PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: The Family of Ruth Sarnecki, Bobbie Schonaerts, our homebound and in senior living, our Fredericksburg community, our nation, and the military.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Rhonda Behrends in celebration of Reformation Sunday and in loving memory of Jack Rainbolt.

Today we celebrate the First Communion of Caine and Collins Rich.

The October Special Concern is Lutheran Disaster Response.

This afternoon, join us for the special program – ***Phantom Greets the Saints*** in the Sanctuary at 4pm.

Emily Beyer wishes to thank you all for the help and support from everyone who was able to lend a hand to update our Christusbaum trees. They look beautiful and she couldn't have done it without you. She's excited to see what it all looks like this year!

Thank you for your contributions of $1,031. **Attendance:** 65

ASSISTANT & LECTOR – Sandy Schmidtzinsky & Briana Reitenga

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

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

TODAY – Oct 25	10:15am	Adult SS – Adult SS Rm & Youth SS – Fell Hall
	4:00pm	**Phantom Greets the Saints Performance – Sanctuary**
TUES – Oct 27	**4:00pm**	**Band Practice – Sanctuary**
	5:30pm	Choir Practice
	5:40pm	**Confirmation – Library**
	6:45pm	**Mutual Ministry Mtg – Conf Rm**
WED – Oct 28	**9:00am**	**Laborers of Love – Arhelger House**
FRI – Oct 30	*2:30pm*	*TX Tech – Adult Ed – Conf Rm*
SUN – Nov 1	9:00am	Worship with Communion **(All Saints Sunday)**
	10:15am	Adult SS – Fell Hall
	10:15am	Youth SS – Youth Choir Rm
	2:00pm	***Der Stadt Friedhof Dedication – Cemetery***

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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Fredericksburg, Texas

Reformation Sunday – October 25, 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"Liebestraum/Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*
by Franz Liszt/Thomas O. Chisholm & William M. Runyan; Arr. D. Kartsonakis

***GATHERING HYMN** *"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"* **HYMN NO. 504**

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship;* Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fort.

***SENDING HYMN** *"How Great Thou Art"* **HYMN NO. 856**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain*

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain*

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989; Text © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved. (ASCAP)

***DISMISSAL**

A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

R Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"He Is Able to Deliver Thee" by William A. Ogden

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. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" ~Music: John B. Dykes; Lyrics: Latin Hymn, 12th Century

***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.

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.

***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…Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

R Amen.

*PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R And also with you.

FIRST COMMUNION RECOGNITION

SPECIAL MUSIC *"The Rock Medley"* arr. By Mosie LIster ***Chancel Choir***

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the
house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made
with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of
Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. 33 But
this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the
LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their
God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to
each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the
greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

P You are indeed holy…for as often as we eat from 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 (*sung*) Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come, come again.**

P Send now your Holy Spirit…all glory and honor is yours, now and forever.

R Amen.

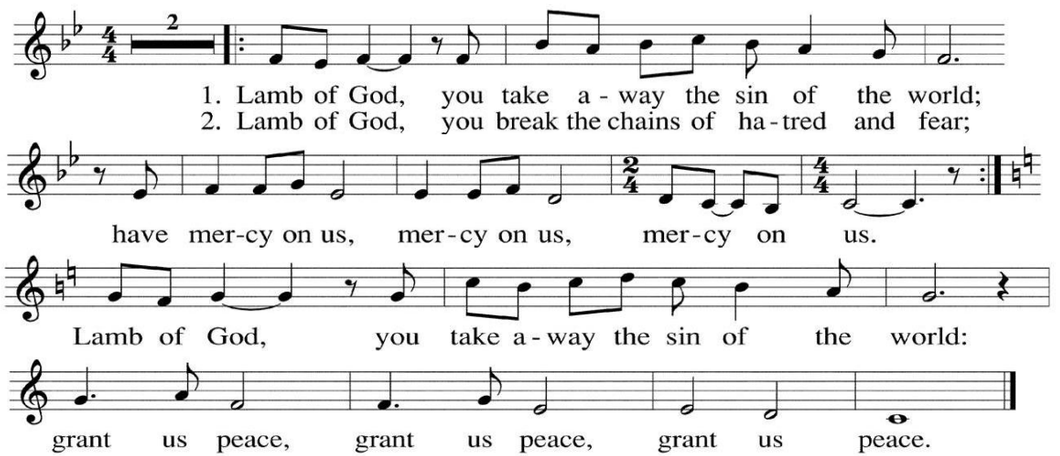
*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.**

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



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

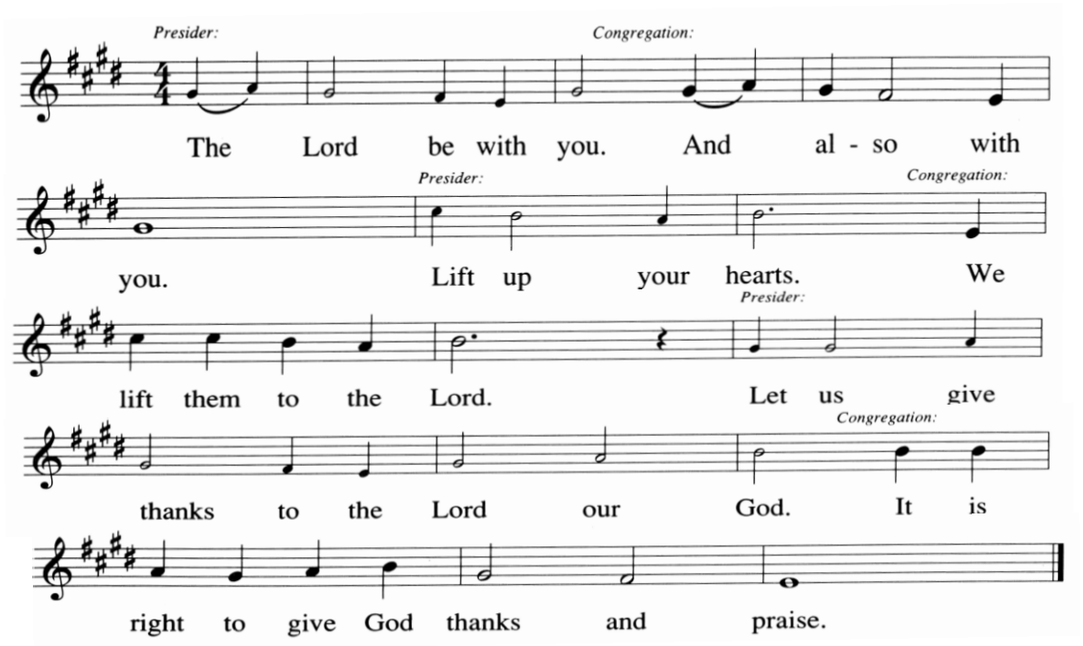
Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

MEAL

OFFERING *"My Faith Still Holds"* by William J. Gaither & Gloria Gaither

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



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.

L The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46 ***(read responsibly)***

L God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

R Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

L though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

R There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

L God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

R The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.

L The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

R Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

L He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

**R "Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."**

L The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the
law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held
accountable to God. 20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds
prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. 21 But now,
apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested
by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of
Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned
and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift,
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a
sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to
demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed
over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to demonstrate at the present time his
own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the
faith of Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what
kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that
a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L The word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *"Lord, Let My Heart Be…"* **HYMN NO. 512**

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil. ***REPEAT***

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950; Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the 8th Chapter.

R Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL John 8:31-36**

31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my
word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will
make you free." 33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have
never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made
free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a
slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the
son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free
indeed.

P The gospel of the Lord.

R Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *"Martin Luther and Dark Days"* ***Rev. Jonathan Mollenkopf***

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your…"* **HYMN NO. 517**

Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

***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.