

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: Montynne Brown, Jim Schonaerts, our homebound and in senior living, our FBG community, our nation, and the military.

Today we recognize our High School Senior, Ellie Bailey. She will graduate from Reagan High School in San Antonio on May 23. She will be attending UT in the Rio Grand Valley (UTRGV) and will compete on their swim team. She is the daughter of Michael and Laura Oehler Bailey and granddaughter of Greg and Donna Oehler.

“Lied Hoch” Mannerchor (the Men’s Choir of Gluckstadt, Germany) will sing in Zion’s Sanctuary on Monday, May 4 at 5pm. Open to the public and free. Sponsored by the German Choirs of Fredericksburg.

National Day of Prayer is May 7 at Markt Platz. GCMA is sponsoring a brief prayer time for our nation to start the day at 6:45am.

Thank you for your April 12 contributions of \$5,535. **Attendance:** 78

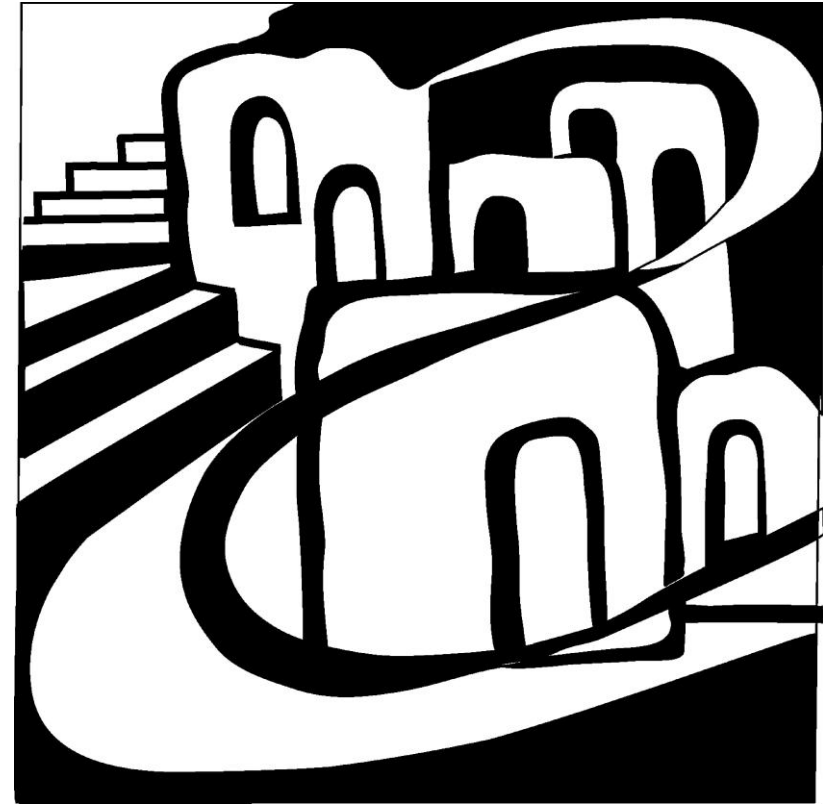
ASSISTANT & LECTOR – Greg Oehler & Arleen Crenwelge

USHERS – Perry & Cris Strackbein, Dan & Judy McGookey, Donna Oehler, Sandy Schmitzinsky (Acolyte – usher)

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

TODAY May 3	10:15am	Adult Sunday School – Adult SS Rm
	10:15am	Youth Sunday School – Fell Hall
MON – May 4	5:00pm	Lied Hoch Mannerchor Concert – Sanctuary
TUES – May 5	5:30pm	Choir Practice – Choir Room
WED – May 6	8:00am	Men’s Breakfast – Adult SS Rm
	9:30am	WELCA Bible Study – Conf Rm
	9:30am	Knopp Assisted Living Communion
	10:30am	Knopp Nursing Home Communion
	4:15pm	Confirmation – Elijah’s Cave
	6:00pm	Parish Ed Mtg – Library
		NO Property Mtg
THURS – May 7	6:45am	National Day of Prayer – Markt Platz
	9:30am	Heritage Place Communion
	10:30am	Enchanted Rock Communion
	5:00pm	Safety Mtg – Conf Rm
FRI – May 8	11:30am	Finance & Investment Mtg – Conf Rm
SUN – May 10	9:00am	Worship with Communion
	10:15am	Adult Sunday School – Adult SS Rm
	10:15am	Youth Sunday School – Fell Hall

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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Fredericksburg, Texas

Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 3, 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
(830) 997-2195 – www.zion-lutheran.com – email: zionfbg@gmail.com

Go Like Our Facebook Page @ <http://zion-lutheran.com/facebook>
Follow Zion on Instagram @ <http://zion-lutheran.com/instagram>
Follow Zion on X @ <http://zion-lutheran.com/x>

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

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

R He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)

PRELUDE "Great Is the Lord" by Michael W. Smith & Deborah D. Smith

OPENING RESPONSES

A Thanks be to you, O God, that we have risen this day

R To the rising of this life itself.

A Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose,

R The hand of God between us and each hand.

A The pain of Christ between us and each pain,

R The love of Christ between us and each love.

A O God, who brought us to the bright light of this new day

R Bring us to the guiding light of eternity.

***GATHERING HYMN** "Christ is Alive! Let..." (vs.1,2,4,5) **HYMN NO. 389**

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev'ry place and time.**

**Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936; Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

R Amen.

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

R Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** "My Life Flows On in Endless Song" **HYMN NO. 763**

**My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.**

**Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

**Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? Refrain**

**What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. Refrain**

**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? Refrain**

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

R Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"To the Work" by William H. Doane & Fanny J. Crosby

COMMUNION HYMN*"Lamb of God"* Text: ICET; Additional text and music by Marty Haugen, ©1990

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.

HYMN*"O Jesus, I Have Promised"* (vs.1,2,4) **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.**

**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.

"Whiter Than Snow" by William G. Fischer & James Nicholson***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P God of life, do not darken your light to us,
 MEN God of life do not limit your joy in us,
 Women God of life, do not shut your door to us,
 P God of life, do not refuse us your mercy,

ALL Lord, do not refuse us your mercy.

P Let us pray.

P O God of life, eternity cannot hold you,
 nor can our little words catch the magnificence of your kindness.
 Yet in the space of our small hearts and in silence
 you can come close and repair us.

(Silence)

P O God of life, grant us your forgiveness

**ALL For our careless thoughts,
 For our thoughtless deeds, for our empty speech
 And the words with which we wounded.**

(Silence)

P O God of life, grant us your forgiveness

**ALL For our false desires,
 For our hateful actions,
 For our wastefulness and for all we left untended.**

(Silence)

P O loving Christ, hanged on a tree yet risen in the morning,
 scatter the sin from our souls as the mist from the hills;
 begin what we do, inform what we say, redeem who we are.

**ALL In you we place our hope, our great hope,
 our living hope, this day and evermore
 because we are forgiven by the cross of Christ. Amen**

HYMN OF PRAISE*HYMN NO. 167**

**Refrain: Now the feast and celebration,
 all of creation sings for joy to the God of life and love and freedom;
 praise and glory forevermore!**

**Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
 whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God.**

Refrain

**Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever.**

**Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!**

**For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God; to make all things new.**

**Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!**

***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...Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

R Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *"The Old Rugged Cross Made the Difference"* **Chancel Choir**
by William J. Gaither & Gloria Gaither

FIRST READING Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

L The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

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**

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, ...

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

(sung) Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

R Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

P Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love... now and forever.

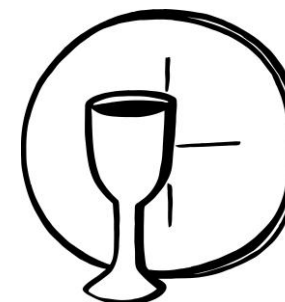
R Amen.

***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

***DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

White grape juice is in the cups in the center of the tray.



***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Merciful God, **R receive our prayer.**

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING

"To Be Your Presence" by Charles V. Stanford & Delores Dufner

***OFFERING SONG**

"As the Grains of Wheat" (vs.2) **HYMN NO. 465**

**Refrain: As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come

when all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features alternating parts for the Presider and the Congregation. The lyrics are: "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 God thanks and praise."

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 (*Read responsively*)

L In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

R Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

L You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me;

R take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

L Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

R My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

L Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

L The word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the 14th Chapter.

R **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Rev. Jonathan Mollenkopf

*HYMN OF THE DAY

“God is Life!”

Ha - le - lu - jah, Christ is a - live! He has con - quered death's pri - son. God's po-wer a -
Je - sus came to die for our sins, his re deem - ing love lifts us. New life in him
Death will ne - ver have the last word, e - ven though it does grieve us. Death has no do -
lone could con - trive this migh - ty res - ur - rec - tion. Ha - le - lu - jah, God is life!
ev - er be - gins; Je - sus rose to u - nite us. Ha - le - lu - jah, we are free!
min - ion o'er love - Love has the last word al - ways. Ha - le - lu - jah, God is love!

inspired by Phil Hett, arr. Jonathan Mollenkopf

*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.**

SENIOR RECOGNITION AND BLESSING