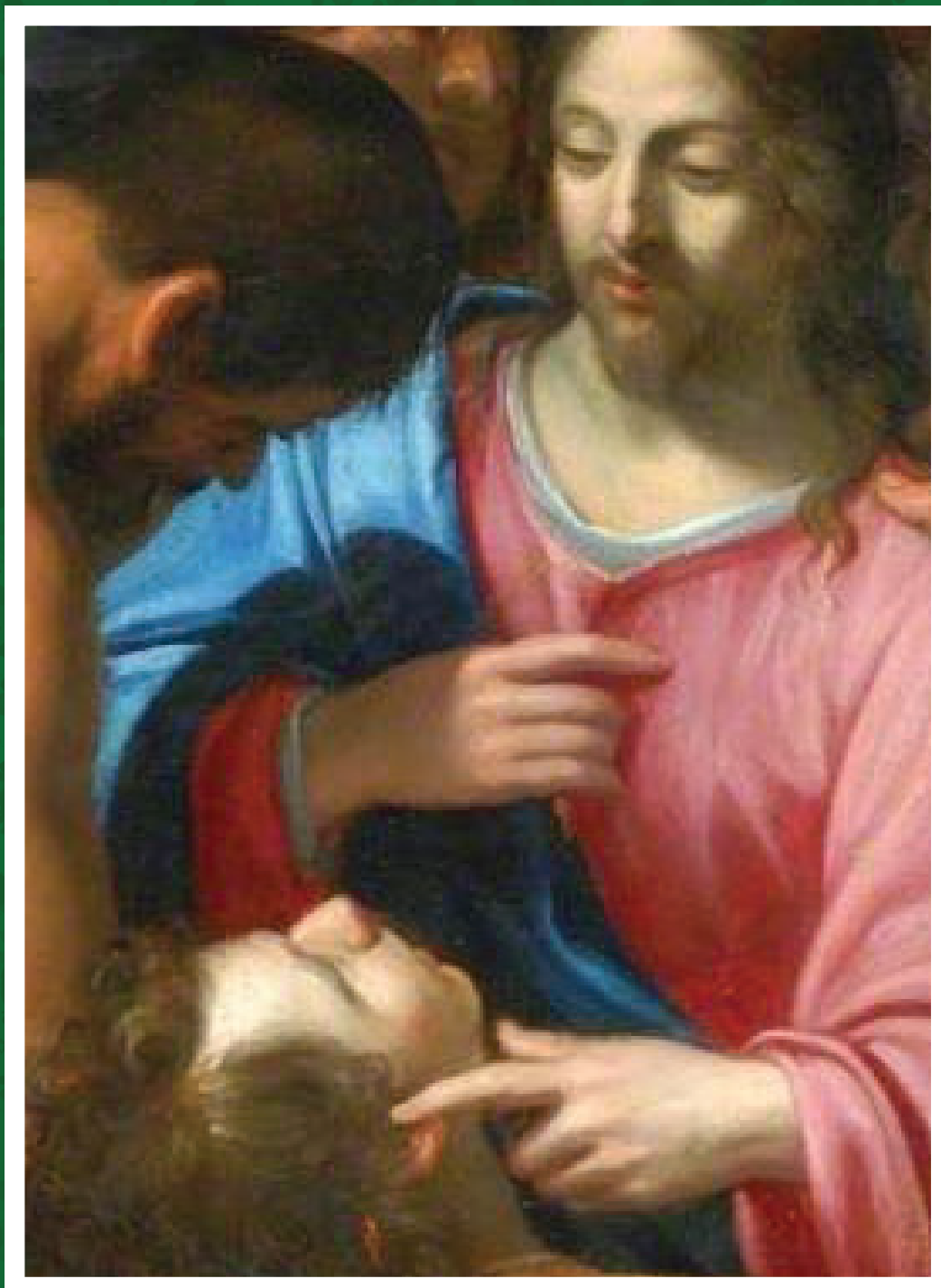


September 8, 2024 • Sundays after Pentecost
9:00 and 11:30am



Zion ⁺
lutheran
church

WELCOME TO ZION

When we gather for worship, we're receptive to God's word and we rejoice in God's grace through song, prayer, and Holy Communion. The history of Christian worship is rich with rituals formed by generations. These traditions, prayers, and pastoral teachings help connect our lives with Christ. In our daily lives, we show God's love by serving our community, both locally and globally.

We are a group of believers seeking to respond to Christ's call to worship and serve, even as we wrestle with the big questions of life. We want you to know that you and your questions, faith, and doubts are welcome here!

HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace: the Word of God and the Sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory and the service is contained within this bulletin. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type**.

We welcome children in our worship services! If needed, a nursery is available down the hallway past the restrooms. The restrooms contain changing tables, as needed. The break room, on the left side of the hallway, provides a quiet space for nursing.

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 will continue in this long Green Season on these Sundays After Pentecost for a while longer. The summer months are phasing (slowly) into fall, yet the heat continues. During this month, we give thanks to God for the refreshing waters of baptism, wherein we receive the gift of new life in Christ - what a gift! During the month of September, we will include asperges as part of our Gathering Hymn. Asperges is an ancient rite, used by Christians all around the world as a reminder of baptism. May the refreshing waters remind you of God's love showering upon you!

ON THE COVER

Christ Healing the Ear of Malchus by Louis Finson (Flemish painter, c. 1580-1617). National Inventory of Continental European Paintings, The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, England.

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
setting by Franklin L. Sheppard

WELCOME

Pastor Bill Swantner

Please rise, as you are able.

Section end Section end.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

During the hymn, the congregation is sprinkled with water as a reminder of baptism.

GATHERING HYMN

We Know That Christ is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924
Text © John B. Geyer.

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Section End

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:4-7A

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

PSALM 146

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

Refrain

Marty Haugen

Praise the Lord, my soul!

Praise the Lord, my soul!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord, it is the Lord who preserves fidelity forever,
Who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gave bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets the prisoners free. \mathcal{R}

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger. \mathcal{R}

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign forever, the God of Zion from age to age. \mathcal{R}

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SECOND READING: JAMES 2:1-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: MARK 7:24-37

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

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Please rise, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



- 1 There's a wide-ness
- 2 There is wel-come
- 3 For the love of
- 4 'Tis not all we



in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy



lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's sor - rows
in his blood. There is grace e - nough for thou - sands
ful - ly kind. But we make this love too nar - row
through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faith - ful;



are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place
of new worlds as great as this; there is room for
by false lim - its of our own; and we mag - ni -
let us take you at your word, and our lives will



where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
be thanks-giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.
Music: Charles F. Johnson, 1817-1894.
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APOSTLES' CREED — IMPROVE WITH KAREN —

Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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

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

**catholic: universal*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION — IMPROVE WITH KAREN —

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Additional announcements and a schedule for the week are on the back pages of this bulletin.

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

9:00

When the Poor Ones
by David Cherwien

Chancel Choir

11:30

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come
setting by Anne Krentz Organ

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

OFFERING PRAYER

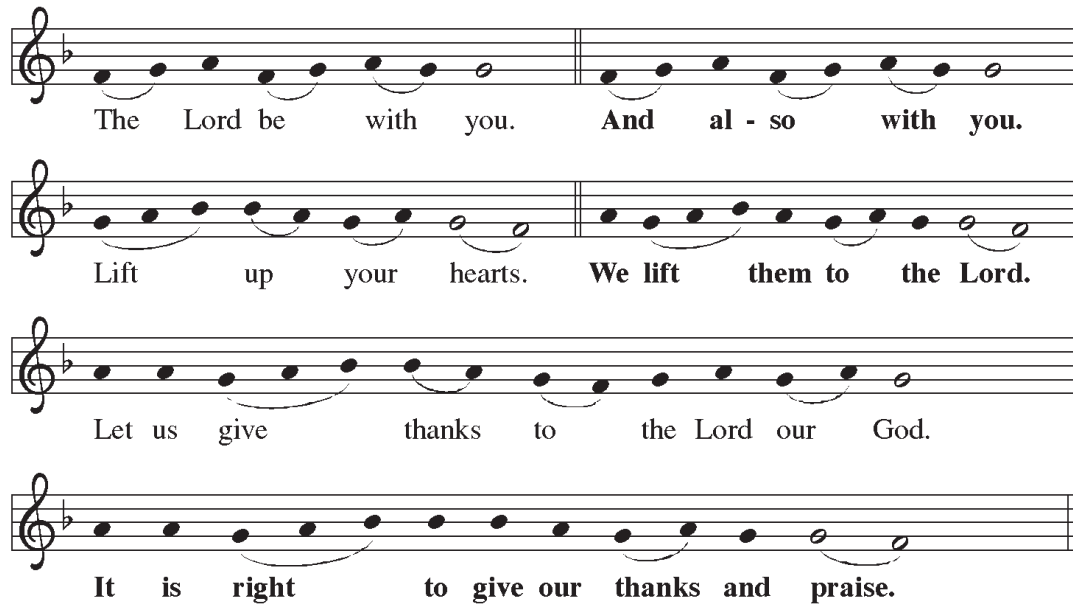
Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

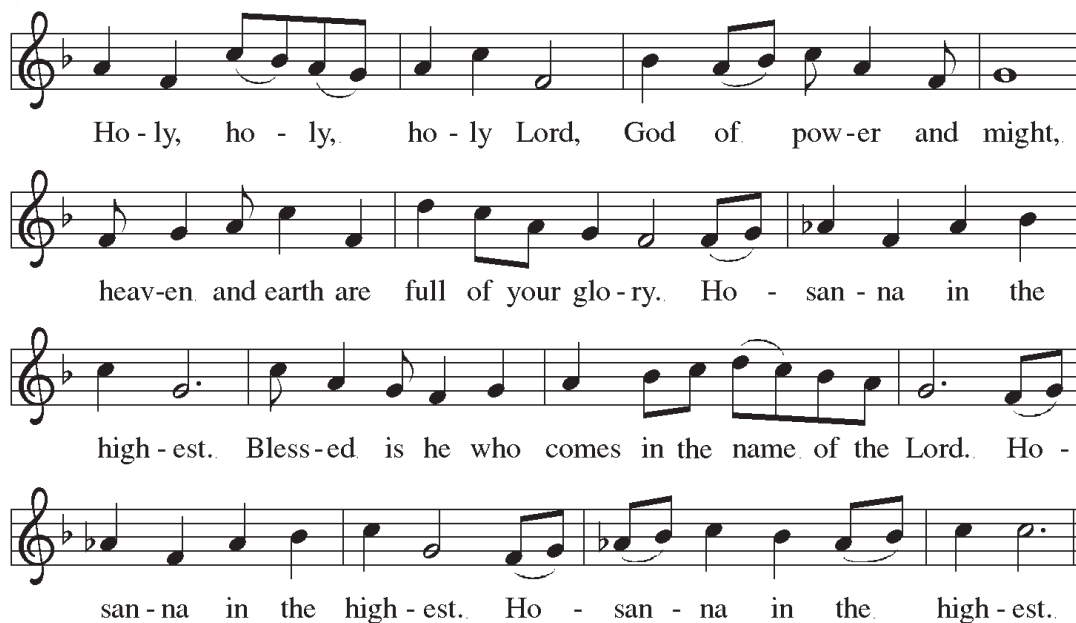
[Next page](#)

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, ✠ your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church,
now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

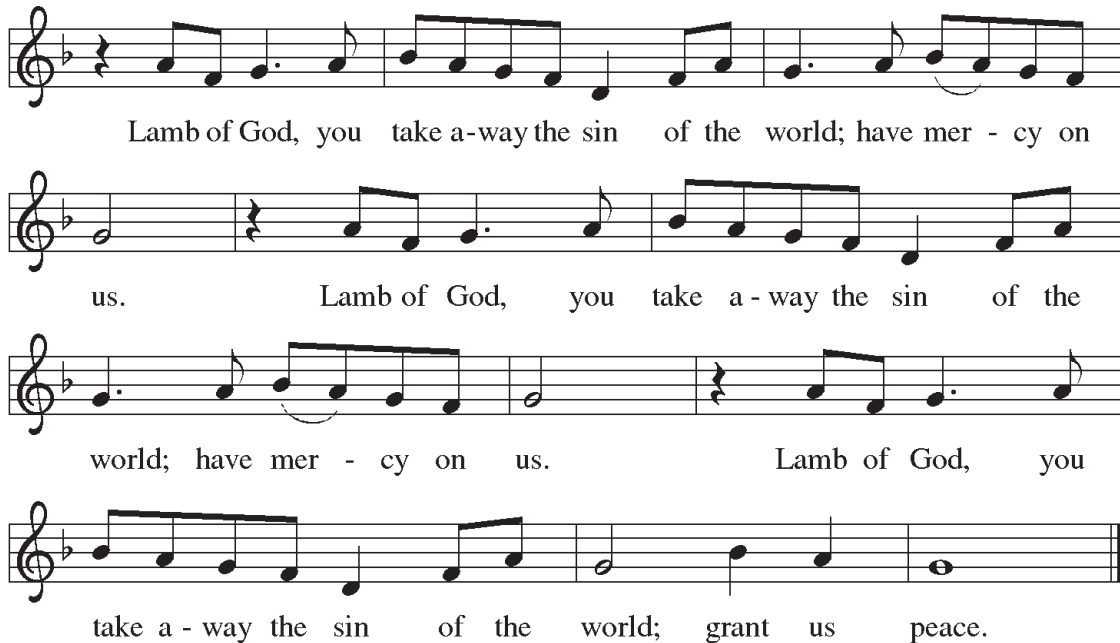
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00

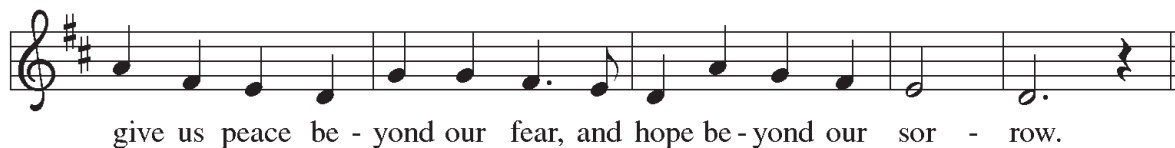
The Ground by Ola Gjeilo

Chancel Choir

*Translation: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Lamb of God who takes away the sins of
the world; grant us peace.*



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen
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After communion, we rise and share in blessing and prayer.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *on next page*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Tocatta in E minor
by Johannes Pachelbel

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.

1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus

mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and

in your sight, to live our lives in you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896; arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Worship Support

Altar Guild

Chris & Don Jones,
Mary Jo Goldenbaum, Belynda McKenzie
Susan & Joe Noonan, Kathy Null
Linda & Roy Tschirhart

Lay Reader

9:00 Jake Apodaca
11:30 Jeff Williams

Cantor

Lindsay Magee

Communion Servers

9:00 Antje Logue
Melanie Murray
11:30 Rachel Cannady
Suzi Lockamy

Livestream

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

Sound

Scott VanDoren

Ushers

9:00 Shannon & Gus Rios
Carolyn Pfeiffer
Mary Jo & Paul Goldenbaum
11:30 Kim & Mike & DeHart
Joanna & Mel Arviso

Two Midweek Services

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

Simple communion worship services
in Zion's historic chapel.

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this September's calendar



Sunday, September 8

Pancake & French Toast Breakfast
Fundraiser hosted by Women of Zion 8-11:30 Fellowship Hall
Worship in person 9am Sanctuary
Worship Matters series through Sept 15 10:15 FLC Great Room
Faith Formation 10:15 Details next page
Worship in person and online 11:30 Sanctuary & YouTube

Monday, September 9

Zion Zippers Potluck Fellowship 6pm Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 10

Exercise Group 9am Church 2
Women of Zion Bible Study & More 10am Fellowship Hall
Staff Meeting 11am Break Room
Executive Committee 6pm Zoom
Handbell Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Balcony
Children's Choir (Gr 2-5) 7-7:45 Ministry Center 1
Youth Choir (Gr 6-12) 7pm Music Apse
Warriors Anonymous 7pm Church 2

Wednesday, September 11

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
Chancel Choir 7:15 Sanctuary

Thursday, September 12

Weight Watchers Mtg 9:30 Church 2
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal 7pm Church 2
Stephen Ministry Supervision 7pm MC-5 and 6

Friday, September 13

Staff Training - campus closes at noon

Saturday, September 14

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

Sunday, September 15

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages 10:15 Details next page
Worship Matters, final class 10:15 FLC Great Room
Worship in person and online 11:30 Sanctuary & YouTube

**TODAY Pancake Breakfast September 8
8:00am - 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall**

Enjoy pancakes, French toast, sausage and breakfast beverages, hosted by the Women of Zion. A free-will offering benefits the LWR



(Lutheran World Relief) Shipping Fund, helping get quilts, school supplies, sewing kits, etc. to the people around the world who need them.

**Sign Up NOW
for the Habitat for
Humanity
September 14
Build Day next Saturday**



As part of the Lutheran Cluster for Habitat, Zion is fortunate to be the first group to start the construction for a well deserving family. We have done a great job so far in fund raising. Now we need physical work donations!



H for H

Stop by the table in the gazebo or use this QR link to sign up to work on September 14 at the Von Ormy build site. Everything you need to know is in the link.

To carpool, meet in the 1604 parking lot on the east side of the church. Be there by 7:00am. Contact Matt Iwanicki if you have questions - call the church if you need his info.

**Faith Formation
for Children and Youth**

10:15 in Ministry Center Rooms

Age or Grade	Room
Two Years–Kinder	MC-3
Grades 1–4	MC-4
Grades 5–7	FLC
Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Grades 8–9	FLC
High School Grades 10–12	FLC

Please register for Faith Formation classes (ages two through high school) with this QR code, including returning children and youth. Volunteers can also register with this link.



FF Registration

**Worship Matters Series
in the FLC at 10:15**

Join Pastor Kathi and Director of Music Ministries Rob Mikulski for *Worship Matters*, through September 15. 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 Family Life Center Great Room at 10:15. Youth in grade 5 through high school will participate in this series.

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,

Administrator

*Thursday
afternoon*

swyatt@ZionSA.org

Rob Mikulski,

Music Director

Monday

rmikulski@ZionSA.org

Sammy Mikulski,

Theatre Director

Monday

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

Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship**Monday, September 9 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!

After dinner on September 9, photographer and Zion member Kevin Hoag presents a program on whooping cranes and other wildlife, with photos and talk on their habits, migration patterns, etc. Join the Zippers for an informative and entertaining evening.

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

Game Group**Monday, September 16 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.

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.

⇒ Coffee Talk ⇐

September 22 Financial Update

10:15 in Ministry Center Room 1. Presented by Treasurer Allen Cockrell.

Women of Zion Events

WOZ Bible Study & More

Second Tuesday September 10 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@zionsa.org

Women of Zion Seeking President(s)

WOZ/WELCA is an active organization here. The board and members work cooperatively and provide a way for women of the congregation and larger synod get to know each other. Strong, long-lasting friendships have been developed over the years.

At the end of 2024, the co-presidents of WOZ are retiring. Mary Jo Goldenbaum and Linnell Brewton have ably served for five years, but both believe it is time for new leadership. Please talk to Linnell or Mary Jo (or any other board member) to find out more about this position. It is a wonderful opportunity to serve God and help those in need.

2024 Women of Zion Board

Co-Presidents	Mary Jo Goldenbaum and Linnell Brewton
Vice President	Diane Stewart
Secretary	Carolyn Pfeiffer
Treasurer	Jill Nunneley
Member-at-Large	Rhonda Knisley

OFFICE CONTACT



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



210-688-3090



Zion@ZionSA.org



Website ZionSA.org



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*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

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief First and Third Thursdays, Sept 19 and Oct 3

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.

The LWR Quilters are always in need of new and gently used twin size and larger flat sheets for quilt backing. Sheets can be dropped off at the Fellowship Hall during any quilting time.

MomCo, a Community for All Moms
Wednesday, September 18 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.

MomCo Registration



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

* Formerly MOPS Mothers of Preschoolers

Music Rehearsal Schedule

Contact Director of Music Rob Mikulski with any questions. Staff contact info on page 21.

Handbells		
Tuesday	6:30	Sanctuary Balcony
Youth Choir (Gr 6-12)		
Tuesday	7-8pm	Music Apse
Chancel Choir (Adult)		
Wednesday	7:15	Sanctuary
Children's Choir (Gr 2-5)		
Tuesday	7-7:45	MC Rm 1

Men's Fellowship Dinner
Third Monday, September 16 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR ideas for Men's Ministry! Location will be announced this week. Contact David Umlang at Imm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

Weekday Bible Study with Pastor Eileen
Begins Thursday, September 26

Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr. Meets at 9:30am on the second and fourth Thursdays. Come to the Fellowship Hall. *Bible study topics to be announced.*

Cemetery Work Day
Saturday, November 2 at 9am



Our historic Lutheran cemeteries have been a local landmark since 1881, cared for through the years by volunteers from Zion. The Cemetery Board invites everyone for a few hours of fall spruce-up work.

Trash bags will be provided, as well as appropriate cleaning supplies for working on headstones. Please bring your own bucket, gloves and drinking water.



Church BBQ October 13

Make a note now - the annual BBQ is fast approaching. There will be one worship service that day, at 10:00am.

Trash to Treasures
October 13

Your discards might delight someone else! While you're cleaning out your closets and sheds this fall, save usable items for the Trash to Treasures sale at the Church BBQ.

Donations will be collected in the Fellowship Hall on Friday and Saturday, October 11 and 12, right before the BBQ. *Please, no TVs.*

Annual Congregational
Meeting

November 17 at 11:15am

There will be one worship service on November 17, at 10:00am. The Annual Meeting follows immediately.



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.



Call Process Update

for our Associate Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

Our team continues its work. We are now working with three candidates and, as of this writing, have conducted first interviews with two of them. We will meet with the third candidate over the weekend and decide who to move forward with at that time.

We continue to be blessed by these conversations, and grateful for the candidates who are in discernment with us. Please keep praying for us, for our church staff, and for the candidates.

In peace,

Susan Johns, Call Committee Chair

Bud Halstead, Council President

Pastor Kathi Johnson, Senior Pastor

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



We praise God through acts of kindness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles
Monday	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Return of the exiled
Tuesday	James 2:1-17	Faith without works is dead
Wednesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Thursday	Daniel 2:17-23	Nebuchadnezzar's dream
Friday	2 Samuel 22:47-51	God is the living Lord
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Psalms 146:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we praise you for your loving kindness that restores us, carries out justice, and fills our lives with your goodness and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for restoring us with strength today with this gift of food. Help us to praise you with acts of kindness that help feed others, too. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you see the goodness of God each and every day.



SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK



Soli Deo Gloria

taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES



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

CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- When is a time you or someone you know was praised for an act of kindness? Explain.
- What actions lead you to praise God?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 146.

This is the first in a series of five psalms of praise. It introduces many reasons to give God praise. We are to praise and trust God, not human leaders who are mortal and limited in their abilities. Mortal leaders are not necessarily bad, but in contrast to God, they can disappoint. The one worthy of praise is described as the one who creates all things, who gives justice for those who are oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets prisoners free, and who heals the body and spirit of those in need. God cares for those who live at the margins: the strangers, the orphan, and the widow. Knowing the kind of God we have, our praise to God is not only in words and song but shown in the way we live our lives. We praise God with deeds of compassion: our search for fair treatment of those who are hungry, those who are seen as without value, and those living with infirmities. In the reading from Mark 7:24-37, we see in Jesus the one who does all these things as he heals a foreign woman's daughter and a man who wanted to hear and speak clearly.

Discuss: How have you praised God through a deed of compassion?

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, we praise you for your goodness that leads us to care for all people through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you show care for someone who is not being treated well in your community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



September 8th is National Grandparent's Day in the United States. During this week, plan a special way to show appreciation for those who are or have treated you as a grandchild. Give thanks to God for them with prayer: **Loving God, thank you for the gift of grandparents and other older caregivers in our lives. Your kindness is shown in their love and care for us. Thank you for their wise minds, listening ears, and loving hearts. Amen.**



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

