August 11, 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

This Is My Father's World arranged by Mark Hayes

Sandy Musk Guest Pianist

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Please rise, as you are able.

INVOCATION

We worship today in the name of the Father, and of the \maltese 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: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt. Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, $Sacred\ Melodies$, 1815

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. Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, 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 Bill Swantner

FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 19:4-8

⁴[Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

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

PSALM 34

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



Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord.

I will bless the LORD at all times, God's praise always on my lips; in the LORD my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. R.

Glorify the LORD with me. Together let us praise God's name. I sought the LORD and was heard; from all my terrors set free. R.

Look towards God and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

When the poor cry out the LORD hears them and rescues them from all their distress. R.

The angel of the LORD is encamped around those who fear God, to rescue them. Taste and see that the LORD is good. They are happy who seek refuge in God. 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: EPHESIANS 4:25-5:2

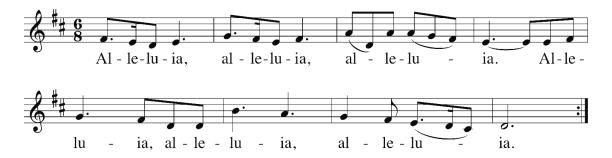
[Paul writes] ²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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 6:35, 41-51

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

³⁵Jesus said to [the crowd,] "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Bill Swantner

Please rise, as you are able.



Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

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

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

You Are My All in All arranged by Mark Hayes

Sandy Musk Guest Organist

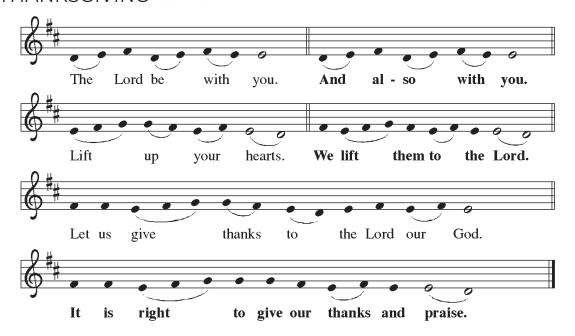
Please rise, as you are able. The ushers bring the offering forward for the Offering Prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

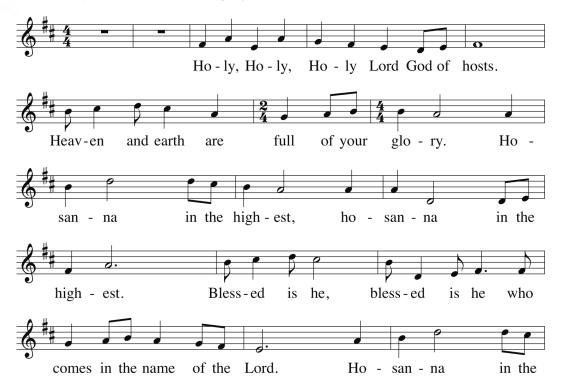
Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,

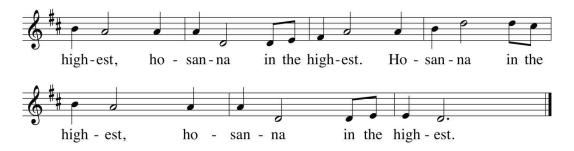
the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

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 \(\mathbb{Y} \) 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

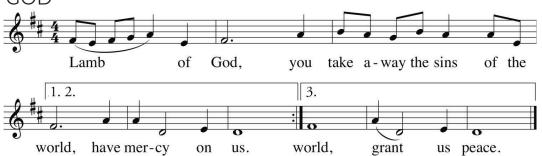
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come to the table.

Please be seated.

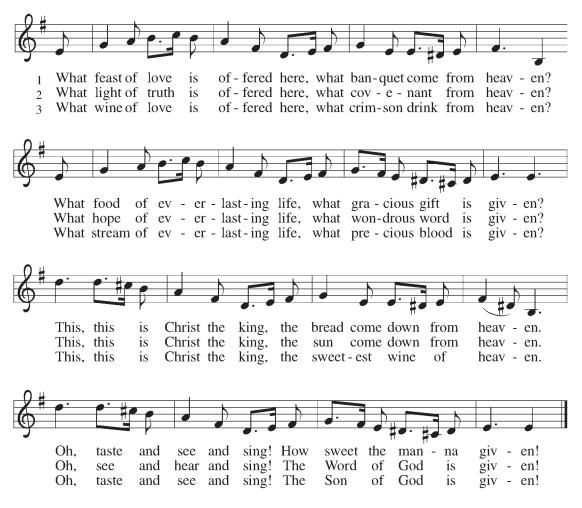
COMMUNION

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: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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After communion, we rise and share in blessing and prayer.

BLESSING

May the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, 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

Cwm Rhondda setting by Paul Manz

Sandy Musk

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: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt. Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

Worship Support

Altar Guild

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

Lay Reader

9:00 John Macha11:30 Betty Parker

Cantor

Bud Halstead

Communion Servers

9:00 Shannon Rios Karen Umlang

11:30 Suzi Lockamy Max Knoll

Livestream

David Umlang Justin Heinen

Sound

Scott VanDoren

Ushers

9:00 Jake Apodaca Mary Ann & Bill Schmitt Matt Murray, Irvin Moss Stuart Williams

11:30 Kim & Mike & DeHart Joanna & Mel Arviso

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar

Sunday, August 11

Habitat for Humanity Info Gazebo

School Supply Collection thru 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

Monday, August 12

Zion Zippers Potluck Fellowship and School Supply Collection 6pm Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, August 13

Exercise Group 9am Church 2

Women of Zion Bible Study & More 10am Fellowship Hall
Staff Meeting 11am Break Room

Executive Committee 6pm Zoom

Warriors Anonymous 7pm Church 2

Wednesday, August 14

Weight Watchers Mtg 9:30 Church 2

Crafty Bunch 9:30 Ed Bldg Craft Rm

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

Thursday, August 15

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief 9:30 Fellowship Hall

Weight Watchers Mtg 9:30 Church 2

Saturday, August 17

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

Sunday, August 18

School Supply Collection thru Aug 25 Details next page

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary

Zion Youth Report on Nat'l Gathering 10:15 Fellowship Hall

Worship in person and online 11:30 Sanctuary & YouTube

Two Midweek Services

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

> Coffee Talk >

TODAY, 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.



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.



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

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

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- Prayer Chain

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

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Social media vectors created by myriammira - freepik.com

Back-to-School Events Next Sunday, August 18

Both worship services will include a back-to-school blessing for students, teachers, administrators and parents with a faith memento handout for the school year!

In between services, Zion youth report on the ELCA's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Everyone interested in the vision for Zion youth's future trips, and in the next Gathering* are welcome!

Come at 10:15 next Sunday to the Fellowship Hall. The nursery will be open.

*Minneapolis in 2027

Faith Formation Begins August 25

Sunday Mornings at 10:15am

Register children and youth (ages two through high school) with this QR code. Volunteers can also register with this link.



FF Registration

Worship Matters: New Series Begins August 25

Join Pastor Kathi and Director of Music Ministries Rob Mikulski for four weeks of *Worship Matters*. This is an interactive class all about the four parts of our worship services: Gathering, Word, Meal, Sending. Come with your own questions, but we'll also discuss why our service is arranged the way it is, and why we repeat some parts over and over but not others. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15 beginning on August 25. All ages are welcome!

Music Rehearsals Begin for Fall

Chancel (Adult) August 21

Wednesday 7:15 Sanctuary

Handbells August 27

Tuesday 6:30 Balcony

Youth (Gr 6-12) August 27

Tuesday 7-8pm Apse

Children's (Gr 2-5) September 3

Tuesday 7-7:45 MC Rm 1

Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship

Tomorrow, 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.

WOZ Business Meeting Sept 5 at noon. Watch for details.

Crafty Bunch

Every Wednesday at 9:30

The Crafty Bunch meets in the Education Building on the west side of Leslie Road. Enter at the double doors, behind Churches 1 and 2. The craft room is the first room on the left. Bring your own project to work on.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

First and Third Thursdays, August 15 and September 5 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.

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.

Game Group

Monday, August 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.



Men's Fellowship Dinner

Third Monday, August 19 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at Golden Corral, Loop 1604 at Bandera 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.

MomCo, a Community for All Moms

Wednesday, August 21 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 contact Nicole Stender (mops@zionsa.org) to register, volunteer or get more info!

* Formerly MOPS Mothers of Preschoolers



Weekday Bible Study Series: The Psalms

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. Future Bible study topics to be announced.

Call Process Update

for our Associate Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Call Committee's work has continued through the summer months, and we continue to be led by the Holy Spirit. Of the two candidates we had second interviews with, one removed their name from our call process, and the other was released by our call committee. This is all a normal part of call processes as both the candidates and the committee spend time in prayer and discernment.

As of this week, Deacon Darcy is gathering more names for us. As we've done with the other candidates, as soon as we receive names, we will schedule interviews. In the meantime, we continue to trust that God has the right person out there, and that all things will come together in God's timing. Please continue to pray for us and for those considering a call to serve at Zion!

In peace,
Susan Johns, Call Committee Chair
Bud Halstead, Council President
Pastor Kathi Johnson, Senior Pastor

Thank You, Zion!

Your donations to the San Antonio Food Bank will help



hungry families this summer. You gave four barrels full of food, and one barrel's worth of pet food. Thank you for your generosity!

Food Bank Invitation to Help

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. The last two summer pantry work dates are August 19 and 20.

 On Monday, unloading of the truck, sorting food, and filling the pantry usually takes one to two hours. More people are needed on Mondays.

Tuesday is delivery to clients 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 11, 2024 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



As beloved children, be imitators of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 6:35, 41-51	Bread from heaven
Monday	1 Kings 19:4-8	Elijah flees from Jezebel
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Rules for the new life
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1	Do all to the glory of God
Thursday	1 John 2:1-6	Christ our advocate
Friday	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating Christ's humility
Saturday	Psalm 34:1-8	Taste and see
Sunday	John 6:51-58	Christ, the true food and drink

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice of God. **Ephesians 5:1-2 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your saving grace and ask that your love guide our actions for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and the Bread of Life. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we give you thanks that you are the bread of life that gives us hope, just as this meal today gives us daily strength. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the bread of life, guide you as a beloved child of God.





Take a moment to tall or think about

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:

- Talk about or reflect on a time someone did something kind and unexpected for you.
- You are a beloved child of God. What does this mean to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 4:25-5:2.

Since the time of the New Testament, the message that all our hope in Christ is based on God's undeserved kindness led some to think they could live however they wanted. It made human efforts seem unimportant. Yet, this passage clearly speaks with words that command action: "speak the truth," "do not grieve the Holy Spirit," and "be kind." These and many more statements set an expectation for compliance. However, the motivation is not to earn God's love. It is because of God's love that our only real response is to "be imitators of God, as beloved children" (5:1). We will never fully grasp the clear statement of God's saving grace and our response of love and joy. The point is that because we are beloved children of God, our life is not to desire selfish acts of evil but to love one another as a "fragrant offering" that expresses our thanksgiving and love for God in Christ.

Discuss: How do you show thanks for God's love and undeserved kindness for you?

Pray: Loving God, your goodness comes to us anew each day; help us to respond to your goodness and mercy with love for others and a thankful heart through Christ our Lord. Amen.





Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, consider ways to help feed people who live with hunger?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus as the bread of life is the theme throughout John 6. Bread is a symbol of the food that gives us strength and keeps us alive. Make or buy a loaf of bread to share during a meal with family or friends. Begin the meal with the Mealtime Prayer in this Taking Faith Home. During the meal invite each person to take a turn to tell of a personal mountain high or valley low for the week. After the meal, bless one another: **May Jesus, the Bread of Life, guide you as a beloved child of God.**

