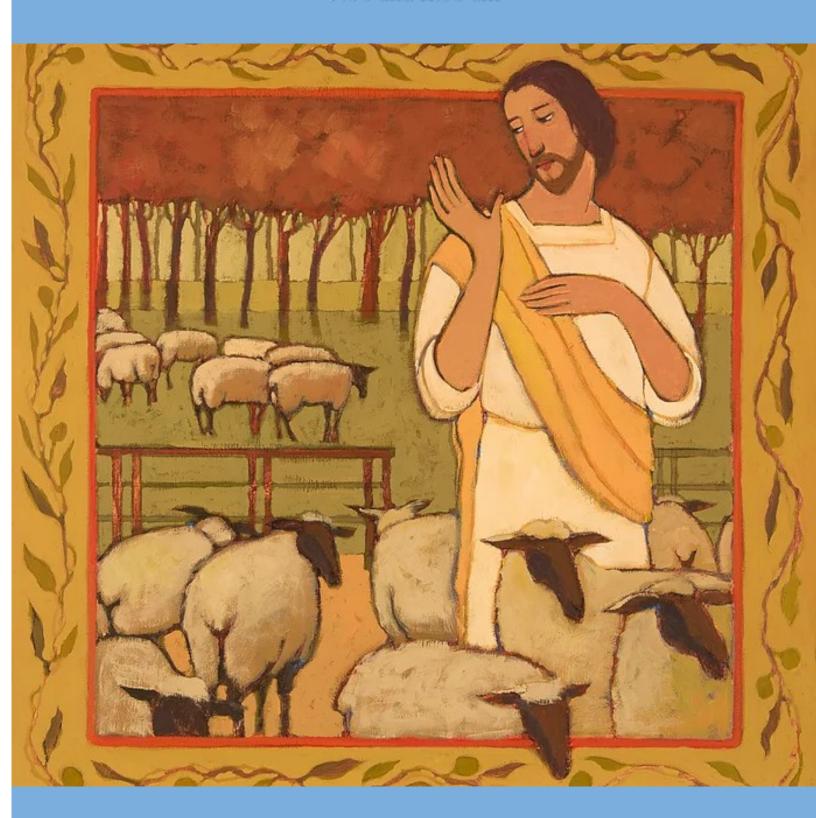
May 11, 2025 • Season of Easter 9:00 and 11:30 am





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.

Most Sundays, our 11:30 service is livestreamed at YouTube.com/ZionSanAntonio. Our practice is to maintain a wide angle view of the sanctuary, occasionally focusing on worship leaders, not individual worshipers. If you have questions or concerns about appearing on camera, please speak with an usher or pastor.

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

"Christ died for our sins," 1st Corinthians reminds us. But the good news of God doesn't dwell in the tomb. The good news is that God's power was shown fully in raising Christ from the dead. The good news is that God's great love for us was also shown fully in raising Christ from the dead. Because Jesus lives, we also live.

We are now in the Season of Easter - a whole season in our church year is dedicated to remembering and celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord. "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

ON THE COVER

Other Sheep, Kathleen Peterson

https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl? RC=58583. Original source: Kathleen Peterson, https://www.kathleenpetersonart.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

9:00 Prelude on "With High Delight, Let Us Unite"

by Ernst Pepping

11:30 The Power of the Cross

by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Handbells

WELCOME Pastor Dan Heim

Please rise, as you are able, when directed.



Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900 Music: GROSSER GOTT, Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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: Acts 9:36-43

Peter and Tabitha Spark Children's Bible Page 520

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

PSALM 23

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



Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake, for your name's sake. *Refrain*

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. *Refrain*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever, forever, forever. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

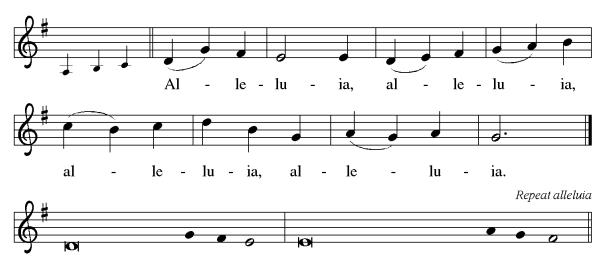
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON Pastor Al Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is



- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this day of resurrection joy, let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

Each petition ends: God of grace,

Response: Hear our prayer.

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.

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 | African Psalm | Youth Choir |
|-------|--|-------------|
| | by Victor C. Johnson | |
| 11:30 | Great Is the Lord | Handbells |
| | by Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith | |

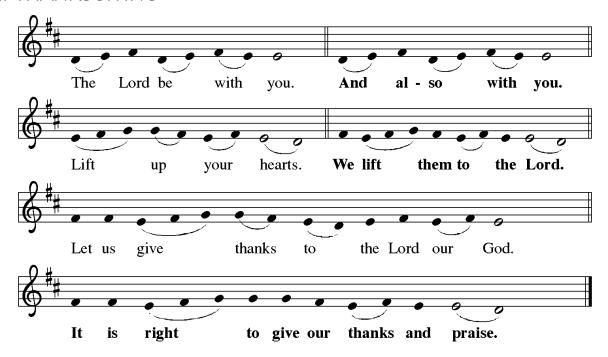
Please rise, as you are able. The ushers bring the offering forward for the Offering Prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

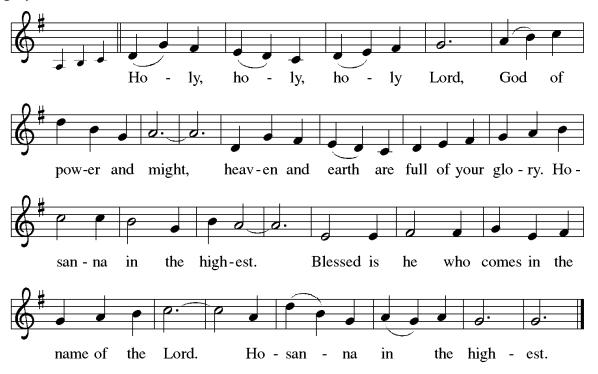
Let us pray. God of good gifts,

receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, ₱ your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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

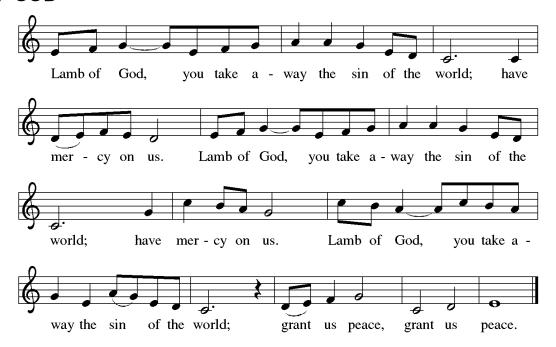
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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



COMMUNION MUSIC

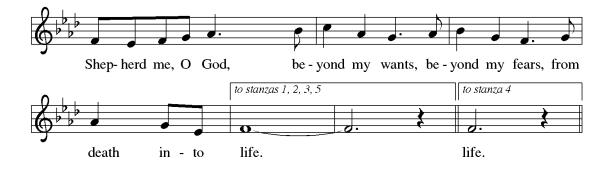
9:00 In the Breaking of the Bread Youth Choir by Zebulon Highben

11:30 Speak, O Lord Handbells by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

COMMUNION HYMN

Refrain

Shepherd Me, O God





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23
Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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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.**

PRAYFR

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ♥ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN on next page

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and share the good news.

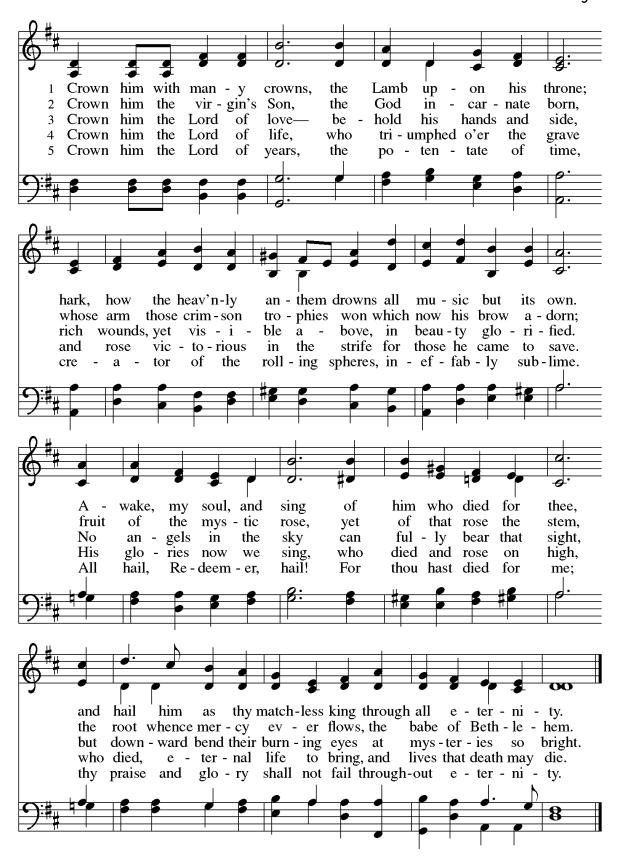
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Exultation by Richard Lloyd

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.



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar



Sunday, May 11

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary
WELCA-WOZ Pie Sale 10am Gazebo
Faith Formation 10:15 Details on next page
Worship in person and
YouTube@ZionSanAntonio 11:30 Sanctuary & online

Monday, May 12

Zion Zippers Potluck 6pm Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, May 13

Exercise Group 9am Church 2 WELCA-WOZ Bible Study Fellowship Hall 10am Breakroom Staff Meeting 11am **Executive Committee** Zoom 6pm Handbell Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Children's Choir Ministry Center 1 7pm Warriors Anonymous Church 2 7pm

Wednesday, May 14

High School/Elementary Mentoring 7:15am Nichols Elementary Crafty Bunch Ed Bldg Craft Room 9am Midweek Worship 1:00 & 6:30pm Church 1 AA - Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting 7pm Family Life Center 202 Al-Anon Meeting 7pm Family Life Center 101 Chancel Choir 7:15 Sanctuary

Thursday, May 15

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief9:30Fellowship HallWeight Watchers9:30Church 2Youth Night6:30Ministry Center 1, 7, 8Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal7pmChurch 2

Saturday, May 17

Weight Watchers 8:30 Church 2
Auditions for Disney's The Little Mermaid 2pm FLC Great Room

Sunday, May 18

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary
Faith Formation 10:15 Details on next page
Coffee Talk: Financial Update 10:15 Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and
YouTube@ZionSanAntonio 11:30 Sanctuary & online

Worship Support

Altar Guild

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

Lay Reader

9:00 Robert Luedecke

11:30 Matt Iwanicki

Cantor

Robert Williams

Communion Servers

9:00 Jennifer Kretzschmar Kevin Kretzschmar

11:30 Max Knoll Suzi Lockamy

Livestream

Kevin McGee

Sound

Scott Van Doren

Ushers

9:00 Carmen Nickle
Jan & Bill Pinkerton
Karen Stoldt
Llynniece Swanston
Rachel Williams

11:30 Joanna & Mel Arviso Kim & Mike DeHart

Faith Formation for Children and Youth

10:15 in Ministry Center Rooms

| Age or Grade | Room |
|--------------------------|------|
| 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

Tuesday 6:30pm Sanctuary Balcony

Children's (Gr 2-5)

Tuesday 7-7:45pm MC-1

Chancel (Adults)

Wednesday 7:15pm Sanctuary

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

Simple communion worship services in Zion's historic chapel.

"The Gospel of Luke, by the Chapters" Bible Study Sundays, 10:15am Ministry Center 1



Join Pastor Al for a weekly Sunday study of the Gospel of Luke. This Sunday, we'll look at Luke, Chapter One.

WELCA-WOZ Mother's Day Pie Sale Today, May 11, Between Services

Pies are \$15 each and sold *between* the early and late services until sold out. Proceeds go to WELCA Women of Zion for local sponsored events.

>(offee Talk>

Financial Update Sunday, May 18, 10:20am in Fellowship Hall

Join Congregational Treasurer Karen Umlang for a financial update.

Weekday Bible Study Series: Book of Jonah Next One: May 22, 9:30am, Ministry Center 1

Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr. Second and fourth Thursdays.



Scan the QR code to learn more about WELCA and WELCA-WOZ current discussion topics, blog posts and events, or email WOZ@ZionSA.org. Hope to see you at inperson events and check out WELCA online website https://www.womenoftheelca.org/.



WELCA-WOZ info

Joint WELCA-WOZ and LMM Monthly Meeting Monday, June 2, 6:30pm

in Fellowship Hall and Family Life Center

6:30 dinner and joint mtg in the Fellowship Hall and separate discussions in the Fellowship Hall and Family Life Center 101. Bring your elementary age kids – we can accommodate them.

WELCA-WOZ General Meeting Thursday, May 15, 12-1:30pm

Pizza will be available for this 'working lunch'. We will be discussing 2025 Spending Plan, upcoming events and some other pending business items.

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: May 15

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.

STAFF CONTACT

Day Off

Pr. Kathi Inglis Johnson *Monday* Senior Pastor

kjohnson@ZionSA.org

Pr. Dan Heim Friday
Associate Pastor, Youth and Family

dheim@ZionSA.org

Pr. Al Jensen *Friday*Associate Pastor, Congregational Care

ajensen@ZionSA.org

Pr. Eileen Spehr Visitation Pastor visitation@ZionSA.org

Suzie Wyatt Administrator swyatt@ZionSA.org

Rob Mikulski

Music Director

rmikulski@ZionSA.org

Sammy Mikulski

Monday

Monday

Theatre Director theatre@ZionSA.org

2025 COUNCIL

Bud Halstead President Karen Umlang Treasurer

Chris Jones Vice President Rachel Williams Secretary

Erica Macha Shiloh Love

Matt Iwanicki

Pr. Kathi Inglis Johnson Sr. Pastor

Pr. Dan Heim Associate Pastor
Pr. Al Jensen Associate 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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Social media vectors created by myriammira - freepik.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Your knit, crochet and quilting skills are needed to create shawls and lap blankets for people in need of prayerful comfort. Our Visitation Pastor Eileen and other volunteers distribute these items where needed.

Contact Bonnie Harrell through the church office to get details about sizes and styles needed. Zion has a stash of yarn available for you to choose from.

MomCo: A Community for All Moms Wednesday, May 21, 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.

MomCo Registration

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



Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship Monday, May 12 at 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

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!

A few dancers from our entertainment group, Fire on the Mountain Cloggers, will be joining us for the meal, so please bring extra food for our guests. Linda Carolan is in charge of this group, which is graciously donating their time without their usual fee. Please come enjoy some foot -stomping fun!

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



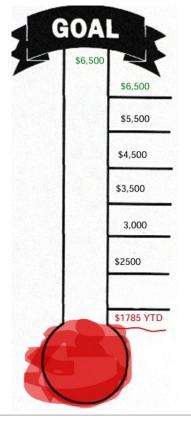
Men's Fellowship Dinner Third Monday, May 19, 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at Texas Star Inn, 7621 Bandera Rd, for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR ideas for Men's Ministry! Contact us at lmm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

LMM Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser

Join Lutheran Men in Mission in our quest to help fund and build homes for those in need by participating in our next Habitat for Humanity fundraiser! We will be in the Gazebo May 18, 25 and June 1st selling square footage of the house we plan to help build in the fall! In addition, feel free to donate anytime to habitat; just by writing "habitat" on your giving envelope.

Here is where we are so far:





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

Game Group

1st & 3rd Mondays, 12:30pm, Fellowship Hall Next one: May 19

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Contact Shirley Homier-McBrayer through the church office if you have questions.

Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church!

If you - or someone you know - are going through a difficult time, contact any of our Stephen Leaders about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide you with focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care and to help you experience the healing power of Christ's love in your life.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: 210-688-3090.

Submitting Announcements

If you have announcements for the bulletin and Zmail, please send them to Publications (a) Zion SA.org.

Zion Bunco Group 4th Tuesday, May 27, 1:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Zion Bunco Group meets on the fourth Monday of the month for a rousing game of Bunco and fellowship. (This month, they meet on May 27 because of Memorial Day.) For info contact Shirley Homeier-McBrayer through the church office.



Junior Master Gardner Program

Beginning in August 2025, Zion Lutheran Church will offer a 10-month Junior Master Gardener (JMG) course for 10 youth who will be in grades 3-5 this coming school year. The JMG course is written and supported by TAMU at College Station and is used both nationally and internationally.

The teacher will be Bill Swantner. Bill Swantner is a member of Zion, a retired ELCA pastor, and an active TAMU AgriLife Extension certified Master Gardener since 2017. He has been Bexar County Master Gardener of the Year, recognized by the state as a Master Gardener of the Year, is certified in numerous areas of horticulture, and has given close to 200 presentations on various aspects of horticulture in the Bexar County area. He has also studied with the faculty and staff of TAMU, Cornell University and the New York Botanical Garden.

The purpose of the course is to give the youth the best horticulture education through presentations and in practice in Zion's Youth Demonstration garden. The youth will be exposed to everything gardening, from flowers to vegetables to trees- all on Zion's property.

There will be an organizational meeting on June 8 at 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to see and hear about the upcoming JMG program at Zion.



Zion Summer Theatre Camp June 23-July 3 Performances July 3 & 5

Join the Zion Theatre Group for a two week intensive theatre camp beginning on June 23 through July 3. We will have some zany fun putting together a full production of "Little Shop of Horrors".

Performances are July 3 at 7:30pm and July 5 at 1:30pm. The cost is \$275 per person for 2 weeks and includes a daily light lunch. Use the QR code to download the registration form.



Theatre Camp Registration



Camp Hope Registration Open

Camp Hope 2025: June 9-13 and/ or June 16-20

Zion's youth-led, adult-mentored, day camp for children/ youth entering Kindergarten - 7th grade in Fall 2025. Sign up online at https://tinyurl.com/4r33dfm4 or by

using the QR code for one or two unique weeks of camp with faith formation through the Bible, worship, art, STEM,



Camp Hope Registration

leadership development and more. Disciple Campers (6th-7th graders) are further challenged with off-site service-learning projects. As campers age up, they grow into staff roles supporting younger campers!

MAY 11, 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Jesus shepherds us so we can shepherd others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

| Sunday | John 10:22-30 | Jesus promises life to his sheep |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday | Acts 9:36-43 | Peter brings Dorcas back to life |
| Tuesday | Revelation 7:9-17 | The multitude from every nation |
| Wednesday | Ezekiel 34:11-31 | God, the true shepherd |
| Thursday | Luke 12:22-34 | Do not worry |
| Friday | Isaiah 40:1-11 | God's people are comforted |
| Saturday | Psalm 23 | The Lord is my shepherd |
| Sunday | John 13:31-35 | Love one another |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.

Acts 9:36 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of goodness and mercy, thank you for your shepherding love that leads us to care for one another through Jesus Christ our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Shepherding God, we thank you that our cup overflows with your never-failing love that pursues us with goodness, mercy, and this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 23:5-6)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Good Shepherd lead you to shepherd others.



MAY 11, 2025 HYMN OF THE WEEK





WEEKLY MILESTONES



CARING CONVERSATIONS



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

- If you were a shepherd, what do you think your work would include?
- How is Jesus a shepherd for us and how are we shepherds to one another?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Acts 9:36-43.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is the Good Shepherd Sunday. The theme for this week's scripture readings is shepherding. In John 10:11 Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd." And in John 10:22-30 Jesus speaks of his protection of the sheep in his care. Psalm 23 begins by announcing God as "my shepherd." In Acts 9 we see a woman named Tabitha who has cared for other women, specifically widows. These women are moved to tears by the care and service of Tabitha, also known as Dorcas. She shepherded women through her service without the acknowledgment of being an official servant. The story of Peter bringing Tabitha back to life lifts up the role of Tabitha as a servant to others. This is an honor given by a disciple to a woman in a male dominated culture. This act expands the ministry of the church to other leaders. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, it is a reminder of how we all are called to shepherd one another in faith and love.

Discuss: Who can you shepherd in faith and love?

Pray: Living God, we thank you for Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and for all those you place in our lives to nurture faith in you and love for all that you have created. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what unexpected act of kindness can you do to surprise someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



As Tabitha shepherded other women long ago, we have women in our lives who have shepherded us. Today is Mother's Day. It is a time to be thankful for the women in our lives who have guided and shepherded us. Write a list of words that describe a woman in your life who has devoted time to showing care for you. Take a moment to sit quietly and be thankful. *Pray:* Lord God, thank you for [name] and for how she has been a gift to my life. Amen.

