July 7, 2024 • Sundays after Pentecost 9:00 and 11:30am





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.

GREEN SEASON

We are now in the long Green Season on the Sundays After Pentecost. Here at Zion, this summer will be a time of focusing on spiritual growth, as a community and as individuals. Our ministry this summer doesn't really slow down! In addition to worship, we have hosted the greater San Antonio community at two different summer camps, and will again do so at a summer theatre production. Many of our groups continue meeting in the summer months, too. The Green Season helps us find ways that God is helping us to grow in and through it all. How do we grow as people of welcome? How do we grow as people of care? How do we grow as people of love?

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

Praeludium in G (BWV 568) by J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Please rise, as you are able.

INVOCATION

We worship today in the name of the Father, and of the ♥ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING DIALOGUE (based on Psalm 139)

O LORD, you search me and know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise;

You discern my thoughts from far away.

You observe my path; you are acquainted with all my ways.

Where can I go from your spirit?

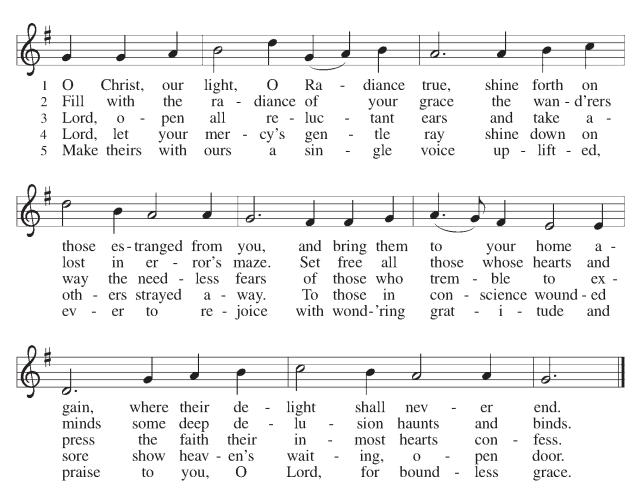
Where can I flee from your presence?

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

Search me, and know my thoughts.

-UK-

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (6/9, 7/21) - as we've don



Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1676 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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.

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of 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 Kathi Johnson

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 2:1-5

¹ [A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.² And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³ He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴ The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." ⁵ Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

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

PSALM 123

The cantor sings the refrain once to begin, followed by the assembly. The assembly then sings the refrain when indicated by \mathbb{R}



Psalm Refrain © 1969, 1981, ICEL. All Rights Reserved Psalm Verses © 1963, 1993, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Music Copyright © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10

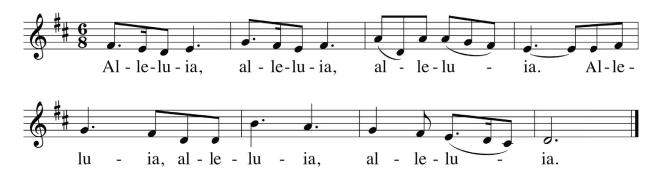
[Paul writes] ² I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³ And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴ was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵ On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶ But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷ even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸ Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹ but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

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

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sing twice



Music: Mass of Joy and Peace, Tony E. Alonso, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

GOSPFI: MARK 6:1-13

The holy gospel according to Mark Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ [Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.² On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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

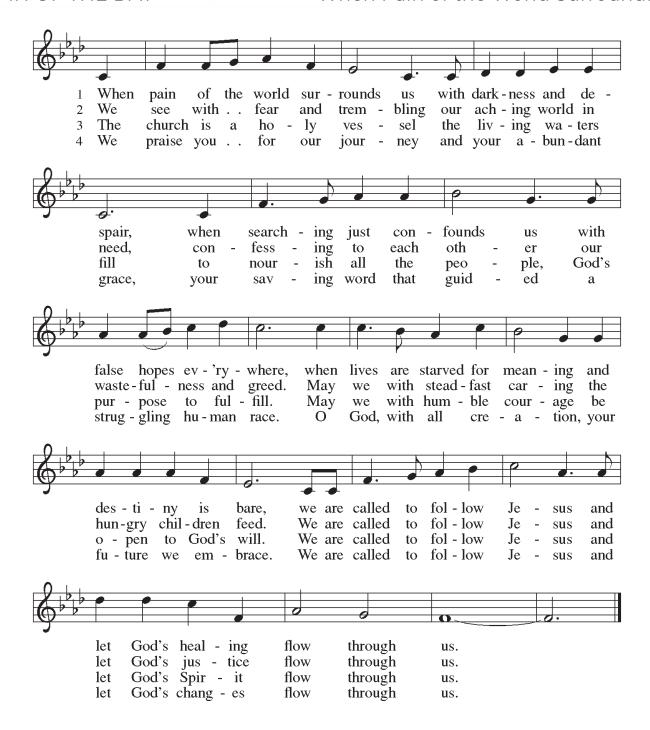
Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Kathi Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Pain of the World Surrounds Us



Text: Jim Strathdee, b. 1941

Music: CALLED TO FOLLOW, Jim Strathdee

Text and music © 1978 Desert Flower Music, www.strathdeemusic.com.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that God is with us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each petition ends: God of grace,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected Lord.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of \P Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

 ${\it Please check the back pages of this bulletin for additional announcements.}$

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.

OFFERING

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 may place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel (near the sacristy door). During the offering music, the pastor sets the table for Holy Communion.

OFFERING MUSIC

How Firm a Foundation setting by John Turner

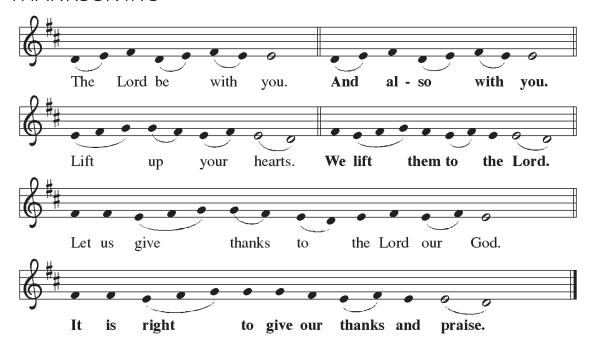
Please rise, as you are able. The ushers bring the offering forward for the Offering Prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

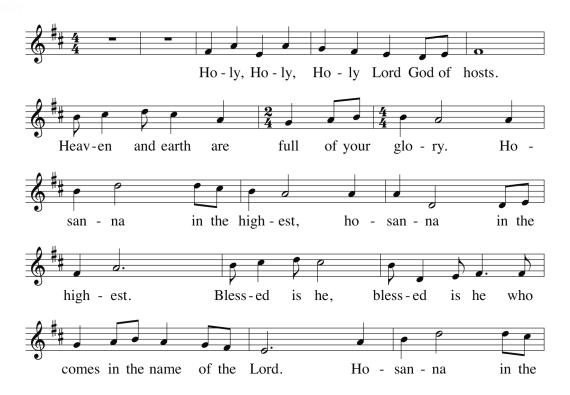
Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,

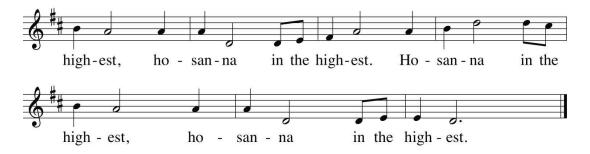
the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:





Text: ICEL, © 2010 Music: Mass of Joy and Peace, Tony E. Alonso, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing your people safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading them through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your 4 Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, 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.

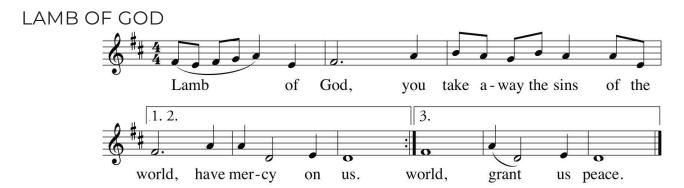
INVITATION

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come to the table.

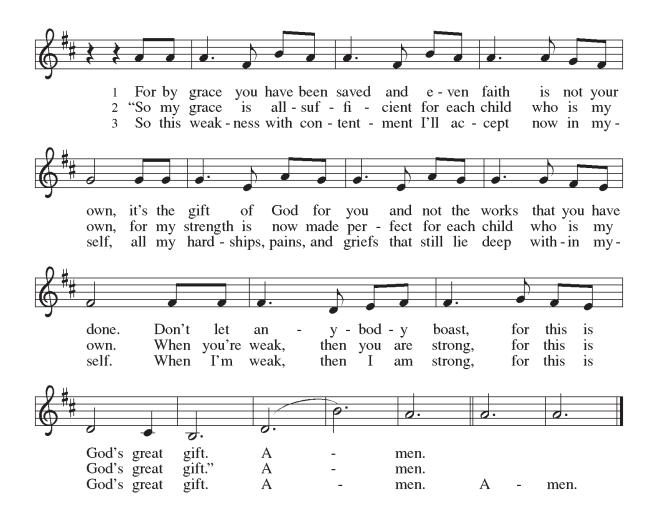
Please be seated.

COMMUNION

Because this is the Lord's table, we welcome all to receive Holy Communion. If you'd like to receive a blessing instead, simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest. 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 tray for those unable to drink wine. After receiving Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.



Music: Mass of Joy and Peace, Tony E. Alonso, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.



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, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

Almighty God bless us, ♣ and direct our days and our deeds in peace. Amen.

SENDING HYMN on next page

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Gigue by G.F. Telemann

AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER

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



THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar



Sunday, July 7

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary
Coffee Talk Ministry Update 10:15 Ministry Center 1
Worship in person and online 11:30 Sanctuary & YouTube

Monday, July 8

Zion Zippers Potluck Fellowship 6pm Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, July 9

Exercise Group 9am Church 2
Women of Zion Bible Study & More 10am Fellowship Hall
Staff Meeting 11am Break Room
Executive Committee 6pm Fellowship Hall
Council Meeting 6:30 Fellowship Hall
Warriors Anonymous 7pm Church 2

Wednesday, July 10

Crafty Bunch 9:30 Ed Bldg Craft Rm
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous (alt room) 7pm Church 2
Al-Anon Meeting (alternate room) 7pm Fellowship Hall

9:30 Church 2

Thursday, July 11

Weight Watchers Mtg

The Psalms Bible Study 9:30 Fellowship Hall Weight Watchers Mtg 9:30 Church 2 Stephen Ministry Supervision 7pm MC-5 and 6

Saturday, July 13

Weight Watchers Meetings 7:30 & 9:30am Church 2

Sunday, July 14

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary
Youth Meeting - Nat'l Gathering 10:15 MC-1
Worship in person and online 11:30 Sanctuary & YouTube

Worship Support

Altar Guild

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

Lay Reader

9:00 Chris Jones11:30 Karen Umlang

Assisting Minister

Gavin Magee

Cantor

Bud Halstead

Communion Servers

9:00 Lisa & Philip Beekley

11:30 Suzi Lockamy, Karen Umlang

Livestream

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

Sound

Scott VanDoren

Ushers

9:00 Dave & Doris Newman
Russell & Suzanne Warren
James & Karen Sturdivant
LeShea Clabough & Kevin M°Gee

11:30 Pam Gammage Laura Walsh

> Cottee Talks =

- Today, July 7 at 10:15 Senior Pastor Kathi Johnson will give a mid-year ministry update. Meet in Ministry Center Room 1.
- August 11 Habitat for Humanity representative will speak about the Lutheran Cluster House and the family that will live there. Meet in Ministry Center Room 1.

All are welcome to come and hear about the ways that God is working in and through you - the people of Zion!

Food Bank Drive Now through July 28

Zion is collecting food and pet food for the San Antonio Food Bank. Look for the red barrels in the narthex and gazebo.



Women of Zion

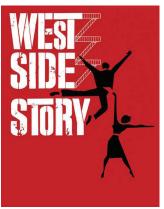
WOZ Bible Study & More Second Tuesday July 9 at 10:00am Join in activities and fellowship with other women in the congregation. Fellowship, service projects with a Bible study on the second Tuesday at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited! Scan the QR code to get on the mailing list, or send WOZ@zionsa.org an e-mail to WOZ@zionsa.org.

Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship

Monday, July 8 at 6:00pm
Zion Zippers meet on the second
Monday of each month for a potluck
dinner, beginning at 6pm. If you're fifty years or older, you're invited. Please
bring a dish or two to share with your
Zipper friends and the entertainers.
Bring your own plate and utensils if
you can, and invite a friend, too!

After dinner on July 8, the Zion Zippers will get out the dice for bunco. Contact Kathy Newman through the church office if you have a question or suggestion for a guest speaker or activity.

Tickets on Sale On Line Only



Performances are:

Thur	July 18	7:30pm
Fri	July 19	7:30pm
Sat	July 20	7:30pm
Sun	July 21	2:30pm
Thur	July 25	7:30pm
Fri	July 26	7:30pm
Sat	July 27	7:30pm
Sun	July 28	2:30pm

Theatre seating tickets are available online at **ZTG.Booktix.net** (or us this QR). All seats are reserved. Doors open at 7:15 for theatre seating. \$16.50, including handling charge. *Dinner seating tickets are sold out*.



Weekday Bible Study Series: The Psalms

Thursday, July 11 - Psalms of Praise Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr. Meets at 9:30am on Thursdays as scheduled below. Come to the Fellowship Hall. Future Bible study topics to be announced.

Interested in Serving in Worship?

Worship Camp is for you!

Join us in between services on July 14, 21, or 28 and learn how to serve on Sunday mornings! We're always in need of people to be readers, communion assistants, and ushers, and to serve on the tech team (for our livestream). These roles play such an important part of our welcome!

We're offering the training over three Sundays, so if you're gone one weekend, just pick another one. No sign-up is necessary - come to the Sanctuary around 10:20 on those three Sundays. Questions? Reach out to Pastor Kathi, kjohnson@zionsa.org.

STAFF CONTACT	Day Off
Pastor Kathi Johnson Senior Pastor kjohnson@ZionSA.org	Monday
Pastor Dan Heim Pastor, Youth & Family dheim@ZionSA.org	Friday
Pastor Eileen Spehr Visitation Pastor visitation@ZionSA.org	
Suzie Wyatt, Administrator swyatt@ZionSA.org	Thursday afternoon
Rob Mikulski, Music Director rmikulski@ZionSA.org	Monday
Sammy Mikulski, Theatre Director theatre@ZionSA.org	Monday

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Bud Halstead	President
Allen Cockrell	Treasurer
Chris Jones	Vice President
Erica Macha	Secretary
David Umlang	At Large
Rachel Williams	At Large
Shiloh Love	At Large
Pr. Kathi Johnson	Senior Pastor
Pr. Dan Heim	Pastor

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

SUBSCRIBE TO

- Weekly Z-Mail
- Prayer Chain

For secure subscription info, send an e-mail to Karen at Zion@ZionSA.org

COPYRIGHTS

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS008900.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © OneLicense.net. All rights reserved. License No.

Social media vectors created by myriammira - freepik.com

Game Group

Monday, July 15 at 12:30pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Mondays. Contact Algine Perry through the church office if you have questions.



Men's Fellowship Dinner

Third Monday, July 15 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at Sea Island (11715 Bandera) (Golden Corral, Loop 1604 at Bandera this month) for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR ideas for Men's Ministry! Contact David Umlang at lmm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

Men's Retreat September 13-15



Register Now for Discount Price Southwestern Synod Lutheran Men in Mission are sponsoring a One Year To Live Retreat, a

life-changing, lay-led event at Camp Chrysalis near Kerrville. Early Registration discount price is \$150 (by Monday, July 15). Scan this QR for registration form and payment options. Contact David Umlang at lmm@zionsa.org if you need more details



Prayer Chain

Prayer Chain requests are sent out as needed, no more than once a day. To request prayers, or to join the Prayer Chain, send an e-mail to Karen at Zion@ZionSA.org. When requesting prayers for others by name, please confirm with that person first.

Zion Bunco Group

4th Monday, July 22 at 1:00pm

Zion Bunco Group will meet on the fourth Monday for a rousing game of Bunco and fellowship. Meet at 1:00, the Fellowship Hall. For info contact Shirley Homeier-Mc-Brayer through the church office.

Food Bank Invitation to Help

Daily Bread Food Pantry, 6011 Grissom Road in Leon Valley, is a distribution site of the San Antonio Food Bank. On the first and third Mondays, a Food Bank truck delivers fresh produce, bakery and pantry goods, meat and frozen items. Groceries are distributed the next day to 30 to 40 qualifying families in San Antonio and surrounding areas.

- Volunteers are needed on the first and third Mondays. Setup begins about thirty minutes before the expected arrival of the Food Truck. Unloading of the truck, sorting food, and filling the pantry usually takes one to two hours. More people are needed on Mondays.
- On the first and third Tuesdays, delivery to clients is from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Setup on these Tuesdays begins at 9:30am.

Volunteers are welcome for any amount of time they have to give. There are no requirements for those helping on Mondays – just a willingness to serve, sorting and stocking the delivered food into the pantry. Tuesday distribution requires two on-line training sessions.

Daily Bread Pantry invites the curious to come on Mondays to see what goes on, 6011 Grissom Road. Contact Pastor Eileen Spehr with any questions, Visitation@ZionSA.org.

Summer Pantry Dates

July 15 and 16 Aug 5 and 6 Aug 19 and 20

Your generosity empowers Lion'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.



https://secure.myvanco.com/ YJYN/campaign/C-YTT8 General Fund, updated 6/18/24

Crafty Bunch

Wednesdays at 9:30

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 project to work on.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

Summer Schedule: Thursday July 18 and August 1 Even if you don't sew, consider learning some basics with LWR Quilters! Come on out at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, as scheduled above. Contact Diane Stewart through the church office if you need more details.

For more information on the LWR quilting project, go to lwr.org and click on "quilts." Find out how a quilt can make a difference in someone's life.

Lutheran Fall Festival September 21

at the Marktplatz in Fredericksburg, Texas

Quilt Show and Auction • Music • Craft Booths

Food • Carnival Games • Summer Camp Raffle Annual fundraising event to benefit Cross Trails Ministries at Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch and other

off-site camping experiences.

Vendors, crafters, quilters, sponsors, volunteers and anyone interested in attending can use this QR for link to info and applications, or https://crosstrails.org/ways-to-give/fall-festival/



Fall Festival



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 LeShea Clabough, our Stephen Ministry Leader. Get her contact information from the church office, 210-688-3090, or email her directly using this QR.

JULY 7, 2024 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



God's power is made perfect in weakness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 6:1-13	Jesus sends the twelve
Monday	Ezekiel 2:1-5	The Lord chooses Ezekiel

Tuesday 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Paul's vision

Wednesday 1 Peter 5:6-11 Tending the flock

Thursday Isaiah 43:1-3 Restoration promised

Friday Romans 8:26-27 Spirit intercedes for us

Saturday Psalm 123 A prayer for mercy

Sunday Mark 6:14-29 The death of John the Baptist

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore I [Paul] am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong. **2 Corinthians 12:10 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you who conquer all powers from the cross, guide us to a life of faith, hope, and love for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food, and that you show us mercy and kindness each day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a humble heart and faith in Christ.



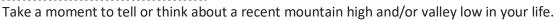
© 2023 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

JULY 7, 2024 HYMN OF THE WEEK 6

Just a Closer Walk with Thee



WEEKLY MILESTONES



CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- When have you experienced rejection from friends or family?
 - How can God use your weaknesses to bring healing and hope to others?

DEVOTIONS



Read: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10.

Christian spirituality is a way of life that is shaped by the gospel. Paul says he could boast about a mystical spirituality, but he refuses (vv. 2-5). Instead, he lifts up his weakness "for the sake of Christ" (v. 10). In a world that seeks wisdom, power, and mystical experiences, Paul's message to the Corinthians and to us is a cautionary note. Christian spirituality for Paul is a life lived for the sake of Christ that is grounded in "weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities" (v. 10). Humble experiences open us to a strength, a wisdom, and a transformed life. This is a life very different from one that some in the Corinthian church promoted to show their godliness. In Mark 6 Jesus experiences rejection yet sends his disciples out with power and authority. Today, God's mercy, grace and healing power may look fragile, yet it is clothed in a gospel strength that changes lives.

Discuss: When have you experienced a difficult moment that was transformed by God's grace and power?

Pray: Almighty God, help us to trust in your power that humbles the mighty and lifts up those experiencing insults, hardships, and persecutions for the sake of Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who is experiencing a hardship?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Mark 6, Jesus sends out his disciples with very little to sustain their trip. They are to rely on the hospitality of others. The church was built on the humble act of being dependent on the generosity of others. Set out a cup in your home to remind you that God fills your cup (the "daily bread" you need), often through others. Let the cup remind you to be ready to receive the kindness of others as well as to be kind to others. When you set out the cup, pray the Lord's Prayer.



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