

July 23, 2023 • Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 and 11:30 am



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 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.

HOLY BAPTISM TODAY

At the 11:30 service today, we receive Mateo Angelus-Ibarra Mada, child of Miranda Ibarra and Mark Mada. His sponsors are Chasity Castillo and Annamarie Lopez. Please note on your Connection Card if you are visiting for the baptisms.

ON THE COVER

Harvesters, by Pieter Bruegel, ~1525-1569

From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55749>.
Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pieter_Bruegel_the_Elder_-_The_Harvesters_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg.

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

Berceuse (Lullaby) No. 19, Opus 31 by Louis Vierne
Bryan Rust, Organist

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

COMMISSIONING STEPHEN MINISTERS

Gail Clayworth
Laura Knoll
Bruce Krueger
Linda Krueger

9:00AM 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 ✠ 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.**

11:30AM SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the pastors at the font. The parents, on behalf of the baptismal candidate, promise to help their children "grow in the Christian faith and life." Sponsors promise to "help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church."

Please rise, as you are able. The presiding minister then addresses the congregation:

People of God, do you promise to support Mateo Angelus-Ibarra Mada and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

Let us all profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Water is poured into the font as the pastor speaks words of thanksgiving. When directed, the congregation may be seated. The candidate is baptized in the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. A prayer is spoken over the baptismal candidate, and the pastor marks the sign of the cross on their forehead, a symbol that they have been "sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever." A candle is then given to represent the light of the world, Jesus.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

GATHERING HYMN

O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, root of life, cre -
2 E - ter - nal vig - or, Sav - ing One, you
3 O ho - ly Wis - dom, soar - ing pow'r, en -

a - tor, cleans - er of all things: a - noint our wounds, a -
free us by your liv - ing Word, be - com - ing flesh to
com - pass us with wings un - furled, and car - ry us, en -

wak - en us with lus - trous move - ment of your wings.
wear our pain, and all cre - a - tion is re - stored.
cir - cling all a - bove, be - low, and through the world.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Hildegard of Bingen, 1098–1179
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621; arr. hymnal version
Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way 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

Gina Williams

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

PSALM 86

Refrain

Michel Guimont



Lord, you are good and for - giv - ing.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O LORD, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. *℟.*

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord,
for you are great and do marvelous deeds,
you who alone are God. *℟.*

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love
and truth,
turn and take pity on me.
O give your strength to your servant. *℟.*

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Music Copyright © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:12-25

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds
of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you
did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption.
When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are
children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact,
we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory
about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the
children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of
the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to
decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole
creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we
ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the
redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For
who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with
patience.

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

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

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

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Bill Swantner

Please rise as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

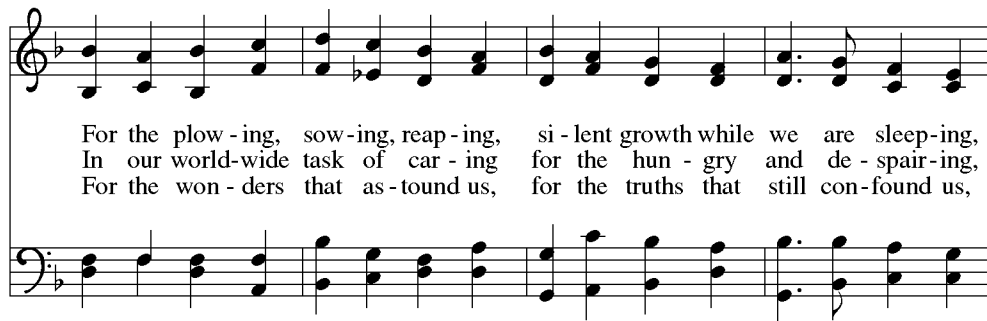
For the Fruit of All Creation



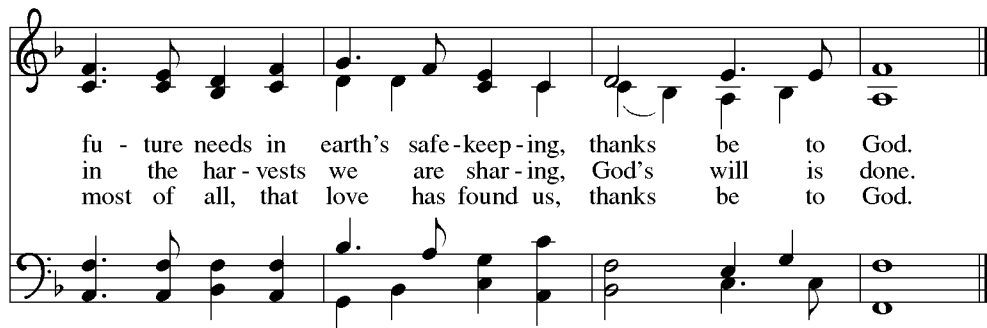
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

9:00AM 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

Arioso, BWV 146, by J. S. Bach

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

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

COMMUNION HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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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 What Has Now Been Sown

1 On what has now been sown your bless - ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may

pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low

grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Praeludium in C, BuxWV 137, by Dieterich Buxtehude

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, July 23

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Worship Camp	10:20	Sanctuary
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube
Addams Family Performance	2:30	Family Life Center

Tuesday, July 25

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, July 26

Crafty Bunch	9:30	Education Building
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
AA Meeting	7pm	Church 2
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 27

Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Stephen Ministry Supervision	7pm	MC 1

Saturday, July 29

Weight Watchers	7:30& 9:30	Church 2
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Sunday, July 30

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Worship Camp	10:20	Sanctuary
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

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Worship Support

Altar Guild

Doris Enderlin, Susan Johns,
Mary Ann Schmitt, Sharon Solanik,
Amy Swanson, Carolyn Thronson,
Marcy Wilburn, Gina Williams

Lay Readers

9:00

Scott McKenzie

11:30

LeShea Clabough

Cantor

Jeff Williams

Communion Servers

9:00

Bruce & Linda Krueger

11:30

Laura Knoll, Shannon Rios

Livestream

Steve Johnson, Kevin McGee,
David Umlang

Sound

Scott VanDoren

July Ushers

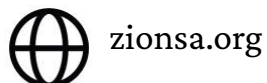
9:00

LeShea Clabough, Kevin McGee,
Dave and Doris Newman,
Karen and James Sturdivant,
Russell and Susanne Warren

11:30

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

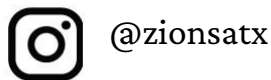
CONTACT



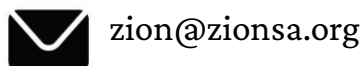
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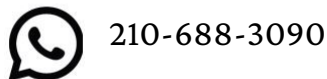
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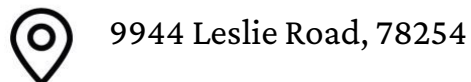
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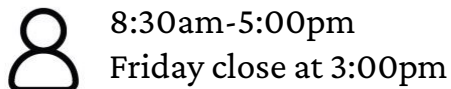
zion@zionsa.org



210-688-3090



9944 Leslie Road, 78254



8:30am-5:00pm

Friday close at 3:00pm

STAFF DAY OFF

Pastor Kathi - Monday
kjohanson@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.

Zion's Dinner Out

Thursday, August 3, 6:30pm

You are invited to join in fellowship and a meal at Max and Louie's New York Diner, 226 W Bitters, Suite 126 - adjacent to Santikos Embassy Theatre.

RSVP by July 30 to Dave or Doris Newman at 210-859-7860 or ddnewman@mac.com.

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 August 8, 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.org



Men's Fellowship

Third Monday, August 21 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 Zippers

Monday, August 14, 6pm

The next social will be the a potluck. The program will be conducted by Jane Paccione, who's associated with the San Antonio Area Foundation. She grew up in England and will be giving a presentation on "The History of High Tea."



Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church!

Today we commission our new Stephen Ministers!

- Gail Clayworth
- Laura Knoll
- Linda Krueger
- Bruce Krueger

They have undertaken 50 hours of training that has provided them with the knowledge and skills to offer quality, distinctively Christian one-to-one care to people suffering from grief, loss, and other difficulties.

We ask God's blessing on these Stephen Ministers and on their ministry to their care receivers in the weeks, months, and years ahead. We thank God for their gifts, and we ask him to be present with them both in their times of joy and of sorrow as they bring God's care to those in need.

These newly commissioned will now join our existing Stephen Ministers in twice-monthly supervision and continuing education sessions beginning Thursday evening. Pray for them as they begin their first caregiving assignments and continue to grow as caregivers.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the listening ear, caring presence, and Christ-centered support of a Stephen Minister, please call 210-688-3090 and ask for LeShea Clabough.

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.





Interested in Serving in Worship?

Come to Worship Camp!

We welcome hundreds of people to our campus on Sunday mornings, and we'd love for you to help provide that welcome! If you'd like to serve as an usher, communion server, and/or lay reader, come to Worship Camp. We'll meet two more Sundays in July at 10:20am - today and July 30. Pick the date that works for you! This is for everyone - whether you've been serving a while or are learning something new. Questions? Reach out to Pr. Kathi via email or phone.

Summer Reflection

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Wow! What a great response we had for our first week of Worship Camp! And part of what was so exciting to me was the phenomenal leadership of the three different groups:

- Dan Graham, our Usher Coordinator, is working with our usher teams. These people are so important as they are usually the very first people worshipers encounter when they walk in the doors of Zion.
- Suzie Wyatt is working with our Lay Readers, making sure they understand the importance of their task: reading the Scriptures and leading the Prayers of Intercession clearly and with focus.
- Susan Johns and Suzi Lockamy from our Altar Guild are working with the Communion Servers (this includes tray holders and basket holders). This group helps welcome people to the Lord's Table to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

As important as these groups of people are to welcoming others with God's love and in God's name, there's another group that's just as important: YOU! You, as worshipers, are also an important part of welcoming people to Zion.

I invite you to consider for a moment how your presence in the pews can be a help to those around you: Can you help a visitor find a seat or answer a question they might have? Or give a friendly hello to someone sitting nearby? Think about ways that you are able to contribute to the great sense of welcome that so many people have commented to me about! ***Welcoming others comes down to all of us.***

Blessings,
PrK

**JULY 23, 2023
EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



God is merciful and slow to anger.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds
Monday	Isaiah 44:6-8	The Lord's promise to Israel
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-25	Future glory for God's people
Wednesday	Hebrews 4:14-16	Jesus the high priest
Thursday	Psalms 103:1-14	The Lord is merciful
Friday	Nehemiah 9:16-25	A merciful God ready to forgive
Saturday	Psalms 86:11-17	Save me, Lord
Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Psalm 86:15 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, may your grace and mercy lead me to be humble and care for others through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food, a sign of your kindness and mercy that we receive through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the mercy and loving kindness of God lead you all the days of your life.



JULY 23, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Love Divine, All Loves
Excelling*



taking **+**
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

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

CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- What is something you believe very strongly?
- What makes it hard to listen to someone with different opinions than yours?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Matthew's Gospel addresses divisions in the church. Who has the right message? Who is being faithful? What actions do not fit the kingdom of God? Matthew's message is clearly a word we need to hear. Today people who claim the Christian faith are much divided over morality and doctrine. Matthew has the strongest note of judgment against false witnesses, but that judgment is tempered. Through the parable of the weeds, it is understood that we are called to be witnesses, not judges. To think we can uproot and expel certain groups of people is dangerous. To believe we have the ability to judge rightly will end up destroying the good and loving work of the church, the body of Christ. We are not the judge. God is the judge. Until Judgment Day comes, we are witnesses to the truth that Jesus teaches and lives. It is enough to point to Jesus and his reign of undeserved kindness and peace.

Discuss: When have you judged others? In what ways can you show undeserved kindness and love to others?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us humility to trust in you more than our own judgments so we may love and serve our neighbor through Christ Jesus, the one who judges the living and the dead. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you help and lovingly serve someone who has been judged unfairly?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Who has influenced your life of faith? Make a list of Christian rituals and traditions the person you named has taught you, like prayer, loving service, and scripture reading. Think or talk about how you can teach some of these rituals and traditions to someone else.

Pray: **Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. Amen.** (Psalm 86:11)



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

