

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: Margaret Solbrig, our homebound and in senior living, our Fredericksburg community, our nation, and the military.

Today Otto Langford Smith and Johannes Frederick Smith will be baptized. They are the sons of Matthew and Terra Smith and the great-grandsons of Julia Weden. Their sponsors are Shelby Johnson and Amanda Jasso.

Congratulations to Jodi Kasper and Jason Grove who were married Saturday, April 25 on the Beyer property officiated by Rev. Jonathan Mollenkopf.

Special Concern for April is the Bethany Preschool.

The Synod Assembly is the May 1 – 2. Thank you to Peter Ray and Debbie Sultemeier for attending as Zion's voting delegates.

Our High School Senior, Ellie Bailey will be recognized on Sunday, May 3. She is the daughter of Michael and Laura Bailey and the granddaughter of Greg and Donna Oehler.

A Choir from Germany will be performing at Zion on Monday, May 4 at 5pm in the Sanctuary. (Sponsored by the Fredericksburg German Choir)

Thank you for your April 12 contributions of \$686. **Attendance:** 53

ASSISTANT & LECTOR – Robert Menking & Diane Mayer

USHERS – Darlene Hartmann, Jeff & Dawn Bourgeois, Arleen Crenwelge, Arthur Haun, Kris Kneese, Audrey Mayer (Acolyte – usher)

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

TODAY Apr 26	10:15am	Adult Sunday School – Adult SS Rm
	10:15am	Youth Sunday School – Fell Hall
TUES – Apr 28		NO Choir Practice
WED – Apr 29	4:15pm	Confirmation – Elijah's Cave
SUN – May 3	9:00am	Worship with Communion & Senior Recognition
	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

Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 26, 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

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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!

PRELUDE *"The Lord's My Shepherd"* ~Music: Jessie S. Irvine; Lyrics: *Scottish Psalter*; Based on Psalm 23
"The Lord's My Shepherd" ~Music: James L. Macbeth Bain; Lyrics: *The Psalms of David...*, 1650

***GATHERING HYMN** *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* **HYMN NO. 807**

**Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.**

**While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.**

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

*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...O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

R Amen.

"Shepherd of Love" by John W. Peterson

*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** *"The Day of Resurrection!"* (vs.1,2,3) **HYMN NO. 361**

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.**

**Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and list'ning to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the glad refrain.**

**Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend;
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end!**

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696-c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

R Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us"
by William B. Bradbury & Dorothy A. Thrupp

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

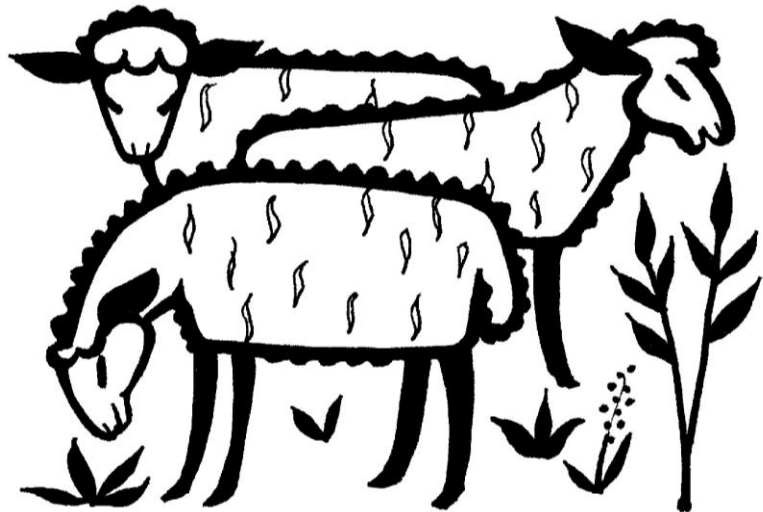
Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

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



*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!

HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

R I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

R I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

R 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

R 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P The Lord be with you.

R And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P ...one God now and forever.

R Amen

BAPTISM

WELCOME

A Let us welcome the newly baptized.

R We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

*PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Linder one Worte, Opus 62, no.6 by Felix Mendelssohn

Briana Reitenga, violinist

WORD

FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING

“Gentle Shepherd” by William J. Gaither & Gloria Gaither

***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.
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***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Presider: The Lord be with you. And al - so with
 Congregation: you. Lift up your hearts. We
 Presider: lift them to the Lord. Let us give
 Congregation: thanks to the Lord our God. It is
 right to give God thanks and praise.

PSALM 23 (Read responsively)

L Many times I try to run my own life.
I feel overwhelmed with just the day to day pressures of making ends meet.

R The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

L I get so busy and so rushed. I scurry to and for frantically.

**R He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

L I get so anxious and uptight about things.
It seems at times as if I will go crazy.

**R He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness of his name's sake.**

L Sometimes things seem to go from bad to worse: local, provincial, national
and international news seem only bad, and even my own life is in shambles.

**R Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me:
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.**

L The petty gossip and criticism and back-biting around me sometimes seem
more than I can bear. It drains my very soul.

**R Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine
enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil:
My cup runneth over.**

L Sometimes I wonder what the future holds:
things are so uncertain these days.

**R Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

by Rev. Michael Stonhouse

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹For it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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 10th Chapter.

R Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL John 10:1-10**

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me^[a] are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

P The gospel of the Lord.

R Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Rev. Jonathan Mollenkopf

***HYMN OF THE DAY “Have No Fear, Little Flock”**

HYMN NO. 764

**Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!**

**Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!**

**Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!**

**Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you, in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!**

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jilson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4; Text © 1973 Concordia Publishing House

