June 11, 2023 • Second Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 and 11:30 am





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 hall 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.

GREEN SEASON

The Sundays following Pentecost take us through the summer months and into the fall. These many months take us through many of the stories during the ministry of Jesus. We will also spend a significant portion of the Green Season hearing portions of Paul's letter to the Roman church. The purpose of these readings is to encourage us to grow in our faith in Christ like the growth of a green plant - little by little, each day.

ON THE COVER

Healing of a Woman with an Issue of Blood

From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57961.
Original source: http://www.getty.edu/art/collection/objects/2048/unknown-brother-philipp-the-healing-of-awoman-with-an-issue-of-blood-german-about-1400-1410/

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

Morning Song, by Tom Birchwood

WELCOME

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.

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

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 \P 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: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL. 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: HOSEA 5:15-6:6

¹⁵I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor: ^{6:1}"Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. ²After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. ³Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth."

⁴What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. ⁵Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. ⁶For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

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

Refrain

Michel Guimont



The God of gods, the LORD, has spoken and summoned the earth, from the rising of the sun to its setting. "I find no fault with your sacrifices, your offerings are always before me. R.

Were I hungry, I would not tell you, for I own the world and all it holds.

Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? ℝ.

Offer to God your sacrifice; to the Most High pay your vows. Call on me in the day of distress. I will free you and you shall honor me." R.

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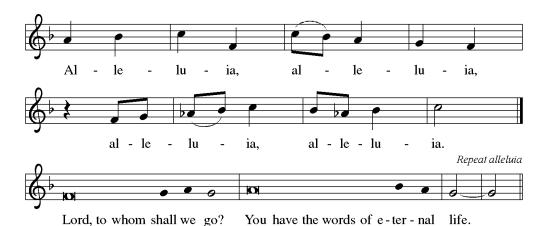
SECOND READING: ROMANS 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. ²³When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

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

SERMON Pastor Dan Heim

Please rise as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938–1984
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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

Healer of Our Every Ill, setting by Anne Krentz Organ

Please rise, as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,

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.

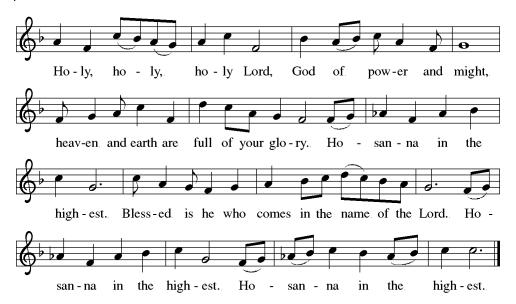
We lift them to the Lord.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

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, \(\mathbb{Y}\) 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

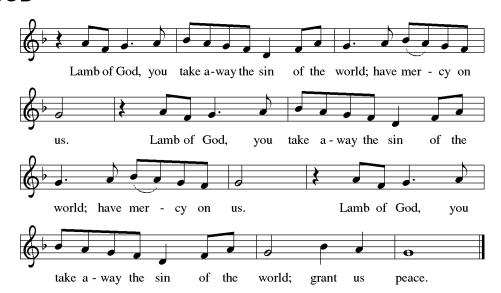
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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





Text: Thomas Moore, 1779–1852, sts. 1-2; Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872, st. 3 Music: CONSOLATOR, Samuel Webbe Sr., 1740–1816

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

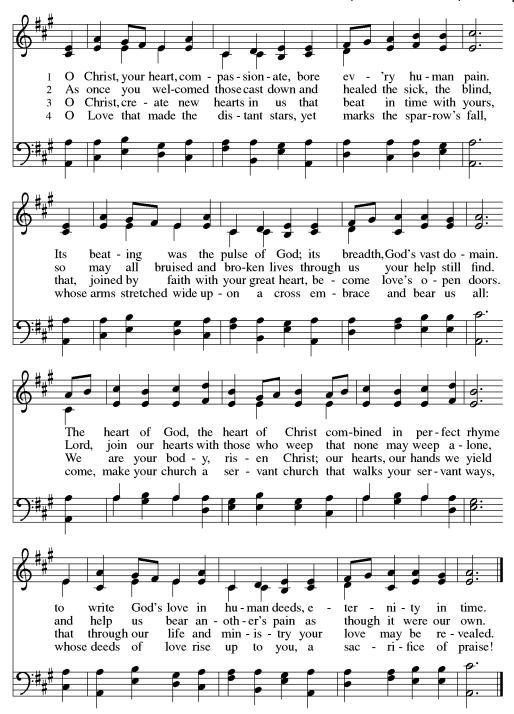
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833 Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fantasia, by Johann Pachelbel

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.

THIS WEEK AT ZION



Scan QR code for this month's calendar

Sunday, June 11		
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube
Monday, June 12		
Theatre Camp	11am	FLC Great Room
Zion Zippers Potluck and Fellowship	6pm	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, June 13		
Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Women of Zion Bible Study	10am	Fellowship Hall
Theatre Camp	11am	FLC Great Room
Executive Committee	6pm	Zoom
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2
Wednesday, June 14		
Crafty Bunch	9:30	Education Building
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Theatre Camp	11am	FLC Great Room
Midweek Worship Services	1:00& 6:30	Church 1/Chapel
AA Meeting	7pm	Church 2
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	Fellowship Hall
Thursday, June 15		
Quilting	9:30	Fellowship Hall
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Theatre Camp	11am	FLC Great Room
Book Study with Pastor Kathi	7pm	Zoom
Stephen Ministry Training Class	7pm	MC 7
Guys and Dolls Performance	7:30	Family Life Center
Friday, June 16		
Theatre Camp	11am	FLC Great Room
Guys and Dolls Performance	7:30	Family Life Center
Saturday, June 17		
Weight Watchers	7:30& 9:30	Church 2
Sunday, June 18		
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Worship Support

Altar Guild Carolyn Thronson, Doris Enderlin, Susan Johns, Mary Ann Schmitt, Sharon Solanik

Lay Readers
9:00
Paul Goldenbaum
11:30
David Thamm

Cantor Jeff Williams

Communion Servers
9:00
Mary Jo Goldenbaum, Amy Swanson
11:30
Susan Lockamy,

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Livestream Steve Johnson, Pastor Kathi Johnson

Sound
9:00 & 11:30
Scott VanDoren

June Ushers

9:00
Bonnie Harrell, Brinkley Harrell,
Beverly Rosel, Amy Swanson,
David Umlang
11:30
Pam Gammage, Chris Berg,

Pam Gammage, Chris Berg, Caleb DeHart, Audrey DeHart, Kim and Mike DeHart

Thank You, Zion!



Many thanks to the congregation and all who helped with the Habitat for Humanity breakfast. With the help of God and your generosity, We will be able to provide Habitat for Humanity funds exceeding our goal. To date we have raised approximately \$5,360!

Watch for upcoming announcements regarding volunteer opportunities for the home construction in the Fall!

Game Group in Education Building

Monday, June 19 at 1:00pm Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in the Education Building on the first and third Mondays in June.

Zion Zippers

Monday, June 12 at 6:00pm Come and join the Zion Zippers at 6:00pm on June 12 for a potluck dinner and Bible trivia 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.

CAMP HOPE SUMMER 2023 • TRAVELERS

June 19-23 and/or June 26-30





Camp Hope

Check your Z-Mail or scan this QR code for details and registration form. Students entering Kindergarten through 7th grade are eligible. We currently have 89 campers signed up for a combined 131 weeks of camp;

there is room for about an additional 10-15 campers per week.

CAMP HOPE DONATIONS (Amazon or on your own) Now Thru June 14

The congregation is invited to donate food and supplies to make Camp Hope possible! 5 ways ways to donate:

 Use this QR code and click an item in this Zion Amazon shopping list and have it shipped directly to church!



- Select an item from the Amazon list and buy it (or a generic version) on your own; e-mail camphope@zionsa.org to let us know what you are getting, and deliver item to church office by June 14.
- Do you have any old used tennis balls? We need 200 for Week 2 of Camp Hope! Please bring them in to the office by June 25.
- See Pr. Dan at church on Sunday June 11 for a list of remaining items.
- Make a financial contribution with "Camp Hope Supplies" in the Memo line.

Two Midweek Services

Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm in Church 1 Simple communion worship services in Zion's historic chapel.

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.

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!



WOZ@zionsa.or



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.

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.

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 DAY OFF

Pastor Kathi - Monday kjohnson@zionsa.org

Pastor Dan - Friday 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

Staff Update

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 Theatre Group's Addams Family

Tickets for the Zion Theatre Group's production of The Addams Family go on sale June 11. Performances are July 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23.

To purchase show tickets, go to ztg.booktix.com. To order dinner seats, email Sammy at theatre@zionsa.org.

For in-person sales, Sammy will be in the gazebo on June 11, 18, 25 and July 2.



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 FOURTEEN—DEALING WITH DEPRESSION: THE STEPHEN MINISTER'S ROLE

This week, our Stephen Ministers learn the characteristics and symptoms of mild, moderate, and severe depression. They learn when a mental health professional needs to be involved and how to connect a depressed person with a mental health professional. They also practice skills appropriate to giving care to those who are mildly to moderately depressed.

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

JUNE 11, 2023 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus calls us to follow him.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 The call to follow Jesus

Monday Hosea 5:15–6:6 A call to repentance

Tuesday Romans 4:13-25 God's promise realized by faith

Wednesday Deuteronomy 5:28-33 Moses, the mediator of God's will

Thursday 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 Request for prayer

Friday Ephesians 5:1-20 Let love be your guide

Saturday Psalm 50:7-15 What pleases God

Sunday Matthew 9:35–10:23 The sending of the twelve

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. Matthew 9:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, give us faith and courage to follow you and to touch the lives of those around us with your grace, mercy, and healing power through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

With this gift of food we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the one who gives us hope now and always. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you faith to trust in the one who blesses us with grace. (Romans 4:16)



JUNE 11, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Here I Am, Lord



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 is a time you have been a leader? a follower?
- Jesus calls us to follow. What has this meant to you in your life?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26.

It is interesting that in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus never scolds people identified as "sinners and tax collectors." His harsh words and judgments are made against those who think they know God yet don't understand that God desires mercy, not the prideful acts of religious people. Jesus shows his mercy to Matthew, the tax collector, to a grieving father, and to a sick woman. Jesus calls Matthew and others to follow him, yet in these stories Jesus is the one who ends up following others, one into a home for dinner and another into a home to bring back life from death. Jesus heals a woman who did not ask for his help but simply touched his robe for healing. He is willing to follow the woman's desperate need and calls it faith. Jesus is willing and available to the needs of others. Jesus' ministry finds itself in the midst of life and death issues where "playing it by the book" is not the guide, but rather where mercy, kindness, healing, and hope are required in a world filled with chaos, confusion, and despair. Discuss: Where might Jesus be calling you to follow in his name and go to a place you didn't plan to go?

Pray: Merciful God, give us faith to follow you each day and to trust in your care for us and for all that you create through Christ Jesus, the Great Healer. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you follow Jesus and be available to care for someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



One way that many Christians show themselves to be followers of Jesus is by wearing a cross necklace. Some have a cross or a fish symbol tattoo somewhere in a visible place on their body. Think or talk about a time you or someone you know was recognized as a follower of Jesus. Then write a list of ways you can show you are a follower. Is there something like a cross or biblical scene placed in a visible location in your home? Is it something you wear? Is it something through your actions or words?

Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow. May we do so with love and mercy toward others in our daily lives. Amen.



