\*Gospel:** Luke 9:28-43a (pg. 843 in pew Bible)

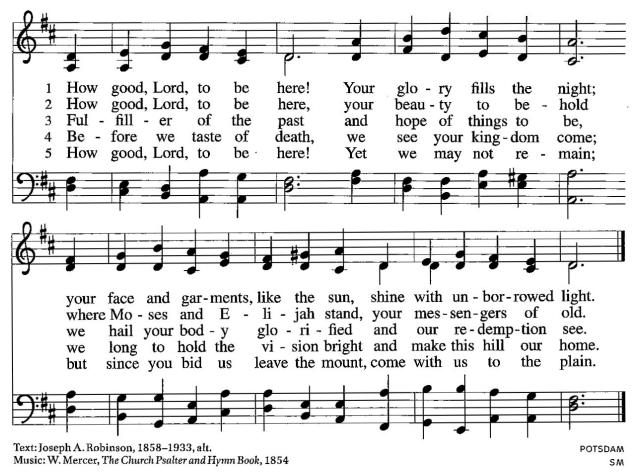
*Before reading*: P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke, the 9th Chapter. C: Glory to you, O Lord. Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

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

#### Sermon

\*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 315 How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



#### **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.

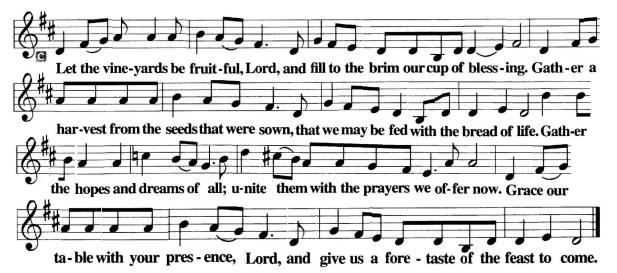
#### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

### 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**



#### **\*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.

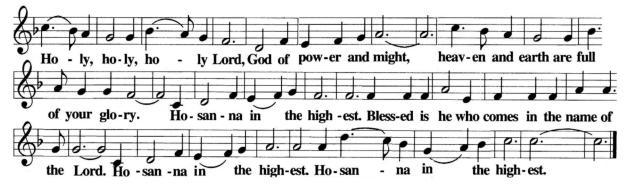
P: The Lord be with you.

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; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. 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** 



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## **\*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 crowning 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.

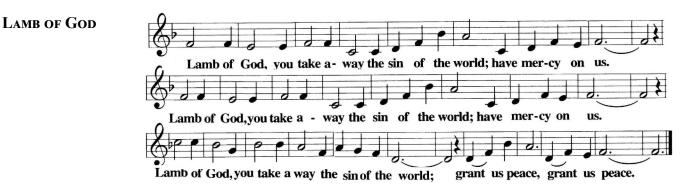
# \*Lord's prayer

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.



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."

<b>COMMUNION HYMNS:</b>	#649 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
(blue book)	#651 Shine, Jesus Shine
	#689 Rejoice in God's Saints

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER AND SENDING OF COMMUNION

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 the name of Christ we pray. C: Amen.

P: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

#### C: We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

#### \*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 318 Alleluia, Song of Gladness

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.



# \*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

#### 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!

**This week we especially remember in our prayers:** Joan Gerhart, Tina Rager, Maryellen, Bob, Jessica Harris, Anna Mae, Ken Hess, Andy Bomberger, hurricane and fire victims and all victims of violence.

## This Week at Zions:

Mar. 5, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting Mar. 5, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship, Mar 5, Wednesday @ 7:00 pm Lenten Worship, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

#### Next Week at Zions:

Mar. 9, Sunday @ 9:15 Mens & Womens Bible Study Mar. 10, Monday @ 6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee meeting Mar. 12, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting Mar. 12, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship Mar. 12, Wednesday @ 7:00 pm Lenten Worship, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal Mar. 15, Saturday @ 9:00 am Babies & Bibles

Ash Wednesday worship, with imposition of ashes, will be held March 5 at noon, 6:15 PM, and 7 PM. The noon service is spoken, abbreviated and in the sanctuary. The 6:15 service is our Rejoicing Spirits celebration in the Social Hall, and the 7 PM service is a traditional service in the sanctuary. The 7 PM service will also be livestreamed.

Join us Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00 pm for worship also!

United Lutheran Seminary, together with Lutheran Advocacy Ministries of PA, is offering a day-long program about Christian Nationalism on March 8: What is Christian Nationalism? Where does it show up? How are we to respond to it? You can learn more at <a href="https://www.lutheranadvocacypa.org/event/bonhoefferlecture/">https://www.lutheranadvocacypa.org/event/</a> bonhoefferlecture/\_ It will be available in-person and via livestream. If you're interested in attending, or maybe participating in a watch party at church, please let Pastor Caitlin know.

**Emergency Text/Call Service:** If we have a number on file for you, you will receive a text or a call letting you know that activities are canceled. *If you haven't received a text/call concerning Sunday, Feb. 9 or Wed., Feb. 12 services and would like to receive these notifications,* please let the office or Pastor Caitlin know so we can look into it. In the future, we will try to send these notifications a bit earlier. If you add our church number 717-865-2848 to your phone list, it should show up as "Zion's Church" (or whatever you save us as)

**St. Paul writes, "Now ya'll are the body of Christ, and individually members of it"...**as the Youth reminded us, we can do great things when we work together! The enclosed Time and Talent form is how we are able to connect you with service opportunities that match your abilities and interest. Please take a few moments to complete it--if you haven't already done one this year--and return it in the offering plate, or in the marked box in the Gathering Area. You can also use this QR code to complete an online version. THANK YOU for your willingness to share your gifts at Zion's!



Our **homebound members** are an important part of our congregation! Check out February's Member to Remember, **Nancy Kleinfelter**, on the large bulletin board.

**Mission Ministry is collecting food items for JOY** until Ash Wednesday. Items can be dropped off in the gathering area. Needed Items: Canned Fruits: Pineapple, Pear, Peaches, Fruit Cocktail, Canned Red Beets, Canned chicken, Progresso & Campbells Chunky Soups, Canned Yams, Dinty Moore Beef Stew, Manwich, Ramen, Knorr Pasta Sides, Instant Potatoes: All flavors, Spaghetti Sauce, Dry Pasta - all varieties, Macaroni & Cheese, Spam, Canned Ham, Ketchup & Mustard, Assorted Canned vegetables, Assorted Condiments and Cooking oils (any). Thank you for your generosity.

**Hersheypark**: Order forms for discount Hersheypark tickets and parking passes are on the bulletin board. The tickets and passes are good for any one day from April 5, 2025 through January 4, 2026. Tickets are \$44.95 (regular price \$89.95) and parking passes are \$26.00 (regular price \$35.00). March 9th is the last day to order tickets. If you have any questions contact Janet Bird at jbird75@comcast.net or 717-865-5636.

Thank you everyone at Zion's for the prayers, meals, cards, calls and well wishes during my operation. - Ken Hess

It's time to register for Summer Camp! The Lutheran Camping Corporation, with summer camp locations near Lebanon and Gettysburg, offers something for people of all ages. Brochures are available in the window sills in the Gathering Area, or at <u>www.LutheranCamping.org</u> Zion's offers a \$290 scholarship for one week of camp, which can be combined with scholarships from the Camping Corporation. Our scholarship forms are available on our website, or on the small bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Register by April 5th for the greatest discounts!

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

**The photo directory is now 'live' on the app or website!** Instruction sheets for logging on can be found in the Gathering Area. If you're having trouble, please contact Debbie Long at 717 269-6050. We hope to have print copies next month.

Serving at Zion's	Today	Next Sunday
Lector	Kerri Price	John Mohn
Prayer	Larry Houser	Sharon Houser
Children's sermon	Pastor Caitlin	Joanna Guldin-Noll
Comm. Assts.	Ed & Elaine Ludwig	Linda Wenrich
		Deb Long
Greeter Cathy Houser		
Acolyte	Madelyn Rittle	Derek Wolfe
	Gracie Bucks	
Crucifer	MacKenzie Hess	Logan Livingston
Altar Guild	Strattan/	Bucks family
	Wenrich	
Elevette	Steve Bucks	Noel Strattan
Ushers	Georgetta Wolfe, Mike Long	Jack Beidler
		Georgetta Wolfe

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin	VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino
SOUND: Houser family ZION'S OFFICE: 717-865-2848	Pastor: Caitlin M. Kurtz Pastor's Office: 717-865-3652
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