

December 22, 2024 • Fourth 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

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

## Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • [zion@zionsa.org](mailto:zion@zionsa.org)

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, gathers us in worship.*

PRELUDE

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
arranged by Michael Ryan

Handbells

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

*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.**

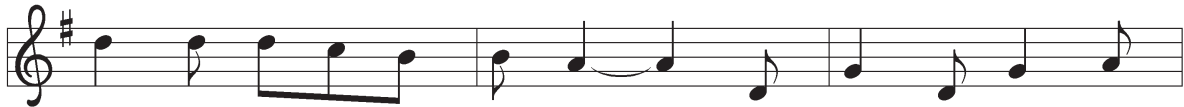
Beloved ones, God will lead us with joy in the light of his glory, with the righteousness that comes from him. In mercy, God forgives us all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Section end



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen  
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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

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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Section End*

# 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: MICAH 5:2-5A

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

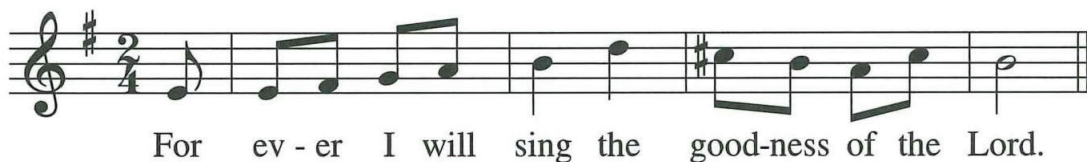
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 80

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

*Refrain*

Michel Guimont



I will sing for ever of your love, O LORD;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim  
your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as  
the heavens. R̄.

“With my chosen one I have made a covenant;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages. R̄.

He will say to me: ‘You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me!’  
I will keep my love for him always;  
with him my covenant shall last.” R̄.



## GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-55]

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

Spark Children's Bible Story  
*Mary Visits Elizabeth, p. 202*

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

Pastor Dan Heim



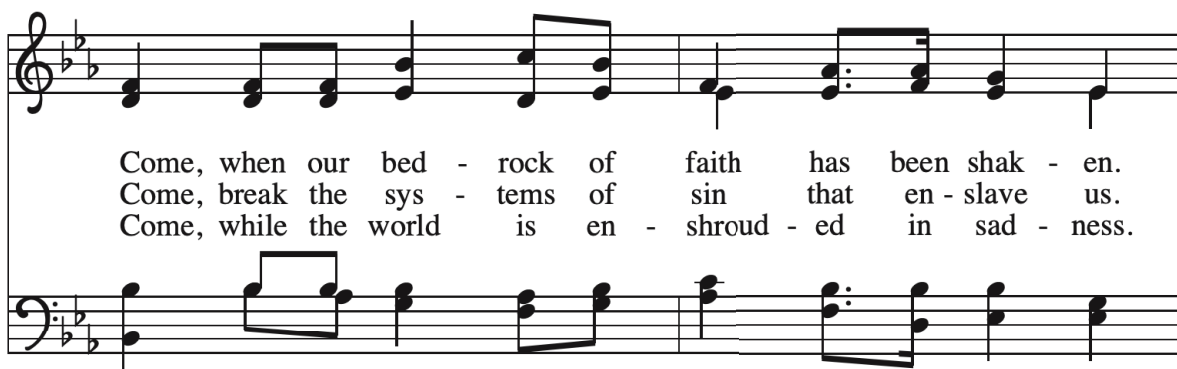
*Please rise, as you are able.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come Now, O God



1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.  
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.  
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.  
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.  
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.  
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.  
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Björfin, b. 1984  
Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune  
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## APOSTLES' CREED EMPHASIS ON NO PARTISAN

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 EMPHASIS ON EMPATHY WITH KATON

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](http://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

*Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*  
arranged by Jason Krug

Handbells

*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.**

[Next page](#)

# GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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.

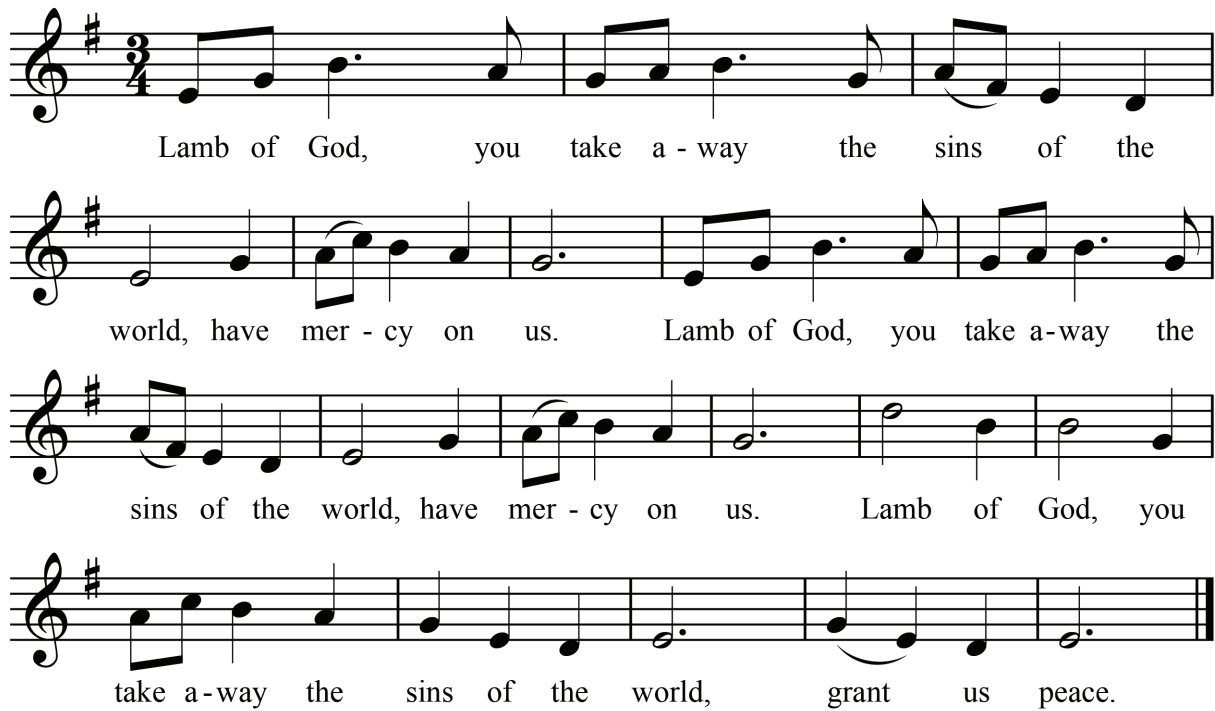
*Please be seated.*

## 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

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
arranged by Ronald Turner

Handbells

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

*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

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## DISMISSAL

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Postlude on "Wachet auf"*  
 by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

## 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.*

## THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar



### Sunday, December 22

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

Gazebo

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary

*Faith Formation Holiday Dec 22 & 29*

Worship in person and  
YouTube@ZionSanAntonio 11:30 Sanctuary & online

### Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Worship 3pm Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Worship in person and  
YouTube@ZionSanAntonio 5pm Sanctuary & Online

Christmas Eve Worship 7pm Sanctuary

Warriors Anonymous 7pm Church 2

### Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day

*Church offices closed*

Al-Anon Meeting 7pm FH

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous 7pm Church 2

### Thursday, December 26

*Campus Closed*

### Saturday, December 28

Weight Watchers Meeting 7:30am Church 2

### Sunday, December 29

Service of Lessons and Carols in person  
and YouTube@ZionSanAntonio 10am Sanctuary & online

### Tuesday, December 31

Staff Meeting 11am Breakroom

Warriors Anonymous 7pm Church 2

### Wednesday, January 1 New Year's Day

*Church offices closed*

Al-Anon Meeting 7pm FH

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous 7pm Church 2

### Thursday, January 2

Quilting for LWR 9:30 Fellowship Hall

## Worship Support

### Altar Guild

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

### Lay Reader

9:00 Karen Umlang

11:30 LeShea Clabough

### Cantor

Celeste Mussey

## Communion Servers

9:00 Antje Logue  
Mary Jo Goldenbaum

11:30 Suzi Lockamy  
Max Knoll

### Livestream

David Umlang

### Sound

Scott Van Doren

### Ushers

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

11:30 LeShea Clabough & Kevin M<sup>c</sup>Gee  
Paul Spehr  
Laura Walsh



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**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*

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**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

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**2025 COUNCIL**

Bud Halstead, Karen Umlang, Chris Jones, Erica Macha, Rachel Williams, Shiloh Love, Matt Iwanicki

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**Christmas Eve Worship**

Join us for Festival Worship on December 24! Candlelight worship services with holy communion, in the Church 3 sanctuary are at:

**3:00      5:00      7:00**

The 5:00pm service will be live-streamed on YouTube@ZionSanAntonio.

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**Christmas Eve Ushers Needed**

Christmas Eve is one of the days we welcome many guests to our campus. As such, we still need a few ushers at 5:00 and 7:00 to help extend a warm welcome. Please visit the ushers' stand in the corner of the Narthex today to sign up, or speak with one of the ushers. No prior experience is needed.

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

- Online theatre seating ticket sales are now open via this QR or [ZTG.Booktix.net](https://ZTG.Booktix.net).
- Dinner seating reservations may be made by email to [Theatre@ZionSA.org](mailto:Theatre@ZionSA.org)
- In-person sales and ticket pickup is in the gazebo on Sundays.



ZTG.Booktix.net

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**The Lutheran and Not-So-Lutheran Theology  
found in the Musical Jesus Christ Superstar  
January 12 at 10:15**

Join music director Rob Mikulski on January 12 for a fun discussion of various theologies found within the lyrics of "Jesus Christ Superstar". This class will meet in the Fellowship Hall during the 10:15 Faith Formation hour.

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## Dinner Out at Haywire's

Thursday, January 2 at 6:30pm

The Dinner Out group will get together at Haywire at La Cantera. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30pm.

RSVP by December 28 to Sandy or Jim Chillstrom. Call the church office if you need their contact information.

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## Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

Thursday, January 2 at 9:30am

Even if you don't sew, consider learning some basics with LWR Quilters! Come on out at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, on the first, third and fifth Thursdays. Contact Diane Stewart through the church office if you need more details.

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## Game Group

Monday, January 6 and 20 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.

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## Crafty Bunch

Resumes Wednesday, January 8 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.

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## Midweek Services

Resume on Wednesday, January 8

1:00pm and 6:30pm. Simple communion worship services in Zion's historic chapel.

### 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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*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

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**Weekday Bible Study Series: Book of Ruth**  
Thursday, January 9 in MC Room 1

Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr. Come to Ministry Center Room 1 at 9:30am on the second and fourth Thursdays, through March 27.

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**Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship**  
Monday, January 13 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!

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

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**Women of Zion Events**  
**WOZ Bible Study & More**  
Second Tuesday January 14 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](mailto:WOZ@zionsa.org).



**Gifts for Pastors and Staff**

For those wishing to give monetary thank-you gifts to the pastors and staff, a basket is available at each entrance door. For those wishing to donate online, access Zion's "Events, Fundraisers, Special Offerings" portal via this QR code.



**M**omCo, a Community for All Moms  
Wednesday, January 15 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 Zi-  
on'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



**LUTHERAN  
MEN IN MISSION**  
AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH · SAN ANTONIO  
**LMM**  
LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION AT  
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
San Antonio

### Men's Fellowship Dinner Third Monday, January 20 at 6:30pm

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



**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.





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## Prayer Chain and Z-Mail

Prayer Chain requests are sent out by e-mail as needed, no more than once a day. When requesting prayers for others by name, please confirm with that person first.

Z-Mail is Zion's weekly e-mail with event reminders, links to Sunday YouTube video worship, digital bulletins, and other notifications.

To request prayers, join the Prayer Chain, or subscribe to Z-Mail, phone the church office or send an e-mail to Karen at [Karen@ZionSA.org](mailto:Karen@ZionSA.org).

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## 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!

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## Aluminum Beverage Can Collection

Zion is collecting aluminum drink cans in the swing-top collection barrel in the south (cemetery side) parking lot, next to the shed. Proceeds benefit Zion's Youth program.

For the health and safety of our volunteers that handle this collection:

- *Please separate and bag plastic-lined cans, pet food cans, steel cans or other metal in the collection barrel.*
- *Please empty, dry, and crush aluminum beverage cans, without any residue that will attract vermin.*
- *Do not put paper, plastic, food or any other trash in this swing-top aluminum can collection barrel. A trash can is provided nearby.*

Do you have other types of metal that may be recyclable for the Youth program? Contact Dave Brewton or the church office.

## Pastor's Reflection

My dear friends in Christ,  
This week, we in the Church turn a corner from the season of Advent to the season of Christmas. I know, I know - the Christmas season has been all around us in stores and on websites for quite a long time now. And the world tends to want us to celebrate Christmas with a lot of sparkle and noise.

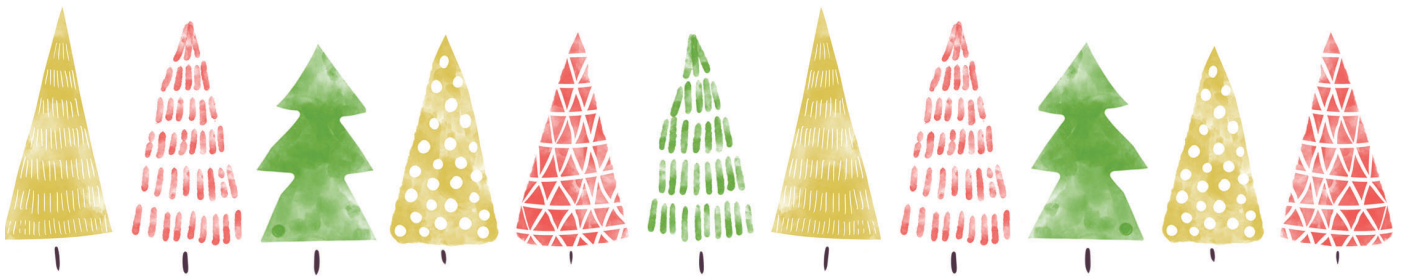
But after the sparkle and noise are done in the world, we in the Church are left with the simple beauty of what we will celebrate this week: unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

One of my favorite holiday activities isn't much of an activity at all. One of my favorite things to do during the holidays is to sit in a darkened room and pay attention to

the silence, pay attention to the lights on the tree - and to try and listen for the voice of God. Sometimes, it's just five minutes, and other times, it's longer. To sit - and be - and listen - these are also gifts of the season, and I encourage you to find similar moments for yourself if you can.

Here at Zion, we will celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord with three glorious and beautiful worship services at 3pm, 5pm, and 7pm. I hope you will join us here, and if you're out of town, I hope you'll find another place to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

In peace, and with gratitude you YOU -  
PrK



**DECEMBER 22, 2024  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**



*God shows love through a humble servant.*

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 1:39-55</b>	<b>Mary visits Elizabeth</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Micah 5:2-5a</b>	<b>A promised ruler</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Luke 2:1-20</b>	<b>Jesus is born</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>John 1:1-14</b>	<b>The Word becomes flesh</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Romans 12:9-13</b>	<b>Marks of a true Christian</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Hebrews 10:5-10</b>	<b>Christ's sacrifice once for all</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 80:1-7</b>	<b>Prayer for Israel's restoration</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 2:41-52</b>	<b>The boy Jesus at the temple</b>

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant."*  
**Luke 1:46-48 (NRSV)**

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, fill us with the Holy Spirit that we may rejoice at the good news of Jesus coming into our lives to bless us with everlasting love. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, bless our lives with love. As we enjoy your gifts of food this day, help us to give thanks for the gift of your coming into our world as Savior. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with love.



**DECEMBER 22, 2024**

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace*



**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:

- Where do you look for future predictions about the world?
- Where have you seen or felt that God is active and present in the world?

**DEVOTIONS**



*Read:* Luke 1:39-55.

We often think of prophecy as a statement that predicts the future. But biblical prophecy is first and foremost a statement of fact about how God is acting in the present moment. Elizabeth prophesies that there is something special about Mary's pregnancy. Even the baby inside of Elizabeth joins in that prophecy by leaping. Mary then prophesies how God is present in her humble life and how God continues to be present and active in the world. The birth of her baby is an amazing act for a poor servant, an act of the God who lifts up the lowly, feeds the hungry, and sends away the rich and powerful empty handed. The coming of the baby Jesus shines a light on the kind of God we have, one who cares for the needy and is stronger than any earthly powers. Throughout the ages, this is the God we need, the one who acts on our behalf, and the one who promises to do wondrous things through Jesus.

*Discuss:* How does Jesus' birth to a poor, humble servant girl show God's love?

*Pray:* **Magnificent God, we praise you for lifting up Mary and for giving us a Savior through your lowly servant. Bless us with humble hearts that are filled with joy for your goodness. Amen.**

**SERVICE**



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show God's love to someone in need?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



The fourth candle on the Advent Wreath symbolizes the theme of love. Discuss or think about the love that Jesus brings to the world. Light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love on the Advent Wreath.

*Say:* **"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Mary's song in Luke, also known as the Magnificat, expresses her love for God and revelation that all generations will call her blessed. She rejoices in all that God does for those in need.**

*Pray:* **Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving us so much. Fill our lives with love now and always. Amen.**



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