

February 26, 2023 • First Sunday in Lent  
9:00 and 11:30am



**Zion**  *lutheran  
church*



## WELCOME TO ZION

When we gather for worship, we're receptive to God's word and we rejoice in God's grace through song, prayer, and Holy Communion. The history of Christian worship is rich with rituals formed by generations. These traditions, prayers, and pastoral teachings help connect our lives with Christ. In our daily lives, we show God's love by serving our community, both locally and globally.

We are a group of believers seeking to respond to Christ's call to worship and serve, even as we wrestle with the big questions of life. We want you to know that you and your questions, faith, and doubts are welcome here!

## HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace: the Word of God and the Sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory and the service is contained within this bulletin. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type**.

We welcome children in our worship services! If needed, a nursery is available down the hallway past the restrooms. The restrooms contain changing tables, as needed.

Throughout the service, members of Zion's music ministry offer their talents as an offering to God. Please receive their musical gifts as a time for prayer, contemplation, or praise of God rather than a performance to be applauded, so that we may worship God throughout our time here together.

## THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent begins with the ashes of Ash Wednesday and extends until Holy Week (the week before Easter). Traditionally, Lent is a time of greater self-examination and repentance for one's sins. In our sinfulness, we also remember that we are dust and will return to dust again.

Even as our worship becomes more somber during this season, we continually remember God's mercy, which is everlasting. We confess our sins; God forgives them. We come to God's table; God feeds us. We are never far from the Lord's presence with us, and his love remains forever.

## ON THE COVER

Desert bushes in the Ein Saharonim valley, the deepest point of the Makhtesh Ramon - largest erosion crater in the Negev desert, Israel. Photo by John Theodor, licensed through Adobe Stock.

Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • [zion@zionsa.org](mailto:zion@zionsa.org)

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, gathers us in worship.*

## PRELUDE

*Savior, When in Dust to You*, setting by Gerald Near

## WELCOME

*Please rise, as you are able.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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 us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in 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.

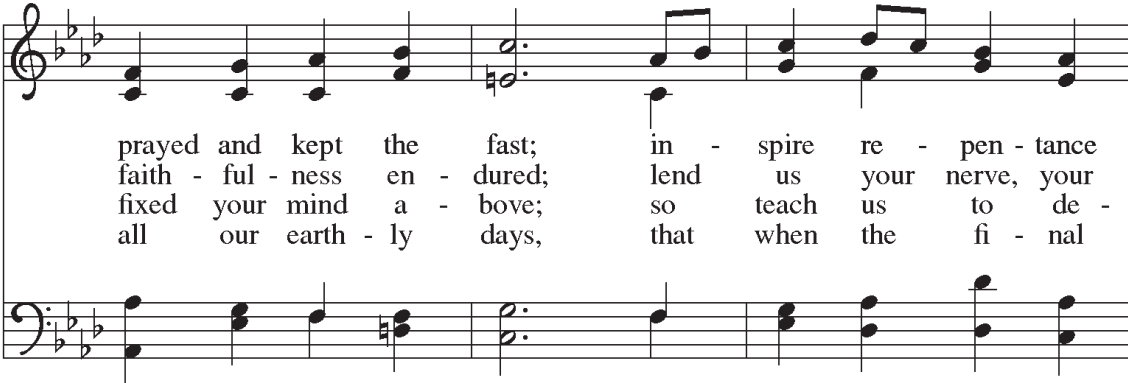
**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930  
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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## GREETING

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

*Cantor, then all:*



*(Invocation)*      Lord, have mer - cy.  
Christ, have mer - cy.  
Lord, have mer - cy.

Music: *Missa Pacem*, L. Randolph Babin, © 2004, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

9:00 CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*The First Sin*  
Spark Children's Bible Page 14

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

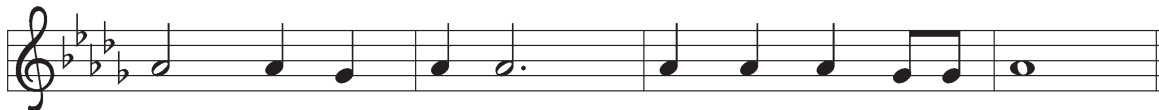
<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

# PSALM 32

## Refrain

Mark Anderson



Mer - cy em - brac - es those who trust in the LORD.

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary*  
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Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven  
and whose sin is put away!  
Happy are they whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!  
While I held my tongue my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.  
For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.  
Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said,  
“I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.”  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin,  
Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. *Refrain.*

You are my hiding place, you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.  
Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding, who must be fitted with bit  
and bridle or else they will not stay near you.”  
Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.  
Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord, shout for joy, all who are true of heart.  
*Refrain.*

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:12-19

<sup>12</sup>Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—<sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, as you are able.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

Pastor Bill Swantner

*Please rise, as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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## APOSTLES' CREED

Let us now confess our faith using the words of the 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.**

*\*catholic: universal*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*Each petition is spoken; please respond as directed by singing:*



Out of the depths I cry to you, — O Lord God, hear me call - ing. —

The image shows a musical score for a prayer. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music ends with a double bar line.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please check the back pages of this bulletin for additional announcements.*

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.*

## OFFERING

*At this time, we give our offerings with thanksgiving to God. These offerings support the mission and ministry of Zion, including the care of those in need. To give online, please visit [ZionSA.org](http://ZionSA.org). Children are invited to come forward during the music and place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel area (near the Sacristy door). During the offering music, the pastor sets the table with the elements for Holy Communion. Please know that this is the Lord's table, and all are welcome to receive Communion.*

## OFFERING MUSIC

9:00	<i>Create in Me a Clean Heart</i> by Matthew Culloton	Chancel Choir
11:30	<i>In All Our Grief and Fear We Turn to You</i> by Thomas Keesecker	Youth Choir

*Please rise, as you are able.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of good gifts,  
**receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



4

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of  
 hosts. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name, who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text: ICEL, © 2010  
 Music: *Missa Pacem*, L. Randolph Babin, © 2004, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus has 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

These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION

*Jesus welcomes all to this holy meal! Children who commune should be assisted by adults who are with them. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the person serving bread. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray for any who are unable to drink wine. After taking Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer - cy on us.  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Music: *Missa Pacem*, L. Randolph Babin, © 2004, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00

*O Love* by Elaine Hagenberg

Chancel Choir

11:30

*Behold the Lamb* by John Behnke

Youth Choir

# COMMUNION HYMN

## Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;  
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.  
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,  
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993  
 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.  
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*After communion, we rise and share in blessing and prayer.*

## BLESSING

May the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed Jesus, in this meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us out in peace.*

## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN  
Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Text: alt. John Fawcett, 1740-1817; sec. 1-2, alt. Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903; st. 3, alt. Music: SCILLIAN MARKINENS, Steinhilber, 18th cent.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Symphony 4 - Movement 1* by Charles-Marie Widor

Tyler Westbrook

AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER

*Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.*

## Worship Support

February Altar Guild

Chris and Don Jones

Alyssa Brodbeck, Suzi Lockamy

Mary Jo Goldenbaum

Belynda McKenzie, Kathy Null

Linda and Roy Tschirhart

Bread Offering

Susan Johns

Lay Readers

9:00

Scott McKenzie

11:30

Kevin McGee

Cantor

Gavin Magee, Manuel Canales

Communion Servers

9:00

Linda Hoffman, Carolyn Pfeiffer

11:30

Leshea Clabough & Kevin McGee

Livestream

David Umlang

Steve Johnson

Sound

Scott Van Doren

February Ushers

Jake Apodaca

Mary Ann and Bill Schmidt

Dan Graham

Pam Gammage

Brandon Dubuisson

Mike DeHart, Chris Berg

## THIS WEEK AT ZION



Scan this QR code for  
web calendar

### Sunday, February 26

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour	10:15	Details next page
Adult Class: Week Ahead	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Adult Class: Habits of the Household	10:15	MC 1
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube
BBQ Fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity hosted by LMM & WOZ	10am-1pm	Family Life Center

### Tuesday, February 28

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Handbell Choir	6:30	Sanc Balcony
Children's Choir	7-7:45	Ministry Ctr 1
Youth Choir	7pm	Music Apse
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

### Wednesday, March 1

Tickets on sale for *Sound of Music* (show only). Details page 21.

[www.zionsa.org](http://www.zionsa.org)

High School/Elementary Mentoring	7:15am	Nichols Elementary
Crafty Bunch	9:30	Ed Bldg Craft Rm
Midweek Lenten Worship Services	1:00 & 6:30	Church 1/Chapel
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

### Thursday, March 2

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief	9:30	Fellowship Hall
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
San Antonio Deanery	11am	MC 5
Dinner Out	6:30	Restaurant TBA
Book Study with Pr Kathi	7pm	Zoom
Fiesta Flutes	7pm	Church 2

### Saturday, March 4

Fall Craft Fair	9am-3pm	Family Life Center and Campus
Weight Watchers Mtg	9am	Church 2

### Sunday, March 5

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour	10:15	Details next page
Adult Class: Week Ahead	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Adult Class: Habits of the Household	10:15	MC 1
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

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## BBQ for Habitat for Humanity TODAY



*Holy Smoke*

BBQ Plate Fund-Raiser for  
Habitat for Humanity  
Sunday, February 26, 2023  
Serving 10:00am - 1:00pm

\$12 Suggested Advance Donation  
\$14 Suggested at the Door

Brisket - Sausage - Beans - Potato Salad (Desserts a la carte)  
To-Go Plates or Dine-In FLC

Prepared by Zion's Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of Zion



Tickets are on sale at the Family Life Center door. Hosted by Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of Zion.

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## Give Help to Earthquake Relief Efforts

On February 6, powerful earthquakes hit the region of southern Turkey and northern Syria. Thousands have died; many others have been injured and displaced. Lutheran Disaster Response is already working with partners in the area to provide disaster relief to those impacted. Please support these relief efforts by visiting [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org) (or scan QR) to donate or call 800-638-3522.



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## Spring Craft Fair next Saturday, March 4

Vendors will bring their wares to the Family Life Center and outdoor campus with home decor, jewelry, clothing, furniture, toys, fine art and more! Zion's youth families will serve breakfast and lunch from the snack bar. Plan to make a day of it! Doors open at 9:00am.

*Outdoor vendor spaces are still available. Contact the church office for an application.*

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## Dinner Out at Bella Sera Restaurant

Thursday, March 2 at 6:30pm

Dinner Out meets this month a Bella Sera Homemade Italian Cooking, 812 N. Main in Boerne. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30.

RSVP by February 26 to Sandy or Jim Chillstrom. Call the church office if you need contact info

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## Sunday Faith Formation

### Children

Music Opening in MC 1 at 10:15. Children age three years and older meet in the Ministry Center Room 1 for opening music with Ms. Sammy, then go to classrooms.

### Youth Classes

Grade 5-7	MC Room 5
Grade 8-9	MC Room 7
Grade 10-12	MC Room 8

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## Adult Sunday Classes

### Week Ahead Bible Study

10:15 at with Pastor Kathi, in the Fellowship Hall. Take a look at the lessons we have in worship each week. What's their context? How do we make sense of them as 21st century Christians?

### Habits of the Household

Led by Pastor Dan at 10:15 in MC 1, through March 26. Adult forum based on the book of the same name, on practicing the story of God in everyday family rhythms. Presentations and small group discussions on waking, mealtimes, work, play, conversation, bedtime and more.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul presents

## The Artists of San Antonio Fine Art Show

March 11-12, 2023

benefiting Helotes House of Neighborly Service, providing food and assistance to neighbors in need.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Family Center

11762 FM 1560

in Helotes

Scan this QR code or go to [www.Helotes-House.org](http://www.Helotes-House.org) for event and ticket info. Admission is \$10.



## Women of Zion

Join in activities and fellowship

with other women in the congregation.

Scan the QR code to get on the mailing list, or send an

e-mail to [WOZ@zionsa.org](mailto:WOZ@zionsa.org).



## Midweek Worship in Lent

Afternoon and Evening Services on Wednesdays

This year, our midweek Lent services focus on *The Psalms of Lent*. Join us at 1:00pm or 6:30pm in our Historic Chapel for brief Wednesday services which will include Holy Communion.

This series will begin March 1 and continues throughout March.



## Tickets on Sale March 1

April 21, 22, 23 28, 29, 30 in the FLC Zion Theatre Group is going digital!

Tickets for “show only” will be available on Zion’s homepage **beginning March 1**. Theatregoers choose a per-

formance date and seating, and pay directly from Zion’s website.

Patrons purchasing dinner seats may contact Sammy directly at [theatre@zionsa.org](mailto:theatre@zionsa.org), or call the church office **beginning March 1** to make reservations. Sammy will also sell dinner tickets in person in the gazebo on March 5 and 29, and April 2 and 16. **Tickets are not available before March 1.**

*Moving forward, we will not be able to accommodate exchanges or refunds. Please plan carefully before purchasing tickets for any performance.*

## Mitchell Lake Audubon Center Field Trip

March 11 - Carpool from Zion 8:30am\*

Lutheran Men in Mission invite all to the guided overview and hike included (90 minutes, 1.5 mile). Zion and Audubon member, Kevin Hoag, wildlife photographer, will share some insights.

\$6.00 per person over 4 years old. Bring your own lunch/drink. Hiking shoes and binoculars recommended if you’re interested. Liability release and RSVP required by March 8. Contact Dave Newman through the Zion office or the link on Z-Mail.

\* or meet at 9:00 Mitchell Lake Ctr, 10750 Pleasanton Road.



## Feel the Warmth

Sometimes it takes more than a parka or a blanket to keep another person warm. Sometimes it takes the presence of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers share the warmth of God's love with those who need it most: the lonely, the depressed, the grieving. Is God calling you to reach out to those who are hurting? Consider serving as a Stephen Minister.

Zion's Stephen Ministry holds its next "50 Hours of Training" event from March until July. Training classes begin Thursday, March 9. For more information, talk with our current Stephen ministers at our table in the gazebo after services.

*If you would like to request help from a Stephen Minister, contact LeShea Clabough by calling the Zion office at: 210-688-3090*

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## Staff Update

During this time of staff transition, Council member Chris Jones has agreed to volunteer as Facilities Manager. Chris has experience in this field, and we welcome her expertise! She is overseeing repairs as needed and handling other projects around our extensive campus. Thank you, Chris, for your commitment to the care of our facilities!

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## Pastor Kathi's Zoom Book Study

Beginning on March 2, Pastor Kathi's book study group will begin our next book: *Jesus of the East: Reclaiming the Gospel for the Wounded*. Written by Vietnamese immigrant Phuc Luu, we will examine Christian theology from the perspective of the Eastern church. Meet via Zoom on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 7:00 to 8pm.

Email Pastor Kathi ([kjohnson@zionsa.org](mailto:kjohnson@zionsa.org)) for more info or to sign up. The book is available on Amazon or at [Bookshop.org](http://Bookshop.org).



## CONTACT



[zionsa.org](http://zionsa.org)



[zionsa](https://www.facebook.com/zionsa)



[@zionsatx](https://www.instagram.com/zionsatx)



[zion@zionsa.org](mailto:zion@zionsa.org)



210-688-3090



9944 Leslie Road, 78254



8:30am-5:00pm  
Friday close at 3:00pm

## STAFF DAYS OFF

Pastor Kathi - Monday

[kjohnson@zionsa.org](mailto:kjohnson@zionsa.org)

Pastor Dan - Monday

[dheim@zionsa.org](mailto:dheim@zionsa.org)

Rob Mikulski - Monday

[rmikulski@zionsa.org](mailto:rmikulski@zionsa.org)

Sammy Mikulski - Monday

[theatre@zionsa.org](mailto:theatre@zionsa.org)

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**FEBRUARY 26, 2023  
FIRST SUNDAY  
IN LENT**



*Jesus conquers evil.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 4:1-11</b>	<b>Temptation of Jesus</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7</b>	<b>First sin and its punishment</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 5:12-19</b>	<b>Adam and Christ</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</b>	<b>Don't worship idols</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ephesians 6:10-17</b>	<b>The whole armor of God</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Hebrews 2:5-18</b>	<b>Exaltation through humiliation</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 32</b>	<b>The joy of forgiveness</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 3:1-17</b>	<b>For God so loved the world</b>

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. **Matthew 4:10-11 (NRSV)***

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, it is difficult to face the evil within and around us. Thank you for facing and conquering the power of sin through Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God of steadfast love and mercy, we thank you for this meal and all that you do to care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God keep you from all evil and give you peace through Jesus Christ.



**FEBRUARY 26, 2023**

## **HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*O Lord, throughout  
These Forty Days*



taking **+**  
faith  
home

## **WEEKLY MILESTONES**

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## **CARING CONVERSATIONS**



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you are going through difficult times, who supports you?
- Do you believe that God is always there for you in good and bad times? Explain.

## **DEVOTIONS**



*Read:* Matthew 4:1-11.

After his baptism, Jesus is guided by the Holy Spirit to go out into the wilderness, a place of testing and identity formation. He is tested as he faces Satan and the basic temptations of comfort, worshiping false gods, and misuse of power. Jesus does not give in to these temptations. As the Son of God, he is adamant and without compromise. We, on the other hand, find it easy to compromise goodness in the presence of evil by tolerating comfort over justice, worship of false gods, and powers that hurt others without grieving us. In a world where little compromises lead to major sins and disappointments, it is good to know that our Savior faced down evil and won. Evil is real and does real damage to God's creation, including human beings and their relationships. The good news is that as fallible and susceptible as we are to evil, God in Christ has conquered every evil power.

*Discuss:* How does Jesus' victory over Satan give you strength and courage to live each day?

*Pray:* **Eternal God, you who never give up on us and always oppose evil, we thank you for your steadfast love and mercy through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

## **SERVICE**



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you reach out to someone who feels alone?

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. Decorate an Almsgiving Box to collect money for those in need during Lent. Place the box in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent. This week rather than eating out, place money that you might have spent in the box to give to others.

*Pray:* **Loving God, thank you for giving us daily bread. Help us to give to others so that they may also be given daily bread. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)