



# Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church  
Hollidaysburg, PA  
814-695-0091  
[www.zionhollidaysburg.org](http://www.zionhollidaysburg.org)

“Proclaiming Jesus Christ and  
inviting people into life in his name;  
a life of worship, learning,  
fellowship, giving and witness.”

\*Denotes when the congregation should stand

The flowers on the altar have been given to the glory of God.

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## NOTES ON LITURGY/MISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRELUDE/MEDITATION

### \* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: We worship in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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.

**C: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.**

P: Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

**C: At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.**

P: By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**C: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.**

P: Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

**C: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

P: Alleluia, Christ is risen! **C: He is risen indeed, alleluia!**

**\*THE ENTRANCE HYMN: "Now the Green Blade Rises" (LBW 148)**



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

**\*THE EASTER ACCLAMATION**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**\*THE 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.**

## \*THE HYMN OF PRAISE:



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



**B** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P: Let us pray. C: O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## **FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **(SAT & 8:00) PSALMODY: Psalm 22:24-30 (Spoken)**

<sup>24</sup>My praise is of him in the <sup>l</sup> great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who <sup>l</sup> worship him.

<sup>25</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the <sup>l</sup> Lord shall praise him:**

**"May your heart <sup>l</sup> live forever!"**

<sup>26</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>l</sup> to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall <sup>l</sup> bow before him.

<sup>27</sup>**For kingship belongs <sup>l</sup> to the Lord;  
he rules o- <sup>l</sup> ver the nations.**

<sup>28</sup>To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow <sup>l</sup> down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust <sup>l</sup> fall before him.

<sup>29</sup>**My soul shall live for him; my descend- <sup>l</sup> ants shall serve him;  
they shall be known as the <sup>l</sup> Lord's forever.**

<sup>30</sup>They shall come and make known to a people <sup>l</sup> yet unborn  
the saving deeds that <sup>l</sup> he has done.

## **(10:45) PSALMODY: "How Majestic is Your Name" Song of Zion**

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth. (2x)

O Lord, we praise Your name, O Lord we magnify Your name:

Prince of Peace, Mighty God:

O Lord God Almighty.

## **SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in

this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*VERSE "Christ Is Arisen" Vs. 1 (LBW 136)**

1 Christ is arisen  
 from the grave's dark prison.  
 So let our joy rise full and free;  
 Christ our comfort true will be.  
 Alleluia!

**\*GOSPEL: John 15:1-8**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.



[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.



**\*VERSE "Christ Is Arisen" Vs. 2 & 3 (LBW 136 - Reprise)**

<p>2 Were Christ not arisen,          then death were still our prison.          Now, with him to life restored,          we praise the Father of our Lord.          Alleluia!</p>	<p>3 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!          So let our joy rise full and free;          Christ our comfort true will be.          Alleluia!</p>
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# CHILDRENS SERMON

## SERMON

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY “where Charity and Love Prevail” (LBW 126)



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

### \*NICENE CREED

**C:** We believe in one God, The Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

### \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**P:** Let us pray for the whole people...according to their needs.

**P:** Merciful God. **C:** **Receive our prayer.**

**P:** Into your hands ... through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C:** **Amen.**

**\*PEACE** **P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C:** **And also with you.**

## \*DIALOGUE

♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.

♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.

♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## \*PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary.....and join their unending hymn.

## \*SANCTUS

♪ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### \*THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

**C:** 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

**P:** Reveal yourself to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the Bread;

**C:** As you once revealed yourself to your disciples.

### \*AGNUS DEI



**C** 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.

### COMMUNION

**\*P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen

### \*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.



## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**C:** Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

## \*BLESSING

**P:** Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen**

## SENDING HYMN: "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!" (LBW 131)



1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!  
2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad - ness of our Lent - en fast is o'er;  
3 Christ is ris - en! All the sor - row that last eve - ning round him lay  
4 Christ is ris - en! Hence - forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall;



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
through the o - pen gates of glad - ness he re - turns to life once more;  
now has found a glo - rious mor - row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
be we Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri - umphed o - ver all.



Grate - ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
death and hell be - fore him bend - ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
See the grave its first - fruits giv - ing, spring - ing up from ho - ly ground;  
All the doubt - ing and de - jec - tion of our trem - bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
an - gels on his steps at - tend - ing, glo - ry round his wound - ed brow.  
he was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

### *Refrain*



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

**DISMISSAL: P:** Alleluia! Go in Peace. Rejoice and be glad. **C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

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**The Ministers:** The People of Zion  
**Pastor:** David Bowman  
**Organists/Accompanists:** Doug Rhodes  
Gail Nedimyer  
**Choir Directors:**  
**Noiz** Ryan Custead  
**STAFF**  
**Dir. of Faith Formation & Outreach** Ryan Custead  
**Sexton/Custodian** Rick Fairhead  
**Administrative Assistant** Joni Hammaker

**DAILY BIBLE READING**  
**April 29<sup>th</sup> thru May 5<sup>th</sup>**

The following weekly Daily Bible Reading Guide is provided for your personal devotion.

29~ 1 CORINTHIANS 9  
30~ 1 CORINTHIANS 10  
1 ~ 1 CORINTHIANS 11  
2 ~ 1 CORINTHIANS 12  
3 ~ 1 CORINTHIANS 13-14  
4 ~ 1 CORINTHIANS 15-16  
5 Easter 6

ACTS 10:44-48  
PSALM 98 (4)  
1 JOHN 5:1-6  
JOHN 15:9-17

**This Week at Zion – 4/28/24 – 5/5/24**

**Sunday 4/28**

8:00 a.m. Eucharist Service  
9:00 a.m. Noiz Rehearsal  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (All Ages)  
10:45 p.m. Eucharist Service

**Monday 4/29**

**Tuesday 4/30**

**Wednesday 5/1**

9:00 a.m. Stitch & Sew  
4:30 p.m. FaithFormers

**Thursday 5/2**

10:00 a.m. ThuMBS

**Friday 5/3**

11:30 a.m. Blood Drive

**Saturday 5/4**

8:30 a.m. AA Meeting (Chapel)  
6:00 p.m. Eucharist Service

**Sunday 5/5**

8:00 a.m. Eucharist Service  
9:00 a.m. Noiz Rehearsal  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (All Ages)  
10:45 p.m. Eucharist Service

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**PRAYER REQUESTS**

If you would like to add someone to our prayer list, please contact the church office or Pastor Dave with your prayer concerns. The office number is 814-695-0091.

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## SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

The Allegheny Synod will conduct its annual meeting June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024. The CPC has selected ①**Bev Green**, ②**Gary Launtz**, ③**Karen Wagner** and ④**Blake Wagner** to represent Zion.

We did not receive individual nominations beyond those provided by the Congregational Planning Council. **A special congregational meeting to elect representatives has been deemed unnecessary, and the slate of nominees has been appointed.**

### Annual Congregational Meeting

May 19, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

There will be one worship service on 5/19 at 9:30 a.m. followed immediately by the annual meeting. Saturday evening worship will be at 6:00 p.m.

### **BLOOD DRIVE**

**We Need  
Your Blood!!**



The Red Cross Blood Drive will be held in the Fellowship Hall on

**May 3, 2024  
11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: ZionLutheran to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

**“The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant. Give blood.”**

**Rise FOR Recovery BLAIR COUNTY**

presents  
**Arts in Recovery 2024**

An evening that celebrates and expresses the gift of recovery through music, art, poetry, and more.

**Friday May 17th  
7:00pm**

At Zion Lutheran Church  
500 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, PA  
(Across the street from the Blair County Courthouse)

**All Are Welcome**

**ZION** Lutheran Church  
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA

### **Zion's Spring Clean-up Week**

Monday, May 20 @ 1:00 p.m.  
Plant Pentecost Geraniums

Thursday, May 23 @ 1:30 p.m.  
Plant Flowers

Saturday, May 25 at 10:00 a.m.  
Outside Work Day



**We can really use your help!!**



**SPRING FLING**  
**Girls' Night Out**

Tuesday, May 7, 2024  
 Doors Open at 5:30 pm  
 Dinner Served at 6:00 pm

Zion Lutheran Church  
 Fellowship Hall  
 \$10 per person 13 and over  
 \$5 per child 6-12

Tickets for sale after each service April 27 & 28 and May 4 & 5.  
 Visit table outside fellowship hall or call Justine to purchase  
 (814-207-4931).

Zion children, youth, and families!

# CHURCH VAN CLEANING

Saturday, May 25th @ 10:30am

Zion children, youth, and families are invited to help clean our beloved church van (inside and out)! Supplies will be provided, but you may want to bring gloves for interior cleaning. *Dress to get wet and/or dirty!* Cleaners should meet at the church at 10:30am on Saturday, May 25th. This is a great opportunity for families and young people to serve! We will finish by Noon or as soon as the job is done. :)



*Saturday, May 25th is one of our days during 'Zion Spring Clean Up Week'. Saturday will mainly be outside work, and anyone is invited to volunteer. (Volunteers are meeting at 10:00am)*

## SERVING SQUAD



To date, 2074 meals and 2191 desserts have been donated within the community. **Our next kitchen day is Monday, May 6 at 1:00 p.m.** The serving squad is making Ham & Green Beans.

**Donations are greatly appreciated and include:** (Due on 5/5 by Noon)

- ~Coffee, Tea, or Hot Chocolate
- ~Individual Fruit Cups or Applesauce
- ~Rolls or Biscuits
- ~Desserts of your choice

Please **drop off any donations before Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> by Noon.** Thank you again for helping make God's grace tangible to those in need.

**We are also collecting used bibles for the Hope Drop-in Center's ministry.** There is a collection box in the Pastor's Study/Outreach Room. Thank you again for helping make God's grace tangible.





# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## June 2nd-6th

5:15-8:15pm

@ Zion Lutheran Church  
500 Allegheny Street  
Hollidaysburg

**Begins with dinner!**

**Games, lessons, crafts, songs, FREE!**

Preschool-6th Grade  
Register at 695-0091  
or online at  
[zionhollidaysburg.org](http://zionhollidaysburg.org)

**zION** Lutheran Church  
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA



## Pentecost Geraniums

Orders due Sunday, April 28

If you would like to place a geranium in the sanctuary in memory or honor of loved ones, or in thanks for blessings, please fill in the form below and return it to the church office. **The cost per plant is \$8.00.**



I would like to order: \_\_\_\_\_ geranium plants

\_\_\_ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In thanks for: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return form and payment to the church office.** PAID: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## The Life of Zion

Is your child in a play, club, activity, concert, race, or sport? The people of Zion would love to come support, cheer, and encourage your child as they grow through these events. The "Life of Zion " is a community calendar that lets the congregation know what's going on in the life of your family. Help us to foster more stakeholders in your child's life and more relational ministry in our congregation by sharing your activity calendars with the office. Tell us what's going on so we can mark the community calendar and show up and offer our support!



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## ALTAR FLOWERS

The Worship Board would like to remind the congregation of the sponsorship program for the flowers that are placed on the altar each week. You are welcome to sponsor the flowers in memory of loved ones, in honor of a special event, or in thanks for God's many blessings.

If you are interested in signing up, the sign-up sheet for the new year has been placed on the small bulletin board near the kitchen. Also, when you sign up, be sure to mark the column stating if you want to take the flowers after services.

**There has been a price increase for 2024 with the new price being \$70.** Our last price increase was in 2020. Checks can be made payable to Zion or you can include payment in your offering envelope by marking it "Altar Flowers". **Thank you** in advance for participating in this ministry.

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## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

At the end of the Capital Campaign's 7<sup>th</sup> quarter, March 31<sup>st</sup>, the donation total reached \$407,270. With Phase I expenditures of approximately \$276,000 deducted, there is now about \$131,270 available for Phase II. Thank you for your continued support. Your donations are vital to accomplishing planned improvements. Thanks also to all the volunteers working toward making it all happen!

Renew   
Restore  
Rejuvenate

As mentioned in the previous update, the new kitchen will take on more of a commercial format, with stainless steel surfaces, a commercial dishwasher, commercial range, and more efficient restaurant-type storage and use options. The new specifications have been discussed with the Designer, and updated renderings are expected soon. Considering the Outreach meal preparations for distribution, our occasional congregation meals/event, and anticipating the future of the Zion kitchen's use, Property Board reached out to the Department of Agriculture for additional information, and to determine if Zion's kitchen is required to be registered as commercial, as are other churches in the area. Findings will be presented and discussed with the CPC prior to plans proceeding.

The kitchen is just part of Phase II. It also includes repairs and updates to the Men's and Woman's restrooms on the first floor. Phase III entails renovations to restrooms in the basement and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. It's a lot, so the Property Board is working every angle to make sure every dollar is well allocated.

# Draft Version of Zion Constitution for Congregational Vote at the 2024 Annual Meeting

It has been nearly 20 years since the constitution was amended, and many of the provisions proscribed by the ELCA have changed in that time. The way Zion operates has also changed substantially during that time. For these reasons, the CPC has been discussing a revision to our constitution for years. The idea is not to transform how we operate but rather to ensure that our written rules reflect who we are and who we aspire to be as a congregation and church.

## Overview of how the document is organized and structured

- Any section marked with an asterisk (e.g., \*C2.01) is mandatory in every ELCA constitution. We are not able to edit those sections. This is true for much of the constitution. And though the language for many of these sections has changed from the previous constitution, most will not have much impact on how we operate as a church. The preamble, all of chapters 2-8 and 15-20 (except bylaws and continuing resolutions) and most of chapter 9 are mandatory text. We cannot edit these sections.
- Any section not marked with an asterisk (e.g., C1.01) is not mandatory and is either specific to Zion or suggested language from the ELCA. We can and did edit these sections, and a few were written specifically by Zion to reflect how we operate.
- Bylaws and continuing resolutions previously appeared at the end of the document. To keep all information on any given topic in one place, the bylaws and continuing resolutions are now inline with the sections of the constitution that they modify. This was recommended by the Synod, and it is very useful.
- Standard passages of the constitution have a 2-part identifying number. For example, C12.03 is Chapter 12, Section 3.
- Bylaws have a 3-part identifying number. For example, C12.03.01 is the first bylaw that clarifies Chapter 12, Section 3. It appears in the document immediately following section C12.03. (For information on the function of bylaws, see Chapter 17 of the constitution.)
- Continuing resolutions are identified by a letter and two-digit year at the end of their identifying number. Section C12.04A23 is the first continuing resolution that clarifies Chapter 12, Section 4. The letters increase sequentially, and the number “23” indicates the year the continuing resolution was adopted. (For information on the function of continuing resolutions, see Chapter 18 of the constitution.)

## Substantive changes to the constitution

- Section C9.16 designates the lead pastor of the church as the head of staff for Zion. This formalizes what is already practiced on a practical level and provides better opportunities for staff members’ professional growth and responsiveness to staff needs.
- Sections C12.01 and the associated bylaw C12.01.01 define the addition of an at-large, youth member to the CPC. This seat would be reserved for a youth in the church and would remain vacant if no youth were available. Details are in the document.

- Sections C12.04A23 – C12.04K23 define the current structure of the CPC boards. In relatively recent history, two boards (Youth and Children and Family) merged, and the Outreach board was created. You may wish to review this section to understand the missions and responsibilities of each board.

The constitution, of course, includes a lot more information, but little else in the document represents a departure from the way we have operated over time.

If possible, please contact Aaron Wagner ([aarontwagner@gmail.com](mailto:aarontwagner@gmail.com)) with any questions, concerns, or feedback in advance of the annual meeting on May 19. Of course, you are free to bring up concerns at that time, but the CPC would be grateful if you gave us time to research and respond to any concerns in advance.

**Copies of the draft constitution are available in the church office or online at <https://zionhollidaysburg.org/zion-lutheran-church-constitution/>.**