

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 9, following the worship service, we plan to have our Annual Congregational Meeting. Part of the agenda will be hearing project reports and approving the budget for 2025.

Sunday Learning Group

"We Make The Road By Walking"

1st and 3rd Sundays

11:15 AM

Next Meeting:

Sunday, February 2nd at Brian & Jennifer Frey's Home

623 Buchanan Drive, Ephrata

We are studying Brian McLaren's, "We Make The Road By Walking". McLaren says of his book that "Christian faith is still 'in the making'. It continues to grow, evolve, learn, change, emerge, and mature ... in and through us. I want to introduce people to a vision of the Christian faith and the biblical narrative not as a box, set in stone, and not as a parking lot (where we await the ferry to heaven), but as a road ... that is extended into the future by all of us, walking forward in the Spirit together."

Come join us as together we walk wisely and joyfully into the future of our faith, learning, growing and changing, journeying together to make the road!

On February 2, we will be covering Chapter 7 "It's Not Too Late".

Please bring your Bible. The Scripture readings we will be studying are:

Genesis 18:9-33 and 22:1-14

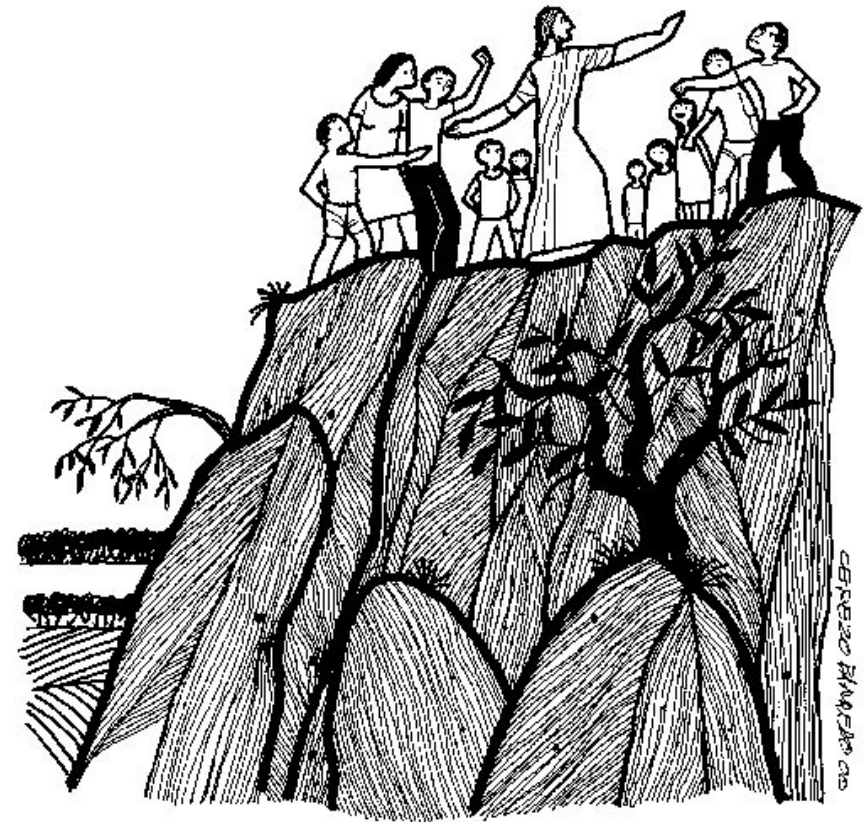
Micah 6:6-8

Acts 17:19-34

Please bring your book. If you need a book or have questions, contact Missy Hoffman at mkh060455@gmail.com.

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

February 2, 2025



Zion Lutheran Church

435 Main Street, Akron PA 17501 717. 859. 2100

Check our website: www.zionakron.org and

Facebook page.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Welcome, guests and friends, to worship this morning. We gather to give thanks to God our creator and savior. All who hunger are invited to the feast at Zion. Here, we encounter God in the risen Jesus---through the Word, the water, the bread and cup, the prayers, and the assembly of believers. God graces us with the forgiveness of sins and hope in a new creation.

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

PRELUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☐ one God,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C Amen.

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

**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.



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. John Wesley, 1703–1791, alt.
Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the Good News.

C Thanks be to God.

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CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Ron Ayers, Suzanne Baumgardner, Doris Bernadicci, Bonnie Bleacher, Stephanie Cambell, Logan Dohner, Arthur Drescher, Tracy Fox and family, Andy and Rachelle Gable, Tim Hertzog, Lois Hicks, Len and Janet Hoffman, Waltraut Karklins, Karen Laudenslager, Jacob Longenecker, Linda Losito, Susan Mindermann, Gisela Pilarte, Nancy Reber, Marie Rosati, friends and family of Shirley Royer, Judy Schaffer, Dale Shepherd, Jerry Solomon, Martha Weidman and Family, Jim and Sandy Young.

COMING UP NEXT

Every Wednesday, 8:15-9:30 am: Morning Meditation. At Zion Lutheran Church.

Today, 11:15am: Sunday Learning Group. See more in Announcements.

February 4, 11:30am: Gather On the Hill: Senior Event. Meet at Bergstrasse Church. Please call Ephrata Area Social Services to RSVP by the Friday before each event. More details in the weekly newsletter.

February 9, 10:30am: Annual Congregational Meeting.

February 9, 11:15am: Rail Trail Church. Meet at Zach and Liz Rowe's house. 3 Pad-dock Drive, Lititz, PA 17543

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray:

**C We give you thanks, gracious God,
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.**

**Send us to bring good news
and to proclaim your favor to all,
strengthened with the richness of your grace
in your Son, Jesus Christ.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG “Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me” (ELW 336)



1 Je - sus, thy bound - less love to me no thought can reach, no
2 Oh, grant that noth - ing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure
3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue and daunt - less - ly to
4 In suf - f'ring be thy love my peace, in weak - ness be thy



tongue de - clare; u - nite my thank - ful heart to thee,
love a - lone; oh, may thy love pos - sess me whole,
thee as - pire. Oh, may thy love my hope re - new,
love my pow'r; and when the storms of life shall cease,



and reign with - out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, thine a -
my joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold - ness from my
burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire! And day and night, be
O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, be thou my rod and

GATHERING HYMN “Rise Up, O Saints of God!” (ELW 669)



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!



Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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EPIPHANY SEASON LITANY

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;

C The God of glory thunders, the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

P The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;

C The voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

P The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;

C The Lord sits enthroned as King forevermore.

P The Lord shall give strength to his people;

C The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

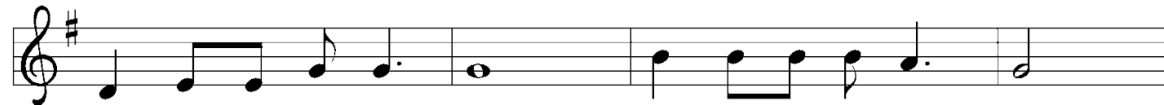
CANTICLE OF PRAISE “This Little Light of Mine” (ELW 677)



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
 Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and
 3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -
 4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
 glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;
 pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less
 dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -
 quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed
 though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of
 joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav'n - ly,
 por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your
 heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious
 fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."
 con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
 me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.


Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
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COMMUNION

We practice the ancient rite of the Lord's Supper every week. All people who hunger for God's grace and peace in their lives are welcome to receive the bread and cup. Please come forward in the center aisle, take an empty cup, kneel at the altar, and return by the side aisle. In this meal, you are joined with Christ, your sins are forgiven, and you receive God's strength for daily life. We are sent from the table to serve others in his name. We offer gluten free bread and grape juice, as an alternative to the bread and wine, for those who require or prefer it. All are fed at the table of grace!

LAMB OF GOD (ELW 174)



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.

SONG DURING COMMUNION "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" (ELW 488)

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

4 Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

6 Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."

7 But the Lord said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

8 Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord."

9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,
"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

10 See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

R Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

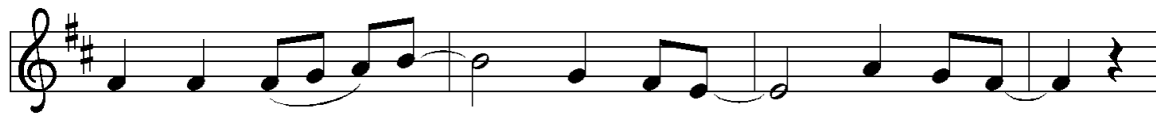
4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. 9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

R Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW 171)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:21-30

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

21 Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The pastor gives thanks to God for the gifts of creation, for the cross of Christ and the means of salvation, for the bread and cup that become His body and blood, and for the Holy Spirit, sent to dwell in our hearts and minds by faith. 'Eucharist' literally means 'thanksgiving' and so we come to the table with thankful hearts lifted up to God, the giver of life.

We hear the instructions of St. Paul to the Corinthian church on celebrating the Lord's Supper; and we hear the words of Jesus to his disciples: "Take and eat, take and drink, this is my body, this is my blood, given and shed for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Trust that Christ is present for you in this meal.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW 112)

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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 Christ our light has become our bread!

C Let us receive him with joy!

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray:

**C Blessed are you, O God,
Sovereign of the universe.**

**You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey.
Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food,
and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world,
in the name of Christ our light. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW 173)

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav - en 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.

23 He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” 24 And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. 25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30 But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Rev. Dr. Matthew Lenahan

HYMN OF THE DAY “Although I Speak with Angel’s Tongue” (ELW 644)

1 Al - though I speak with an - gel’s tongue, my faith, my
2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er
3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions
4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to
knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are
vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -
end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now
one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one
vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.
dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.
see: then we will see love face to face.
mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951
Music: O WALY WALY, English traditional
Text © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.

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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Join the circle! We pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need of God's compassionate mercy saying: light of the world, **hear our prayer.***

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

We share a sign of peace with one another; a hug. Handshake, and the words "peace be with you".

MEAL

OFFERING

We receive an offering for the mission and ministry of the church. Your gifts support weekly worship, pastoral ministry, and local and global outreach efforts. You may also give online at www.zionakron.org. Click on: ONLINE GIVING. Thank you.

OFFERING SONG "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" (ELW 674)



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980

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