

**WELCOME TO**  
**Old Zionsville United Church of Christ**  
**5981 Fountain Road, P.O. Box 215**  
**Old Zionsville, PA 18068**

Email: ozuccoffice@ptd.net    Web page: www.oldzionsucc.org

Church Office: 610-966-3601

Pastor: 610-393-3522 or 610-966-3436

Rev. Lori Esslinger

Pastor

David Carlson

Organist

July 30, 2023

9:30 a.m.

*\*those who are able may stand*

**Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**"For Righteousness"**

Prelude: "My Heart Is Filled With Jesus' Love"

Akers

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

One: O Creator of the Cosmos, who knows what the kin-dom of God is like,  
but also remembers what it was like before.

**All: Before creation and kin-doms, before mustard seeds and fine  
pearls, before yeast and bakers to make bread.**

One: So, you know what it is like to long for them, to imagine them into  
being,

**All: And it is from this longing for your kin-dom and for you that we  
enter our worship.**

One: Yes, come, let us praise and pray to our God of promise.

**All: Let us rejoice in the Good News together—how nothing can  
separate us from the presence of God. Amen.**

Invocation (unison)

**O Spirit, who helps us in our struggles, and teaches us how to pray  
when we don't know what to say or how to feel, we call on you from a  
sigh too deep for words. Within that sigh, we wonder, we question,  
and we hope that all things do, indeed, work together for your good.  
And in this experience of being here together, in this time set apart to  
be side by side in community, we are reminded how connected we  
already are. Let us open ourselves to your presence here. Let us seek  
first, the kin-dom of God, and in our searching, may we be found by  
you, Beloved, the One who searches for us first. Amen.**

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: We call upon our ancestor, Solomon, who knew to ask God for the wisdom to discern between what is in the spirit of God, and what is not.

**All: Like Solomon, we admit that we don't always know how to make our way through life—in its nuances, violence, chaos, and unexpected burdens. We also admit that in our struggles, we've made the wrong choice, hurt others, and clung to our shame. Forgive us, O God of Wisdom, and teach us your ways of repair. Amen.**

Words of Grace

If God is for us, then who could be against us? Even in all that we've done, and all that we've left undone, nothing can separate us from the love of God. May we let this sink in, all the way to our marrow. And may such faith hold us up to move in the world with accountability, love, tenderness, and forgiveness. Amen.

\*Hymn: "I Will Call upon the Lord"

p.530

Scriptures: Genesis 29:15-28

**15** Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" **16** Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. **17** Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful. **18** Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." **19** Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." **20** So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her. **21** Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." **22** So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. **23** But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. **24** (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) **25** When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" **26** Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. **27** Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." **28** Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reflection: "Working for the Weekend"

## Invitation to Generosity

Our scripture today says that the kin-dom of heaven is like a treasure. Jesus' parable describes it as hidden, and it does feel like that sometimes. But it can also feel like earth is "crammed" with it too. May we take a moment to remember the ways in which this church has made the kin-dom come alive for us. Let us take this time to give thanks by considering how we can give of our time, money, skills, and unique gifts to this beloved community. Amen.

Offertory: "The Church Triumphant" Gaither

\*Presentation of Our Gifts and The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (unison)

**Like the net that was thrown into the sea and brought in fish of every kind, we celebrate the multitude and diversity of gifts that have been shared here today. May God bless these treasures with the abundance of Christ's love and passion to embody justice in our world. Amen.**

\*The Pastoral Prayer...The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen**

\*Closing Hymn: "Have Faith in God" p.536

\*Benediction

One: May the Kin-dom of Abundance and Multiplicity be with you.

**All: May it be among you. May it live and move and have its dwelling within you.**

One: And may we take the love we've found, our inseparable bond with the Creator, and bring it into fullness out in our world. Amen.

\*Extinguishing of the Candles

\*Postlude: "Heaven Came Down" Peterson



**Please stay for breakfast casserole, coffee and BINGO!**

**"For Righteousness: Service Prayers for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost** was written by The Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry serves as the Associate for Advocacy and Leadership Development for the Council of Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Learn more at [chhsm.org](http://chhsm.org).

**TODAY'S GREETERS** are Randy & Sharon Trexler.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST** is Cheryl Martucci.

RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs.  
Bulletin MAGNIFIER SHEETS can be found on the sound system.



Our church is equipped with an Assistive Listening System. You provide your own headphones which can be connected to the transmitter which will allow you to more clearly hear the Worship Service or any program being offered in the Sanctuary. See anyone at the sound booth to inquire.

**Confirmation Class Serves the Lord! Stay** for Fellowship Fun after church **TODAY**. We will have a breakfast casserole and coffee, play BINGO and then hot dogs, baked goods/desserts and soft pretzels will be for sale. We will meet downstairs in the air-conditioned social hall to raise money for the general fund.

**Zionsville Area Food Pantry** is in need of boxes of Macaroni and Cheese and canned pasta meals, any variety. Thank You.

**ATF Room help is needed for Monday, July 31** for sorting and storing. If you would like to help come anytime, we will be at the Church by 10:00 a.m. Thanks in advance if you can offer some time to this worthwhile ministry of our church.

We will be participating in the **Annual Vera Cruz Homecoming** again this year with the ever popular coin toss. If you have items to share for that, feel free to bring them to the bench outside of Pastor Lori's office. We will need help to "staff" the booth between 12 noon and 5 p.m. on Sunday, August 20. If everyone just decides to hang out for about an hour we can have a great time together. Our brothers and sisters from the Lutheran Church and the Mennonite Church plan to join the fun too! See you then.

Kids, get ready for **Vacation Bible School**, starting tomorrow, July **31—August 4 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**. at Grace Lutheran Church in Macungie! Pirates will be running around as we learn and play with our "Shipwrecked" theme. It will all happen on a deserted island where we learn that Jesus takes care of us wherever we are. Parents and guardians - pick up registration forms at church, or go to their website [gracemacungie.org](http://gracemacungie.org) and click on "classes and interest groups", you will see the link for VBS. Turn completed forms into the church office, or drop them in the mail. Get ready to have a good time with some old and new friends at Shipwrecked!

**GriefShare** will start again on Tuesday, August 29 at 1:00 p.m. in the lower social hall. Our last session will be November 21. Each session will meet from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. It was very helpful to our spring participants. I know it will be helpful for you! Suggest this ministry to anyone who has had a death of a loved one. These 13

weeks of learning and growing closer to God will help everyone who is looking for closure and peace. You may participate in as many Grief Share Programs as you like and may join in at any time during the course of the program. All Welcome. Please speak with Pastor Lori.

**St. Timothy's Lutheran Church**, 140 S. Ott Street, Allentown is having Worship on Wednesdays evenings at 7 p.m. for those interested. They will have special music each week outside under the pavilion across the street (inside if bad weather). This Wednesday, August 2, music will be from "Union Praise Band", Union Evangelical Lutheran Church. Bring your own chair, Free Will offering will be collected each week for a chosen organization.

**Week of July 30-August 5, 2023:**

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

Other times by appointment.

Church Secretary Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm (please call before coming)

Sexton: Richard Shoemaker (with Thanks to his wife, Brenda)

ATF Sort & Store – Monday @ 10am

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Social & Aid – Tuesday @ 7pm

Personnel – Wednesday @

Outlook – Thursday @ 7pm

**Next Sunday** – 9:30am Communion Worship

**Total Offerings from July 23, 2023:**

General Offerings: \$1.313.00

Windows Fund: \$52.00

Building Repair: \$20.00

Disaster Relief Fund: \$20.00

Electric: \$25.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$0

Cemetery: \$0

Attendance: 41

# HOMECOMING



## 71<sup>st</sup> Vera Cruz Homecoming

### Mystic Chain Park

3718 Main Road E.  
Emmaus, PA

12 noon till 8:00 p.m.

Lots of Games

Cakewalk at 3:15 p.m.

Food

Drinks

DJ Cesar Rosario will broadcast live from  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Entertainment by  
The Rehrig Brothers, noon - 3:00 p.m.

And

The Large Flowerheads, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

