

September 22, 2024 • Sundays after Pentecost
9:00 and 11:30am

Draw
near
to

God
and he will
draw near
to you.

James 4:8a

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

Children of the Heavenly Father
setting by Robert Hobby

WELCOME

Pastor Dan Heim

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.

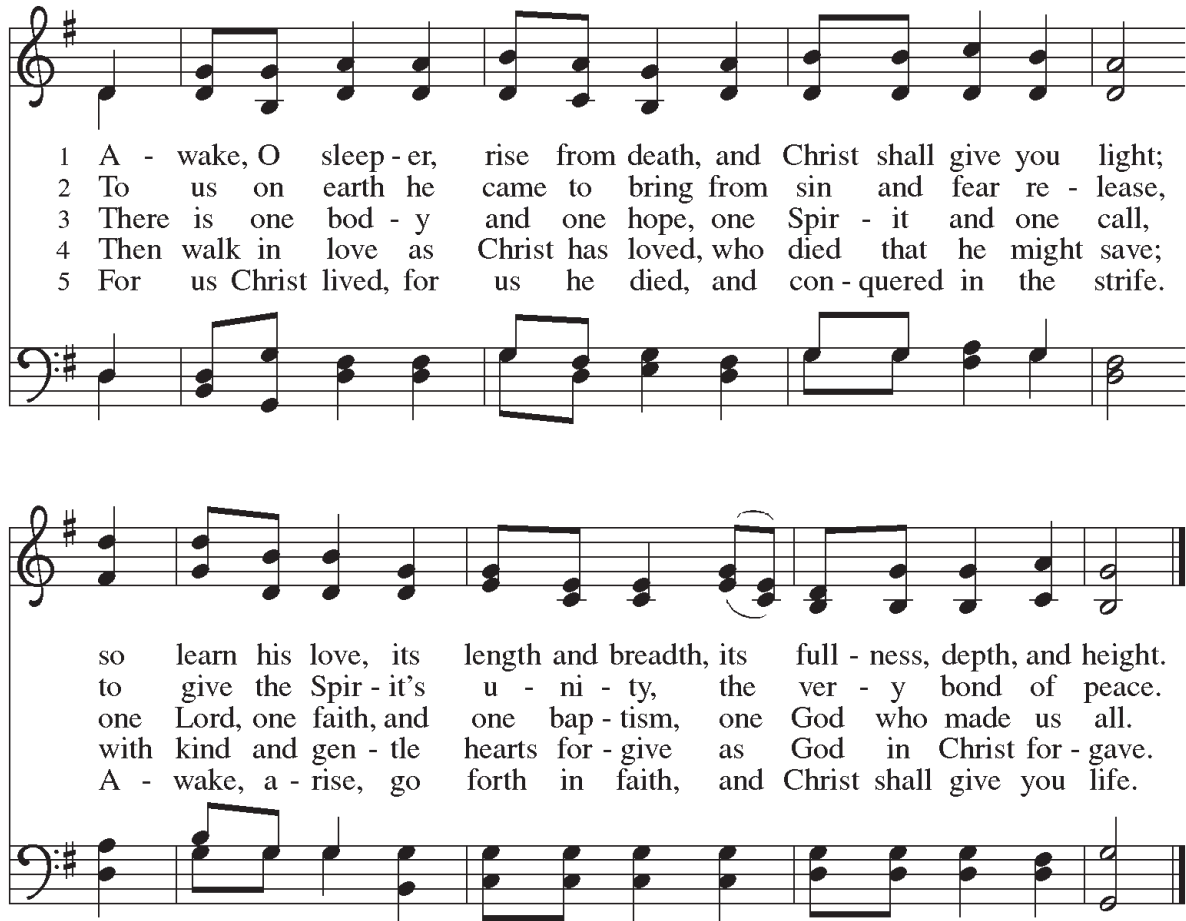
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

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

GATHERING HYMN

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Band Tucker, 1895-1984
Music: AZAMON, Carl G. Gieser, 1784-1829
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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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of 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: JEREMIAH 11:18-20

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" ²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

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

PSALM 54

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

Refrain

Hal Hopson



Lord, hear my prayer. You a - lone can help me.

O save me God, and hear my cry; My prayer to you ascends;
And vindicate me by your might; On you my hope depends. R̄

You Lord, my help shall ever be, though evil powers assail;
From their designs, my life redeem through grace which cannot fail. R̄

My sacrifice I offer you, as thanks for all your grace;
Let me so live, I in death may greet you face to face. R̄

Refrain text: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.
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SECOND READING: JAMES 3:13—4:3, 7-8A

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. ^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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 9:30-37

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

³⁰Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. ³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Bill Swantner

Please rise, as you are able.



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
 shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
 wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to
 May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
 As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
 doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
 love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961
 Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman
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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	<i>We Are Called to Be His Servants</i> by John Carter and Mary Kay Beall	Children's Choir
11:30	<i>Take Up Your Cross</i> by Anthony Giamanco	Youth Choir

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

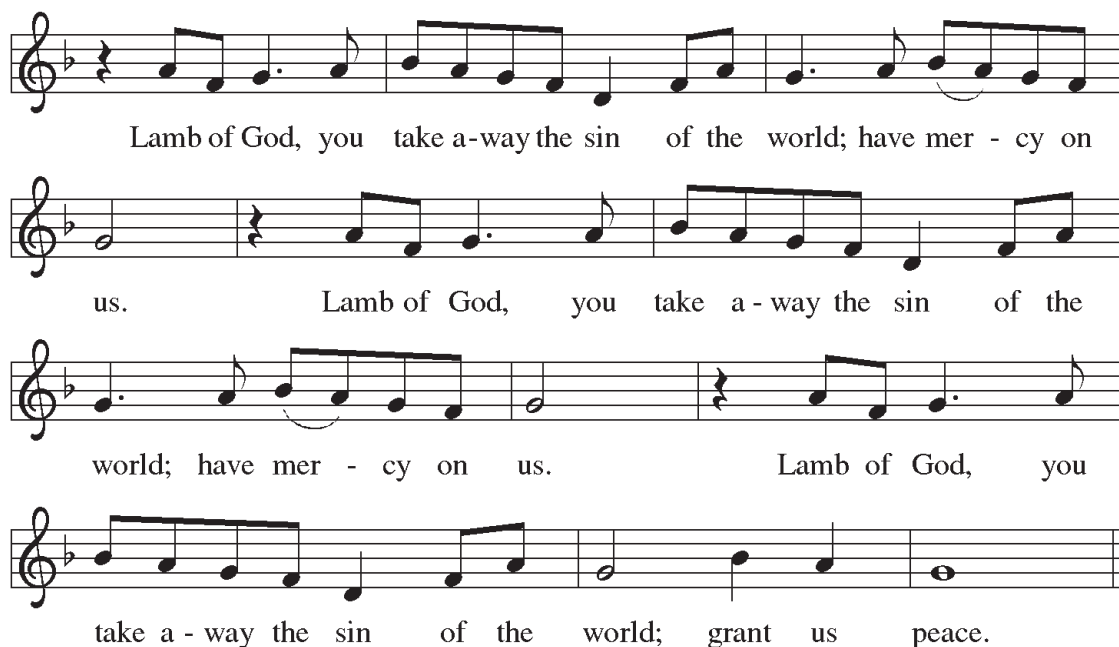
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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>Make Me a Servant</i> by Kelly Willard	Children's Choir
11:30	<i>O Sacrum Convivium</i> by Stephen R. Johnson	Youth Choir
<i>Translation: 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>		

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
 day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the
 cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
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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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
setting by Paul Manz

AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER

Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar



Sunday, September 22

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation 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>	2:00	Family Life Center

Monday, September 23

Bunco	1pm	Fellowship Hall
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Tuesday, September 24

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Staff Meeting	11am	Break Room
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 25

Crafty Bunch NEW TIME	9:00	Ed Bldg Craft Rm
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
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 26

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

Saturday, September 27

Weight Watchers Meetings	7:30 & 9:30am	Church 2
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Sunday, September 29

Blessed Change Collection		Well in Narthex
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Series: <i>Toward Better Christian Politics</i>	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Series: <i>Heaven & Earth</i>	10:15	MC-1
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanctuary & YouTube

Oct 13 Church BBQ Sunday. One service at 10:00am.

Worship Support

Altar Guild

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

Lay Reader

9:00 Randa Bruce Gonzales
11:30 Gail Clayworth

Cantor

Casey Finn

Communion Servers

9:00 Alisa Campbell
Beverly Rosel
11:30 Max Knoll
Karen Umlang

Livestream

David Umlang
Justin Heinen

Sound

Scott VanDoren

Ushers

9:00 Shannon & Gus Rios
Carolyn Pfeiffer
Mary Jo & Paul Goldenbaum
11:30 Paul Spehr
Laura Walsh

Faith Formation for Children and Youth

10:15 in Ministry Center Rooms

<i>Age or Grade</i>	<i>Room</i>
Two Years–Kinder	FH
Grades 1–4	FH
Grades 5–7	FH
Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Grades 8–9	FH
High School Grades 10–12	FH

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



FF Registration

Two Midweek Services Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm in Church 1

Simple communion worship services in Zion's historic chapel.

☞ Coffee Talk ☞

TODAY September 22 Financial Update

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

TODAY, September 22 at 10:15 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. Meets in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15. 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.



Auditions for January Show TODAY 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 today.

TOWARD BETTER CHRISTIAN POLITICS



Forum Series Starts Next Sunday, September 29

For the exhausted, the hurting, and the faithful, this four-session series helps reframe our political identity away from the “what” of political positions (What policy, party, or candidate is most Christian?) and toward the “how” of being centered on Jesus (How do I relate to others — including those I might disagree with — so that I better reflect Jesus?). 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/vid-
eo course *The After Party:
Toward Better Christian
Politics* (optional reading).
Forum will consist of brief
presentations by Pastor
Dan, videos, and small
group breakout discus-
sions 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

STAFF CONTACT

Day Off

Pastor Kathi Johnson
Senior Pastor
kjohnson@ZionSA.org

Monday

Pastor Dan Heim
Pastor, Youth & Family
dheim@ZionSA.org

Friday

Pastor Eileen Spehr
Visitation Pastor
visitation@ZionSA.org

Suzie Wyatt,
Administrator
swyatt@ZionSA.org

*Thursday
afternoon*

Rob Mikulski,
Music Director
rmikulski@ZionSA.org

Monday

Sammy Mikulski,
Theatre Director
theatre@ZionSA.org

Monday

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Bud Halstead	President
Allen Cockrell	Treasurer
Chris Jones	Vice President
Erica Macha	Secretary
David Umlang	At Large
Rachel Williams	At Large
Shiloh Love	At Large
Pr. Kathi Johnson	Senior Pastor
Pr. Dan Heim	Pastor

Bible Class: *Heaven and Earth* begins Next Sunday, September 29

Take a deep dive into 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.

Preparation is recommended to get the most out of this series - use this QR or link to access the curriculum materials from BibleProject. Led by Amy McFadden in Ministry Center Room 1, starting September 29 at 10:15am. Continues through October 27.



[bibleproject.com/
classroom/
heaven-and-earth/](https://bibleproject.com/classroom/heaven-and-earth/)



Blessed Change for St. Vincent de Paul Society September 29 in the Narthex

Zion is collecting Blessed Change Collection for the St. Vincent de Paul Society assisting the community around Zion with a food pantry, home visits, utilities and seasonal assistance. Look for the water well in the narthex and drop in your loose change, folding money and checks, or use this QR code to get to Zion's donations web page.



secure.myvanco.com

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

NEW TIME Every Wednesday at 9:00

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, October 3, 17

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.

Dinner Out at Beethoven Halle

Thursday, October 3 at 6:30pm

The Dinner Out group kicks off Oktoberfest 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.

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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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, and no Faith Formation classes on October 13.

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 (5pm-8pm) and October 12 (9am-2pm), 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.

There will be no Faith Formation classes on November 17.

Game Group

Monday, October 7 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.

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.



WOZ@zionsa.org

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.

Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship

Monday, October 14 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 October 14, we'll roll over into a live-game of BINGO. Contact Kathy Newman through the church office if you have a question or suggestion for a guest speaker or activity.

MomCo, a Community for All Moms
 Wednesday, October 16 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

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

Nov 3 worship, activities, Zion history,

Nov 10 volunteer opportunities, the ELCA.

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

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



Men's Fellowship Dinner Third Monday, October 21 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at El Chaparral Restaurant, 15103 Bandera Road in Helotes, 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.

*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.



**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.

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

Call Process Update

for our Associate Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

We are thrilled to report that we have decided upon a primary candidate for our Associate Pastor for Congregational Care! As of this week, our Church Council has approved our recommendation of this candidate, so we will be moving forward soon.

Next steps will include bringing the candidate here for in-person interviews with the Call Committee, Council, Pastor Kathi and Pastor Dan, and other staff. The candidate will preach and also meet the congregation. As soon as these plans are set up, we will communicate the schedule to you, along with more information about our candidate.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, and we ask you to continue praying!

In peace,

Susan Johns, Call Committee Chair

Bud Halstead, Council President

Pastor Kathi Johnson, Senior Pastor

Prayer Chain

Prayer Chain requests are sent out as needed, no more than once a day. To request prayers, or to join the Prayer Chain, send an e-mail to Karen at Zion@ZionSA.org. When requesting prayers for others by name, please confirm with that person first.

Where We Park Affects Our Welcome

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



SEPTEMBER 22, 2024
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus calls us to be a servant to all.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 9:30-37	The servant of all is the greatest
Monday	Jeremiah 11:18-20	Plot to kill Jeremiah
Tuesday	James 3:13–4:3, 7-8a	Wisdom from above
Wednesday	Galatians 5:13-15	The nature of Christian freedom
Thursday	Psalm 31:14-24	A prayer for protection
Friday	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Paul’s charge to Timothy
Saturday	Psalm 54	A cry to God for help
Sunday	Mark 9:38-50	Avoiding sin

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

He [Jesus] sat down, called the twelve and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” **Mark 9:35 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, give us wisdom and faith to see that being a servant to others is the path of life and greatness through our Lord Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for your loving service that provides for us this gift of food through Jesus Christ, the one who came to be a servant of all. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God deliver you from every trouble. (Psalm 54:7)



SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK



*Will You Let Me Be Your
Servant*

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:

- Who is the most important person you know? Describe what makes that person important.
- How does our general understanding of greatness differ from Jesus' focus on greatness through service?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 9:30-37.

In this reading, Jesus' disciples clearly do not understand what Jesus is saying. They are afraid to even question Jesus. They seem clueless and pretty much end up imagining the opposite of what Jesus has been saying. They argued about who was the greatest among them. Jesus had to shake things up a bit to get them on the right track. Instead of greatness and power, Jesus used the example of a defenseless child. He reasoned that if you want to understand his kingdom, you must be like a small, powerless child. Whatever you consider to be the best and the greatest, put that last. Whatever you are tempted to dishonor, honor it for all to see. So, what does a follower of Jesus look like? (A servant of everyone else.) Instead of the greatness of being served, greatness for Jesus is serving. Giving your life's blood for the needs of others will fill them with good things and bless them with the presence of a gracious God.

Discuss: How has someone served you and how did that make you feel?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us ears to hear and eyes to see the life you want for us as servants that all may know your love through Christ Jesus, the one who died that we may live. 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 be a servant to someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



James 3:18 states, "*And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.*" Pray this well-known prayer written by St. Francis of Assisi and discuss what it means:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



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

