

September 10, 2023 • Fifteenth 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.

ON THE COVER

Going to Church, William H. Johnson, 1901-1970

From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58036>. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Going_to_Church,_by_William_H._Johnson.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

Prelude au Kyrie, by Jean Langlais

WELCOME

Pastor Bill Swantner

Please rise, as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty, you are clothed with majesty and splendor. Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things, sustaining life, nourishing and delighting us. We bless you for the gift of water. Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through the water of baptism joined to your life-giving Word: your well of mercy and cleansing flood, your sea of deliverance from death into life, your healing river washing sin away, your living water springing up to eternal life. Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love. Clothe us and all your people with grace. Embolden us to do justice and help us to love mercy. Guide us to walk humbly with you, whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less
4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er
5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I
Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -
act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I
strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim
Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.
sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.
do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.
be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.
be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt.
Music: BEATUS VIR, *Šamotulský Kancionál*, 1561
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through 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: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

PSALM 119

Refrain

Mark Mummert



Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary*
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Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.
Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.
Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain. *Refrain*

Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.
Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.
Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.
Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: ROMANS 13:8-14

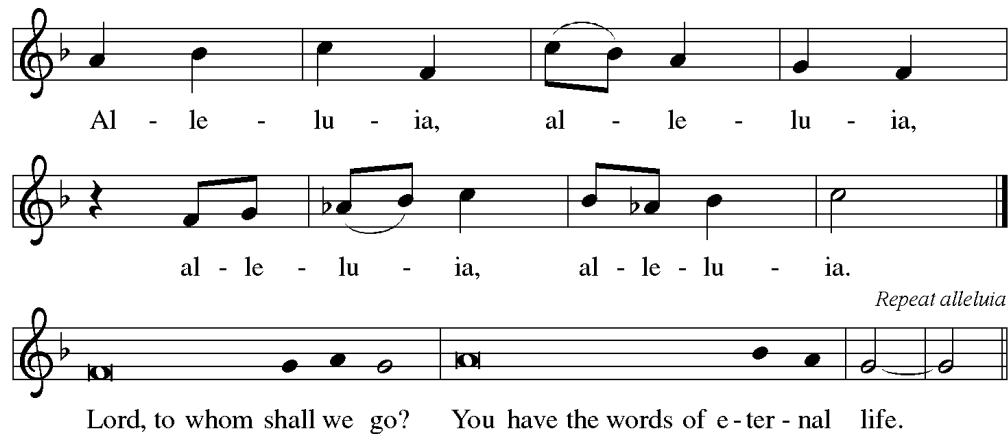
⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be

bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Please rise as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

In All Our Grief



1 In all our grief and fear we turn to you.
2 Help us to put a - side the an - gry word,
3 You did not e - ven spare your on - ly Son.
4 God, when we suf - fer all that we can bear,



O God, you know all that we think or do,
the clench - ing fist, the wish and will to hurt.
He lived our griefs and bore all e - vil done,
then let us know that you in truth are near



you know the pain we put each oth - er through.
Teach us the way in which love best is served.
but through his cross, re - demp - tion has been won.
and will not leave us lost in all our fear.



Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, grant us peace.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: FREDERICKTOWN, Charles R. Anders, b. 1929
Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Each petition ends: God of grace.

*Response: **Hear our prayer.***

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check the back pages of this bulletin for additional announcements.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.

OFFERING

At this time, we give our offerings with thanksgiving to God. These offerings support the mission and ministry of Zion, including the care of those in need. To give online, please visit ZionSA.org. Children are invited to come forward during the music and place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel area (near the Sacristy door). During the offering music, the pastor sets the table with the elements for Holy Communion. Please know that this is the Lord's table, and all are welcome to receive Communion.

OFFERING MUSIC

9:00 *Esto Les Digo*, by Kinley Lange Chancel Choir
Translation: Where two or three are gathered in My name, there will I be also.

11:30 *O Day of Peace*, setting by Marianne Kim

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.

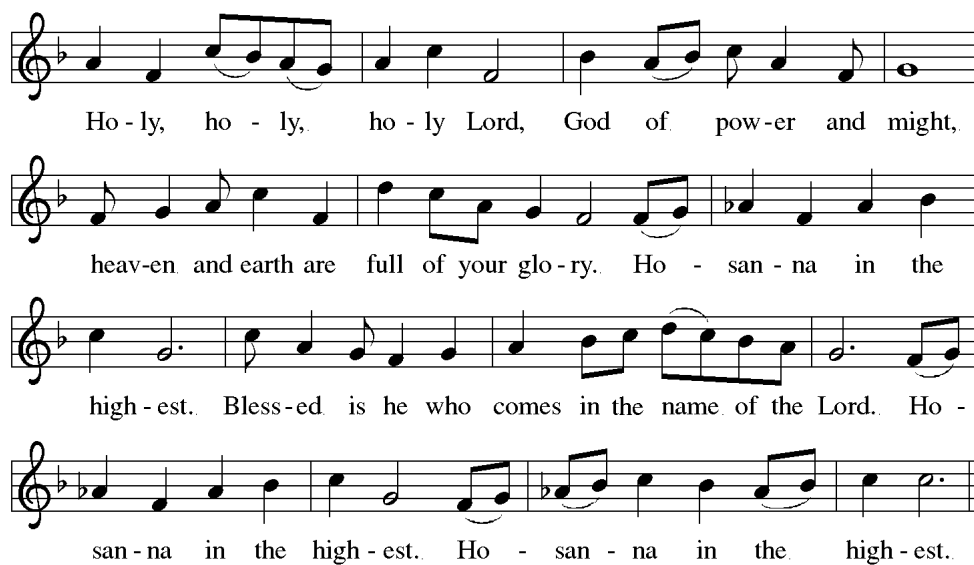
Lift up your hearts.

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

Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er,
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,

you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.
 Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958
 Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition, © Oxford University Press 1931.
 Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

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.

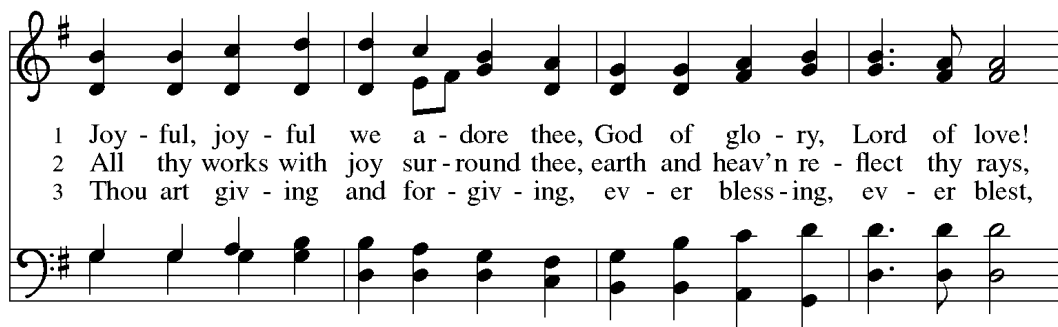
BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

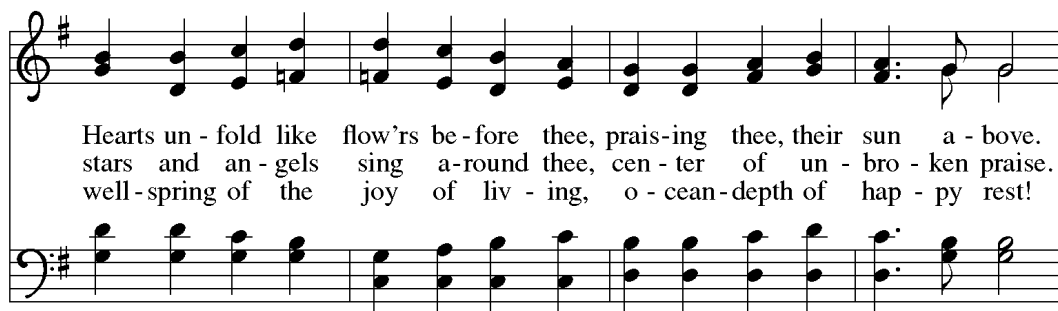
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

Amen.



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing, by Charles Callahan

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, September 10

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Children and Youth Faith Formation	10:15	MC—Various Rooms
Pr. Kathi's Sunday Morning Class	10:20	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Monday, September 11

Zion Zippers	6pm	Fellowship Hall
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Tuesday, September 12

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Women of Zion Bible Study	10am	Fellowship Hall
Women of Zion General Meeting	12pm	Fellowship Hall
Executive Committee	6pm	Zoom
Handbell Choir	6:30	Sanctuary
Children's Choir	7pm	MC 1
Youth Choir	7pm	Music Apse
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, September 13

Crafty Bunch	9:30	Education Building
Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)	9:30	MC 1, 2, 3
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Wednesday Worship	1pm & 6:30	Chapel
AA Meeting	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

Thursday, September 14

Quilting	9:30	Fellowship Hall
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Stephen Ministry	7pm	MC 5, 7

Saturday, September 16

Weight Watchers	7:30 & 9:30	Church 2
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Sunday, September 17

WOZ Pancake-French Toast Breakfast	8am	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Children and Youth Faith Formation	10:15	MC—Various Rooms
Pr. Kathi's Sunday Morning Class	10:20	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Bonnie Bahr, Betsy Howard,
Mona McQuien, Ruth Medbury,
Karen Sturdivant, Laura Walsh

Lay Readers

9:00

Kristyn Bova

11:30

Jeff Williams

Cantor

Manuel Canales

Communion Servers

9:00

Laura Knoll, Randalyn Nickel

11:30

Chris Jones

Livestream

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

Sound

Scott Van Doren

August Ushers

9:00

Mary Jo & Paul Goldenbaum,

Carolyn Pfeiffer,

Shannon & Gus Rios

11:30

Chris Berg, Audrey DeHart,

Caleb 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

Publicity Notices

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

Pr. Kathi's Sunday Morning Class

Throughout the fall, Pr. Kathi's Sunday morning class will meet in the Fellowship Hall at about 10:20am. This fall, we'll be discussing the liturgical year, loosely using the book *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* by Laurence Hull Stookey (which is NOT required reading). In September, we'll meet 9/10 and 9/24. Please join us!

Sunday Faith Formation Hour Rooms and Information

- **Age 2 - Kindergarten:** MC-3
- **1st - 4th grade:** MC-4
- **5th-7th grade:** MC-5
- **8th-9th grade:** MC-7 (Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation)
- **10th-12th grade:** MC-8

September 10 at 10:15 - Two parent meeting options:

- Meeting for 8th-9th grade Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation parent/youth w/Pr. Dan: MC-1
- All other adults in MC-6 for a presentation of ideas/discussion led by John Macha

Sunday School registration continues through next Sunday, September 17.

Parents' Night Out

Saturday, September 23, 5-9pm

Zion youth invite you to drop your child(ren) off for a pizza dinner and a variety of activities—board games, sports, art and craft projects, a movie (G-rated). Adults, enjoy a night to yourself! Open to all: infants and toddlers will be watched separately by background-checked adults; older children by Zion youth with experience as camp counselors.

Suggested donation: \$15/first child, \$12/each additional. More info and sign-up using the QR code:



Zion Zippers

September 11, 6pm

The seniors' group, Zion Zippers, will have a potluck supper followed by a presentation by Taylor Judkin, Assistant VP of Development and Communications for Habitat for Humanity of SA & Guadalupe Valley, titled "Habitat - The Past, Present, and Future."

Women of Zion

Join in activities and fellowship with other women in the congregation. Scan the QR code to get on the mailing list, or send an e-mail to WOZ@zionsa.org.



WOZ@zionsa.org

Women of Zion Events

WOZ Bible Study & General Meeting

Tuesday, September 12

All Women of Zion are invited to the Women of Zion General Meeting on Tuesday, September 12, at noon, right after WOZ Circle in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided.

For information email linnellbrewton@gmail.com

Crafty Bunch

Wednesdays, 9:30am

The Crafty Bunch meets in the Education Building on the west side of Leslie Road. Enter at the double doors, behind Churches 1 and 2. The craft room is the first room on the right.

Bring your own handwork project, or check what's in the cabinets if you want to start something different.

Quilting for LWR

Thursdays, 9:30am

Quilters are in need of new or gently used flat sheets, which are used for quilt bottoms. Twin size works best; however, larger ones will be cut to size, and the rest of the sheet will be used to piece the top. Sheets can be dropped off during Thursday meetings from 9:30 – 12:00. Contact Diane Stewart for more information.

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CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY FALL FESTIVAL Fredericksburg Marktplatz

SEPT 16 **9 AM**
3 PM

CRAFT VENDORS | FOOD VENDORS | MUSIC | RAFFLE
KIDS GAMES | FUN RUN | QUILT AUCTION

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE EBERT RANCH POND
Visit crosstrails.org for more information

Wednesday Worship

Wednesday Worship is at 1pm and 6:30pm in our Historic Chapel (Church 1). Join us for this simple time of Scripture, Prayer, Song, and Holy Communion.

Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church!

YOU can play an important role in our Stephen Ministry...



Because you may know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is going through a difficult time and who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister. If you know of someone who is hurting, talk with a Stephen Minister. He/she can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. It's a great way for you to show how much you care!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: 210-688-3090.

Zion MOPS and MOMSnext

Program Year Begins Wednesday, September 13, 9:30am

A MOPS/MOMSnext meeting includes practical teaching through speakers, demonstrations, and videos. Plus, there's usually food...food you didn't make! But more importantly, you'll get to have honest conversations with other moms who understand the joys and frustrations of motherhood. In addition to our monthly meetings, Zion MOPS/MOMSnext has playdates and Mom's Night Out events. If you would like to learn more about MOPS/MOMSnext email Nicole Stender at mops@zionsa.org.

MOPS 2023-2024 Calendar:

September 13	January 10
October 11	February 7
November 8	March 6
December 13	April 17
	May 8

Zion MOPS and MOMSnext - Childcare Needs

We are seeking loving, responsible childcare volunteers (ages 16+) to help make this year of Zion MOPS/MOMSnext a success! Help moms enjoy their time together. No special skills required, come snuggle a baby, play with a toddler or sing songs with a preschooler. Only one morning a month from 9am-12pm, September to May. If you or someone you know is interested please contact Nicole Stender 210-391-8773 or mops@zionsa.org.



Men's Fellowship

Third Monday, September 18 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 imm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

Lutheran Men in Mission Southwestern Texas Synod Gathering

Saturday, September 30, 2023
Zion Lutheran Church, San Antonio
Information and registration on-line at: swtlmm.org
Cost is a free will offering for refreshments.
And join us for our Habitat for Humanity service project on Friday, September 29 - information and registration QR code below.



Habitat for Humanity Work Day

September 29
You can now sign up for our Habitat build on Friday, September 29 at Rancho Carlotta in Von Ormy.
Construction volunteers must be age 14+.
All tools and training are provided - no experience necessary. For details and registration, scan the QR code for September 29.



Please email Matt Iwanicki at Mkiwanicki@yahoo.com with any questions.

*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.



Thrivent Match for Maui Fire Recovery Donations

Thrivent Financial is offering a \$1 match for each \$2 donated to the Maui fire recovery when donated through Lutheran Disaster Response. If you would like to donate, you may use this QR code or go to thrivent.cotribute.co/events/832597/detail.



Pastor's Reflection

Pastor Kathi Johnson

The seasons are gradually shifting. Have you noticed the light changing? That's one of the first things I notice when we're heading into fall - not just the days getting shorter, but the angle of the sun is different, too. The fall light lands in different places through the windows of our home, and it is less harsh - less severe - than the sun of midsummer.

Over the next week, they are predicting some rain. Can I get a hallelujah? Our drought-weary land is so in need of it that every drop feels like a gift. Assuming the predictions come true and the rain does fall, I hope you'll take a moment to give thanks for the rain.

When Rob and I were planning worship for this summer, I told him I wanted to include the Thanksgiving for Baptism at the beginning because in the long, hot summer, it would be nice to give thanks for the refreshing waters of baptism. During the Thanksgiving for Baptism, have you noticed this part of the prayer? It reads: "Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things, sustaining life, nourishing and delighting us. We bless you for the gift of water."

Water from the sky; water in a font...both give life to us. And we thank God for the life that water brings!

Blessings,
PrK



**SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



Love your neighbor as yourself.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation
Monday	Ezekiel 33:7-11	God's judgment seeks repentance
Tuesday	Romans 13:8-14	Love for one another
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 4:5-14	Israel is favored by God
Thursday	Galatians 5:13-15	Christ gives freedom
Friday	Leviticus 19:9-18	Living a holy life
Saturday	Psalms 119:33-40	A prayer for understanding
Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." **Romans 13:9 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of goodness and mercy, give us hearts to love and to care for others as you care for us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this gift of food strengthen us to delight in your law of love for the sake of all you have created through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you long for the ways of God that teach love and mercy through Jesus Christ.



SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Beloved, God's Chosen



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 news have you seen or heard recently where laws have been broken?
- Jesus said, *"love your neighbor as yourself."* What makes it hard to love others as you love yourself?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Romans 13:8-14.

The law of God was—and is—intended as a gift from God that we may live in peace with one another. The commandments are plain and simple: we should not commit adultery, murder, steal, or covet what others have. The law mirrors the love of God that intends goodness and mercy for people. As Deuteronomy 4:8 states, "[W]hat other great nation has statutes and ordinances, as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?" The law demands right action toward people that is merciful, especially for the less powerful who cannot otherwise protect themselves. Mercy is well summarized by saying, *"Love your neighbor as yourself"* (Romans 13:9), a reference to Leviticus 19:18 that was quoted by Jesus, Paul, and others in the Bible. The gospel life offers mercy and acts of love for the sake of the health of individuals and communities alike.

Discuss: What do you think it means to show mercy through the love and care of others?

Pray: **Loving God, we thank you for the gift of your law and for freeing us to love others as you have loved us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you care for the daily needs of others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Bible studies, Sunday school, and youth groups are wonderful opportunities to gather to read the Bible, have caring conversations, and learn together. Think or talk about where and how you learn God's word. Psalm 119 is a lovely text that promotes learning God's will and word.

Pray: **Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Amen.**

(Psalm 119:33-34)



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

