

December 1, 2024 • First Sunday in Advent
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.

ADVENT

is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

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

Prelude on Veni Emmanual
by Andrew Tessman

WELCOME

Pastor Dan Heim

Please rise, as you are able.

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Lord who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us come before God in confession.

We keep silence for reflection.

To you, O God,

we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Beloved ones, God will lead us with joy in the light of his glory, with the righteousness that comes from him. In mercy, God forgives us all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Section end

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
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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.

KYRIE

The musical score consists of three systems, each with two staves. The first staff of each system is for the Cantor and the second is for All. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Cantor All
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor All
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Cantor All
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

Children may come forward for the Children's Chat while the rest of the congregation is seated.

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 33:14-16

*Spark Children's Bible Page 178
Jeremiah, A Good Ruler*

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

PSALM 25

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

Refrain

Marty Haugen

To you, O Lord, I lift my
soul, to you, I lift my soul.

O Lord, make me know your ways. Teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth, and teach me;

For you are the God of my salvation. I have hoped in you all day long. *R*

Good and upright is the Lord; he shows the way, he shows the way to sinners.

He guides the humble in right judgment; to the humble he teaches his way. *R*

All the Lord's paths are mercy and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and commands.

The Lord's friendship is for those who fear him; to them he reveals his covenant. *R*

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SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

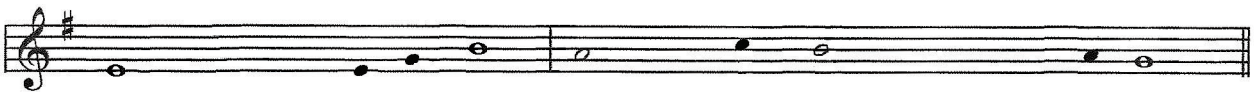
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu-ia, al - le - lu-ia, Al - le - lu - ia.



Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God

Repeat Alleluia

GOSPEL: LUKE 21:25-36

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

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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 Is a Longing in Our Hearts



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955

Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

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SESSION END, NEXT IS A MUSICAL CRED

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

As we prepare for Immanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Petitions end with: Lord, in your mercy,

Response: **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers from our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
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

Celtic Advent Carol
by Michael Barrett

Youth Choir
Elyse Hearn, Flute

11:30

Stay Awake! Be Ready!
by Linda Carpenter and Lois Holck

Children's Choir

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

OFFERING PRAYER

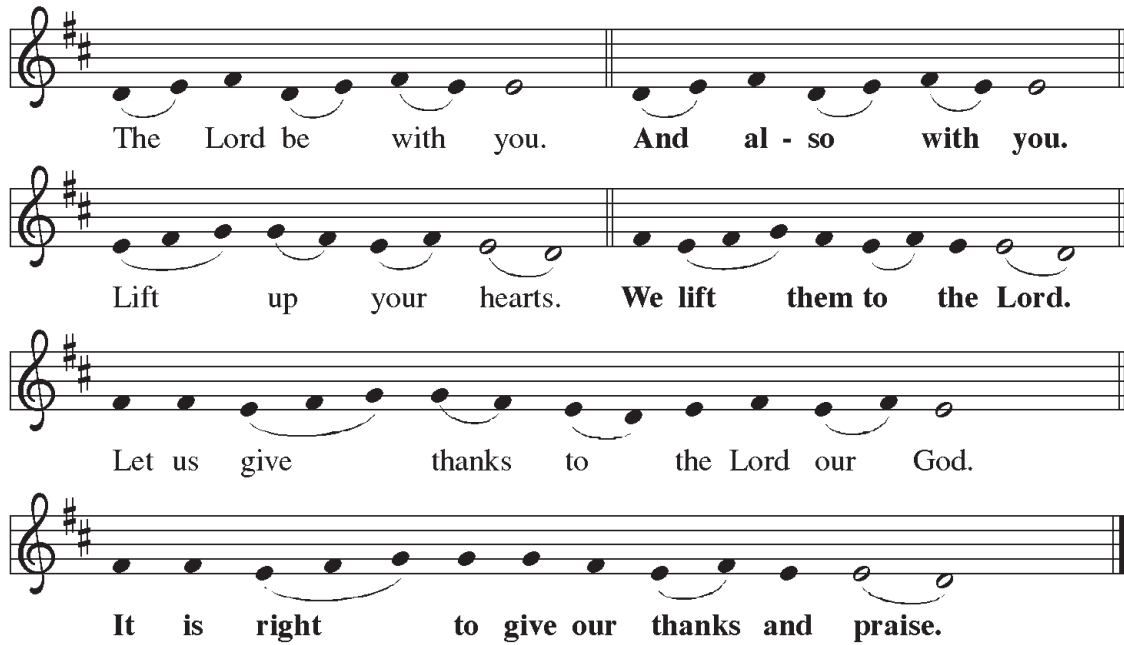
Let us pray. Creator God,

you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We thank you for the gifts gathered today, and the gifts of this holy meal. Strengthen us, that we may live in expectation of the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

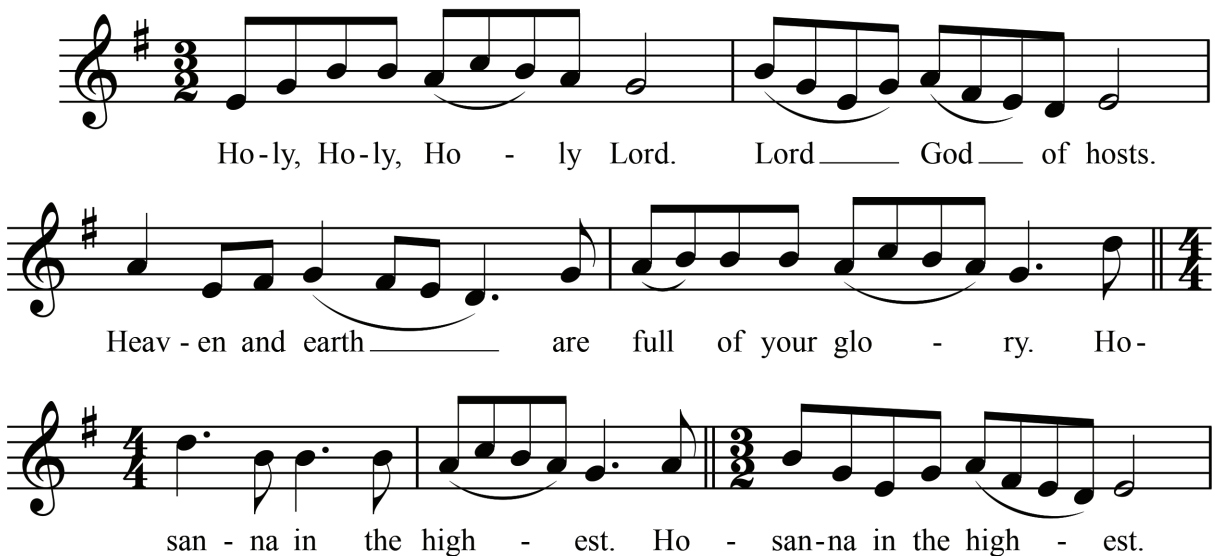
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GREAT THANKSGIVING



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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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. Lord God of hosts.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Bles - sed is he who comes in the__ name of__ the__ Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus. Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

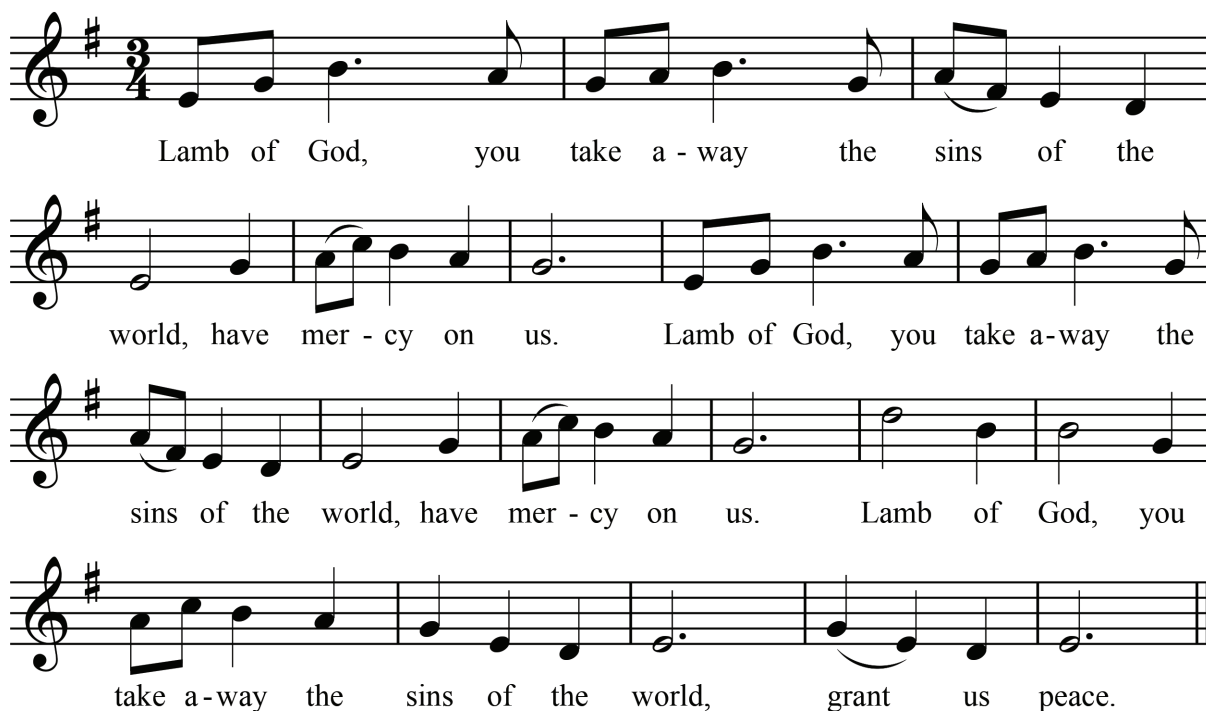
Please be seated.

COMMUNION

Because this is the Lord's table, we welcome all to receive Holy Communion. If you'd like to receive a blessing instead, simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the person serving bread. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray for those unable to drink wine. After receiving Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.

During this Advent season of waiting, we remain still to sing the "Lamb of God."

LAMB OF GOD



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

COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00

The Yearning by Craig Courtney

Youth Choir

11:30

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
15th Century French Tune

Children's Choir



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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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. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, and the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, and leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, and sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us, as we care for others in your name.

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

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system contains the final lines of the hymn. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
 Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news of God's love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Wachet auf
setting by Wayne L. Wold

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.

Christmas Craft Sale

TODAY, December 1 Hosted by the Crafty Bunch

The Crafty Bunch has been working all year on artistic "treats" you can use for gifts and decoration. The sale is open from 8am until 12:30. Come to the gazebo early for the best selection!

Proceeds from this annual event benefit projects around Zion, as needs arise.

Crafty Bunch Wednesday workdays will resume January 8.

Sign Up Today for the **Women's Christmas Tea**



**Saturday,
December 14**

Women and girls of all ages are invited to the annual WELCA Christmas Tea, scheduled for Satur-

day, December 14, from 3-5:00pm. Festivities take place in the Family Life Center.

Sign-up days* for both hostesses and guests are Sundays, December 1 and December 8, in the gazebo. Since all seats are reserved, please make sure you sign up by December 8.

There is no cost for this event, but you are asked to bring new bras or undergarments for donation to CAM (Christian Assistance Ministry). If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jo Goldenbaum or the church office.

** Contact Mary Jo to sign up during the week.*

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Bonnie Bahr, Betsy Howard
Ruth Medbury, Karen Sturdivant
Laura Walsh

Lay Reader

9:00 Kristyn Bova
11:30 Betty Parker

Cantor

Shelby Elkin

Communion Servers

9:00 Carolyn Pfeiffer
Bonnie Harrell
11:30 Rachel Cannady
Max Knoll

Livestream

Kevin M^cGee

Sound

Scott Van Doren

Ushers

9:00 David Umlang
Bonnie & Brinkley Harrell
Amy Swanson, Bev Rosel
Brad & Liz McClain
Linda Hansen
11:30 Pam Gammage

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar



Sunday, December 1

Crafty Bunch Christmas Craft Sale before & after worship in Gazebo

WELCA Christmas Tea Sign-up in Gazebo - details page 22

Online Ticket Sales begin for *Jesus Christ Superstar* - details page 22

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Intergenerational Advent Event	10:15	FH
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanctuary & YouTube

Monday, December 2

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

Tuesday, December 3

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, December 4

High School/Elementary Mentoring	7:15am	Nichols Elementary
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

No Crafty Bunch until Jan 8

Thursday, December 5

Study of Mark with Pr Eileen	9:30	MC Room 1
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Dinner Out: Renzo's Italian	6:30	Details Page 23
Youth Night	6:30	MC & FH
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2

No Quilting until Jan 2

Saturday, December 7

Weight Watchers Meeting	7:30am	Church 2
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Sunday, December 8

WELCA Christmas Tea Sign-up in Gazebo

In-Person Ticket Sales & Pickup for *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
Congregational Meeting to Vote to Call Pastor Al Jensen, details page 22	10:15	Sanctuary
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanctuary & YouTube

Call Process Update

for our Associate Pastor

Vote to Extend Call to Pastor Al Jensen Next Sunday, December 8 at 10:15am

Come to the sanctuary between services for an important meeting to vote to extend a Call to Pastor Al Jensen as Associate Pastor of Congregational Care. A quorum of the membership is required by our constitution, so all voting members are encouraged to attend.

We Want to Hear Your Story

The Capital Campaign Committee is creating a Generosity Booklet which has stories of generosity written by Zion’s members. Please respond to one of these prompts given below, writing one to three paragraphs.

1. Why is the ministry of Zion Lutheran Church important to you or to your family?
2. Who taught you the concept of generosity and how did they teach you?
3. What was the most generous act you ever witnessed?

Please send your responses and a photo of yourself to Kim DeHart by December 15, zionsgenerosity@gmail.com.



Angel Tree Gifts for Foster Children



All the gift suggestion tags have been taken, so now its time to bring your gifts for the foster children those tags represent. Bring your tagged, UN-WRAPPED gift to the church by next Sunday, December 8. On Monday, the Pathways social workers will collect our gifts for distribution in time for Christmas.

Intergenerational Advent Event and Faith Formation

Today at 10:15 in the Fellowship Hall.

- Children and their families (through 5th grade) meet in the Fellowship Hall for Advent crafts and activities.
- Older youth meet in their regular Faith Formation classes: Grades 6-9 in MC 7 and grades 10-12 in MC 8.
- Adults are invited to MC 1 to begin the three-week devotional series, “The Weary World Rejoices”. Led by John Macha and Amy McFadden.

Children and Youth Next Sunday

<i>Age or Grade</i>	<i>Room</i>
Two Years–Kinder	MC-3
Grades 1–5	MC-4
Grades 6–9	MC-7
High School Grades 10–12	MC-8

Diamond Plus Event Update February 14, 2025

Save the date now for a new tradition - the Diamond Plus luncheon will now be a Valentine's Day event! On Friday, February 14, all those who are age 75+ are invited to come for lunch and a celebration of Zion's 121st anniversary. We'll have great food, fellowship, and fun - so plan on joining us! Stay tuned for more details to come. (This change will better accommodate busy holiday schedules towards the end of the year.)

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

Two Midweek Services

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

Simple communion worship services in Zion's historic chapel.

Tickets on Sale for *Jesus Christ Superstar* January 17 - 19 and 24 - 26

- Online theatre seating ticket sales are now open via QR or ZTG.Booktix.net.
- Dinner seating reservations may be made by email to Theatre@ZionSA.org
- In-person sales and ticket pickup begin next Sunday, December 8 in the gazebo.



ZTG.Booktix.net

Game Group

Monday, December 2 & 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.

Weekday Bible Study Series: Book of Mark Thursday, December 5 in MC Room 1

Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr. Come to Ministry Center Room 1 at 9:30am.

December 5 is the final 2024 meeting day. Future topics will be announced soon.

Dinner Out at Renzo's Thursday, December 5 at 6:30pm

The Dinner Out group will get together at Renzo's Trattoria & Pizzeria, 4323 N Loop 1604 W, Suite 112 (next to Living Spaces). Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30pm.

RSVP by December 1 to Doris or Dave Newman. Call the church office if you need their contact information.

Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship

Monday, December 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, John Botter will provide some musical entertainment. Come join the merriment! Contact Kathy Newman through the church office if you have a question or suggestion for a guest speaker or activity.

D.I.Y. Nativity

Sunday afternoon, December 15

Please join us on December 15 at 3:00 for a fun Do-It-Yourself Nativity hosted by the Children's Choir. Bring the story to life by becoming the characters, portraying the animals, reading scripture, and singing the beloved carols!

This experience is open to all ages and abilities. The D.I.Y. Nativity will take place in the sanctuary. We will enjoy refreshments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the performance.



Men's Fellowship Dinner

Third Monday, December 16 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at El Chaparral Restaurant, 15103 Bandera Rd in Helotes, for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR ideas for Men's Ministry! Contact David Umlang at imm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

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

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Bud Halstead	President
Karen Umlang	Treasurer
Chris Jones	<i>Offices pending until January '25</i>
Erica Macha	
Rachel Williams	
Shiloh Love	
Matt Iwanicki	
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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December Holidays

- Quilters are on break until Thursday, January 2.
- Crafty Bunch is on hiatus until Wednesday, January 8.

Music Rehearsal Schedule

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



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.



Women of Zion Events

WOZ Bible Study & More

Second Tuesday December 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

Leaders Being Sought

WOZ is seeking one or two women to take over the leadership of Zion's active group. The current co-presidents, Mary Jo Goldenbaum and Linnell Brewton, have served for five years, and are ready to step down at the end of this year. All other members of the board will remain, working together with the new leader(s). Please contact any current board member if you are interested in this position.

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

MomCo, a Community for All Moms
Wednesday, December 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.

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

MomCo Registration



*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](https://secure.myvanco.com/YJYN/campaign/C-YTT8)
General Fund, updated 6/18/24

**DECEMBER 1, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**



The coming of Jesus gives us hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	The coming of the Son of Man
Monday	Jeremiah 33:14-16	The Lord's wonderful promise
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Paul's words of thanks
Wednesday	Luke 17:20-21	The coming of the kingdom
Thursday	Matthew 6:25-34	Do not worry
Friday	Colossians 1:9-14	The person and work of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for guidance and help
Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near." **Luke 21:31 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you I place my trust, O God, and wait for you all day long with hope in Christ. Amen. (Psalm 25:1-2, 5)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless us with hope as we prepare for your coming. We give thanks for this gift of food that strengthens us as we wait. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with hope.



DECEMBER 1, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



**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:

- What is something you hope for during the Advent season?
- When you are afraid, where do you turn for guidance and hope?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 21:25-36.

Whether it is a friend who betrays us or we see violence in the news, we can worry and feel fearful about the future. When life is going well and we seem not to have a care in the world, we can forget our need and desire for God's saving work in our lives and in the world. When bad things happen and we want to hide, that is the time to be alert, look up, and see the one we have been waiting for. We will not be disappointed for the kingdom of God is near and nothing can stop God's heroic work from taking place. That is the message of Jesus for people living in unsettling times, whether thousands of years ago or today. This message is important to hear anytime, especially at the beginning of Advent, the time of hope and waiting for Christ's coming into our world as Savior.

Discuss: Bad things do happen. How is God with you during those difficult times?

Pray: **Dear God, in times of fear and discomfort, help us to remember your saving work in our lives and wait with hope knowing that your kingdom is near through our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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 look to the future with hope?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The Advent Wreath is a Christian tradition. Make one for your home. Purchase a round wreath or Advent Wreath frame. Decorate it with greens, ribbons, or other materials. Place four candles on it. The circle represents God's infinite love. Light the first candle that symbolizes the theme of hope.

Say: **The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. (Jeremiah 33:14)**

Pray: **Lord, thank you for your promise to us which is filled with expectation and hope. Amen.**



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