

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: The Family of Elfriede Ragland, our homebound and shut-ins, our Fredericksburg community, our nation, and the military.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of the God in loving memory of Elfriede Ragland given by her family.

Please pray for Peter, Judy, Robert, Janice, and Pr. Jonathan who are going on the medical mission trip with Misi3n de Candelilla. They will be sharing the love of Jesus with people in the villages of San Vicente, La Union, and San Miguel.

If you wish to bring food for the Lent Meals, please sign up in the Atrium.

Tiny items are needed to put inside Easter eggs for the children's egg hunt. Please leave donated items in the gray tubs in the Narthex and Atrium by March 22 at 10:30am. *Examples of tiny items include: candy, bracelets, bandaids, stickers, ink stamps, and coins.*

The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 4 at 9:30am. Volunteers will be needed at 8:30am to help hide eggs and help with the snacks after the hunt.

Special Concern for March is Stand with Ukraine.

We have met our Capital Maintenance Improvement Projects goal of \$50,000. Thank you all so very much for your generosity.

Portals of Prayer for Apr – June are available in the Atrium or Narthex.

Thank you for your Lenten contributions of \$25. **Attendance:** 38

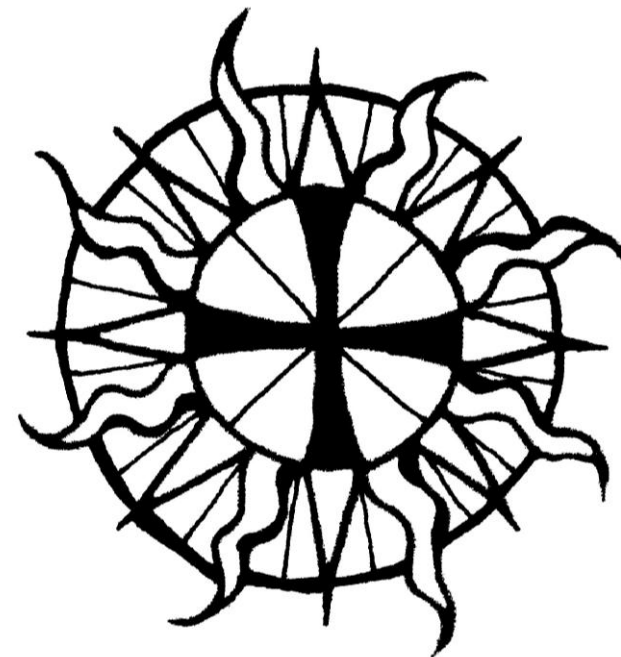
Thank you for your contributions of \$6,033 given last week. **Attendance:** 59

ASSISTANT & LECTOR – Robert Menking

USHERS – Dwayne, Karen, & Emily Beyer, Roger Dittmar (Acolyte – usher)

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

TODAY – Mar 15	10:15am	Adult Sunday School – Adult SS Rm
	10:15am	Youth Sunday School – Fell Hall
MON – Mar 16		Easter Lily Order Deadline
TUES – Mar 17	5:30pm	Choir Practice – Choir Room
WED – Mar 18	5:15pm	Lent Supper – Fell Hall
	6:00pm	Lent Service – Fell Hall
FRI – Mar 20	9:00am	<i>WELCA Spring Gathering – Ebert Ranch Camp</i>
SAT – Mar 21	8-12:00pm	<i>Vereins Quilt Guild – Fell Hall</i>
SUN – Mar 22	9:00am	Worship with Communion
	10:15am	Adult Sunday School – Adult SS Rm
	10:15am	Youth Sunday School – Fell Hall
	10:30-2pm	Council Retreat – Debbie Sulte-meier's Home



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Fredericksburg, Texas

Lent – A Season of Prayer

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 15, 2026

Video on Zion's YouTube Channel at 9:00AM

(go to www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube)

Broadcast on KNAF (910AM) at 10:30AM

Pastor – Rev. Jonathan Mollenkopf

Pianist – Sheri Robinson

Choir Director – Rhonda Behrends

426 W. Main – PO Box 1571 – Fredericksburg, TX 78624
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Follow Zion on X @ <http://zion-lutheran.com/x>

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P=Presider **R=Responses** *Please stand, as you are able

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We exist to share the Joy of Jesus by providing multiple opportunities for all people to encounter God through diverse worship, authentic love and intentional acts of service. We Share the Joy. We Worship, Love and Serve.

GATHERING

BELLS

WELCOME AND PRAYER *(Please register your attendance in the books at the end of the row where you are seated, and fill out a prayer request card and place it in the offering basket as you desire.)*

(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)

PRELUDE *Piano/Organ Duet ~Sheri Robinson & Jonathan Mollenkopf*
“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” by Ithamar Conkey & John Bowring; Arr. Lani Smith

GATHERING HYMN** *“Savior, like a Shepherd...” (vs.1-3) **HYMN NO. 789

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.**

**We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.**

**You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.**

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

“Burden Are Lifted at Calvary” by John M. Moore

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

R Amen

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.

R Amen

SENDING HYMN** *“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death” **HYMN NO. 452

**Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.**

**To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.**

**There is one body and one hope, one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, one God who made us all.**

**Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.**

**For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.**

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984; Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Believe the good news.

R Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Down at the Cross” by John H. Stockton & Elisha A. Hoffman

***DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

COMMUNION HYMN *"Lamb of God"*



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: ICET; Additional text and music by Marty Haugen, ©1990

HYMN *"Amazing Grace"* **HYMN NO. 779**

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

R Amen

P Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

R have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

R have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

R have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

R have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

R have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

R have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

R have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

R Amen

***KYRIE** (from the Greek word "Lord" – Sung) **HYMN NO. 157**

A In peace, in peace, let us pray to the...

R Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

A For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the...

R Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

A For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the...

R Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, and defend us, O God.

R Amen

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

*APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R **And also with you.**

P Let us pray...Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

R **Amen**

SPECIAL MUSIC “*Promise of Grace*” by Rose Aspinall; music by Mary McDonald **Chancel Choir**

Briana Reitenga, violin & Debbie Sulzemeier, flute

WORD

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.”⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L The Word of the Lord.

R **Thanks be to God.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts. *Congregation:* We lift them to the Lord. *Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Congregation:* It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is our duty and delight...join their unending hymn:

(Sung)

HYMN NO. 191 (Holy, Holy...)

R **Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might; Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!** Text and Music: Marty Haugen, 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

R **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**

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

A Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we baptize, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

R 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

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION WITH HYMN NO. 752**

(Sung twice before intercessions and once after)

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING

"I Saw the Cross of Jesus" ~Music: Anonymous; Lyrics: Frederick Whitfield

***OFFERING SONG**

"Change My Heart, O God"

HYMN NO. 801

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.**

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953; Text © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

PSALM 23 *(Read responsively)*

L The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**R He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

L he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**R Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

L You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**R Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life
long.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

L The word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; ©1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Congregation:



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and



mer-cy; Come, seek the ten-der faith-ful-ness of God.

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the 9th Chapter.

R Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL*John 9:1-41**

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me^[b] while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

P The gospel of the Lord.

R **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON *Rev. Jonathan Mollenkopf*

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *"O Jesus, I Have Promised"* **HYMN NO. 810**

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**

**Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.**

**Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.