

January 12, 2025 • Baptism of Our Lord
9:00 and 11:30 am



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 hall past the restrooms. The restrooms contain changing tables, as needed.

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.

ON THE COVER

River by John August Swanson, 1987

From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58577>.
Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

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

When Jesus Came to Jordan
setting by David Cherwien

WELCOME

Pastor Dan Heim

TEMPLE TALK — Stephen Ministry

Please rise, as you are able.

INVOCATION

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

OPENING DIALOGUE

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

O my God, in you I trust.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

O Lord, remember your mercy and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,

God is my strength and my might;

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

(Based on Psalm 25, Isaiah 12, and Luke 1)



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.
 pre - cious in your sight.
 hill to val - ley flow.
 king - dom with - out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
 Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

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. Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 and the rest of the congregation is seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

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

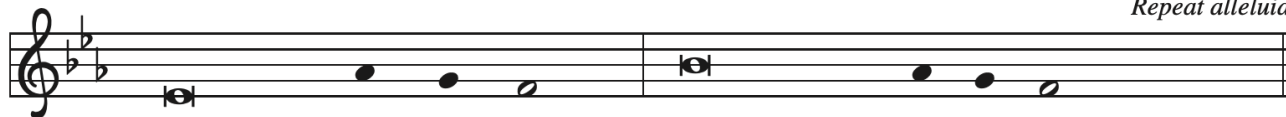
Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

Repeat alleluia



Our hearts burn with - in us as you open to us the scriptures.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jesus' Baptism
Spark Children's Bible Page 242

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Kathi Johnson

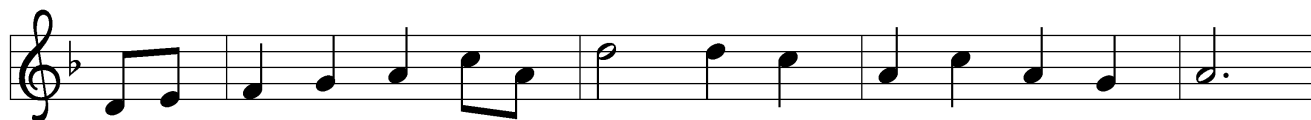
Please rise as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Jesus Came to Jordan



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond - age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune

Text © 1980 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

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

With hope, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.
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

Shall We Gather at the River
arranged by Vicki Collinsworth

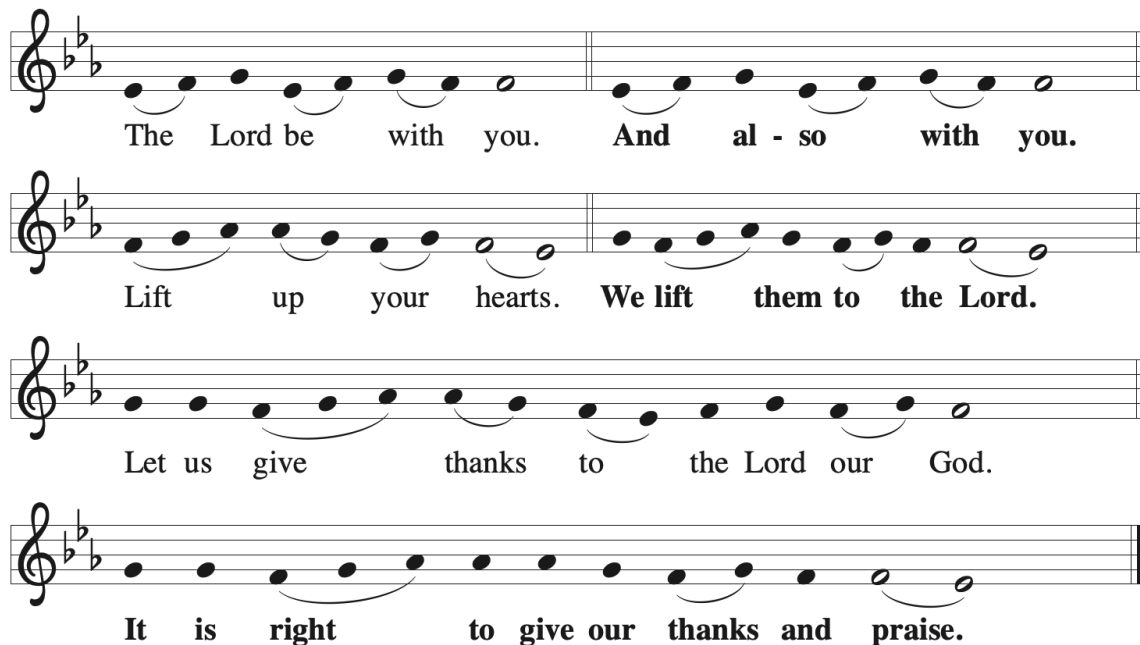
Please rise, as you are able. The ushers bring the offering forward for the Offering Prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Gracious God, your Son shows us your great love. As we offer ourselves and these gifts, prepare us to receive the grace you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



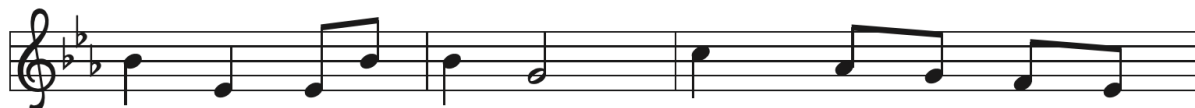
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, 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, Holy One of Israel, 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

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



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



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



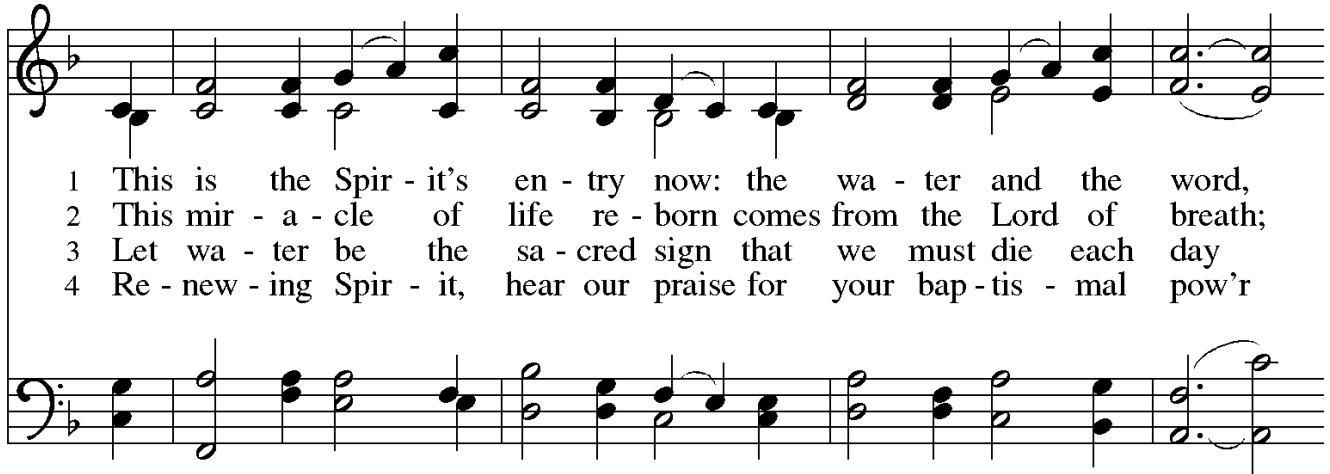
Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



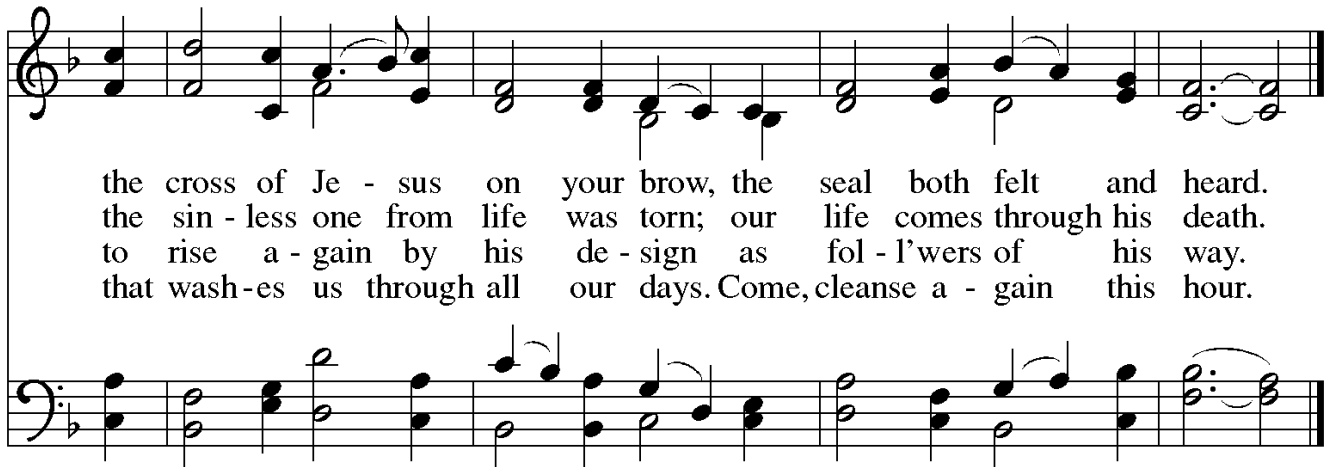
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

COMMUNION HYMN

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now



1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
 the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
 to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
 that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933
 Music: North American traditional; arr. hymnal version
 Text © Thomas E. Herbranson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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. We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, present in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through ✠ Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *on next page*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Dignitate
by Andrew Moore

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 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House
 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Alyssa Brodbeck, Ruth Dunn,
Madison Harris, Suzi Lockamy,
Randalyn Nickel, Karen Umlang

Lay Reader

9:00 Jim Chillstrom
11:30 LeShea Clabough

Cantor

Jeff Williams

Communion Servers

9:00 Antje Logue
Nicole Stender
11:30 Chris Jones
Max Knoll

Livestream

David Umlang

Sound

Scott Van Doren

Ushers

9:00 LeShea Clabough
Kevin McGee
Doris & Dave Newman
Karen & James Sturdivant
Suzanne & Russell Warren
11:30 Joanna & Mel Arviso
Kim & Mike DeHart

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar



Sunday, January 12

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details Next Page
The Lutheran and Not-So-Lutheran Theology found in <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and YouTube@ZionSanAntonio	11:30	Sanctuary & online

Monday, January 13

Zion Zippers Potluck and Fellowship	6pm	Fellowship Hall
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Tuesday, January 14

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Women of Zion Bible Study	10am	Fellowship Hall
Staff Meeting	11am	Breakroom
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, January 15

High School/Elementary Mentoring	7:15am	Nichols Elementary
Crafty Bunch	9:00	Ed Bldg Craft Room
Zion MomCo	9:30	Ministry Center 1
Midweek Worship	1:00 & 6:30pm	Church 1
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting	7pm	Fellowship Hall
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	Church 2
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

Thursday, January 16

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief	9:30	Fellowship Hall
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Women of Zion General Meeting	Noon	Fellowship Hall
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2

Friday, January 17

<i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> Performance	7:30pm	Family Life Center
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Saturday, January 18

Weight Watchers	8:30am	Church 2
<i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> Performance	7:30pm	Family Life Center

Sunday, January 19

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
Stephen Ministry Informational Meeting	10:15	Conference Room
Worship in person and YouTube@ZionSanAntonio	11:30	Sanctuary & online
<i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> Performance	2:30	Family Life Center

The Lutheran and Not-So-Lutheran Theology found in the Musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Today, January 12, 10:15am

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 Faith Formation hour.

Weekday Bible Study Series: Book of Ruth

Thursday, January 23, 9:30am, Ministry Center 1

Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr. Second and fourth Thursdays, through March 27.

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!

After dinner, we’ll set out the dice for Bunco - come join the fun! 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, January 15, Ministry Center 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, 9:30am-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!

* Formerly MOPS Mothers of Preschoolers

MomCo Registration



Faith Formation for Children and Youth

10:15 in Ministry Center Rooms

<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

Music Rehearsals

Handbells

Returns Jan 21 6:30pm Balcony

Children’s (Gr 2-5)

Returns Jan 21 7-7:45pm MC-1

Youth (Gr 6-12)

Returns Jan 21 7-8pm Music Apse

Chancel (Adults)

Wednesday 7:15pm Sanctuary

Two Midweek Services

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

Simple communion worship services in Zion’s historic chapel.

Important Info About Announcements

Reminder that with the new year, announcements for the bulletin and Zmail need to be sent to Publications@ZionSA.org.

STAFF CONTACT *Day Off*

Pastor Kathi Johnson *Monday*
Senior Pastor
kjohnson@ZionSA.org

Pastor Dan Heim *Friday*
Pastor, Youth and Family
dheim@ZionSA.org

Pastor Eileen Spehr
Visitation Pastor
visitation@ZionSA.org

Suzie Wyatt
Administrator
swyatt@ZionSA.org

Rob Mikulski *Monday*
Music Director
rmikulski@ZionSA.org

Sammy Mikulski *Monday*
Theatre Director
theatre@ZionSA.org

2025 COUNCIL

Bud Halstead President
Karen Umlang Treasurer
Chris Jones
Erica Macha
Rachel Williams
Shiloh Love
Matt Iwanicki
Pr. Kathi Johnson Senior Pastor
Pr. Dan Heim Pastor

Women of Zion (WOZ) Events in January
WOZ Bible Study & More**Second Tuesday January 14 at 10:00am**

Join in activities and fellowship with other women in the congregation. Fellowship and 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

WOZ General Meeting**Thursday January 16 at noon, Fellowship Hall**

Lunch will be served. All women are invited. Your attendance and input are very important in planning events for the year. For more information, contact Diane Stewart through the church office.

Crafty Bunch**Wednesdays at 9:00am**

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**1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall****Next one: January 30**

Even if you don't sew, consider learning some basics with LWR Quilters! Contact Diane Stewart through the church office if you need more details.

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

Game Group**1st & 3rd Mondays, 12:30pm, Fellowship Hall****Next one: January 20**

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Contact Algine Perry through the church office if you have questions.



LMM
LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Men's Fellowship Dinner

Third Monday, January 20,
6:30pm


All men are invited to meet at El Chapparral, 15103 Bandera Rd, 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.

One Year to Live

Men's Retreat, February 21-23, 2025

A weekend to reflect and prioritize. First time in Texas since 2022. Sponsored by SW Texas



 Synod Lutheran Men in Mission At Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville. For info and registration, scan this QR or pick up a registration brochure from the narthex.



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

ZTG.Booktix.net

- Dinner seating reservations may be made by email to Theatre@ZionSA.org
- In-person sales and ticket pickup is in the gazebo on Sundays.

Zion Bunco Group

4th Monday, January 27, 1:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Zion Bunco Group will meet on the fourth Monday for a rousing game of Bunco and fellowship. For info contact Shirley Homeier-McBrayer through the church office.

OFFICE CONTACT



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



210-688-3090



zion@zionsa.org



Website zionsa.org



Facebook [zionsa](https://www.facebook.com/zionsa)



Instagram [@zionsatx](https://www.instagram.com/zionsatx)



9944 Leslie Road, 78254

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- 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.



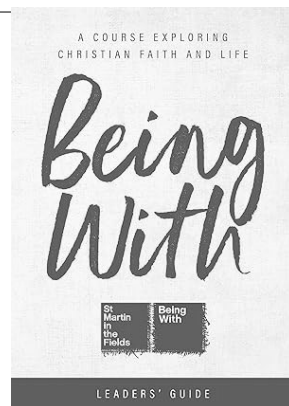
<https://secure.myvanco.com/YJYN/campaign/C-YTT8>

New Series: *Being With* Starts Sunday, January 26, 10:15am

The 10-week "Being With" adult course is an introduction to Christianity with a difference. At its heart is the idea that God's greatest desire is to be with us in Jesus. The sessions focus on the themes of Meaning; Essence; Jesus; Church; Bible; Mission; Cross; Prayer; Suffering and Resurrection. Drawing on the practices of Godly Play, the course uses storytelling, wondering and reflection to encourage and welcome the insights that each person brings.

Small groups of 8-12 people will be facilitated by a host and storyteller (3 groups currently, led by Susan Johns, John Macha, Ana Garcia, Kathy Null, Mike DeHart and Derek Roberts). If more than 36 people register, additional groups may form.

As each group's cohesion will depend on relationships forming over time, please thoughtfully consider your participation and register with the intention and availability to join at least 7 of the 10 sessions, Sundays 10:15-11:15 am, January 26 – April 6 (with a break for the start of Lent, March 2). If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dan.



Being With Registration

We Want You to Write Your Story for a Generosity Booklet

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 writing prompts given below, with 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 January 19, zionsgenerosity@gmail.com.

JANUARY 12, 2025
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



God calls us by name.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Isaiah 43:1-7	Restoration and protection
Tuesday	Acts 8:14-17	Receiving the Holy Spirit
Wednesday	Matthew 3:13-17	Jesus' baptism
Thursday	Colossians 3:12-17	New life in Christ
Friday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Unity in the body of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of the Lord
Sunday	John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. **Isaiah 43:1 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, strengthen us in our baptismal life and feed us with your power to trust that we are loved by God now and always through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may the gift of this food strengthen us to live in peace and faith through Christ Jesus our Lord, God's Beloved Son. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know that you are loved.



JANUARY 12, 2025

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Change My Heart,
O God*



**taking⁺
faith
home**

WEEKLY MILESTONES

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

CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- When have you felt abandoned or forgotten? What helped you overcome that feeling?
- The Scriptures tell us that you are God's beloved child. How does this message guide you in your daily life?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Isaiah 43:1-7.

The point being made by Isaiah is that we are known by name. We are not forgotten, and we are loved by the creator and redeemer of all of life. From a Nazi concentration camp in World War II, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, pastor, and theologian, wrote a poem entitled *Who Am I?* He explored his inner thoughts and how others might see him from prison and asked the fundamental question, "Who am I?" He gave us the foundational answer: "Whoever I am, Thou knows, O God, I am thine!" The text from Isaiah 43 is a wonderful one to read and use as a prayer during tough times like when we experience a serious illness, loss, or feel held captive to forces that work against us. God's love is eternal, and no life experience will separate us from the saving love of God. Jesus' baptism identifies him as God's unique Son, the Beloved (Luke 3:22). Through Jesus, our lives matter. Through our baptism, we are reminded of what Isaiah 43 passionately confesses: we are God's and never, ever abandoned or forgotten.

Discuss: How does knowing God's love is eternal and that you are never forgotten help during tough times?

Pray: **Gracious God, you turn our sadness into joy; may we remember that you are present in our lives and world to give us hope and peace through 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 show God's love to someone going through a tough time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Baptism happens in a community of faith with the support of others. In Acts 8:14-17, Peter and John supported the newly baptized. "*The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit*" (v. 15). Think about your own or someone else's baptism. By whom and in what ways are the baptized supported? Draw water drops on a sheet of paper. In each drop, write a way you can support someone who was recently baptized. Take a moment to think or talk about how and when you will show that person support.

Pray: **Lord God, in our baptism you call us by name. Thank you for your eternal love. Help us to support one another through our actions, words, and prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**



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

