

**Zion Lutheran Church
Glen Rock, PA
Fourth Sunday of Advent
LBW Holy Communion Setting One
Sunday, December 21, 2025**

*We stand as we are able.

Introduction to the day

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:**

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (LBW 34, verse 4)

***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

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen

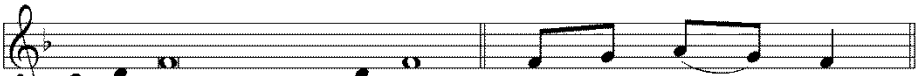
***ENTRANCE HYMN: “The Advent of Our God”** LBW (green) 22

***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)



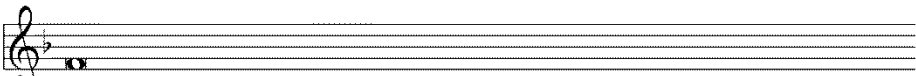
(A) In peace, let us pray to the Lord. (B) Lord, have mer - cy.




(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,
 let us pray to the Lord. [C] Lord, have mer - cy.
 [A] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. [C] A - men

***HYMN OF PRAISE: “People Look East”**

WOV (blue) 626, verse 4

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen

ANTHEM: “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Children’s church dismissal: All children are invited to the Nursery, at this time.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹ like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- ¹ on the cherubim.
- ² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹ and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and ¹ come to help us.**
- ³ Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we ¹ shall be saved.
- ⁴ **O LORD ¹ God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers ¹ of your people?**
- ⁵ You have fed them with the ¹ bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of ¹ tears to drink.
- ⁶ **You have made us the derision ¹ of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh ¹ us to scorn.**
- ⁷ Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we ¹ shall be saved.
- ¹⁶ **Let your hand be upon the man of ¹ your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong ¹ for yourself.**
- ¹⁷ And so will we never turn a- ¹ way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- ¹ on your name.
- ¹⁸ **Restore us, O LORD ¹ God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we ¹ shall be saved.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 1:1-7

- ¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
- ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
- Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (LBW p. 62)**



GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter.

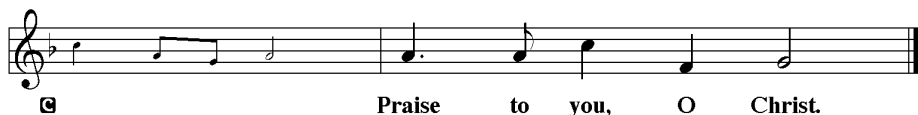


¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON (LBW p. 83)

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast” LBW (green) 234

***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)**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah’s coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your in love. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

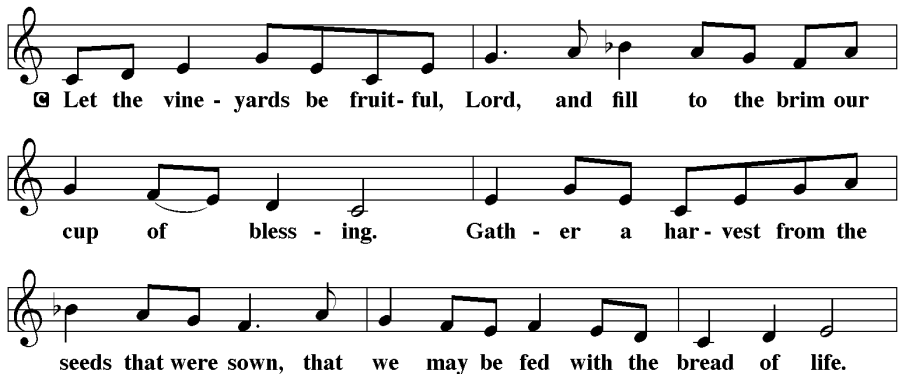
***PEACE (LBW p. 66)**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

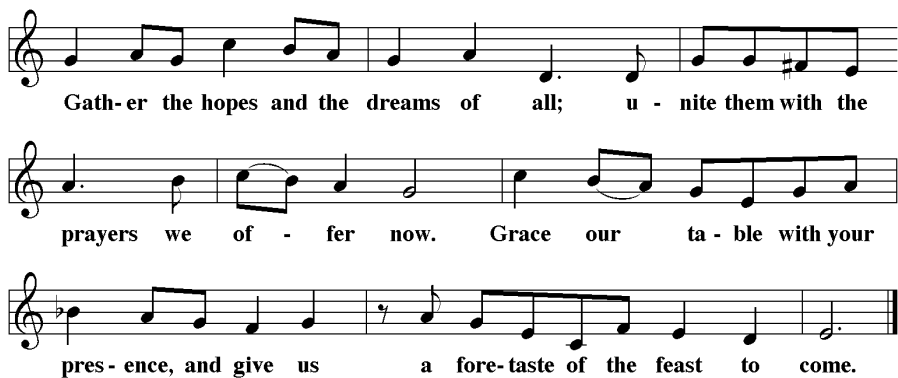
And also with you.

***PRESENTATION OF OFFERING**

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: (LBW p. 66)**



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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

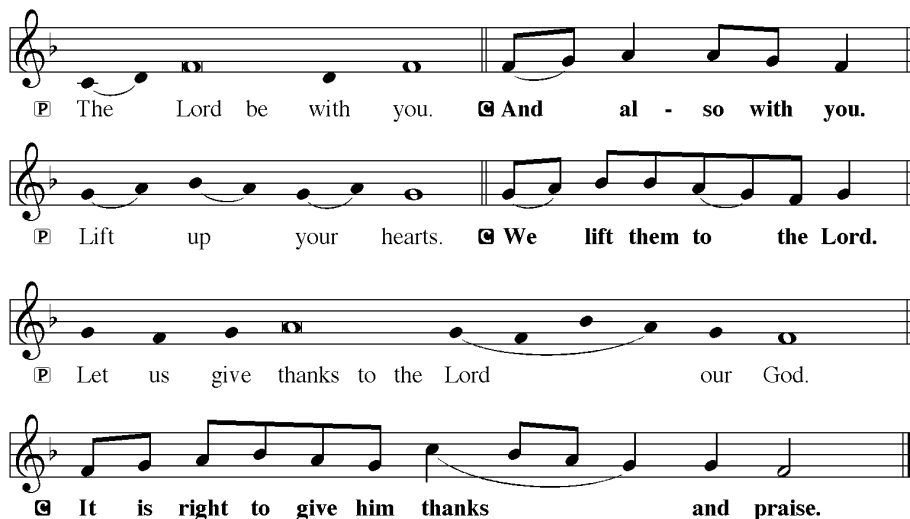
Let us pray.

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

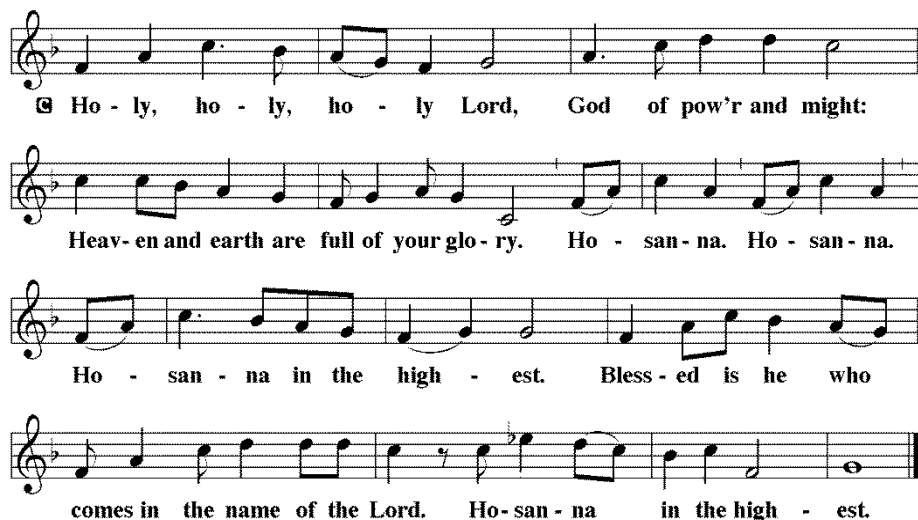
***DIALOGUE (LBW p. 68)**



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 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:



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

*THANKSGIVING (LBW p. 70)

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)**

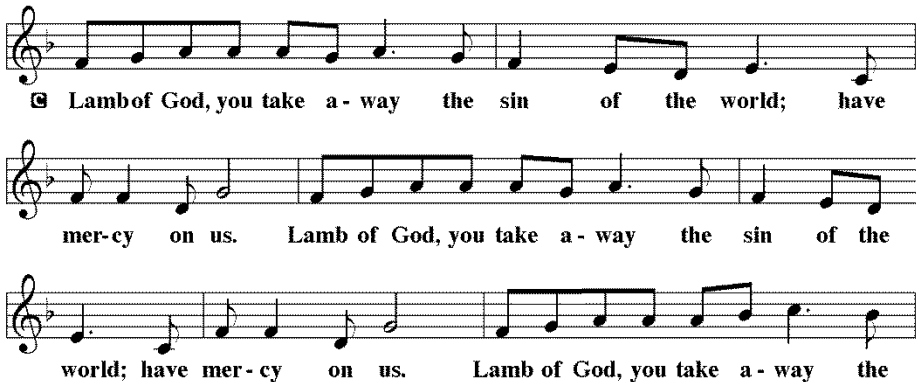
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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



COMMUNION (LBW p. 72)

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

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

***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**



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:** “Fling Wide the Door”

LBW (green) 32

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

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Today’s communion elements are presented to the Glory of God by Butch & Susie Hengst.

SCRIPTURE TEXT FOR SUNDAY 12/24/2025

Isa 9:2-7, Ps 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

PRAYER REQUESTS

Keith Copenhaver, James Thompson, Ron Goodling, Randy Ruth, Joann King, Trey Tomaschko, Lou Tomaschko, Beth Hennessey, Suzanne Becker, Chad Smith, Brian Phelps, Glenn and Linda Engler, Tim Myers, Bonni Whitman, Jon Stiffler, Shirley Seitz, Sandy Fair, Diane Moul

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Zion! We are glad you are here today. After worship, you are invited to a time of fellowship with coffee and snacks in the social hall directly beside the sanctuary.

Communion is offered every Sunday. Wine and apple juice are both available. All are welcome.

Today we welcome Rev. Peter Rustico to lead us in worship.

A congregational meeting will be held today, immediately after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on the proposed 2026 budget. There will also be a vote on a chimney repair and new roof project for the education wing of the building and a new flat roof over the Hanover St. Narthex. The cost of the project is approximately \$60,000. There is money in a dedicated account for this project. If anyone has questions about the project, please ask a member of the Property Committee. Copies of the proposed 2026 budget are available near the table with the bulletins, at the back of the sanctuary.

2026 offering envelopes are now available at the back of the sanctuary on the windowsill.

Nellie Hoffman, mother of Jeff Hoffman, passed away peacefully at the age of 98 on Thursday, December 11th. A memorial service will be held in early spring. Please keep the Hoffman family, and all who knew and loved Nellie, in your thoughts and prayers.

Christmas Eve Service at Zion: The prelude music will begin at 7pm on Wednesday, 12/24.

The Glen Rock Carolers will be performing a free indoor concert at Zion Lutheran Church on Wednesday, December 24th at 10:45pm.

The prices of flower arrangements from Glen Rock Floral Co. (formally known as “Flowers by Cindy”) will increase in 2026. Regular altar flowers and second arrangements will cost \$41 per arrangement. High altar flowers will cost \$29 per 2 bud vases. The new prices include a delivery fee.

CHRISTMAS... a time for giving and sharing! The Christian Education Committee will, once again, be collecting Gifts of Warmth this year (hats, scarves, mittens, etc) to adorn the Christmas tree which is set up in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall. The tree will be available for your donations through December 28, 2025. Donations for children, teens, women, and men are greatly appreciated! All donations will be delivered to Coats of Friendship at the end of the collection period. Questions may be directed to any member of the committee: Jeff Hoffman, Pam Hoffman, Evelyn Roser, and Pam Spangler. **As we prepare for the birth of our Savior, let us remember the true spirit of the season and share God’s bountiful blessings.**

Have you been pulling out your cold weather clothes and outerwear since the temperatures started dropping? Please consider donating your unwanted coats, sweatshirts, and sweaters to Coats of Friendship. A box is available in the church social hall for your donations.

The Loose Change offering plate is available every Sunday. At the end of the month, the total collected for that month will be sent to the chosen organization. **Our loose change collection for December will benefit House of Hope.** House of Hope is a biblically based program that offers a residential home for teen girls ages 14-17, as well as counseling services for families, individuals, and couples. The goal is to provide healing and restoration through individual and family counseling combined with education, recreation, life skills, and spiritual growth.

Services are recorded and streamed live each week on Zion Lutheran Church’s Facebook page. It is possible during the recording that people attending the service will be filmed. If you have any concerns about being filmed, please contact the office at 717-235-3276.

Announcements for the weekly bulletin are due to the office by early Tuesday morning so bulletin work can be completed by the end of the day on Tuesday. This schedule allows time for the bulletin to be sent to the presiding pastor for the upcoming week and allows the website committee time to post the bulletin on Zion’s website. Announcements can be emailed to Brenda at office@zionglenrock.org.

PERSONNEL here at ZION

- Darryl Engler, Organist
- Brenda Davis, Administrative Assistant
- Kelley Fisher, Treasurer
- Chad Fisher, Sexton
- Chad Fisher, Council President.....ckoash6@gmail.com or 717-891-5327
- Rick Freda, Council Vice President.....rickfreda@yahoo.com or 302-864-5700

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tom Bailey, Jeff Brown, Chad Fisher, Rick Freda, Pam Hoffman, Gail Prego, Donna Price, and Jen Webb

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Assisting Ministers:

December 21: Butch Hengst
December 24: Jeff Hoffman
December 28: Lessons and Carols
January 4: Diane Bortner
January 11: Donna Price
January 18: none needed
January 25: George Brown
February 1: Jeff Hoffman
February 8: none needed
February 15: Butch Hengst
February 22: none needed

Lectors:

December 21: Jen Webb
December 24: Kelley Fisher
December 28: Lessons and Carols
January 4: Kayla Rogers
January 11: Rachel Foltz
January 18: Chad Fisher
January 25: Susie Hengst
February 1: Diane Bortner
February 8: George Brown
February 15: Pam Hoffman
February 22: Jake Gilroy

Council Offering Duty:

December – Donna Price and Gail Prego
January – Tom Bailey and Chad Fisher
February – Jen Webb and Pam Hoffman

Altar Care:

December – Linda Beegle
January – Pam Hoffman
February – Diane Bortner



Zion Lutheran Church

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