

**Zion Lutheran Church
Glen Rock, PA
Third Sunday of Advent
LBW Holy Communion Setting One
Sunday, December 15, 2019**

*We stand as we are able.

Introduction to the day

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

PRELUDE: "Es Ist Ein Ros Entspungen" Brahms

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:**

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (LBW 34, verses 1-3)

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (LBW p. 56)**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

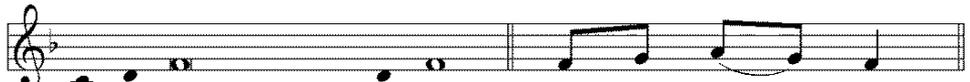
***ENTRANCE HYMN: "Hark, the Glad Sound!" (LBW 35)**

***APOSTOLIC GREETING (LBW p. 57)**

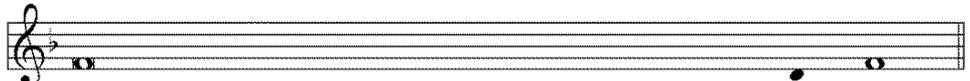
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE (LBW p. 57)



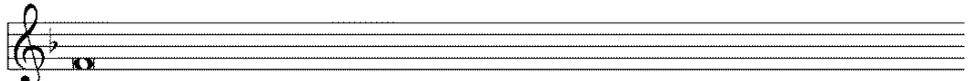
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **B** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



B Lord, have mer - cy.



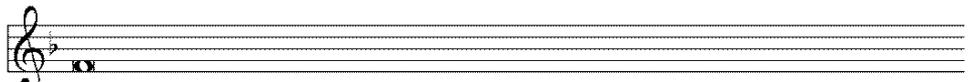
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



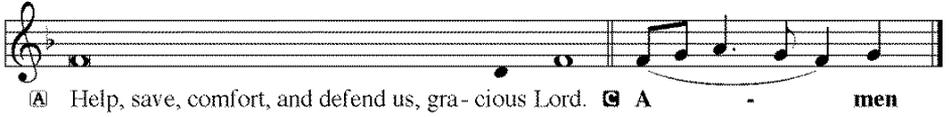
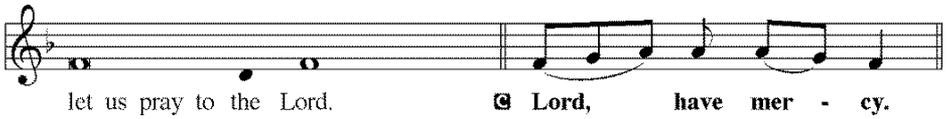
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



B Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



***HYMN OF PRAISE: "People Look East" (WOV 626)**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW p. 62)**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, **you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen

ANTHEM: "Hark the Glad Sound" John Purifoy

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146:4-9

⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;
⁵**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**
who keeps his prom- | ise forever;
⁶who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,
and food to | those who hunger.
⁷**The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the**
blind;
the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;
⁸the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

**⁹The LORD shall | reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

SECOND LESSON: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME WITH PASTOR

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain”
(LBW Canticle 7)**

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (LBW p. 83)

***HYMN OF THE DAY: “Prepare the Royal Highway” (LBW 26)**

***APOSTLES CREED (LBW p. 64)**

With the whole church, we confess our faith.

**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**

***THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (LBW p. 65)**

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, we rejoice that your promises take on flesh in Jesus. Grant patience to your church awaiting the fulfillment of your reign of justice and peace. Restore in us the hope that we are called to proclaim to the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Life-giving God, we rejoice that you coax flowers from the desert and water from the wilderness. Send rain to parched fields and sun to flooded plains. Nurture all that lies sleeping under frozen ground. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Almighty God, we rejoice in your authority as Prince of peace. Deliver us from those who wield power through unjust and oppressive ways. Raise up prophets to speak your truth in this and every nation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, we rejoice that you dwell in human bodies. Renew signs of your joyful presence in people of all shapes, sizes, ages, and abilities. Empower all to embrace their callings and the gifts of your Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Generous God, we rejoice that you create us to praise you. Strengthen the voices and hands of all who prepare to celebrate Christ's birth with music, dancing, and proclamation, in worship and in the community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we rejoice that all who die in Christ are raised to new life. We thank you for the lives of those who have prepared the way for us and have now joined the great cloud of witnesses. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***PEACE (LBW p. 66)**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

COLLECTION

***OFFERING (LBW p. 75)**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir -
it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER (LBW p. 67)**

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

***DIALOGUE (LBW p. 68)**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

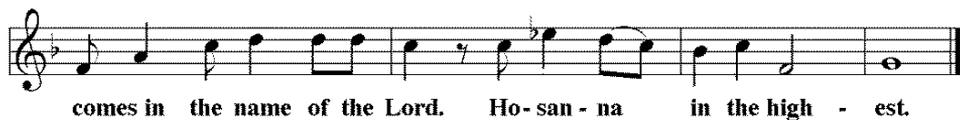
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***PREFACE (LBW p. 68)**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***THANKSGIVING (LBW p. 69)**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

***LORD'S PRAYER (LBW p. 71)**

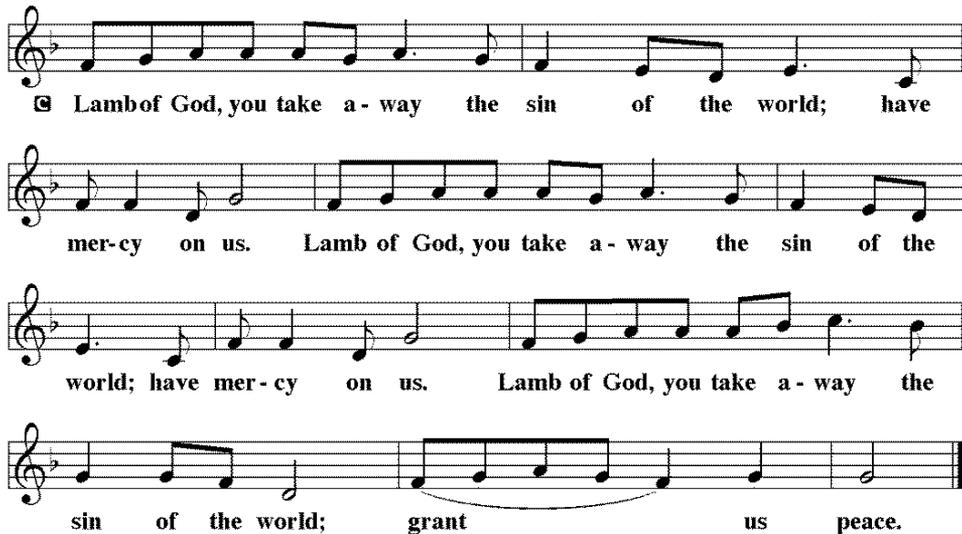
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

***COMMUNION HYMN (LBW p. 72)**



☞ 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.

COMMUNION (LBW p. 72)

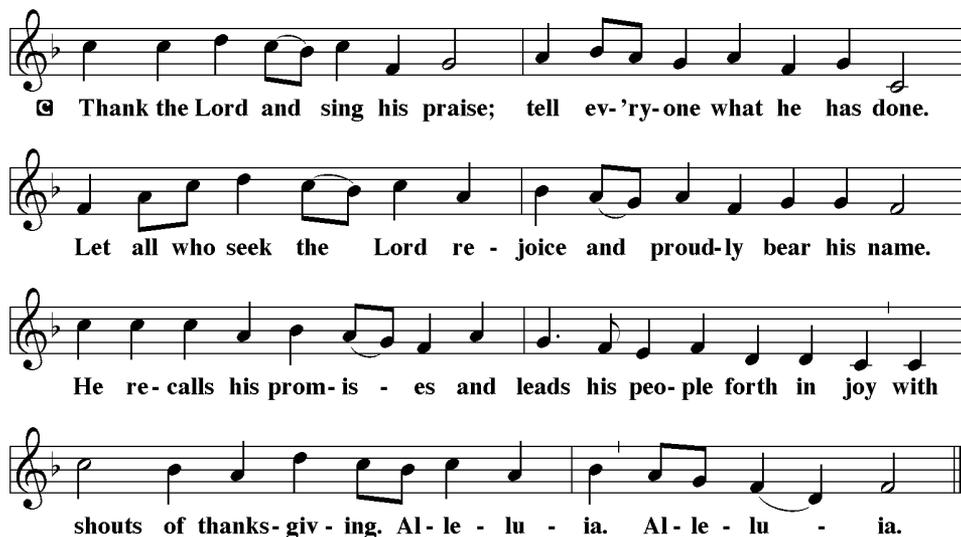
The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (LBW 198)

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND CANTICLE (LBW p. 72)**

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



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek 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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (LBW p.74)

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

***BLESSING (LBW p. 74)**

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.

Amen

***SENDING HYMN: “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” (LBW 36)**

***DISMISSAL (LBW p. 74)**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” Bach

Today’s communion bread and wine are presented to the Glory of God, by Jeff & Pam Hoffman.

Today’s altar flowers are presented in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dise and Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ream, by Mr. & Mrs. James Ream and family.

SCRIPTURE TEXT FOR SUNDAY 12/22/19

Isa 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Rom 1:1-7, Matt 1:18-25

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

- ❖ **Restrooms** are located on the level of the Upstairs Fellowship Area very close to the steps on the right hand side of the stage, and in the hallway at the top of the steps on the left hand side of the stage.
- ❖ **We offer a Nursery** for young children who are still learning to take part in worship, and may need some time outside of the sanctuary.
- ❖ **We have two rockers in the back of the sanctuary** for those who want to rock little ones or who may need a different seating option other than a pew. Please feel free to use the rockers as you need.
- ❖ **We hope you find us gracious and welcoming** on behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR TODAY

Greeters.....	Richard & Renate Shiles
Acolyte.....	Allison Fisher
Assisting Minister.....	George Brown
Lector.....	Mariane Harden
Offering Ushers.....	Donna Price, Bill Ream, Tom Spangler, Becki McCullough
Communion Usher.....	Becki McCullough
Communion Assistant.....	Gevene Harden
Nursery.....	McCullough family
Social Time.....	Sheree Sidler
Offering Depositors.....	Donna Price, Bill Ream
Counters.....	Dave & Shirley Seitz

PRAYER REQUESTS

Mary Bailey, Linda Beegle, Brian Dell, Floyd Dell, Betty Gaither,
Mike Gemmill, Shannon Hildebrand, Karen Landis, Don Miller,
Ruby Nace, Jim Ream, Steve Scott, Bryan Sellers, Susette Stallard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The office has not yet received the offering envelopes for 2020. The company we order our envelopes from has stated they are having an issue with production machines and cannot produce our order, at this time. Offering envelopes for 2020 will be made available as soon as they are received.

Included in today's bulletin is a "Family and Friends of Zion Directory Inclusion Form". Please take time to fill out your individual information, and the information for your household members. Completed forms can be placed in the offering plate or the Administrative Assistant's mailbox on the church office door. This new directory is not just for members of Zion so we encourage you to share this form with anyone you think may want to be included in the directory. Completed forms should be returned to the church office no later than Sunday, 1/5/2020. A new directory will be created using the information from the returned forms.

Brenda will not have office hours between Wednesday, December 18th and Wednesday, January 1, 2020. Regular office hours (M-F, 9:30am-12:30pm) will resume on Thursday, January 2, 2020. Any bulletin information/announcements for Sunday, 12/22; Christmas Eve; Sunday, 12/29; or Sunday, 1/5 should be submitted to the church office by Sunday, 12/15 so

there is time to review the info. Contribution counting will take place as usual. During Brenda's time away from the office, Zion's Council President, Joy Keller-Brown or Pastor Katie Brantner can be contacted with questions and/or pastoral needs. Joy can be reached at joykb@keller-brown.com or 717-235-7044 (home). Pastor Katie can be reached at katie.brantner@gmail.com or 717-420-0779 (cell/text).

On Tuesday, December 24, 2019 at 12:00 noon Zion Lutheran Glen Rock will host a Community Christmas Eve Worship Service. This mid-day service would allow those who can't drive at night and those who will be away for Christmas Eve night service a chance to worship. It will be a simple service with Christmas carols, prayers, lessons, and communion. Pastor Katie and Pastor Doug are coordinating the service. Nick Galinaitis will be the organist.

CHRISTMAS... a time for giving and sharing! The Christian Education Committee will, once again, be collecting Gifts of Warmth (hats, scarves, mittens, etc.) to adorn our Christmas Tree which will be located in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall. The tree will be up and ready for decoration on December 1st and will be available for your generous donations through December 29th. Although all donations for children, teens, women, and men are greatly appreciated, there is a great need for hats, scarves, gloves and socks for men, particularly large sizes. All donations will be delivered to the Salvation Army in York at the end of the collection period. **As we prepare for the birth of our Savior, let us remember the true spirit of the season and share God's bountiful blessings.** Questions may be directed to any member of the Committee: Lois Goodling, Jeff Hoffman, Pam Hoffman, Bill Ream, Gloria Ream, Jim Ream, Pam Spangler, Bev Reindollar, Chair, Evelyn Roser.

Have ideas for Zion's worship service? Concerned about something that needs to be fixed? Got questions about Zion's day to day operations? We are here for you! Please reach out to Bill, Donna or Joy anytime with your ideas, concerns and questions. They will listen and work toward continuous improvement. Small changes make big impacts and your ideas are valuable.

Joy Keller-Brown, Council President
joykb@keller-brown.com
717-235-7044

Donna Price, Council Vice President
momcat05@gmail.com
717-235-5465

Bill Ream, Council Member
wreamjr@aol.com
717-871-4821

Inclement weather: If services or activities at Zion will be changed, canceled or otherwise impacted by inclement weather, you will find a notice of the change on Zion's website, Zion's Facebook page, and the Church Office telephone answering machine (717-235-3276). If this change will impact a Sunday morning service, an update will be posted by 8:00AM on Sunday morning. Ultimately, you should use your best judgement on whether or not to travel during inclement weather.

Most worship services are recorded. Audio recordings of the lessons and sermons can be found on Zion's website www.zionglenrock.org.

Pre-reader and reader versions of the children's bulletin can be found in the Hanover St. vestibule on a weekly basis.

Additional parking, during worship services and events at Zion, is available in the Glen Rock Ambulance Club parking lot.

If you desire pastoral care or conversation, please contact Pastor Katie Brantner at 717-420-0779.

PERSONNEL here at ZION

Pastor Paul Haack, Stated Sunday Supply Pastor
Pastor Katie Brantner, Interim Pastoral Care Coordinator.....717-420-0779
Nick Galinaitis, Music Director
Brenda Davis, Administrative Assistant
Delores Hickman, Custodian
Chad Fisher, Sexton.....717-235-3641
Joy Keller-Brown, Council President.....717-235-7044

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joy Keller-Brown, Donna Price, Bill Ream, Tom Bailey, Susan Hengst, George Brown, Carrie Miller, Edgar Davis and Gevene Harden

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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www.zionglenrock.org
office@zionglenrock.org

ZION'S SCHEDULE for THIS WEEK

Sunday, 12/15

9:00 AM Liturgy of Word & Sacrament

-Children's Church begins after Children's Time with the pastor

10:10AM Social Time

10:30 AM Adult Sunday School

Monday, 12/16

8:00 AM Samaritans Sewing Group

7:30 PM AA

Wednesday, 12/18

No Office hours

Thursday, 12/19

No Office hours

6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 12/20

No Office hours

ZION'S SCHEDULE for the NEXT WEEK

Sunday, 12/22

9:00 AM Liturgy of Word & Sacrament

-Children's Church begins after Children's Time with the pastor

10:10AM Social Time

10:30 AM Adult Sunday School

6:15 PM Youth Group

Monday, 12/23

No Office hours

8:00 AM Samaritans Sewing Group

7:30 PM AA

Tuesday, 12/24 - Christmas Eve

No Office hours

12 Noon Community Christmas Eve Service at Zion

7:00PM Christmas Eve Service

10:45 PM Glen Rock Carolers Concert

Wednesday, 12/25 – Christmas Day

No Office hours

Thursday, 12/26

No Office hours

6:45 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 12/27

No Office hours

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR SUNDAY 12/22/19

Greeters.....	Jim & Gloria Ream
Acolyte.....	Robert Harden
Assisting Minister.....	Alice Simmons
Lector.....	Joy Keller-Brown
Offering Ushers.....	Donna Price, Bill Ream, Bev Reindollar, Jen Webb
Communion Usher.....	Jen Webb
Communion Assistant.....	George Brown
Nursery.....	Fisher family
Social Time.....	Tom & Pam Spangler
Offering Depositors.....	Donna Price, Bill Ream
Counters.....	Marilyn Cox, Sandy Fair

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Greeters.....	Jeff & Pam Hoffman, Ron & Lois Goodling, Terry Smith
Acolyte.....	Owen Fisher
Assisting Minister.....	Mariane Harden
Lector.....	Kay Hoffman
Offering Ushers.....	Donna Price, Bill Ream, Dave Seitz, Jeff Hoffman
Communion Usher.....	Dave Seitz
Communion Assistant.....	Ron Goodling
Nursery.....	Available, but not staffed
Offering Depositors.....	Donna Price, Bill Ream