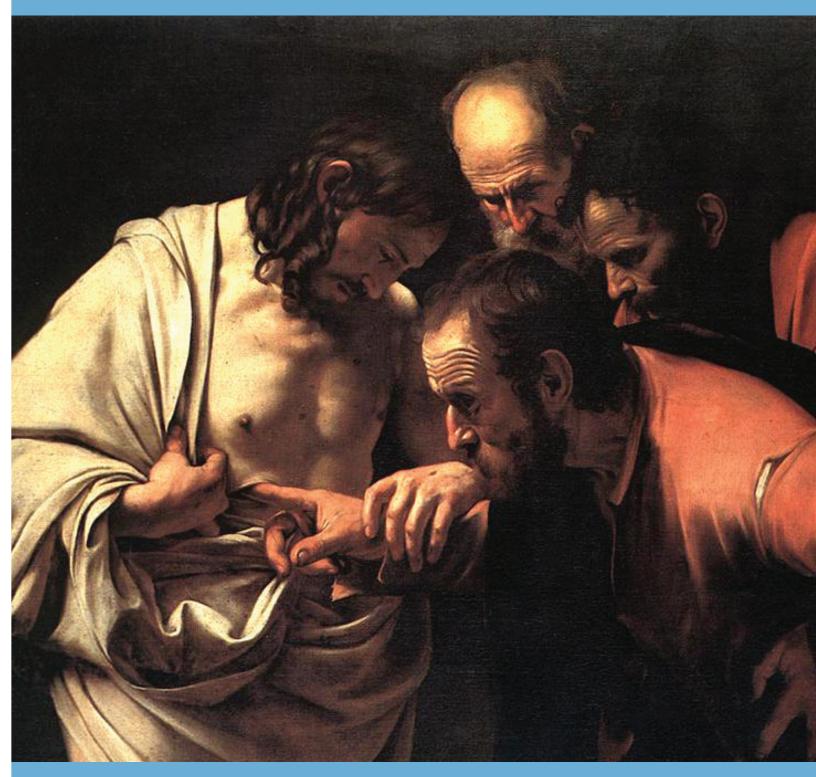
## April 16, 2023 • Second Sunday of Easter 9:00 and 11:30am





## 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 EASTER

Alleluia! He is risen! So begins the joyous Season of Easter. As we emerge from the somber time of Lent, we speak and sing our alleluias once again. Easter isn't over after just one day - for six weeks, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus through song and stories.

What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for us? A prayer in our funeral liturgy says it well: "Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord..." Because Christ lives, we live also. Alleluia!

### ON THE COVER

Detail from *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas* by Caravaggio circa 1602. Oil on canvas. Sanssouci palace, Pottsdam, Germany. WikiArt.org.

Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • zion@zionsa.org

# GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight setting by James Biery

WELCOME

#### TEMPLE TALK: Lutheran World Relief Kits

Women of Zion

Please rise, as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM In the name of the Father, and of the № Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



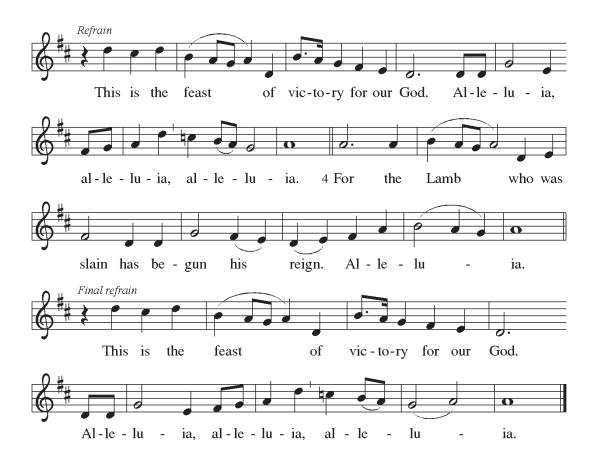
Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## GREETING Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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.** 

#### CANTICLE OF PRAISE





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, 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.

## CHILDREN'S CHAT

## FIRST READING: ACTS 2:14A, 22-32

<sup>14</sup>aPeter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>22</sup>"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;

moreover my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,

or let your Holy One experience corruption.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life;

you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

<sup>29</sup>"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,

nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

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

PSALM 16



- 4 I know that I shall not be left forgotten in the grave, that from corruption, thou, O LORD, thy holy one wilt save.
- 5 The path of life thou showest me; of joy a boundless store is ever found at thy right hand, and pleasures evermore.

Words: Psalter, 1912, P.D. Music (MAITLAND 8.6.8.6): George N. Allen, 1850, P.D.

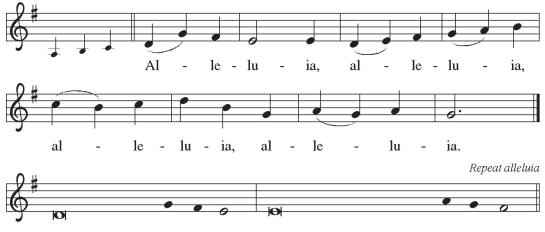
## SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

Please rise, as you are able.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Heim



Text: Luis Bojos, b. 1937; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951 Music: SANTO DOMINGO, Luis Bojos, b. 1937 Text and music of 1974, 2000 Luis Bojos. Publicado dy OCP Publications. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator

## 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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Each petition ends:* Risen Lord, in your mercy, *Response:* Hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. 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. 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

Verset by Léon Boëllmann

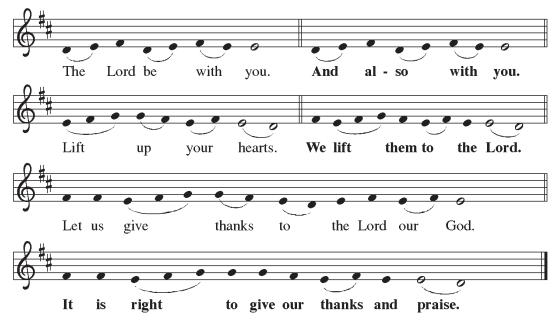
Please rise, as you are able.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

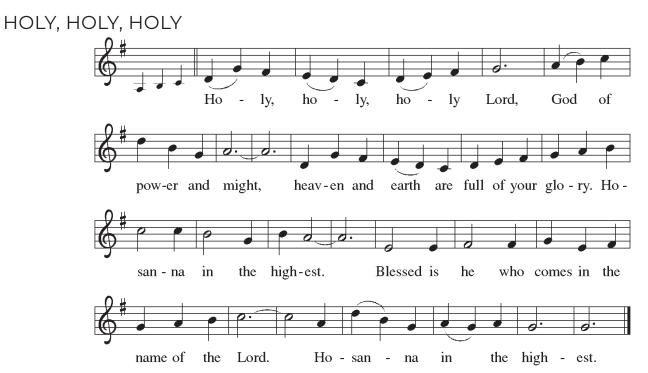
Let us pray. Generous God,

in this meal you offer your very self. We give you thanks for these gifts. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING



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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

#### Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, ♥ your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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.



Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt. Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, 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.** 

# 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 on next page

DISMISSAL Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!** Go in peace and share the good news. **Thanks be to God.** 

POSTLUDE

Resurrection Dance by Adrian Vernon Fish

#### 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.



Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

#### Worship Support

April 16 Altar Guild Randalyn Nickel Eileen and Mel Berg Sharon Meade, Karen Umlang Susan Wright

> Lay Readers 9:00 Scott McKenzie 11:30 Mike DeHart

Communion Servers 9:00 Mary Jo Goldenbaum Amy Swanson 11:30 Rachel Cannady LeShea Clabough

> Livestream Steve Johnson Pastor Kathi Johnson

> > Sound Scott Van Doren

April Ushers 9:00 Allen Cockrell LeShea Clabough and Kevin McGee Meredith and Brandon Price 11:30 Pam Gammage, Caleb DeHart Kim and Mike DeHart Chris Berg

THIS Scan QR code for WEEK this month's AT calendar ZION Sunday, April 16 Worship in person 9am Sanctuary Faith Formation Hour 10:15 Details next page Adult Class: Week Ahead 10:15 Fellowship Hall Worship in person and online 11:30 Sanc & YouTube Monday, April 17 Game Group 1pm FLC 101 LMM Fellowship & Dinner 6:30 Sea Island Rest. Tuesday, April 18 **Exercise Group** 9am Church 2 Council Mtg 6:30 FH Handbell Choir 6:30 Sanc Balcony Warriors Anonymous 7pm Church 2 Wednesday, April 19 High School/Elementary Mentoring 7:15am Nichols Elementary 9:30 Ed Bldg Craft Rm Crafty Bunch 1:00 & Church 1/Chapel Midweek Worship Services 6:30 AA - Alcoholics Anonymous 7pm Church 2 Al-Anon Meeting 7pm FLC 101 Thursday, April 20 Quilting for Lutheran World Relief 9:30 Fellowship Hall Weight Watchers Mtg 9:30 Church 2 Youth Night 6:30 Ministry Center Book Study with Pr Kathi 7pm Zoom Fiesta Flutes 7pm Church 2 Stephen Ministry Training 7pm MC7 Friday, April 21 Show Dinner 6:30 FLC The Sound of Music Opening Night 7:30 Saturday, April 22 Weight Watchers Mtg 9am Church 2 Show Dinner 1:30 FLC The Sound of Music Matinee 2:30 Show Dinner 6:30 FLC The Sound of Music Evening Show 7:30 Sunday, April 23 Worship in person 9am Sanctuary Faith Formation Hour 10:15 Details next page 10:15 Fellowship Hall Adult Class: Week Ahead Worship in person and online 11:30 Sanc & YouTube Show Dinner 1:30

FLC

2:30

The Sound of Music Matinee

## The Sound of Music, April 21, 22, 23 28, 29, 30

Show only seats \*

Adults .....\$15 Child < 11 .....\$10

This is the final Sunday to buy show only tickets in person, in the gazebo. Also, if you have already ordered dinner seating," you may pick up your tickets today in the gazebo, or Tuesday-Friday in the office. Any dinner seating tickets not picked up will still be held for you at the FLC door. Dinner seating begins one hour before curtain time.

To purchase show only tickets at home, scan this QR code. Choose your seating, set up an account in Book Tix, and pay with a credit card. Call the church office if you need help. \* All dinner seating is sold out.



### Game Group

April 17 at 1:00pm Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in Family Life Center Room 101 on the first and third Mondays.



## Men's Fellowship

Tomorrow, April 17 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at Sea Island (11715 Bandera) for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR ideas for Men's Ministry! Contact David Umlang at lmm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

## LMM Invites All to the SA Brahmas Game

Brahmas versus the DC Defenders football game, Saturday, April 22 at 2pm at the Alamodome. Group rate tickets

will be \$25 if enough participants sign up. Contact Matt Iwanicki at mkiwanicki@yahoo.com or use this QR code.



## **Faith Formation**

#### Children

Preschool MC Room 3 Kinder-4<sup>th</sup> MC Room 4

### Youth Classes

Grade 5-7	N
Grade 8-9	N
Grade 10-12	N





June 19-23 and/or June 26-30

Check your Z-Mail or scan this OR for details and registration form. K-7<sup>th</sup> Grade



#### Adult Classes Week Ahead Bible Study

10:15 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 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians?

## Midweek Worship **NEW** Wednesday at 1pm and 6:30pm in Church 1

Due to the positive response to the 1pm services during Lent, we're going to continue! Each Wednesday, we'll have simple worship services, now at 1:00 and 6:30pm - both in our Historic Chapel.

## Blood Drive April 30

9am - 1pm

The Bloodmobile will be in Zion's parking lot on Sunday, April 30. You can make an appointment, or just stop by any time until 1pm.

To find out more about blood donation, scan the QR code or go to https://bit.ly/3MKiTGb



Your generosity empowers Zion's ministry

From Sunday morning worship to feeding families for the holidays, collecting clothing for local charity or relief supplies shipped hundreds of miles, to friendships fostered worldwide with simple hand stitches.

Because you kindly share your time, lend your skills, and support your ministry financially, Zion's impact reaches far beyond the four walls of our sanctuary. On behalf of everyone we're able to help, thank you for your contribution.

For more ways to support Zion's mission, scan this QR code.



## Youth Night This Thursday, April 20

Middle & High School Dinner and Fellowship 6:30-8:30 in Ministry Center

Every other Thursday, Zion's high school and middle school youth meet to enhance their impact on their community, collectively – with service projects, Bible discussion that relates to their daily lives, dinner and something else fun – to build a community on mission.

Please use the QR code to RSVP so we have enough food and supplies!





## Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church!

Stephen Ministry Training Update Here is what our Stephen Ministers are learning this week. Please continue to keep our Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders in your prayers:

## SESSION 6 — PROCESS VERSUS RESULTS IN CAREGIVING

If ever there were a time for Stephen Minister trainees to say "Aha!" this module would be it. They learn the key understanding that they don't have to (and indeed can't) fix whatever problem it is that their care receiver faces.

This session is a time for a collective sigh of relief. God is the curegiver; the Stephen Minister is the caregiver. This establishment of roles is what makes Stephen Ministry possible. The concept runs counter to the strong results-oriented approaches of present-day society. But in caregiving, the more one pushes for results in another, the faster and farther they flee.

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

## Summer Theatre Camp is June 5-16

Grades K-12. Check your Z-Mail for a printable application and info form, or pick one up in the church office during business hours.

## 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.



#### April Women of Zion Events

• Today, April 16, collection for Lutheran World Relief Kits begins. Specific items are requested:

### Personal Care Kits

- Dark colored bath towel
- Bars of bath size soap
- Adult size toothbrush in original packaging

## Fabric Kits

- Cotton or cotton-blend woven fabric. No knits or 100% polyester.
  - Size 2 1/4 yards of 60 " wide fabric OR 3 yards of 44" wide fabric OR 4 yards of 36" wide fabric
- Thread, neutral-colored, general purpose, 250-300 yard spool

## Baby Kits

- Cotton t-shirts (no onesies)
- Long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel sized between 36" and 52" square
- Cloth diapers (preferably NOT prefolded)
- Jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with or without hood
- Socks
- Hand towel, dark color recommended
- Bars of gentle baby soap



STAFF DAYS OFF Pastor Kathi - Monday kjohnson@zionsa.org

Pastor Dan - Monday dheim@zionsa.org

Rob Mikulski - Monday rmikulski@zionsa.org

Sammy Mikulski - Monday theatre@zionsa.org

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The resurrected Jesus gives us peace.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	Peter addresses the crowd
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Wednesday	2 Thessalonians 3:16-17	Final Greetings
Thursday	Psalm 29	The voice of God in a storm
Friday	John 14:25-31	Promise of the Holy Spirit
Saturday	Psalm 16	Song of trust in God
Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus

## **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21 (NRSV)

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, give us your peace and courage to live each day with hope and confidence through Christ Jesus our Risen Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Be present at our table Lord, be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we may feast in paradise with thee. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:3)



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# APRIL 16, 2023

**HYMN OF THE WEEK** *Come and Fill Our Hearts* 



## 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:

• What helps you stay calm when you experience anxious moments?

6

• When was a time you were afraid and your faith helped you feel at peace?



Read: John 20:19-31.

Three times in this reading Jesus says, *"Peace be with you."* It's the message of our resurrected Lord to disciples who are meeting behind locked doors in fear. Fear, anxiety, and caution are part of daily life then and now. After washing the disciple's feet and the last supper (John 13), Jesus preaches to his disciples (John 14-16) and then offers a prayer that continues his deep-seated concern for his followers (John 17). His message is expressed in the language of John 14:1: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."* At the heart of Jesus' message is trust and confidence in God's power for new life that is filled with peace. Christ's peace does not take us out of the world of fear and suffering but leads us with hope in Christ's victory from the cross that promises life, not death, hope, not despair. *Discuss:* How can Jesus' words, *"Peace be with you"* comfort you when you are facing fears? *Pray:* God of eternal comfort and hope, give us peace to face others and the world with love and faith through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you extend to others Jesus' words "Peace be with you"?

# **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

The words in the Gospel of John are "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). The Easter season is a period of fifty days, lasting from Easter Sunday through Pentecost. Make a bookmark; write the words, "Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!" on it, and decorate it. Use the bookmark in your Bible as you read through the Gospel of John during the Easter season. When you finish each reading, be reminded of our Savior, Jesus Christ's resurrection by saying: "Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!"



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