July 21, 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 will host the greater San Antonio community at two different summer camps and 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?

HOLY BAPTISM TODAY

At the 9:00 service today we receive Owen Robert Bierwirth, child of Anna & Noah Bierwirth. His sponsors are Pierce MacGuire and Carolina Lozano-Lopez.

Please note on your attendance slip if you are visiting for the baptism.

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

Fantasia in C by J.S. Bach BWV 570

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

9:00am HOLY BAPTISM

Statement of Faith Do you believe in God the Father? I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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

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

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

*catholic: universal

Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
We give you thanks..... in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever,
Amen.

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

11:30am

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 85) Restore us again, O God. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord. Let us hear what God the Lord will speak, For God will speak peace to his people. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, And righteousness will look down from the sky.



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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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.

GLORIA





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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Section End

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Erica Macha

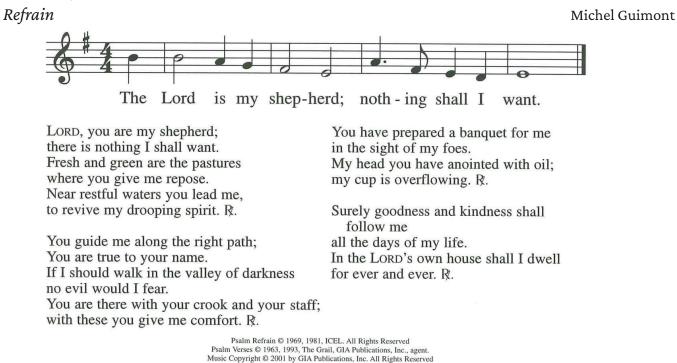
FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 23:1-6

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. ⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

PSALM 23

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



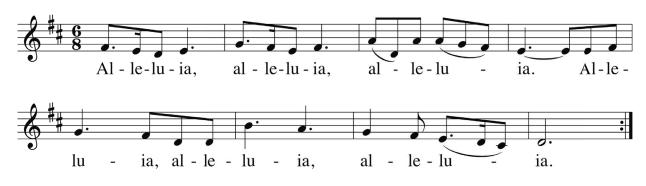
SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 2:11-22

[Paul writes]¹¹ Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹² remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sing twice



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

GOSPEL: MARK 6:30-34, 53-56

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

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. ⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Kathi Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY

There is a Longing in Our Hearts



Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955 Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

Text and music © 1992 Anne Quigley. Published by OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

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RITE OF HEALING

On several Sundays this summer, our readings include stories of the healing ministry of Jesus. On these Sundays, we will include a Rite of Healing. If you want a prayer for healing for yourself or on behalf of someone else, please make your way to stand or kneel at the altar rail during the music. If you would like a prayer but cannot come forward, please notify an usher and we will pray for you at your seat.

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 ♥ 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 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	<i>Psalm 23</i> by Gwyneth Walker	Amy Mikulski Soloist
	by Gwyneen warker	5010130

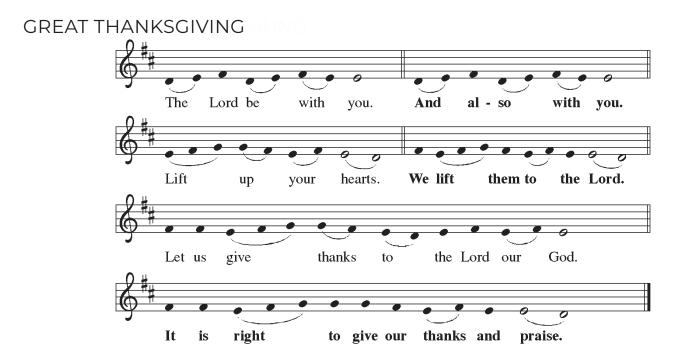
Please rise, as you are able. The ushers bring the offering forward for the Offering Prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

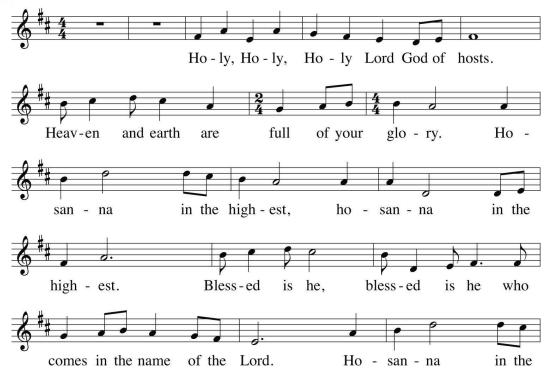
Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,

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.

Next page



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:





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 № 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.

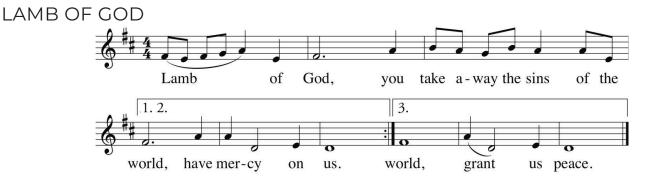
INVITATION

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

I am Jesus' Little Lamb



Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724-82; tr. composite Tune: Brüder Choral-Buch, 1784

WEIL ICH JESU SCHÄFLEIN BIN 778 877 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

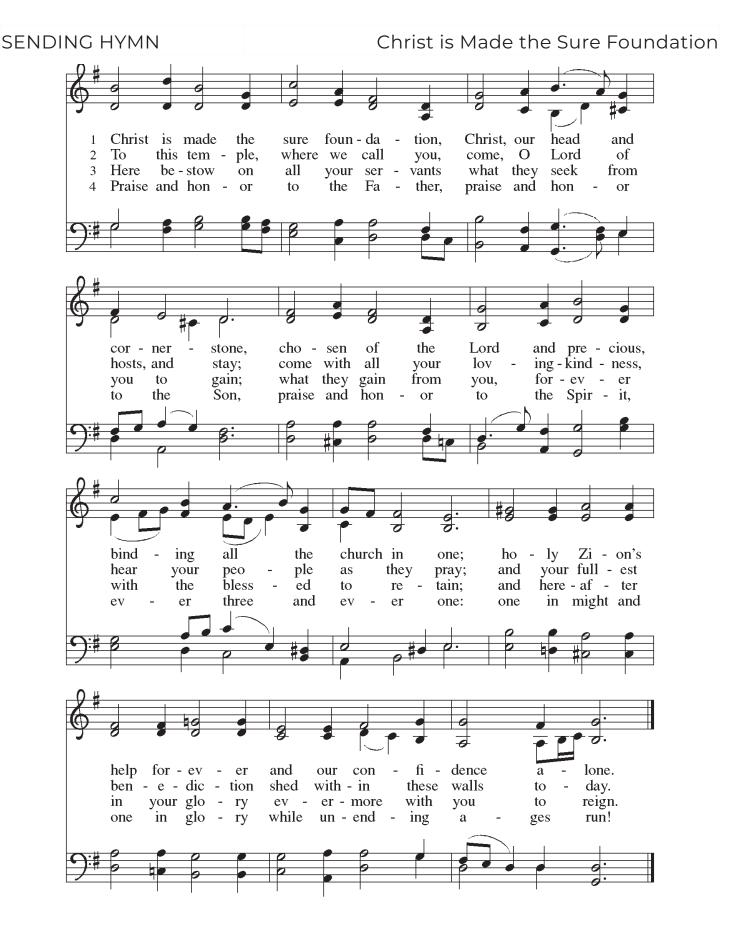
DISMISSAL Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow setting by Paul Manz

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.



Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar

Sunday, July 21

Worship in person	9
"Worship Camp" for Worship Support	1
Worship in person and online	1
Pre-Show Meal for Dinner Ticket-holders	1
West Side Story	2

Monday, July 22

Bunco

Tuesday, July 23 Exercise Group Staff Meeting Warriors Anonymous

Wednesday, July 24

Thursday, July 25

West Side Story	7:30	Family Life Ce
Stephen Ministry Supervision	7pm	MC-5 and 6
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2
Pre-Show Meal for Dinner Ticket-holders	6:30	Family Life Ce
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2

Friday, July 26

Pre-Show Meal for Dinner Ticket-holders West Side Story

Saturday, July 27

Weight Watchers Meetings	7:30 & 9:	30am	Church 2
Pre-Show Meal for Dinner Ticket-holders		6:30	Family Life Center
West Side Story		7:30	Family Life Center
Sunday, July 28			
Worship in person		9am	Sanctuary
"Worship Camp" for Worship	Support	10:15	Sanctuary
Worship in person and online		11:30	Sanctuary & YouTube
Pre-Show Meal for Dinner Ticket	-holders	6:30	Family Life Center
West Side Story		7:30	Family Life Center



9am Sanctuary 10:15 Sanctuary 11:30 Sanctuary & YouTube Family Life Center 1:30 2:30 Family Life Center

1pm Fellowship Hall

9am Church 2 11am Break Room 7pm Church 2

10am Cemetery 2 9:30 Church 2 9:30 Ed Bldg Craft Rm 7pm Church 2 7pm Fellowship Hall

enter enter

6:30 Family Life Center 7:30 Family Life Center

Worship Support

Altar Guild

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

Lay Reader

9:00 Mary Mora 11:30 LeShea Clabough

> Cantor Amy Mikulski

Communion Servers

9:00 Jake Apodaca, Carolyn Pfeiffer

11:30 Max Knoll, Suzi Lockamy

Livestream

Steve Johnson, Kevin McGee

Sound

Scott VanDoren

Ushers

9:00 Dan Graham Karen & James Sturdivant Suzanne & Russell Warren

11:30 Pam Gammage

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

Interested in Serving in Worship? Worship Camp is for you!

Join us in between services TODAY or July 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!

If you cannot participate today, just drop in next week. No sign-up is necessary - come to the Sanctuary around 10:20 today or next Sunday. Questions? Reach out to Pastor Kathi, kjohnson@zionsa.org.

Food Bank Drive through July 28

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



Tickets on Sale Now



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

A very limited number of reserved seating tickets are still available on-

line at **ZTG.Booktix.net** (QR above). All seats are \$16.50, including handling charge.

Overflow seating will be available at the door. Dinner seating tickets are sold out.

Where We Park Affects Our Welcome

We have an extensive campus here at Zion, and yet the parking nearest the Sanctuary is fairly limited. When you arrive on Sundays, if you're able to, please consider parking in the lower lot (next to the cemetery), on the 1604 side, or across Leslie Road. This will leave the spots closest to the Sanctuary for those who have limited mobility. Taking this simple step helps us welcome all to our worship space!



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.

regular schedule)

OFFICE CONTACT



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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

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Crafty Bunch

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 NEW craft room is the first room on the LEFT. Bring your own project to work on.

Dinner Out at Paesanos in August

Resumes on Wednesday, July 21 at 9:30

Thursday, August 1 at 6:30pm

Dinner Out invites all adults to meet in August at Paesano's Restaurant, 3622 Paesano's Parkway off Loop 1604, east of NW Military Hwy. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30.

RSVP by Monday, July 29 to Jim or Sandy Chillstrom; call the church office if you need their contact info.

Weekday Bible Study Series: The Psalms Thursday, August 8 - Psalms for the Journey Thursday, August 22 - Royal Psalms Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr. Meets at 9:30am on the second and fourth Thursdays. Come to the Fellowship Hall.

≥ (offee Talk ≤

August 11 at 10:15 - A 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!



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

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 th church office, 210-688-309(or email her directly using this QR.



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.

Current Needs at CAM

Christian Assistance Ministry, 110 McCullough

- Men's jeans and shorts, all sizes
- Men's short-sleeved T-shirts (all sizes)
- Bras (all sizes)
- Women's tennis/athletic shoes (all sizes)
- Barbers and hair stylists to serve the clients at CAM
- A commercial vacuum cleaner
- Men to help with the shower program
- Financial support (use QR code)

Bring donations to the yellow bins behind the north stairs in the narthex, closest to the office.

Get volunteer info at 210-223-4099, Mary Henderson.

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/tways-to-give/ fall-festival/





God cares for us like a shepherd.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jesus teaches and heals
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-6	God promises a righteous king
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:11-22	United by Christ
Wednesday	1 Peter 2:18-25	The example of Christ's suffering
Thursday	Matthew 9:35-38	Jesus talks about his suffering
Friday	Micah 2:12-13	A promise of hope
Saturday	Psalm 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

As he [Jesus] went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. Mark 6:34 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Shepherding God, we thank you for supplying our wants with your healing touch that feeds us with your love through Christ Jesus our Shepherd and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you care for us like a shepherd cares for the sheep; we thank you for this food, a gift of your loving care for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God care for you and calm your fears through Christ our Lord.



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JULY 21, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK Have No Fear, Little Flock



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 you hear the word shepherd, what images come to mind?
- How does God act like a shepherd to calm your anxieties and give you hope?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Jeremiah 23:1-6.

The shepherds spoken of in this reading are the kings of Judah and Israel. These kings are recognized as shepherds, those who care for the people. Due to the injustices and unfaithfulness of most of the kings, the people have suffered. There is clearly prophetic judgment in this writing. The point of prophetic judgment is not scolding but hope. Through the prophet Jeremiah God gives hope to the people with the promise of a just and faithful shepherd king. The people will live without fear; they will not be appalled by events around them; they will not be abandoned or disappear from the face of the earth. Jesus, in the reading from Mark 6, is the one who comes as the Son of God, the true shepherd king. The people are in great need, fearful, and distressed. In Mark 6, Jesus comes with compassion to feed the five thousand, heal, and calm their anxieties and sicknesses.

Discuss: What needs to be shepherded with the goodness of God in our lives and in the world today?

Pray: Dear God, you shepherd us with your love that we may not live in fear or in want. We thank you for your compassion that touches our lives through Jesus Christ our shepherd. 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 cope with their fears and anxieties?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 23 is one of the most familiar psalms in the Bible. Many people know this psalm by heart. A pattern of divine reading called *lectio divina* is a way to meditate and pray. Read Psalm 23 once, then pause. Read it again and then pick out a word or phrase that has meaning for you. Read it again and wonder how it speaks to you today. Consider highlighting or underlining the words or phrases you have chosen in your Bible. Pause and reflect on those words. *Pray:* **God of compassion and protection, give us peace and faith in knowing that you, our shepherd, pursue us with your goodness through Jesus Christ. Amen.**



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