June 18, 2023 • Third 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

Christ Teaching the Disciples

Schäufelein, Hans, approximately 1480-approximately 1539. Christ Teaching the Disciples, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl? RC=56624. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki

File:Christ_Teaching_the_Disciples,_2,_from_Das_Plenarium_ MET_DP849939.jpg – Adam Petri.

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 This Is My Father's World, setting by Franklin Sheppard

WELCOME Pastor Kathi Johnson

INSTALLATION OF CAMP HOPE STAFF

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 \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.

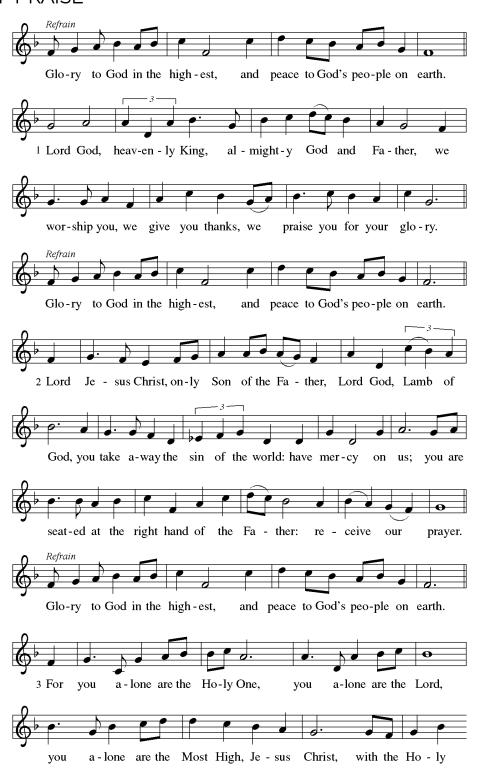


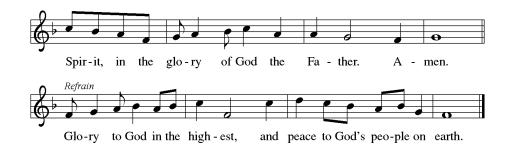
Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991 Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company. Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news 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

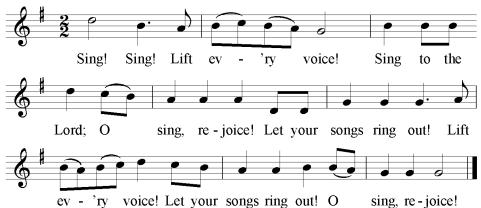
FIRST READING: EXODUS 19:2-8a

²[The Israelites] had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

⁷So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ^{8a}The people all answered as one: "Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do."

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

Refrain Hal Hopson



Refrain text: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers. **Music:** Tune: *SIMPLE GIFTS*, an American Shaker melody (PD). *Setting:* Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

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All people who on earth do dwell, Sing out your praise with cheerful voice; Be glad in God, whose praise you tell, Come, sing to God; let all rejoice. *Refrain*

For God alone is the Lord, indeed; Without our aid God did us make; We are God's flock, we now may feed; And for God's sheep God does us take. *Refrain*

O enter then God's gates with praise; Approach God's courts with shouts of joy; Praise, laud, and bless God's name always; Let every voice God's praise employ. *Refrain*

Make known the truth that God is good; Whose mercy is forever sure, Whose truth at all times firmly stood; And shall from age to age endure. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:1-8

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 9:35-10:23

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

³⁵Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

^{10:1}Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶"See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Bill Swantner

HYMN OF THE DAY

In Christ Called to Baptize



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876, alt. Text 0 1995 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is, setting by Dale Wood

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.

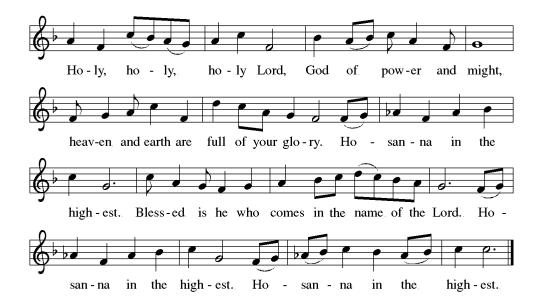
Lift up your hearts.

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:



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

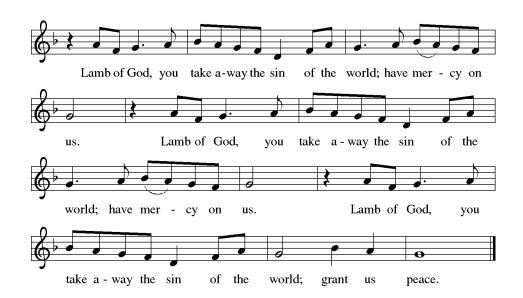
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911 Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936 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

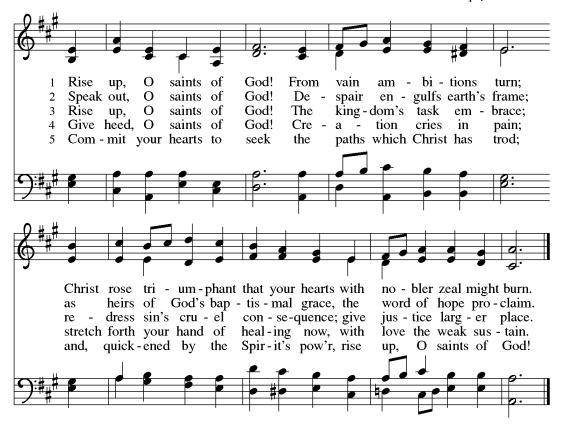
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and \blacksquare give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN



Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893 Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Joyful Recessional, by Rosalie Bonighton

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 18		
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube
Monday, June 19		
Camp Hope Week 1	7am	Various Rooms
Game Group	1pm	Education Building
Lutheran Men's Ministry Fellowship	6:30	Sea Island
Tuesday, June 20		
Camp Hope Week 1	7am	Various Rooms
Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Council Meeting	6:30	Break Room
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2
Wednesday, June 21		
Camp Hope Week 1	7am	Various Rooms
Crafty Bunch	9:30	Education Building
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Midweek Worship Services	1:00& 6:30	Church 1/Chapel
AA Meeting	7pm	Church 2
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	Fellowship Hall
Thursday, June 22		
Camp Hope	7am	Various Rooms
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Stephen Ministry Supervision	7pm	MC 5
Stephen Ministry Training Class	7pm	MC 7
Friday, June 23		
Camp Hope Week 1	7am	Various Rooms
Saturday, June 24		
Weight Watchers	7:30& 9:30	Church 2
Sunday, June 25		
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Summer Adult Class	10:15	MC 1&2
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Worship Support

Altar Guild
Alyssa Brodbeck,
Mary Jo Goldenbaum,
Chris and Don Jones, Suzi Lockamy,
Belynda McKenzie,
Susan and Joe Noonan, Kathy Null

Lay Readers
9:00
Scott McKenzie
11:30
LeShea Clabough

Cantor Gavin Magee

Communion Servers
9:00
Jake Apodaca, Bev Rosel
11:30
LeShea Clabough, Kevin McGee

Livestream Steve Johnson, David Umlang

> Sound Scott VanDoren

June Ushers
9:00
Bonnie Harrell, Brinkley Harrell,
Bev Rosel, Amy Swanson,
David Umlang
11:30

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

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

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.



Saturday, June 24, 2023 • 9 am - 10 am (while supplies last)

Kuentz Elementary School 12303 Leslie Road, Helotes 78023

Pop-up food distribution event hosted by the San Antonio Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul. Pre-registration is required - scan the QR code or go to https:// freshtrack.com/register/event/176787



For more information, contact the distribution event organizer, David Philpott, at 415-672-0123 or helotesfooddrive2022@gmail.com or visit www.svpdhelotes.com.

Zion Theatre Group's Addams Family

Tickets for the Zion Theatre Group's production of The Addams Family are now on sale. 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 today, June 25 and July 2.

Please review your date and seat selection carefully before placing your order. With online sales, exchanges and refunds are not available.



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. 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

CAMP HOPE DONATIONS

- 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.
- Make a financial contribution with "Camp Hope Supplies" in the Memo line.

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.

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 email 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!

Summer Adult Class

Starts June 25, 10:15am
For three weeks this summer, join
Pr. Kathi for a look at the book of
Romans. We hear lots of readings
from Romans this summer, so this is
a great chance to learn more about
this letter Paul wrote so long ago.

Meets June 25 and July 2 & 9 in the Ministry Center - MC 1 & 2.

Two Midweek Services

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

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Social media vectors created by myriammira - freepik.com

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.





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 is a Stephen Ministry Church!

Stephen Ministry Training
Update

Pray for our Stephen Ministers as they continue to enhance their caregiving skills. Here is what they are learning this week:

SESSION FIFTEEN—HELPING SUICIDAL PERSONS GET THE HELP THEY NEED

Stephen Ministers are never knowingly assigned to someone who is or might be suicidal, but they may nonetheless find themselves in a caring relationship with someone who is suicidal. If so, they need to know what to do. In this session, our Stephen Ministers explore how to determine the level of risk and how to refer the care receiver to a qualified professional.

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

JUNE 18, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Sent out to do the work of Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday Matthew 9:35–10:23 The sending of the twelve
Monday Exodus 19:2-8a Israelites go to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday Romans 5:1-8 How to be acceptable to God
Wednesday Galatians 5:22–6:5 Bear one another's burdens

Thursday Deuteronomy 15:7-11 How to treat the poor

Friday Hebrews 13:1-8 Service well-pleasing to God

Saturday Psalm 100 The Lord is good

Sunday Matthew 10:24-39 The call and cost of discipleship

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"As you [the twelve apostles] go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons." Matthew 10:7-8a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you have promised to do great things through us. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hands to do your will through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we are the sheep of your pasture; we thank you for this food, a gift of your steadfast love and faithfulness through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 100)

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God be poured into your heart through the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5)



JUNE 18, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



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 do you do to help others, and what gets in the way of helping others?
- How is the care you offer to others doing the work of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 9:35-10:8.

Jesus asks his disciples (described here as "apostles," that is, those sent) to go out and do what he does. They are to go out and announce the good news of the nearness of the kingdom of heaven, to heal sick people, raise the dead, and cast out demons. This is also the work that Jesus did (Matthew 4:17, 23-24). Casting out demons meant freeing people from all powers that prevented them from living full lives as those created by God. What Jesus did, we will do. However, there is no mistaking our own brokenness. Peter will deny Jesus three times, Judas Iscariot will betray him, Matthew the tax collector collaborated with the Roman government, and Simon the Cananaean was a "zealot" who worked against the Romans. The fact is that this motley crew is not so different from the church of any age and yet capable of doing Jesus' work by the power of the kingdom of heaven that has also come near to us.

Discuss: When have you been surprised by the healing power given to you to bless other lives? Pray: Healing God, give us courage to face the challenges of daily life with love and hope that reaches out to others with the kingdom that has come near to us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others to give them hope in their daily lives?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In many countries around the world today, the third Sunday in June, is Father's Day. It is a special day to cherish the role of fathers and of those with whom we have had a paternal relationship. This day is set aside to honor fathers and provide an opportunity to celebrate fatherhood. Think or talk about the father(s) and other men in your life. Write a list of their names, read them aloud, and pray: Dear God, thank you for the gift of fathers and all men who have made a difference in our lives. For the care they have given us and the guidance they have shared with us, we give you thanks. Amen.



