

October 22, 2023 • Generosity
Commitment Sunday
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've specifically thought about how our financial generosity to our congregation enables us to be a place of loving welcome. Our Scripture readings, sermons, music, and temple talks have pointed us towards God's generosity to us. Today's the day we return our commitment cards - either paper or digitally (at ZionSA.org). Thank you for your faithful generosity!

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	<i>O God Beyond All Praising</i> setting by Marianne Kim	
11:30	<i>Come, Christians, Join to Sing</i> arranged by Linda Lamb	Handbells

WELCOME

Pastor Bill Swantner

TEMPLE TALK

10/22 Bud Halstead

COMMITMENT CARDS

*During the music, feel free to discuss your financial commitment with others in your household. Complete a commitment card – extras are available from the ushers. Then, place your card in one of the baskets located around the sanctuary. **Thank you for your faithful generosity!***

Please rise, as you are able, when directed.

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.

GATHERING HYMN

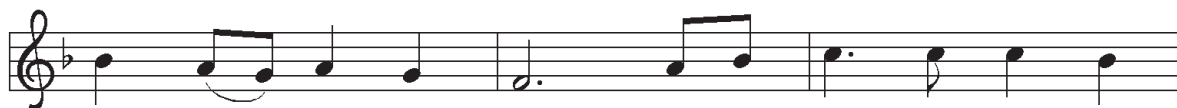
All Are Welcome



4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



end to fear and dan - ger: All are wel - come,
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



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 WEDNESDAY, OCT 22

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.

© 2014 by Dan Heim

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 44:6-8

Story Bible

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.

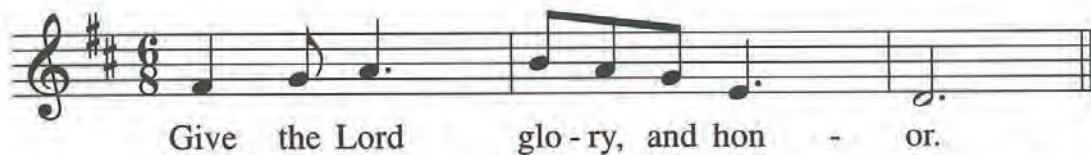
⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?

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.**



O sing a new song to the LORD,
sing to the LORD all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. *R.*

Give the LORD, you families of peoples,
give the LORD glory and power;
give the LORD the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter God's courts, *R.*

The LORD is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the LORD who made the heavens. *R.*

worship the LORD in the temple.
O earth, stand in fear of the LORD.
Proclaim to the nations: "God is king."
God will judge the people in fairness. *R.*

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Psalm Verses © 1963, 1993, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.
Music Copyright © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly

³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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.

MATTHEW 6:25-34

*Spark Bible Story page 276
Do Not Worry*

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

[Jesus said,] ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you!
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1630-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1837-1878, alt.
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, Erntevesper Organsbüchlein, Part II, Straßburg, 1665

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>Love Grows Here</i> by Don Besig	Children's Choir
11:30	<i>Amazing Grace</i> arranged by Linda Scholes	Handbell Choir

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.

[Next page](#)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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 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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00	<i>Here I Am Lord</i> by Daniel Schutte	Children's Choir
11:30	<i>Let Us Break Bread Together</i> arranged by Dan Edwards	Handbell Choir

COMMUNION HYMN

Children of the Heavenly Father

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
 Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
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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 (NEXT PAGE)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Nun danket alle Gott setting by Sigfried Karg-Elert

AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER

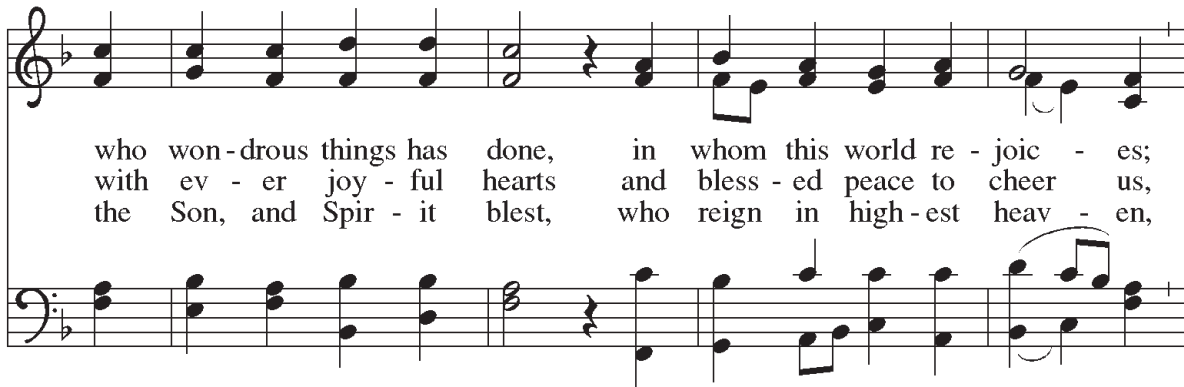
Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.

SENDING HYMN

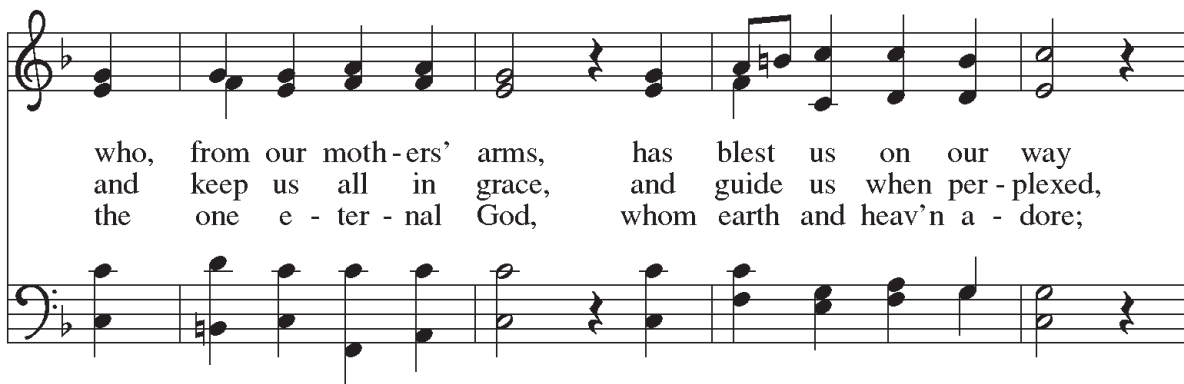
Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day,
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GÖTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Worship Support

Altar Guild

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

Lay Reader

9:00
Carolyn Pfeiffer
11:30
Eileen Spehr

Cantor

Sammy Mikulski

Communion Servers

9:00
Lisa & Philip Beekley
11:30
Suzi Lockamy, Steve Johnson

Livestream

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

Sound

Scott VanDoren

October Ushers

9:00
Allen Cockrell, John Macha
LeShea Clabough & Kevin McGee
Meredith & Brandon Price
Travis Nickel
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 22

Thanksgiving Food Basket Collection begins, through Nov 12

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
Adult Class with Pastor Kathi	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Monday, October 23

Bunco Group	1pm	Fellowship Hall
Mah Jong	1pm	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 24

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

Wednesday, October 25

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 26

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief	9:30	Fellowship Hall
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2
Stephen Ministry Supervision	7pm	MC-1

Saturday, October 28

Weight Watchers Meetings	8:30 & 10:30	Church 2
Trunk or Treat with NWCC	5pm	Details page 19

Sunday, October 29

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
Adult Class with Rob Mikulski	10:20	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and online, with Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Adult Sunday Morning Classes

All resume next today, October 22

The Liturgical Year with Pastor Kathi

Come to 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

Meet 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 "re-introduces 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

Today 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.

Thanksgiving Food Basket Collection

Choose a tag from the display board in the gazebo, and then fill the Thanksgiving need. Specific food items and grocery gift cards will be collected until November 12. Zion Theatre Group will sort and deliver to local families in need.

If you know of a family in need, contact Sammy Mikulski in the church office.

Sunday Faith Formation 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

Honor Your Loved Ones on All Saints

For All Saints this year, we will once again have display tables set up for photos and mementos of our deceased loved ones. You can bring items to Worship on Wednesday, November 1 or Sunday, November 5 - pictures and other small items are recommended.

With these small remembrances, we will honor those who we've loved and who have died, the saints who have gone before us.

Memorial Service

✠ Douglas Helman

Wednesday, October 25 at 11am

Two Midweek Services

Wednesdays at 1:00 and 6:30pm in Church 1

Simple communion worship services in Zion's historic chapel, on the west side of Leslie Road.

Music Rehearsals

Handbells

Tuesday 6:30 Balcony

Children's (Gr 2-5)

Tuesday 7-7:45 MC Rm 1

Youth (Gr 6-12)

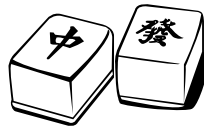
Tuesday 7-8pm Apse

Chancel (Adult)

Wednesday 7:15 Sanctuary

Mah Jong

Monday, October 23 at 1:00pm



Meet in Fellowship Hall to play (or learn!)

Mah Jong. Games commence at 1:00pm.

Mah Jong contact: Alaine Perry.

Trunk or Treat October 28

Candy and Volunteers Needed

Zion and Northwest Church of Christ join for our annual community Trunk or Treat Event. Candy donations can

be dropped off at the bucket in the gazebo, until noon on

Friday, October 27.

To hand out candy to trick-or-treaters from your vehicle, please e-mail or use the QR to RSVP

to terri@nwchurch.us, or contact Pastor Dan. Then on Saturday, October 28,

be parked at NW Church of Christ by 4:30pm. Decorating your wheels is optional but so much fun! Bring one bag of

candy, and the rest will be provided.

Trick-or-Treating families should park in Zion's lot, then walk to the church next door for the festivities at 5pm. Families do not need to register for this part of the event.



terri@nwchurch.us

Churchwide Work Day November 4

Come on Saturday, November 4 (rain or shine!) to work on a variety of maintenance and cleanup tasks around the church campus. We'll work here from 9am to 3pm. Lunch is provided.

Zion Craft Fair

November 11, 2023

9am - 3pm

**9944 Leslie Rd
At Braun and Loop 1604
Zion Family Life Center**



- Fine Art - Home Décor - Toys - Jewelry - Clothing -

**Outdoor vendor spaces are still available for \$50.
Contact Karen in the church office for an application,
210-688-3090.**

OFFICE CONTACT



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



210-688-3090



zion@ZionSA.org



Website ZionSA.org



Facebook zionsa



Instagram @zionsatx



9944 Leslie Road, 78254

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STAFF CONTACT

Pastor Kathi Johnson
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CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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



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.



2023 - 2024

Zion

Music & Theatre Events



*A sacred oratorio performance
on Baroque period instruments*

Messiah

By George Frideric Handel

Sunday, November 12

The Zion Lutheran Chancel Choir and Sonido Barroco San Antonio, directed by Rob Mikulski, are pleased to present a Baroque performance of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*.

Performed for the first time in Dublin, Ireland in 1742, this three-part oratorio for soloists, chorus and orchestra is the most frequently performed oratorio in the world today. It tells of the coming of the Messiah, his birth, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. The famous "Hallelujah" chorus proclaims victory over sin and death.

The Baroque performance of the *Messiah* is historically informed using period instruments. Soloists include Lily Guerrero, Soprano; Crystal Jarrell Johnson, Alto; Jeffrey Jones-Ragona, Tenor; and Eric Johnson, Bass.

Please join us for this unique and thought provoking telling of the story of the Messiah.

Sunday, November 12— 4:00 pm

Zion Lutheran Church Sanctuary— 9944 Leslie Road, San Antonio, TX 78254

No reserved seating. Free will offering. Zionsa.org

OCTOBER 22, 2023
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Love and trust God above everything else.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes
Monday	Isaiah 45:1-7	Cyrus serves the Lord
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	The example of faith
Wednesday	Psalms 28	Prayer for help
Thursday	Proverbs 3:1-6	Trust God
Friday	Jeremiah 17:5-8	Trust the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 96	Sing a new song
Sunday	Matthew 22:34-46	Loving God and neighbor

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For the people of those regions [Macedonia and Achaia] report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God. 1 Thessalonians 1:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of the nations, you alone are worthy of worship and praise; give us wisdom to see the false gods around us and remain true to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, you made the heavens and the earth to praise you. We praise you now for this food that strengthens the body and gladdens the heart. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with joy and the steadfast love of Jesus.



OCTOBER 22, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lead Me, Guide Me



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:

- Doing the right thing is not always easy. What is something you have struggled with?
- A false god can be anything that we worship and trust to make us feel safe and secure. What false gods have you been tempted to worship in your life?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 22:15-22.

A surprising point of this story concerns trust in God, not false gods. Jesus had just successfully opposed religious leaders in the temple. Now those leaders go from debate to entrapment by getting Jesus to take a position that would place him against the Roman government (a deadly decision) or against the Hebrew Scriptures (an unfaithful position). Jesus navigates between these traps by tricking his opponents. He asks to see the coin used for the tax. It's a "gotcha" moment. The Jewish leaders should not have had the Roman coin in the temple. It has the face of the Roman Emperor on it and a confession that Emperor Augustus is the Son of God! With the coin they show Jesus the image and confession of an idol. Jesus says give back to Caesar the idolatry of the empire. Everything else is God's. These religious leaders had not considered that Jesus would outwit them, but he did. His words leave his opponents amazed and speechless. Idolatry to false gods can easily trip us all.

Discuss: What challenges you to be faithful to God above everything else?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us wisdom to turn away from false gods in our life and courage to follow you and you alone through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you care for those who are struggling to trust God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Paul wrote that the Christians in Thessalonica had become imitators of Jesus. Play a game of Simon Says. Then have a discussion about ways in which we imitate others in our lives—both in good and bad ways. Talk or think about what it means to be an example of Christian faith, hope, and love to others.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, open our hearts to receive the gospel with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit so that we may become examples to all believers. Amen.** (1Thessalonians 1:6-7)



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