

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Today Caine Rich will receive the Spark Bible NRSV. **We will assemble** the LWR School Kits today at 10am in the Fellowship Hall....God's Work Our Hands!

The August Special Concern is Kairos Prison Ministry.

Adult Bible study resumes – Mondays at 6:30pm starting September 14. Ever feel like you need wisdom? Come explore the book of James to grow in God's wisdom. Pr. Jonathan will lead this study and reference a book by Max Lucado. Meet in the Conference Room or by Zoom.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW....New Pictorial Directory Photos will be taken on Monday, October 12. **(The sign-up process will be before & after church on Sept 20 & 27.)** There is no picture setting fee and all those who have their picture taken will receive a FREE 8x10. *(You do not have to be a member to have your picture taken....friends, family, neighbors are all invited to sign up.)*

Sheri Robinson thanks you for the visits, meals, cards, texts, and prayers during her recent back surgery recovery. She truly felt the love, and it was deeply appreciated.

Thank you for your contributions of \$6,971. **Attendance:** 58

ASSISTANT & LECTOR – Robert Menking & Rich Family

USHERS – Glenn & Gina K, Yvonne K, Marlin & Laurie H, Margie E

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

TODAY – Sept 13	10:00am	Assemble LWR School Kits – Fell Hall
	10:15am	Adult SS – Adult SS Rm & Youth SS – Fell Hall
MON – Sept 14	10:00am	Theatre Mtg – Conf Rm
	6:30pm	Bible Study – Conf Rm
TUES – Sept 15	5:30pm	Choir Practice
WED – Sept 16	9:00am	Laborers of Love – Arhelger House
	10:15am	Care Committee Mtg – Library
	4:15pm	Confirmation – Elijah's Cave
	5:30pm	Worship Mtg – Conf Rm
THURS – Sept 17	10:30am	GCMA Mtg – Fell Hall
	11:45am	Finance & Investment Mtg – Conf Rm <i>Christi is taking a vacation day</i>
FRI – Sept 18	11:00am	Ron Gant Memorial Service & Reception
SAT – Sept 19	9-3:00pm	Fall Festival – Markt Platz
SUN – Sept 20	9:00am	Worship with Communion
	10:15am	Adult SS – Adult SS Rm & Youth SS – Fell Hall



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Fredericksburg, Texas

16th Sunday after Pentecost – September 13, 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

GATHERING

BELLS

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “I’ll Fly Away” by Albert E. Brumley
 “I Saw the Light” by Hank Williams

*GATHERING HYMN “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”

Refrain:

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul I’ll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it’s a new day dawning
It’s time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes *Refrain*

You’re rich in love and You’re slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
Fall all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find *Refrain*

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore *Refrain*

Sing like never before O my soul I’ll worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name Worship Your holy name

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

R **Amen.**

P The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

R **Amen.**

P The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

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 out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

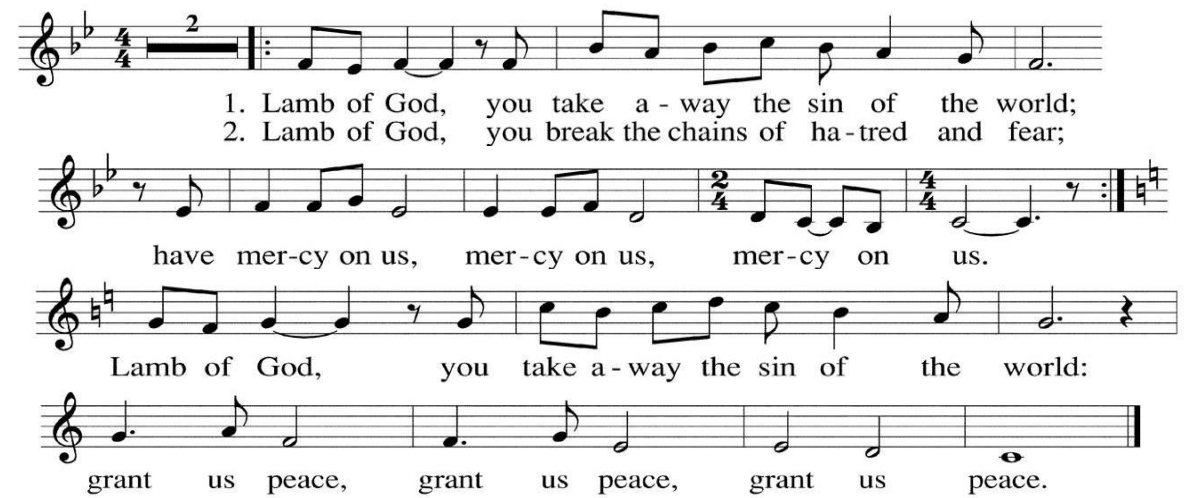
R **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Heavenly Sunlight” by George Harrison Cook & H.J. Zelley

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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 *“In the Singing”* **HYMN NO. 466**

**In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking,
in your presence at this table,**

Refrain:

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

**In the question, in the answer,
in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing,
in the circle of your people, *Refrain***

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931; Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188

“I’ll Tell the World That I’m a Christian” by Baynard L. Fox

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

R **Amen.**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

R **Amen.**

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

R **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

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.

*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. *Refrain***

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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray...O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

R Amen.

*PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Am a C" & "Jacob's Ladder" Kids of the Kingdom
Traditional Sunday School Song & African American Spiritual

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.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*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

All are welcome to share the body and blood of Jesus that are present in the bread and wine of communion. If you do not wish to participate, you may still come forward for a blessing. **If you desire a gluten free wafer and/or white grape juice, please hold up two fingers to the server.**



***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

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

MEAL

OFFERING *“Pass It On” by Kurt Kaiser*
***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Presider: Congregation:

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.

WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND BIBLE PRESENTATION

FIRST READING **Genesis 50:15-21**

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ ‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L The Word of the Lord.

R **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:8-13 *(Read responsively)*

L The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

R **He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.**

L He does not deal with us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

R **For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

L as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

R **As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**

SECOND READING **Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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. Matthew, the 18th Chapter.
R **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35**

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven^[a] times. ²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

SERMON The "F" Word: Forgiveness **Rev. Jonathan Mollenkopf**
***HYMN OF THE DAY** "I Come with Joy" **HYMN NO. 482**

(Soloist sings vs.1, All sing vs.2-5)

SOLOST I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

**ALL I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed, the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.**

**ALL As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.**

**ALL The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here, alive among us here.**

**ALL Together met, together bound
by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.**