August 4, 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 has been 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 hosted 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?

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

Now the Silence
setting by Charles Ore

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 85)

Restore us again, O God.

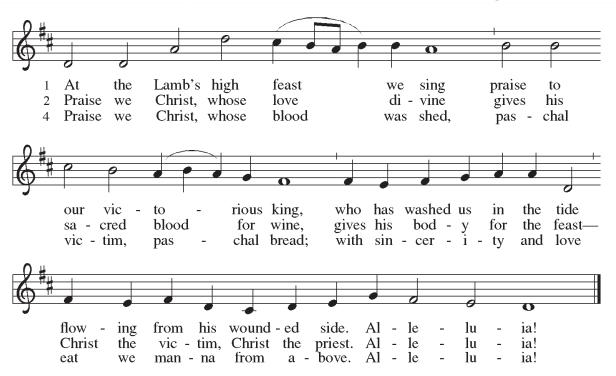
Show us your steadfast love, O Lord.

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.



- 6 Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall; you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt. Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, Kirchengeseng, 1566

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.**





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, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: EXODUS 16:2-4, 9-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." 4Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not." 9Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.' "10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. 11The LORD spoke to Moses and said, 12"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.' "13In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

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

PSALM 78:23-29

The cantor sings the refrain once to begin, followed by the assembly. The assembly then sings the refrain when indicated by RY



God commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven, Raining down manna upon them to eat and giving them grain from heaven. So mortals ate the bread of angels. \mathbb{R}^7

The Lord caused the east wind to blow in the heavens and powerfully led out the south wind, Raining down flesh upon them like dust and flying birds like the sand of the seas, Letting them fall in the midst of the camp and round about the dwellings. So the people ate and were well filled, for God gave them what they craved. R

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

SECOND READING: BOOK EPHESIANS 4:1-16

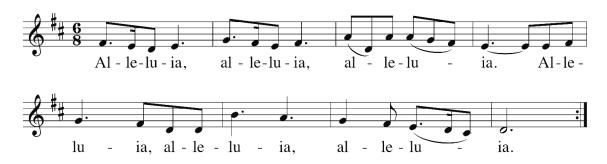
[Paul writes] I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 'one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." ⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. 14We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. 15 But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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.

GOSPEL: JOHN 6:24-35

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

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." ³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Heim

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

The Call by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Matthew Perez Soloist

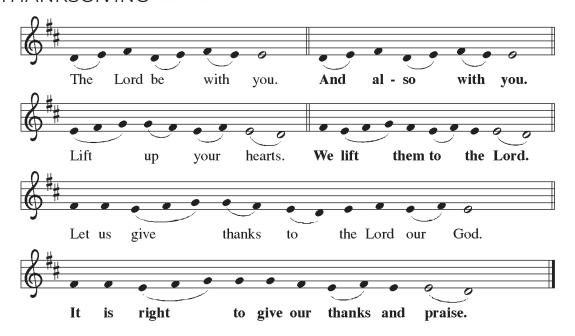
Please rise, as you are able. The ushers bring the offering forward for the Offering Prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

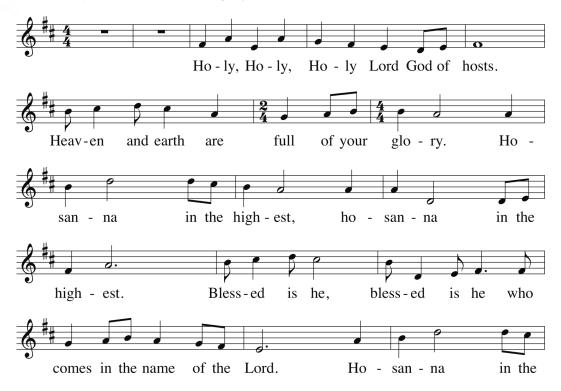
Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,

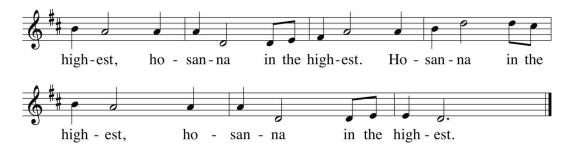
the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

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 \(\mathbb{P} \) 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

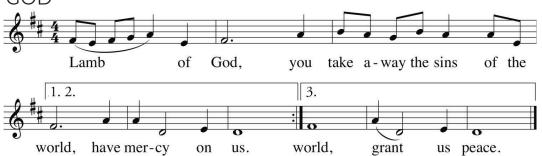
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come to the table.

Please be seated.

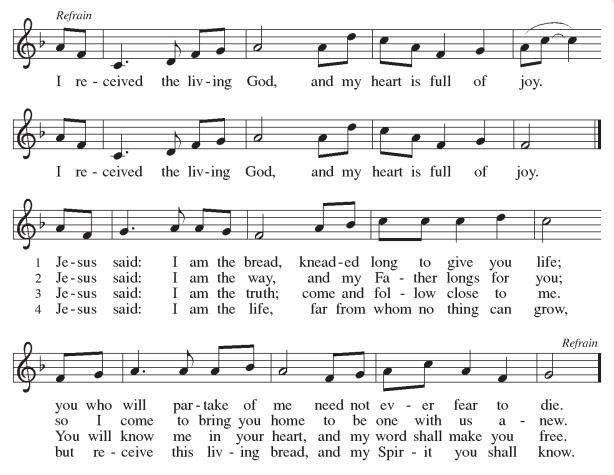
COMMUNION

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.



Text: Anonymous Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

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 to the Lord, the Almighty setting by Diane Bish

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: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904 Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Carolyn Thronson, Doris Enderlin Susan Johns, Carrie Schmitzer Amy Swanson, Gina Williams

Lay Reader

9:00 Shannon Rios

11:30 Dick Parker

Cantor

Matthew Perez

Communion Servers

9:00 Antje Logue Bev Rosel

11:30 Ieff Williams

Jennifer Kretzschmar

Livestream

Steve Johnson, Kevin McGee

Sound

Scott VanDoren

Ushers

9:00 Jake Apodaca

Mary Ann & Bill Schmitt Matt Murray, Irvin Moss

Stuart Williams

11:30 Pam Gammage

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar

Sunday, August 4

School Supply Collection through Aug 25 Details next page

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary

Worship in person and online 11:30 Sanctuary & YouTube

Monday, August 5

Game Group 12:30 Fellowship Hall LMM Planning Mtg 6:30 Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, August 6

Exercise Group9amChurch 2Staff Meeting11amBreak RoomWarriors Anonymous7pmChurch 2

Wednesday, August 7

Weight Watchers Mtg 9:30 Church 2

Crafty Bunch 9:30 Ed Bldg Craft Rm

Midweek Worship 1:00 and 6:30pm Church 1
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous 7pm FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting 7pm FLC 101

Thursday, August 8

The Psalms Bible Study 9:30 Fellowship Hall

Weight Watchers Mtg 9:30 Church 2

Saturday, August 10

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

Sunday, August 11

Habitat for Humanity Information Gazebo

School Supply Collection through Aug 25 Details next page

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary

Coffee Talk: Habitat for Humanity 10:15 MC1

Worship in person and online 11:30 Sanctuary & YouTube

Midweek Services Resume this Week

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





School Kit Collection

Women of Zion and Lutheran World Relief
At the beginning of each school year, Lutheran women collect supplies for school kits to be sent around the world. Please add a few of these to your shopping list and drop them in the red tubs in the narthex or gazebo. Please bring these specific items only.

- 70-sheet spiral notebooks (wide ruled or college ruled)
- Ruler (inches and centimeters included)
- Pencil sharpener
- Pair of blunt scissors
- Unsharpened pencils
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 16 or 24 box of Crayola® brand crayons
- 2 ½-inch eraser

If you wish to donate financially, indicate on your check or on-line gift that it is for LWR School Supplies. Use this QR or go to ZionSA.org for donation link.





August 11 at 10:15 - Habitat for Humanity AVP Taylor Judkins updates us on new programs, our fall build, and the mission of our local Habitat for Humanity program.

All are welcome to come and hear about the ways that God is working in and through you - the people of Zion! Please join us, ask Taylor questions, have some coffee and enjoy our fellowship. Meet in Ministry Center Room 1 at 10:15am.

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

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Game Group

Monday, August 5 and 19 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.

Weekday Bible Study Series: The Psalms

Pending 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.

Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship

Monday, August 12 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. Bring your own plate and utensils if you can, and invite a friend, too!

On August 12, Zippers are collecting school supplies. See the *School Kit Collection* list on page 22. After dinner, Jan Horn will lead the group in an entertaining game of Trivia. Come join the fun!

Contact Kathy Newman through the church office if you have a question or suggestion for a guest speaker or activity.

Women of Zion

WOZ Bible Study & More Second Tuesday August 13 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 an e-mail to WOZ@zionsa.org.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

Thursday, August 15

Even if you don't sew, consider learning some basics with LWR Quilters! Come on out at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Contact Diane Stewart through the church office if you need more details.



For the Congregation: National Youth Gathering Report

Sunday, August 18
Zion high school youth who
went to the ELCA's National
Youth Gathering in New Orle-

ans in July are eager to report back on their experience! All are invited to their presentation and Q&A in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15am on August 18.

M

MomCo, a Community for All Moms

Wednesday, August 21 at 9:30am in MC Room 1

Zion MomCo* supports moms by building community for growth in faith and as parents. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month in Zion's Ministry Center from 9:30-noon. They also are in need of adult volunteers to provide child care those Wednesdays.

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

* Formerly MOPS Mothers of Preschoolers



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.



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 the church office, 210-688-3090, or email her directly using this QR.

Food Bank Invitation to Help

August 5 and 6, and August 19 and 20

Daily Bread Food Pantry, 6011 Grissom Road, is a distribution site of the San Antonio Food Bank. Produce, bakery, pantry, meat and frozen goods sorted on Mondays for delivery to families on Tuesdays. Summer pantry work dates are August 5 and 6, and August 19 and 20.

- 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**.

AUGUST 4, 2024 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus is the bread of life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 6:24-35	Christ, the bread of life
Monday	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	Raining bread from heaven
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:1-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Greetings to the Corinthians
Thursday	Psalm 55:16-19	Betrayed by a friend
Friday	Acts 6:1-7	Seven chosen to serve
Saturday	Psalm 78:23-29	God feeds the people
Sunday	John 6:35, 41-51	Bread from heaven

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I [the LORD] have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.""

Exodus 16:12 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Living God, we thank you that even when we complain and do not see your goodness in our midst, you respond to our cries for help through Christ Jesus, our bread of life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, as we receive this food, help us to remember with thanksgiving all your good gifts to us through Christ Jesus our Lord and our bread of life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the bread of life, fill you with good things.





WEEKLY MILESTONES

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

CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- What is something that happened recently that you did not understand?
- If you could complain to Jesus about something, what would it be?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 6:24-35 and Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15.

In both readings people lack understanding. In John 6, the crowds witness the miracles but do not see the signs as leading them to believe in Jesus as the one God has sent. In Exodus 16, the people do not understand what they have just experienced. They do not remember that God just delivered them out of a harsh life in Egypt. Instead, they incorrectly recall living the good life in Egypt when they ate their fill of meat and bread. Nor do they initially grasp that God answers their complaining by giving them bread to eat. Exodus 16 gives a biblical understanding of our human condition. We have short memories and forget God's goodness to us. We become fearful because of it, and we end up complaining and being unfaithful to God. Moses and Jesus show God's saving presence that overcomes ignorance, complaining, and fears. In John 6, to trust in God is to believe that Jesus is the one sent by God as the bread of life to respond to our needs (v. 35).

Discuss: When have you felt that Jesus, the bread of life, has responded to your needs? Pray: Ever-present God, help us to see and trust that your saving work is in our midst so that we may not fear, complain, or forget your goodness to us through Jesus 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 overcome something that worries them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Ephesians 4 states that the leaders in the congregation, are "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (vv. 11-12). Pastors and staff are not the only ministers. All people are ministers to build up one another in faith by "speaking the truth in love" so that all may "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (v. 15). Draw the outline of a body on a sheet of paper. Name spiritual gifts (talents) that you or others you know have. Write them inside the body.

Then pray: May the Holy Spirit give us the faith and the gifts to grow together in care for one another through Christ our Lord. Amen.



