

The Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church

February 2024



Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:13

On February 14th we will begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. We begin the season wearing ashes, confessing we are nothing but “dust and to dust we will return.” How humbling for all of us.

The penitential nature of this penitential season can do so much to help us in our relationship with the Lord if we allow it. We will have a morning and an evening Ash Wednesday Service again this year, as we turn and reflect on the true nature of our salvation. I encourage all of you that can, to come to the morning service or both services, but what a wonderful witness to go to work, or HEB, or even the doctor’s office with your ashes displayed for the world to see.

The season is not as much about just giving something up; in truth you can take something on instead. It is about an outward change to your daily life that helps you reflect on Christ and all that He did for you and me. Some people give up something that is near and dear to them, while others will take on extra scripture reading, extra prayer time, or extra volunteering. The important part to understand is that daily we spend almost all of our time taking care of and making sure our flesh is comfortable. From the moment we wake up to the moment we go to sleep, our bodily comfort is the top priority of the day. The problem with that, is it is the one thing that God says will fail us in the end with death, and the flesh of this world will not go with us into eternity. Truly it is our soul and not our body that we should spend the majority of our time making sure is healthy, holy, and ready to meet the Lord. Lent gives us a chance to do something for just 40 or so days that will make our fleshly body a little uncomfortable and allow us the realization that our soul needs more care and attention than we daily give it. I have heard it said that without Lent, Easter does not have its full majesty. So too, our understanding that without the passion of our Lord in the beatings and crucifixion, the triumph over that death in the Resurrection does not have the same majesty. You see it is not just that He rose from the dead, it is that He was first willing to die our death to save us from something we could not save ourselves from.

So, this Lent, wear your ashes with pride, come to the Lenten Services, eat the meals before the Lenten services and fellowship. Find something that you can take on or give up that will help you daily be reminded to open your heart daily to Christ and thank Him for all He has done and continues to do for us this very day. Lent is not a time to be sad. Lent is a time for reflection, re-commitment, and a deeper relationship with the God of all creation, who calls you His very own.

Blessings,
Pastor Caleb

Contact us!

Website: www.zionkerrville.org

Staff Emails:

Pastor: pastor-caleb@zionkerrville.org

Assistant Pastor: reverend-john@zionkerrville.org

Office: office@zionkerrville.org

Finance: finance@zionkerrville.org

Church Council: zlccouncil2023@zionkerrville.org

Media Center: mediacenter@zionkerrville.org

Judy Johnson: judyj4819@gmail.com

Dan Stisser: danmusic@zionkerrville.org

Children's Center: children@zionkerrville.org

Staff

Pastor- Caleb Williams

Assistant Pastor- John Onstott

Office Secretary- Elaina McCoulskey

Financial Secretary- Diane Hartjen

Choir Director/ Organist- Judy Johnson

Organist/ Choir Accompanist- Helen Steele

Contemporary Service Director- Dan Stisser

Bell Choir Director- Jim Abbatiello

Children's Center Director- Jessica Russell

Nursery Attendant- Makayla Behrens

Property Manager- Jerry Staggs

Custodian- Freddy Ortegon

Church Council Officers

President- Jim Motheral

Vice President- Leslie North

Secretary- Debby Jascur

Treasurer- Carol Green

Representatives

Children's Center- Larry Cattran

Property- Joel Johnson

Outreach- Patty Putnam

Worship & Music- Tammy Myers

Member Updates

Member Deaths

Maxine Nielsen

Aug. 03, 1934- Jan. 01, 2024

Jennie Motheral

Jul. 07, 1936- Jan. 16, 2024

New Members

Jerry Staggs

Justin and Kallie Rubio

"We have lived in Kerrville for seven years. Kallie is a nurse at the hospital in Fredericksburg and Justin is a cook at Boot Ranch. When we're not working, we enjoy putting puzzles together, binge watching true crime shows, and playing board games. Lately, our focus has been getting ready for the arrival of our baby boy in May! We are so excited about becoming parents! We have two dogs- Diesel and Benji, and two cats- Phantom and Pumpkin. We love to spend time with our families and look forward to being part of this growing church family.

December Attendance and Giving

December Attendance: 1,205

December Growth: 4.49% increase

Year to Date Total: 9,568

December Tithes : \$62,679

December Growth: 207.85% increase

Year to Date Total: \$381,357.71

Dear Zion Friends,

Greetings from North Dakota! We have had a mild winter so far but this weekend (Jan. 13 & 14) turned cold (0 deg. and below). However, I hear you are having cold weather, too.

A sincere “thank you” for all the kindnesses you gave to Wally and to me for over 35 years. The prayers, telephone calls, cards, food, rides to church, appointments, and rehab – to name a few – were all special blessings.

The movers, flights to ND and getting settled in my apartment have all gone smoothy. I am constantly meeting friends from the past. Needless to say, my family has been so very helpful.

I have watched Zion services each Sunday morning and it is good to see you. We have a wonderful chapel service Sunday afternoon. May our gracious God fill each of you with love, peace, and joy throughout 2024.

Blessings, Carolyn Freeman

Thank you to the women of Zion who have donated so many cards to me in the past! At this point, I only need a few specific types of cards and nothing else: anniversary, Easter, men’s birthday, and Valentine’s day. Donation of first class stamps is always necessary and appreciated!

Tammy Harrison

Worship and Music Notes

Judy Johnson

At this writing, I am hunkered down in my house, trying to stay warm and checking my faucets during this polar vortex. You'd think I'd be somewhat acclimated from all the years I spent living in ND and MN. Coldest I ever experienced in ND was -80 F wind chill!

I'm reading in Ezekiel 3 and verses 18-21 are giving me a different kind of chill. Here God is telling Ezekiel to warn the hard-headed Israelites that there are eternal consequences of their rebellion. And He has also equipped Ezekiel with a similar hard head to deal with them. The name "Ezekiel" means "God hardens." Along with his mission comes great responsibility. You can read those verses yourself, but God is basically saying that if you witness to people, and they don't listen, that's on them and they will face the consequences. If you fail to warn them, their destruction is on you. Wow. That makes Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28: 19-20 even more powerful! Yesterday we sang "O Zion, Haste" at the 9am service. I like that hymn and take the word "Zion" personally for our congregation.

***O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling,
To tell to all the world that God is light***

LBW 397

Now, more than ever, we need to be bold and tell the Good News. Christ's return is closer now than it has ever been and so many are being deceived by the enemy and have become hardened to the Truth. The season of Epiphany celebrates Jesus, the Light of the World. I pray we will share that Light with others who are in darkness.

The next season of the church year is Lent, with Ash Wednesday falling on Valentine's Day, February 14. Pastor Caleb will have a morning service at 7am that day, as well as the 7pm service. Come and receive ashes and prepare your hearts for this special season of remembrance. If you would like to provide music during these services, please let me know. Blessings!

WOMEN of the WORD

Our Zion Women's Circles are praying for you to join them! Please look at the meeting times and come join one or more of the Bible studies!

EVENTS: a big thank you to all who helped make the Ladies' Christmas Tea a huge success!

The next WOW Board meeting will be on Monday, February 12th at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room and all Zion ladies are welcome to visit.

Thursday, February 1st-Ruth/Rebecca will meet at 9:30 in the conference room. Their study is called I Am Who I Am.

Thursday, February 15th-Mary/Martha will meet in the conference room at noon. They will continue with a Joyce Meyer study.

Thursday, February 27th -Deborah will meet in the conference room at 2:00. The circle has chosen The Gospel on the Ground by Kristi McLelland as their new study.

Fellowship Breakfast Group will meet on the second Monday of each month at 9:00 at Cracker Barrel. All ladies and their friends are invited to attend! The next one will be on February 12th.

Lutheran World Relief- Hand quilting continues each Tuesday and Thursday morning at 9:00 in the quilting room. Please join us!

All Women of Zion are invited to participate in donating items for CAM and the Women's Crisis Center!

Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)- The first Sunday of each month is designated CAM Sunday. A list of food items needed is posted on the CAM box in the narthex. Contact CAM about how you might serve!

Women's Crisis Center- Please donate laundry detergent and any travel size soaps, shampoos or other personal care items. Drop off items in the CAM box in the Narthex.

February 2024

Every Sunday
 8:30 Prayer Cell
 9:00 Traditional Worship
 10:10 Sunday School
 11:00 Contemporary Worship

All activities are subject to change

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 28	Jan. 29	Jan. 30	Jan. 31	1 9:00 LWR Sewing 9:30 Ruth/ Rebecca 10:00 LBC 6:00 Praise Team	2 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	3 10:00 AGLOW 10:00 AA 10:00 NA 1:00 Liberty in Action
4 9 & 11 Communion 6:00 NA	5 12:00 WM AA 5:00 Outreach Meeting	6 9:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 6:30 ACA 6:30 Men's Group	7 11:30 Prayer 12:00 WM AA 5:00 Prayer 5:30 Potluck 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	8 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 LBC 12:00 Mary/ Martha 2:00 Deborah 6:00 Praise Team	9 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	10 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
11 11:00 Service in Old Sanctuary 6:00 NA	12 12:00 WM AA	13 9:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 6:30 ACA 6:30 Council Mtg	14 7:00 Ash Service 11:30 Prayer 12:00 WM AA 5:00 Prayer 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Ash Service 8:00 Choir	15 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 LBC 6:00 Praise Team	16 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	17 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
18 9 & 11 Communion 6:00 NA	19 8:30 Quilt Guild 11:30 ZLCC Board 12:00 WM AA	20 8:30 Quilt Guild 9:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 12:00 Book Club 6:30 Men's Group 6:30 ACA	21 11:30 Prayer 12:00 WM AA 5:00 Prayer 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Lent Service 8:00 Choir	22 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 LBC 6:00 Praise Team	23 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	24 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
25 11:00 Service in Old Sanctuary 6:00 NA	26 12:00 WM AA	27 9:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 6:30 ACA	28 11:30 Prayer 12:00 WM AA 5:00 Prayer 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Lent Service 8:00 Choir	29 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 LBC 6:00 Praise Team	Mar. 1 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	Mar. 2 10:00 AA 10:00 NA 1:00 Liberty in Action

What's Happening at Zion Lutheran Children's Center

ZLCC is an outreach ministry of Zion Lutheran Church; serving the Kerrville Community by providing Quality Education in a Nurturing Christian Environment.

February Birthdays

Happy Birthday to You!!

<i>Greyson E.</i>	<i>Logan</i>
<i>Iris</i>	<i>Evelyn</i>
<i>Rosily</i>	<i>Jaylin</i>
<i>Greyson N.</i>	
<i>Zeppelin</i>	
<i>Savanna</i>	
<i>Lucio</i>	



SPECIAL DAYS IN February

2nd— Groundhog's Day

14th—Valentine's Day

14th—Ash Wednesday

19th—President's Day



Note from the Director:

Valentine's parties are scheduled for February 14th at 2:30 p.m. Be sure and sign up on your child's classroom door. We are asking each child to bring Valentine's for each child in your child's class.

Please join us at church on Ash Wednesday. Services start at 7 p.m.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8



ZLCC February Focuses:

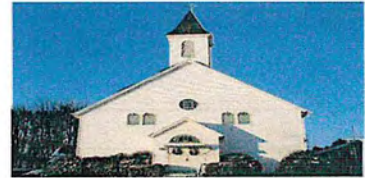
Curriculum

Week 1—We Love America

Week 2—Be My Valentine

Week 3—Healthy Habits

Week 4—Healthy Habits



Bible Focus

Week 1—Jesus is our Leader

Week 2—Jesus Heals Us

Week 3—Jesus Calms the Storm

Week 4—Jesus Gives Us Life

You are cordially invited to join us on Sunday for Church!

Sevices

9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Sunday School is at 10 a.m.



All are welcome!

February Worship Assistants

Ushers: 9:00 a.m. Jackie & Tammy Gold
11:00 a.m. Ted Hannemann, Harold Johnson,
David & Sharon Turlington, Bobby Wilke

Liturgists: Brenda Abbatiello, Carol Greene, Mark Bigott, Beth Taylor

February 4 9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Mark Bigott
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Donna Shirley
Altar Flowers:

February 11 9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Jeff Wilson
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Katy Kappel
Altar Flowers:

February 18 9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Barbara Pollei
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Beth Taylor
Altar Flowers:

February 25 9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Fran Turner
11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Dean Johnson
Altar Flowers: Gary & Diane Hartjen

If you would like to provide altar flowers on any Sunday, please sign up on the flower chart in the narthex or call the office at 830-257-8411.

Happy Birthday!

02/01	Steve Griffin	02/09	Erick Christensen	02/20	Rian Feldman
	Sybil Marsh	02/12	Joanne Johnson		Laura Parrott
02/02	Dustin Griffin	02/13	Stephen Thompson	02/22	Curtis Martinez
	Warren Setnan	02/14	Whitney Dittmar	02/25	Beryl Bjork
02/03	Garret Setnan	02/15	Roslyn Bell		Amber Rendon
	Marissa Waldon		Tracy Flowers		Kathy Tonner
02/04	Sam Bigott	02/17	Norm Johnson		Scott Wheelock
	Conrad Coles		Millie Smith	02/26	Kylynn Hunter
02/05	Audra Chester	02/18	Richard Jones		Billie Janice
02/06	Jaxyn Altman	02/19	Bibi Brown	02/28	Marvin Moss
02/07	Sara McKeon		Glenda Greeson		Matthew Waldon
	Rick Phipps		Paul Hinkle		Don Yarbrough



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



How to Grow Your Church

In my role as Director of Mission Growth, a common question that church members and even some pastors ask me is “How do we grow our church?” I love this question because it tells me a few things about the person asking it. First, the very question itself communicates that the person asking recognizes that their church has a purpose to connect to more people and reveals a “holy discontent” with the present reality. Secondly, the question also informs me that the asker is genuinely interested and open to learning and implementing new ideas. Both having a heart to connect with more people and a teachable spirit are key components to ministry success and congregational revitalization.

The question also presents a bit of a challenge: Growing a bigger church should never be the mission of the church! Instead, church growth is a byproduct of a church engaging in and accomplishing its true mission and purpose. So, what is the true mission and purpose of the church? In my opinion, it can be summed up with “connecting people to Jesus.” Exactly what this looks like in each congregation and community can and should be very different: no two congregations are alike; nor are the contexts in which those congregations minister.

I truly believe that churches who prioritize connecting people to a life-giving relationship with Jesus will indeed grow. Yet growth, in and of itself, should not be the actual goal. What would happen if we stopped obsessing over worship attendance or confirmation class size or Sunday School participation and started prioritizing and praying for those in our community whom God is calling us to befriend with the purpose and intent of gently and lovingly connecting them with Jesus? How can churches prioritize this activity as their mission, encouraging and equipping one another for everyday mission work?

In the book *7 Habits of Healthy Churches*, Marcus Carlson notes that “Healthy churches are focused more on those outside the church than those inside the church.” I couldn’t agree more with Carlson’s assertion. To be clear, this does not mean that healthy churches do not care for one another within the church; healthy churches always love one another. What the author is pointing out is a reality I routinely observe: in the absence of a clear, outward-focused mission, congregations always default to pleasing their own members as their de facto purpose. Whenever a congregation focuses on member satisfaction, it becomes unhealthy and ultimately, inevitably declines.

God is calling the church to more. That more isn’t simply to worry about stopping decline and growing our congregation. The more God is calling the church to is a mission that extends beyond our church walls and prioritizes connecting people to Jesus.

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.

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February 2024



Advent
SEASON



