

September 15, 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!

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		
9:00	<i>O Blessed Spring</i> setting by Robert Buckley Farlee	
11:30	<i>Fairest Lord Jesus</i> arranged by Bill Ingram	Handbells

WELCOME

Pastor Dan Heim

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.

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

Come to the Water of Life



1 All who are thirst-y for mer - cy, all who are thirst-y for
2 All who are thirst-y for heal - ing, all who are thirst-y for
3 All who are thirst-y for beau - ty, all who are thirst-y for
4 All who are thirst-y for jus - tice, all who are thirst-y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943
Music: WATER OF LIFE, Ray Makeever
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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.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, 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: ISAIAH 50:4-9A

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens — wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

PSALM 116

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

Refrain

Michel Guimont

I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord,
in the land of the liv - ing.

I love the LORD, for the LORD has heard
the cry of my appeal.
The LORD was attentive to me
in the day when I called. *R*.

They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with the anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the LORD's name.
O LORD, my God, deliver me! *R*.

How gracious is the LORD, and just;
our God has compassion.
The LORD protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so God saved me. *R*.

The LORD has kept my soul from death,
(my eyes from tears,) my feet from
stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living. *R*.

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SECOND READING: JAMES 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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 8:27-38

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

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Please rise, as you are able.



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
 2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
 3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
 this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
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APOSTLES' CREED

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

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	<i>Take Up Your Cross</i> by Anthony Giamanco	Youth Choir
11:30	<i>When Morning Gilds the Skies</i> arranged by Karen Roth	Handbells

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.

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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

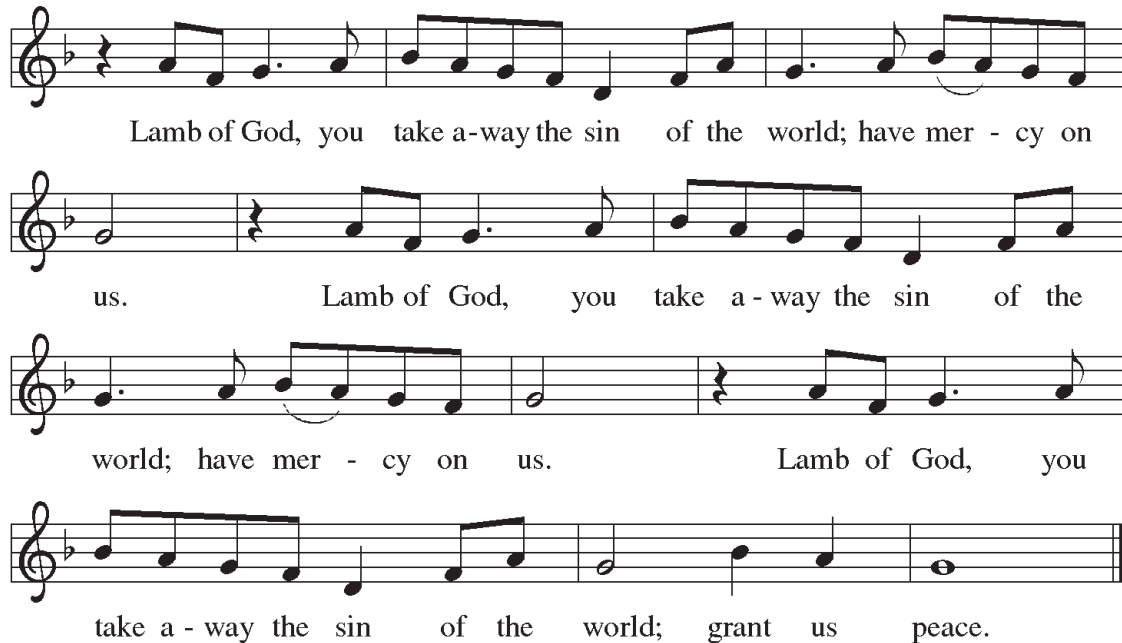
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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	<i>O Sacrum Convivium</i> by Stephen R. Johnson	Youth Choir
<i>Translation:</i>	<i>O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received, the memory of His passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and the promise of future glory is given to us. Alleluia!</i>	
11:30	<i>What a Friend We Have in Jesus</i> arranged by Susan Geshke	Handbells

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

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

Gospel Fanfare
by Andrew Fletcher

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.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947
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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 Kristyn Bova
11:30 Meagan Lenz

Cantor

Robert Williams

Communion Servers

9:00 Carolyn Pfeiffer
Melanie Murray
11:30 Alyssa Brodbeck
Suzi Lockamy

Livestream

Steve Johnson
Kevin M^cGee

Sound

Scott Van Doren

Ushers

9:00 Shannon & Gus Rios
Carolyn Pfeiffer
Mary Jo & Paul Goldenbaum
11:30 Pam Gammage
LeShea Clabough

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 month's calendar



Sunday, September 15

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

Monday, September 16

Game Group	12:30	Fellowship Hall
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Tuesday, September 17

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Staff Meeting	11am	Break Room
Council Mtg	6:30	Fellowship Hall
Handbells	6:30	Sanctuary Balcony
Children's Choir	7-7:45	Ministry Center 1
Youth Choir	7pm	Music Apse
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, September 18

MomCo Community for All Mothers	9:30	Ministry Center 1
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 19

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief	9:30	Fellowship Hall
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2

Saturday, September 21

Weight Watchers Meetings	7:30 & 9:30am	Church 2
Auditions: <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	2pm	Family Life Center

Sunday, September 22

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
FF Intergenerational Event	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Coffee Talk: Financial Update	10:15	MC -1
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanctuary & YouTube
Auditions: <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	10:15	Family Life Center



Auditions for January '25 Show

- Saturday, September 21 at 2:00pm
- Sunday, September 22 at 2:00pm

All dance and singing requirements will be taught at the audition. There is no

need to prepare a song or monologue. Come to the Family Life Center at 2pm either day. Questions? Contact Sammy at theatre@zionsa.org or 210-688-3090.

⇒ Coffee Talk ⇐

Next Sunday September 22 Financial Update

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

Next Sunday, September 22 Intergenerational Faith Formation Event Follow up to *Worship Matters* Series

Parents and all children and youth are invited to deepen your understanding of worship as all-of-life. Includes the Godly Play story “The Circle of the Holy Eucharist”, plus

- For children and parents, an art project to help them follow along with Sunday worship, as well as be used for faith formation at home.
- For older youth and their parents, summary small group discussions and Q&A on the elements of GATHERING | WORD | MEAL | SENDING and ways middle and high schoolers can and do live out these elements not just on Sundays but in their everyday lives.
- Connecting material to send 5th grade and older into new classes starting September 29.

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 Today 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.

TOWARD BETTER CHRISTIAN POLITICS



Forum Series Starts September 29

Jesus sends us out into the world as “a city built on a hill that cannot be hidden,” to “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matt. 6:14-16). Yet as Christians we struggle to live this out in public life, and heated disagreements divide us. We’ll explore a “better politics” that might be possible in the church. Sundays at 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall. September 29, October 6, 20 and 27.

Top Reasons NOT TO Join This Forum

1. You have already learned everything there is to know about Christianity and politics, and you want to teach everyone else in the congregation why they should think exactly like you!
2. You would like to find out who agrees with you about policy issues and candidates so that you can segregate off with them, while avoiding anyone different!

Top Reasons TO Join This Forum

1. You want to help fulfill Jesus’ command that the church be a “city built on a hill that cannot be hidden,” to “let your light shine before others, so that they might see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”
2. You want to learn how to discuss complex issues with fellow members of the body of Christ, while treating them with civility and respect.

Based on the book *The After Party: Toward Better Christian Politics* (optional reading). Forum will consist of brief presentations by Pastor Dan, videos, and small group breakout discussions led by congregational leaders.

To purchase the book, scan this QR or search the book title on Amazon.



The After Party:
Toward Better Christian Politics

MomCo Yard Sale Fundraiser
Next Saturday, September 21, 8am - 1pm



Come to Zion's 1604 east side parking lot. Funds raised will be used for scholarships, child care and other operating expenses.

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

Adult Bible Class:
Heaven and Earth

Explore Genesis 1-11, the Psalms, and the biblical wisdom literature to understand how the biblical authors understood Heaven



and Earth. This context will give richer meaning to Jesus' words about the new creation. Led by Amy McFadden, using a curriculum from BibleProject. Ministry Center Room 1, starting September 29 at 10:15am. Continues October 6, 20 and 27.

STAFF CONTACT

Pastor Kathi Johnson
 Senior Pastor
 kjohnson@ZionSA.org

Day Off
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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Music Rehearsal Schedule

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

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.



Men's Fellowship Dinner

Third Monday, September 16 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.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

First and Third Thursdays

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. September 19, October 3 and 17.

Lutheran Fall Festival September 21
 at the Marktplatz in Fredericksburg, Texas
Quilt Show and Auction • Music • Craft Booths
Food • Carnival Games • Summer Camp Raffle
 Annual fundraising event to benefit Cross Trails Minis-
 tries at Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch and other
 off-site camping experiences.

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



Fall Festival

Zion Bunco Group
4th Monday, September 23 at 1:00pm

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

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.

New Member Series Begins October 20

Oct 20 12:30 Lunch and orientation in Fellowship Hall,
 followed by campus tour.

Oct 27	10:15 in FLC Room 101. Meet staff, how we worship, activities, Zion history, volunteer opportunities, the ELCA.
Nov 3	
Nov 10	

Nov 17 New members join during worship at 10:00*

**One worship service at 10:00. Annual Meeting 11:15.*



**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 pro-
 vide 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, strug-
 gling through a difficult time, or sim-
 ply 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.



*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

Women of Zion Events

WOZ Bible Study & More

Second Tuesday October 8 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.



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

Weekday Bible Study Series: Book of Mark Begins Thursday, October 10

Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr. Meets at 9:30am on the second and fourth Thursdays. Come to the Fellowship Hall.

Dinner Out at Beethoven Halle

Thursday, October 3 at 6:30pm

The Dinner Out group kicks off Octoberfest at Beethoven Männerchor Halle und Garten, 422 Pereida. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30pm.

RSVP by September 29 to Doris & Dave Newman. Call the church office if you need their contact information.

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.



Fall Needs at CAM

Christian Assistance Ministry, 110 McCullough

- Men's and women's tennis shoes/athletic shoes, all sizes
- Bras, new or gently used
- Saturday volunteers
- Holiday volunteers for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve
- Financial support (use this QR code for a direct link to CAM)



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

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



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 2024 Annual Meeting follows immediately. Agenda items include church council member elections, cemetery board member elections, and 2025 spending plan approval.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Followers of Jesus take up the cross.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross
Monday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	God's servant must suffer
Tuesday	James 3:1-12	Controlling the tongue
Wednesday	Acts 17:1-9	Uproar in Thessalonica
Thursday	Isaiah 53:1-12	The suffering servant
Friday	Matthew 18:31-34	Jesus foretells his death
Saturday	Psalm 116:1-9	A prayer of thanksgiving
Sunday	Mark 9:30-37	The servant of all is the greatest

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [Jesus] called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Mark 8:34 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for showing us the depth of your love for us and the power of suffering through the cross of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, for the food that refreshes us and the cross that saves us, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the cross of Christ give you peace and hope.



SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Come, Follow Me, the
Savior Spake*



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:

- Think or tell about a time when you or someone you know suffered rejection.
- How would you describe a follower of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 8:27-38.

If you listen to certain people or read writings by some who claim to know what it means to follow Jesus, you might think that discipleship is about power, worldly success, wealth, and health. Those who describe discipleship in this way do not come close to knowing Jesus as the Messiah (Christ). In Mark 8 Jesus tells the crowd, *“If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me”* (v. 34b). This makes it clear that to know Jesus Christ, is to know the path of rejection, suffering, and death. This reading is a difficult one for those who desire to follow Jesus. As painful as Jesus’ description is, taking up the cross results in being freed and not feeling ashamed of Jesus’ message, especially when we find ourselves among those who do not accept the power of the cross. This good news, the *“gospel”* (v. 35), frees us to see Jesus as we take up our crosses and leave behind any fear of powers that destroy life, love, and hope.

Discuss: How does faith in Jesus Christ free you from your fears?

Pray: **Dear God, you who lift up the lowly, we thank you for Jesus who experiences the pain of rejection, suffering, and death that we may know the cross as the path to life and love. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who has been rejected by others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

James 3:1-12 emphasizes that what we say can offer words of encouragement or words that destroy others. Verse 9 encourages us to use our tongues to bless others, not hurt them. Write a list of words or phrases that can be used to encourage others. Think or talk about someone you know who needs to hear words of mercy and kindness and plan to reach out to them.

Pray: **Lord God, please help us to use our tongues not to hurt others but to care for others and to thank and praise you. Amen.**



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

