

October 1, 2023 • Generosity
9:00 and 11:30am

**We
Welcome Others
With
God's Love
and in
God's Name**

Zion  *lutheran
church*

WELCOME TO ZION

When we gather for worship, we're receptive to God's word and we rejoice in God's grace through song, prayer, and Holy Communion. The history of Christian worship is rich with rituals formed by generations. These traditions, prayers, and pastoral teachings help connect our lives with Christ. In our daily lives, we show God's love by serving our community, both locally and globally.

We are a group of believers seeking to respond to Christ's call to worship and serve, even as we wrestle with the big questions of life. We want you to know that you and your questions, faith, and doubts are welcome here!

HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace: the Word of God and the Sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory and the service is contained within this bulletin. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type**.

We welcome children in our worship services! If needed, a nursery is available down the hallway past the restrooms. The restrooms contain changing tables, as needed.

Throughout the service, members of Zion's music ministry offer their talents as an offering to God. Please receive their musical gifts as a time for prayer, contemplation, or praise of God rather than a performance to be applauded, so that we may worship God throughout our time here together.

GENEROSITY

For four weeks each October, we take time as a congregation to focus on Generosity. This year, we are specifically thinking about how our financial generosity to our congregation enables us to be a place of loving welcome. Our Scripture readings will point us towards God's generosity to us. We'll hear from several members of Zion as they share stories of generosity and welcome from their own lives. Finally, we will consider our own giving and turn in our commitments on October 22. May this time be a blessing for us and our congregation!

Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • zion@ZionSA.org

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, gathers us in worship.

PRELUDE

9:00

Adore and Be Still by Charles Gounod

11:30

Sing, Rejoice! by Mark Patterson

Children's Choir

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

TEMPLE TALK

Jennifer & Kevin Kretzschmar

Please rise, as you are able.

OPENING DIALOGUE

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Sing to the Lord, bless God's name.

Lead us in your truth, and teach us,

for you are the God of our salvation.

You prepare a table before us, and our cups overflow.

You welcome the weary and all with burdens.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

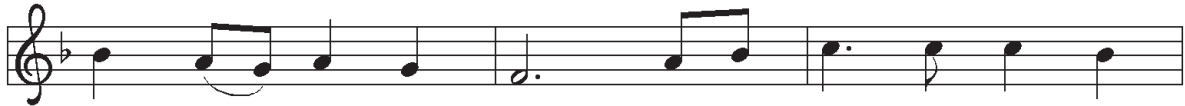
Sing to the Lord, bless God's name.



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we



Christ shall end di - vi - sions: All are wel - come,
 claim the faith of Je - sus:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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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.

Mighty and merciful God, you call us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Grant us strength to support the weak and give us grace to help the suffering. By your Holy Spirit, open our hearts to welcome others with your love and in your name, so that all may be reconciled in your beloved community; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

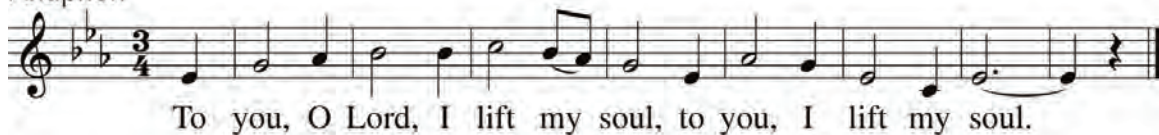
FIRST READING: EXODUS 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

PSALM 25

Antiphon



Verses

1. Lord, make me know your ways, teach me your paths
and keep me in the way of your truth, for you are God, my Savior.
2. For the Lord is good and righteous, revealing the way to those who wander,
gently leading the poor and the humble.
3. To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to God's word, who live God's love,
God will always be near, and will show them mercy.

Text: Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 12-14; Marty Haugen. © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.; antiphon, *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL
Music: Marty Haugen, © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death” even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 11:28-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said] ²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

Please be seated.

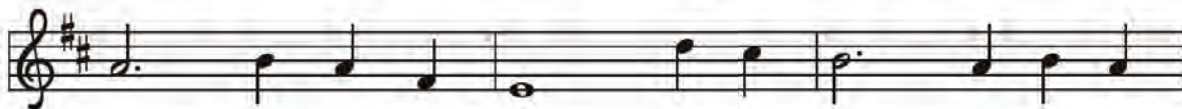
SERMON

Pastor Bill Swantner

Please rise, as you are able.



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
 fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
 yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
 me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
 fore you; do not run from me in fright."
 side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
 gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: AUSTIN, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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APOSTLES' CREED

Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**catholic: universal*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the world.

Each petition ends: Merciful God,

Response: receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

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	<i>We Give Thee But Thine Own</i> by Mark Harmon	Chancel Choir
11:30	<i>We are the Church</i> by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh	Children's Choir

Please rise, as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

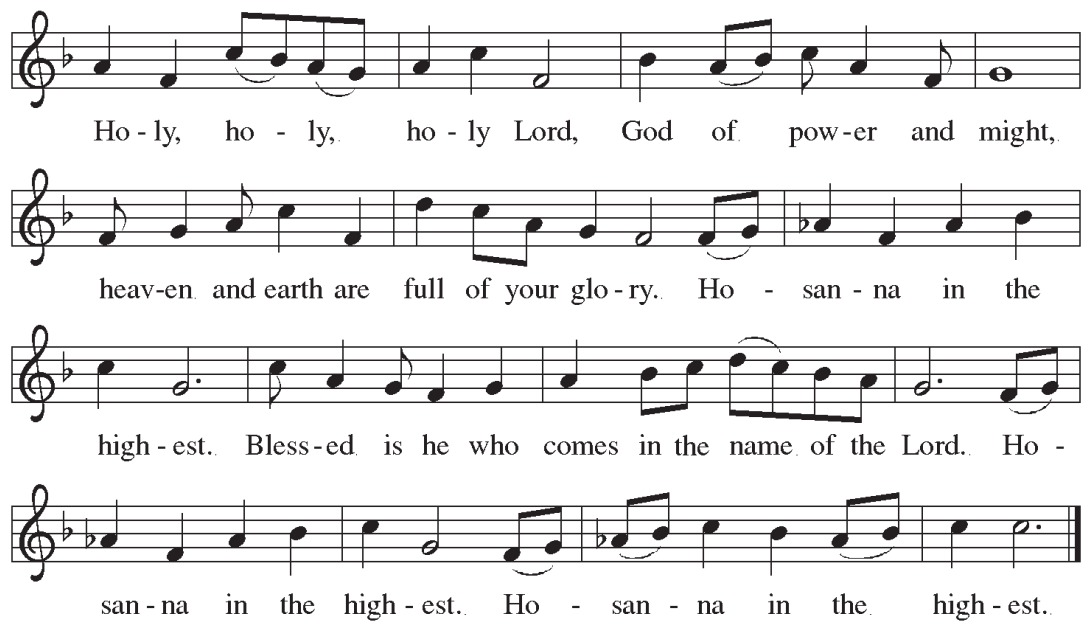
Let us pray. Generous God,

in this meal you offer your very self. We give you thanks for these gifts. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, ✠ your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus has 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

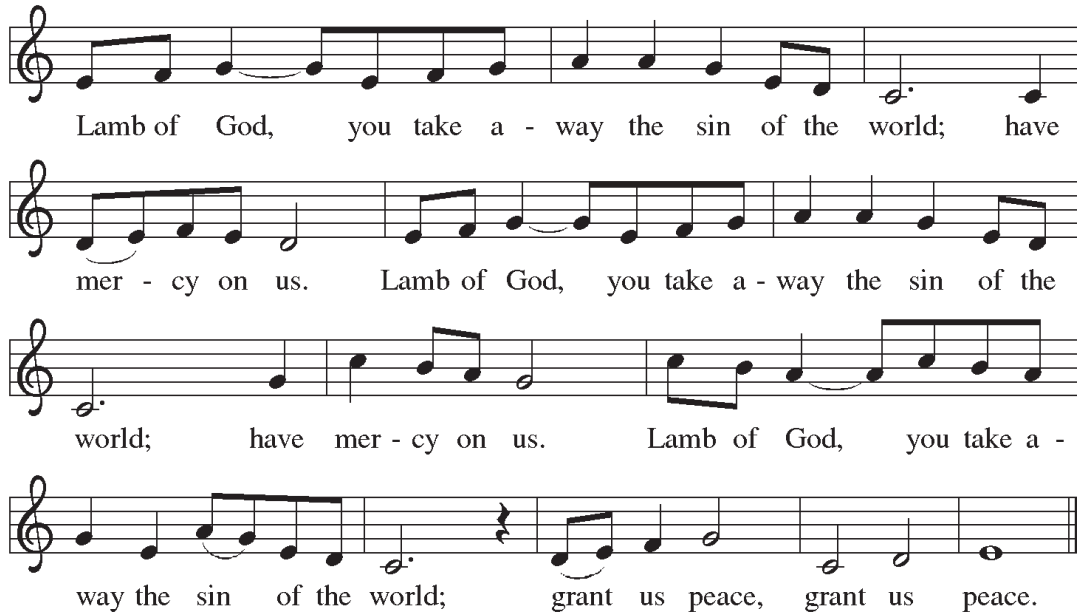
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00	<i>Let Us Break Bread Together</i> setting by Gwyneth Walker	Chancel Choir
11:30	<i>Make Me a Servant</i> by Kelly Willard (Verses 2-5 written by the Children's Choir)	Children's Choir

1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.
 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.

If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain

Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.

In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
 I would be your trusted friend.
 Come and seek the gift I offer,
 come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
 lonely ways no longer roam.
 Come and take the gift I offer,
 let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
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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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *on next page*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
setting by Albert L. Travis

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.

SENDING HYMN

Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



from this meal of love and grace;
 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
 God has called us to re - ceive;
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion
 bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed
 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.
 to re - lease and to con - sole.
 Spir - it - ed then let us live.
 from this day and un - to death.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia;
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



God, the won - der of our days.
 Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958
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Worship Support

Altar Guild

Randalyn Nickel, Eileen & Mel Berg
Sharon Meade, Karen Umlang
Susan Wright

Lay Readers

9:00

Mary Mora

11:30

Shannon Rios

Cantor

Anna Schulte

Communion Servers

9:00

Bonnie & Brinkley Harrell

11:30

LaShea Clabough & Kevin McGee

Livestream

Steve Johnson

David Umlang

Sound

Scott Van Doren

October Ushers

9:00

11:30

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

THIS WEEK AT ZION



Scan QR code for
this month's
calendar

Sunday, October 1

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Intergenerational Event for all	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Monday, October 2

Game Group	1pm	FLC 101
LMM Planning Mtg	6:30	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 3

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Handbell Choir	6:30	Sanc Balcony
Children's Choir	7-7:45	Ministry Ctr Room 1
Youth Choir	7pm	Music Apse
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, October 4

Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Crafty Bunch	9:30	Ed Bldg Craft Rm
Midweek Worship Services	1:00 & 6:30	Chapel (Church 1)
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

Thursday, October 5

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief	9:30	Fellowship Hall
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Dinner Out: details page 23	6:30	Braza Brava Pizza
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2

Saturday, October 7

Weight Watchers Meetings	8:30 & 10:30	Church 2
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Sunday, October 8

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour	10:15	Details next page
"Coffee Talk" Financial Update	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Down + Out, Adult Class	10:15	MC-6
Growing With, parents of teens	10:15	MC-1
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

TODAY Intergenerational Event 10:15 in Fellowship Hall

Gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Godly Play story introducing us to these biblical themes of Gratitude and Generosity; create materials for an at-home faith formation practice to cultivate your sense of gratitude and generosity! Food and refreshments, too. Everyone invited on the first Sunday of each month!

Oct 1 Gratitude & Generosity

Nov 5 All Saints Celebration

Dec 3 Advent Season Begins

Next Week: Sunday Classes for Children and Youth at 10:15

Meet in Ministry Center classrooms.

<i>Age or Grade</i>	<i>Room</i>
Two Years–Kinder	MC-3
Grades 1–4	MC-4
Grades 5–7	MC-5
Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Grades 8–9	MC-7
High School Grades 10–12	MC-8

Two Midweek Services

Wednesdays at 1:00 and 6:30pm in Church 1
Simple communion worship services in Zion's historic chapel.

NEXT SUNDAY October 8 Coffee Talk with Treasurer Allen Cockrell

Come to the Fellowship Hall at 10:20 next week for a Zion Financial Update from Allen.

Adult Sunday Morning Classes

No classes on BBQ Sunday, October 15

The Liturgical Year with Pastor Kathi Resumes October 22 in the Fellowship Hall at 10:20. Discussion is loosely based on the book *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* by Laurence Hull Stookey (which is NOT required reading).

Down + Out

Resumes next Sunday, October 8 in MC-6 (upstairs) at 10:15. Explore themes of the Lutheran Christian faith with John Macha and other volunteer leaders. Six-part video series "reintroduces you to the life-changing reality of God's promises, and points the way to a completely different view of life in the light of where grace takes you."

Growing With

Resumes next Sunday, October 8 in MC-1 at 10:15. Lori Gallegos and other volunteer leaders lead discussions based on the podcast/book *Growing With: Every Parents' Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family and Future*. No required reading.

OFFICE CONTACT



Mon-Thur 8:30am-5:00pm
Friday close at 3:00pm



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Annual Church BBQ & Picnic

October 15, 11:00am

It's that time of year – Zion's annual BBQ and picnic! We'll have one worship service at 10am that morning, followed by food, fun and fellowship in the Family Life Center. **There are no tickets - this will be a pay-what-you-want meal and delicious dessert table.** In addition to the food, enjoy the Crafty Bunch sale, the Trash to Treasures sale, bounce houses, petting zoo, and games for the entire family.

It takes many hands to make the day enjoyable for all. Let us know where you would like to help – BBQing, serving, kitchen helpers, cleanup crew, and donating to Trash to Treasures.

Volunteers are needed to serve the desserts. If you can help, contact Diane Stewart. Also, lots of baked goods, such as dessert bars, cakes, pies, cupcakes, and cookies are needed. Desserts can be brought to the Family Life Center from 8:30 to 10:00am the morning of the BBQ.

Begin collecting your items to donate to the Trash to Treasures sale. Your donations are what make the sale a success. The Fellowship Hall will be open on Friday afternoon (October 13) and Saturday morning (October 14) for you to bring your items. No item is too insignificant—we accept most anything. However, *please do not bring in television sets* which must be disposed of as “hazardous waste”.

Zion Zippers

Monday, October 9

Are you age fifty or older? The Zion Zippers invite you at 6:00pm on October 9 for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish or two to share, along with your own plate and utensils if you can.

After dinner, join in The Paint Can Game, led by Mary Mora. You can expect fellowship, fun and laughs!

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 Bible Study & More
Tuesday October 10

Fellowship, service projects with a Bible study on the second Tuesday at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited!

MOPS Chapter at Zion



and MOMSnext

Wednesday October 11
MC Room 1

Zion MOPS / MOMSnext meetings include practical teaching with speakers, demonstrations and videos. Plus, there's usually food - that you didn't make! More importantly, you'll get to have honest conversations with other moms who understand the joys and frustrations of motherhood. Play-dates and Moms' Night Out events are regularly scheduled, too.

Scan the QR to contact Nicole Stender (mops@ZionSA.org) to register, volunteer or get more info!



MOPS and MOMSnext Calendar 2023-2024

October 11	January 10, 2024	April 17
November 8	February 7	May 8
December 13	March 6	

Music Rehearsals

Handbells	Tuesday 6:30	Balcony
Children's (Gr 2-5)	Tuesday 7-7:45	MC Rm 1
Youth (Gr 6-12)	Tuesday 7-8pm	Apse
Chancel (Adult)	Wednesday 7:15	Sanctuary

Zion's Music Ministry presents
Messiah by Handel
November 12, Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm in the sanctuary. The community is invited.

Recycling Aluminum Cans

Zion has a collection barrel for your empty, dry aluminum cans, without any food or beverage residue. Drop them off into the swing-top barrel in the south (cemetery side) parking lot, next to the shed. Your deposits will benefit Zion's Youth program.



STAFF CONTACT

Pastor Kathi Johnson
Kjohnson@ZionSA.org *off Monday*

Pastor Dan Heim
Dheim@ZionSA.org *off Friday*

Rob Mikulski, Music Director
Rmikulski@ZionSA.org *off Monday*

Sammy Mikulski, Theatre Director
Theatre@ZionSA.org *off Monday*

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Bud Halstead *President*
Chis Jones *Vice President*
Allen Cockrell *Treasurer*
Erica Macha *Secretary*
Carolyn Pfeiffer *At Large*
David Umlang *At Large*
Rachel Williams *At Large*
Pr. Kathi Johnson
Pr. Dan Heim

Game Group

October 2 and 16 at 1:00pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in Family Life Center Room 101 on the first and third Mondays. Contact: Alaine Perry.

Dinner Out at Braza Brava Restaurant

Thursday, October 5 at 6:30pm

Dinner Out invites all adults to meet this month at Braza Brava Pizza Napoletana, 7959 Broadway, #300. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30.

RSVP by October 1 to Doris & Dave Newman; call the church office if you need their contact info.

Youth Night October 5

Middle & High School Dinner and Fellowship
6:30-8:30 in Ministry Center

Every other Thursday, Zion's high school and middle school youth meet to enhance their impact on their community, collectively – with service projects, Bible discussion that relates to their daily lives, dinner and something else fun – to build a community on mission.

Please use the QR code to RSVP so we have enough food and supplies!



PASTOR'S REFLECTION

This weekend, we begin our annual focus on Generosity. I mentioned that topic in my sermon last Sunday as I talked about the generosity of God to us. I talked about how God is generous to us - to all of us - with God's love and mercy. And sometimes God's generosity doesn't make sense to us, but that's OK because it doesn't have to.

What can we learn from God's generosity to us? Psalm 25 reminds us that God shows compassionate love to us. Matthew 11 reminds us that Jesus welcomes the weary. There are other examples from Scripture that we will look at in the weeks to come, too. But part of what we can learn from God about Generosity is what I said on Sunday: that the point of generosity is to show love and to show grace.

This year as we focus on Generosity, we are going to think through some of the ways that our Generosity enables Zion to be a place of welcome. Beyond being a place of welcome, however, God calls us to be a welcoming people. In how we think about others, in how we speak about others, and in how we greet others - we are called to be loving and welcoming.

I ask you to spend some time this week reflecting on what that might mean for you. If you want to share your thoughts with me, feel free to send an email to kjohnson@zionsa.org.

Grateful for you -

Pr K



**Zion is a
Stephen
Ministry
Church!**

Stephen Ministers Are Care-Givers, God Is the Cure-Giver.

The role of a Stephen Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders to learn more about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

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

*Your
generosity
empowers
Zion's ministry*

From Sunday morning worship to feeding families for the holidays, collecting clothing for local charity or relief supplies shipped hundreds of miles, to friendships fostered worldwide with simple hand stitches.

Because you kindly share your time, lend your skills, and support your ministry financially, Zion's impact reaches far beyond the four walls of our sanctuary. On behalf of everyone we're able to help, thank you for your contribution.

For more ways to support Zion's mission, scan this QR code.



LUTHERAN
MEN IN MISSION[®]
AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH • SAN ANTONIO

Men's Fellowship

Third Monday, October 16 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.

Crafty Bunch

Every Wednesday at 9:30

The Crafty Bunch meets in the Education Building on the west side of Leslie Road. Enter at the double doors of the Education Building, 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 at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall

The Quilters are in need of new and gently used twin size and larger flat sheets for quilt backing. Sheets can be dropped off at the Fellowship Hall during Thursday quilting, 9:30-noon.

Quilters and sewists! Join in to help create simple quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The durable quilts we make are sent all over the world to be used as bedding, room dividers, and shelter. Quilt tops can also be sewn at home at your convenience. Fabric is provided. Contact Diane Stewart through the church office.

OCTOBER 1, 2023
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus' humble obedience brings hope for all people.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons
Monday	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	God's ways are fair
Tuesday	Philippians 2:1-13	Christ shows us humility
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:1-8	Service well-pleasing to God
Thursday	Exodus 18:13-27	Jethro's advice
Friday	John 13:12-20	Jesus washes the disciples' feet
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-9	Prayer for guidance and help
Sunday	Matthew 21:33-46	Parable of the vineyard tenants

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*[Jesus] humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name. **Philippians 2:8-9 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of the nations, you rule with steadfast love and mercy; help us to recognize our need for you and to worship you alone through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, may this food strengthen us in body and soul that we may desire your good pleasure and act in ways that serve others in love. Amen. (Philippians 2:13)

A Blessing to Give:

May the humility of our Lord Jesus Christ give you strength and courage.



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OCTOBER 1, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Send Me, Jesus



WEEKLY MILESTONES

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

CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- When is a time you questioned someone's actions in government, school, or other organization?
- How does Jesus' leadership differ from other leaders?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 21:23-32.

The chief priests and elders are intended to be leaders of the Jewish people. Jesus challenges their authority and leadership by wanting them to make a commitment—pro or con—regarding John the Baptist. They are not able to do that because they do not truly represent the people who supported John. These leaders are actually servants of Rome, the occupation force in Judea. Their wealth and power are at the pleasure of Rome, not the people of Judea. The leaders have a difficult task to balance between worshiping God and an allegiance to Rome. It is reminiscent of Jesus saying that one cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). The authority Jesus serves is only God's kingdom. In words and actions, Jesus is the obedient Son who triumphs over all other authorities on earth. It is an obedience that will lead to Jesus' death at the hands of those loyal to Rome but will bring hope for all people burdened by powers of fear and death.

Discuss: How does Jesus' authority and obedience to serve only God's kingdom make a difference for all people?

Pray: **Almighty God, we thank you for Jesus' obedience to your power of grace and mercy so that sinners and tax collectors enter into your kingdom through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you help someone who feels weighed down by the burdens of life?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Philippians 2:3 says, *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves."* Name this "Humility Week" in your household. Secretly decide on one act of service you (and others) can perform that will show concern for the interests of others. If you live alone, find someone outside your home to do this with. At the end of the week, think or talk about your acts of "secret service" and what it felt like to show concern for others.



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

