May 28, 2023 • Day of Pentecost 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.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

On Pentecost, we remember and celebrate the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the first followers of Jesus. Those followers were gathered together and a sound like a rush of wind came, and tongues of fire appeared over their heads. God then gave them the ability to share the good news of Jesus Christ in different languages - truly a miracle!

You'll notice that today, our paraments (the dressings on the altar and ambo) are red, the pastors are wearing red stoles, and our festive bell banner is red. The color of today is reminiscent of the flames which rested on the heads of those gathered so long ago. The flying dove kite which we fly today is another common symbol of the Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit, and fall upon us!

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

9:00 *Come Down, O Love Divine,* setting by David Cherwein

11:30 How Great Thou Art, arranged by Brian Childers Sarah Juhasz

WELCOME Pastor Bill Swantner

Please rise, as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of \maltese Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.



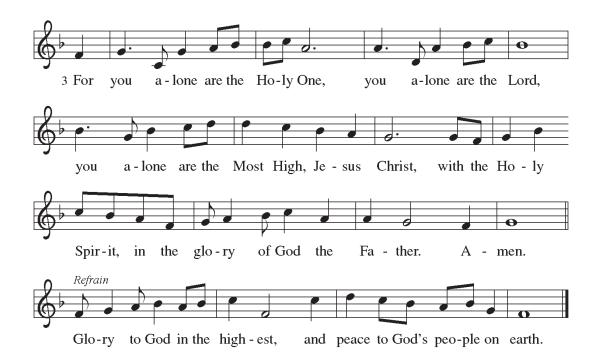
Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606-1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt. Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our 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.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

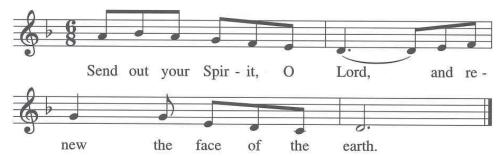
²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

 $^{\mbox{\tiny 2l}}\mbox{Then}$ everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

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

Refrain

Michel Guimont



Bless the LORD, my soul! LORD God, how great you are. How many are your works, O LORD! The earth is full of your riches. R.

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. R.

May the glory of the LORD last for ever! May the LORD rejoice in creation! May my thoughts be pleasing to God. I find my joy in the LORD. R.

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SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3B-13

^{3b}No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-23

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

¹⁹When 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 religious authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Kathi Johnson



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

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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

United by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God Response: Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, 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

9:00 Cantique de Jean Racine by Gabriel Faure

Chancel Choir

Translation: Word, equal to the Most High, our only hope,
Eternal day of the earth and the Heavens;
From the peaceful night we break the silence,
Divine Savior, cast your eyes upon us!
Spread upon us the fire of your powerful grace
May all hell flee at the sound of your voice;
Dispel that slumber of a languishing soul,
Which has driven it to forget your laws!
Oh Christ, be favorable to this faithful people
Now gathered to bless you.
Receive the songs it offers to your immortal glory,
And may it return filled with your gifts!

11:30 Great is Thy Faithfulness, arranged by Christine Anderson

Sarah Juhasz

Please rise, as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God,

the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

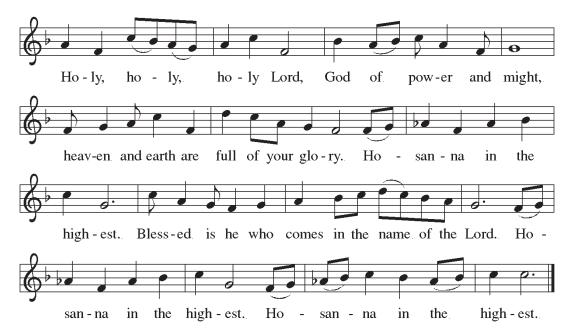
We lift them to the Lord.

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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. 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, HOLY, HOLY



You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, ♣ your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

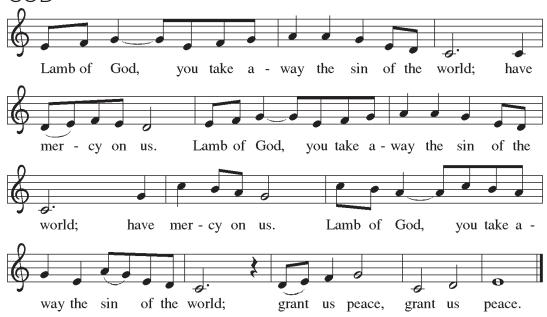
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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



COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00 Sanctus by Franz Schubert Chancel Choir

Translation: Holy, holy, holy. Holy is the Lord.

Holy, holy, holy. Holy is our God.

He who always liveth, evermore the same.

Heaven and earth He ruleth, Come and praise His name!

Holy, holy, holy. Holy is the Lord.

Holy, holy, holy. Holy is our God.

Glorious and beloved, is the One adored.

Holy, holy, holy. Holy is the Lord.

COMMUNION HYMN

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading Nioo kwetu. Roho mwema



- 4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment, nor rootless liberty; turn disquiet to contentment, doubt into certainty.
- 5 Keep us fervent in our witness, unswayed by earth's allure. Ever grant us zealous fitness, which you alone assure.

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922 Music: NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland, b. 1924 English and Swahili text and tune © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. © Egil Hovland. 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. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

Go in peace, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Come, Holy Ghost Our Souls Inspire setting by David Cherwein

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: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932 Text © 2000 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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Worship Support

Altar Guild Bonnie Bahr, Betsy Howard Mona McQuien, Ruth Medbury Karen Sturdivant

Crucifer
9:00
James Sturdivant
11:30
Suzi Lockamy

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

Cantor Lindsay Magee

Communion Servers
9:00
Carolyn Pfeiffer, Amy Swanson
11:30
Pastor Dan Heim, Rachel Cannady

Livestream Steve Johnson, David Umlang

> Sound 9:00 Brinkley Harrell 11:30 Sammy Mikulski

May Ushers
9:00
Rachel & Stuart Williams
Linda & Bruce Krueger
11:30
Pam Gammage, Chris Berg
Caleb DeHart, Audrey DeHart

Kim and Mike DeHart

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Worship in person and online



Scan QR code for this month's calendar

ZION	m)-odia	I
Sunday, May 28		
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
New Member Class #4	10:15	Conference Room
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube
Monday, May 29		
Church Campus Closed for Memo	rial Day Holi	day
Tuesday, May 30		
Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Handbell Choir (final rehearsal)	6:30	Sanc Balcony
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2
Wednesday, May 31		
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Crafty Bunch	9:30	Ed Bldg Craft Rm
Midweek Worship Services	1:00 & 6:30	Church 1/Chapel
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101
Chancel Choir (final rehearsal)	7:15	Sanctuary
Thursday, June 1		
Quilting for Lutheran World Relie	f 9:30	Fellowship Hall
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
San Antonio Deanery	11am	MC 5
Dinner Out at Surfing Crab	6:30	Details page 24
Book Study with Pr Kathi	7pm	Zoom
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2
Stephen Ministry Training	7pm	FLC 101
Stephen Ministry Supervision	7pm	FLC 202
Saturday, June 3		
Weight Watchers Meetings	8:30 & 10:30	Church 2
Sunday, June 4		
Habitat for Humanity Breakfast Fundraiser	8am- 11:30	Family Life Center
New Members Received in Worsh	ip Services	
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary

11:30 Sanc & YouTube

Habitat for Humanity Breakfast Fundraiser



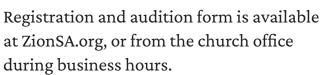
Next Sunday, June 4

Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of Zion invite everyone for breakfast on June 4 in the Family Life Center, 8:00-11:30am! No tickets needed - just drop in. A freewill offering basket will be at the door, along with door prizes and other goodies. A Habitat for Humanity representative will be on hand to talk with you about this organization. Please come enjoy food and fellowship for a good cause!

Zion's Habitat for Humanity goal this year is \$5,000. We are currently about \$1,300 shy of that goal. Help Zion help others achieve their goal of home ownership.

Summer Theatre Camp 2023

June 5-16 for Grades K-12





Zion Summer Theatre Camp presents GUYS AND DOLLS!

Thursday June 15 and Friday June 16, at 7:30pm All you guys and dolls are invited to sit down stop rockin' the boat in the Family Life Center. This version of the musical is crafted for younger performers, but with all the verve and moxie of the original. You'll love it a bushel and a peck!

Both Theatre Camp performances of *Guys and Dolls* are free to the public. Refreshments will be available at the *Hot Box* concession tables.

Blessed Change for San Antonio Food Bank

Today in the Narthex

Zion is collecting food all through



May, we're topping off the month with a Blessed Change Collection for the SA Food Bank. Look for the water well in the narthex and drop in your loose change, folding

money and checks, or scan this QR code to donate directly to the San Antonio
Food Bank.



CAMP HOPE

SUMMER 2023 - TRAVELERS



June 19-23 and/or June 26-30 Check your Z-Mail or scan this QR code for details and registration form.

Students entering Kindergarten through 7th grade are eligible.



Camp Hope

Two Midweek Services

Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm in Church 1

Simple communion worship services in Zion's historic chapel.

CONTACT



zionsa.org



zionsa



@zionsatx



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

Pastor Dan - Monday dheim@zionsa.org

Rob Mikulski - Monday rmikulski@zionsa.org

Sammy Mikulski - Monday theatre@zionsa.org

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Social media vectors created by myriammira - freepik.com

Help Fight Hunger in San Antonio!

Feed SA is a citywide movement to fight hunger alongside the San Antonio Food Bank. With your help we will provide meals for 200,000+ children who are at risk of facing hunger this summer.

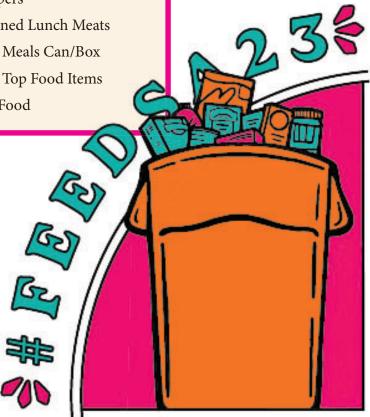
MOST NEEDED **ITEMS**

Clip % and save for your next grocery run

- ▶ Peanut Butter
- ► Cereal
- Tuna
- **▶** Beans
- Rice
- ► Mac & Cheese
- ► Chili & Soup
- Baby Food
- Diapers
- Canned Lunch Meats
- ► Full Meals Can/Box
- ► Pop Top Food Items
- ▶ Pet Food

Zion is collecting food, diapers and pet food through May 31. Bring your donations to the collection bins or barrels in the narthex and gazebo.





Game Group in Fellowship Hall

June 5 at 1:00pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Mondays in June.

Zion Zippers

Monday, June 12

Come and join the Zion Zippers at 6:00pm on June 12 for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish or two to share, along with your own plate and utensils if you can. Invite a friend, too! After dinner, plan to stay for fellowship and entertainment. Zippers meet on the second Monday.

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.



WOZ@zionsa.org

Women of Zion Events

• Tuesday June 13, WOZ Bible Study & More. Fellowship, service projects with a Bible study on the second Tuesday at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited!



Men's Fellowship

Third Monday, June 19 at 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.

Dinner Out at Surfing Crab

Thursday, June 1 at 6:30pm Dinner Out invites all adults to meet this month at Surfing Crab Cajun Restaurant, 9837 I-10 West at Wurzbach in the Colonade. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30.

RSVP by May 29 to Jim or Sandy Chillstrom. Call the church office if you need their contact info.

Staff Update

Our Publications Facilitator, Julie Rode-Hickey, is taking a three-month leave of absence this summer to spend time with family (including a new grandbaby!). Julie will be out of the office June through August, and will return to Zion in September.

Over these three months, our weekly bulletins and Zmail will be produced by Megan Hansen from Virtual Church Secretary. VCS is a company based in Buda, providing professional publications services to a variety of churches.

During the summer, if you have information for the bulletin and/ or Z-mail, please contact Megan via email, Publications@ZionSA.org. You can also phone Karen Sturdivant in our Church Office, 210-688-3090.

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.





Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church! Stephen Ministry Training Update Please continue to pray for our Stephen Ministers as they learn key skills in order to become better caregivers.

SESSION TWELVE—USING MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

What happens when a care receiver needs a different kind of care or a higher level of care than a Stephen Minister is qualified to provide? The Stephen Minister works with our Stephen Leaders to connect the person with a professional caregiver who is able to meet the person's needs. In this week's session, our Stephen Ministers take a look at what other types of caregiving are available and at the limits to their caregiving. This will prepare our Stephen Ministers to refer care receivers to the appropriate caregiver should the need arise.

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

The Holy Spirit breathes new life into us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-23	Jesus appears to his disciples
Monday	Acts 2:1-21	The coming of the Holy Spirit
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	Spiritual gifts
Wednesday	Acts 2:37-42	The first converts
Thursday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Christ's love for us
Friday	1 John 4:13-21	God is love
Saturday	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	God the creator
Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." John 20:22-23 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, we thank you for Jesus and the Holy Spirit that sends us out as the body of Christ with the power to forgive in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food; when you open your hand, you fill us with good things through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Amen. (Psalm 104:28)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit fill you with new life, and abundant joy.



MAY 28, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Spirit of Gentleness



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 gets in the way of forgiving someone or asking for forgiveness from someone?
- How does forgiveness breathe new life into bruised relationships?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 20:19-23.

This story is sometimes called "the Johannine Pentecost" and different from the Pentecost story in Acts 2. In John 20, Jesus gives his Spirit, that is, the Holy Spirit, on Easter Day during his first appearance following the resurrection. The giving of Jesus' breath (same word as spirit in the original Greek) is the culmination of the promise of the Holy Spirit since the time of Jesus' baptism and referred to throughout the Gospel of John. The critical point is that "the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16-17) will teach Jesus' followers everything they need to know and remember from Jesus' own teaching (14:26). The Spirit glorifies Jesus (16:14) by creating the community that is sent out into the world to love the world in Jesus' name. The Holy Spirit creates a new community to love the world by forgiving others and breathes new life into relationships. This glorifies Jesus by doing the ministry of his resurrection right now with love, hope, and forgiveness.

Discuss: In what ways do you and the larger faith community spread Jesus' message of forgiveness and peace to others?

Pray: Dear God, for the gift of the Holy Spirit that empowers us with the ministry of Christ for the world, we give you our thanks and praise. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve and show forgiveness toward others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The miracle of the story of Pentecost is that the apostles were "filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them the ability" (Acts 2:4). It represents the birth of each person hearing the gospel in their own language. Celebrate as you would any other birthday. Consider using red candles and balloons (the liturgical color for Pentecost Sunday) for decorations. Make a cake and place red candles on the cake. Light the candles as a reminder of the fiery tongues that descended on the apostles and sing Happy Birthday to the church. As you are enjoying the cake, think or talk about who taught you about the church.



