

The Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church

May 2026



“His Grace Just Keeps Rolling In!”

I was blessed to be with the good and faithful people of Zion for worship on Easter as well as the Sunday after. The next three weeks were spent chasing grandkids and then spending a week in Puerto Vallarta with my wife accompanying my sister as she discerns the future of her time-share after losing her husband to cancer last summer.

It was her first trip back after his passing and her choices include keeping it, selling, or giving it to her adult kids. I think she is going to keep it. And I believe her motivations are due not to the luxury of the location, the fine cuisine, entertainment, golden beaches, excursions, or even staff waiting on her hand and foot. But I sense that in part it's because the waves just keep rolling in.

In our time together we laid in lawn chairs on the Pacific beach under the shade of a palm branch hut as we watched the non-stop ocean waves just keep rolling in. There was no pause to them. Oh, some were two to three feet tall as they met the sand, while some came in at only two to three inches high softly sloshing on the shore. Yet no doubt, the waves were ceaseless— they just kept rolling in.

God's grace and love are never ending. Lamentations 3 promises, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end.” Whatever season you may be in or one day find yourself in, rest assured that God never quits offering His amazing grace and marvelous mercy to those who call upon Him. Be it the loss of a loved one as with my sister, financial woes, family issues, marital stress, rejection, temptation, or ill health— our Lord keeps bringing it and His love never fails to either gently splash up against our toes or even knock us off our feet whereby we know and trust that He will never leave us or forsake us, or give up on us.

So just as I anticipate that my sister will hold onto this ocean front-time share in part just because of the beauty of the constant waves— so may we hold onto the One who holds onto us, as His grace just keeps rolling in.

Amen? Amen!

+Interim Pastor Bobby Vitek



Council Corner

May 2026

Change and progress are coming after a stretch of time that required a lot of patience and perseverance. Psalm 42:5 says “Why am I discouraged? Why am I restless? I should trust you, Lord. I will praise you again because you helped me.” And Galatians 6:9 says “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

We may soon have a new pastor after hard work from the Call Committee and fierce dedication by the congregation, all working to heal together and move forward. Psalm 30:2 says “Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.” Let’s all do our best to support the new pastor and his family.

As the Foundations Academy moves on to a new place to better support growth, we will be working to develop an after school program in the Grace House. This will be a wonderful opportunity to provide a much needed service to the community and a place for our Children’s Center kids as they graduate from preschool.

Luther said “Now the church is not wood and stone, but the company of people who believe in Christ.” And “God doesn’t love us because of our worth; we are of worth because God loves us.” So let’s move forward ‘in the company of people who believe in Christ’ and be worthy ‘because God loves us.’

Leslie North
Council President

Contact us!

Website: www.zionkerrville.org

Staff:

Financial Secretary- Diane Hartjen
Church Secretary- Johnna Taylor
Children, Youth, and Family
Worship & Music Director/Choir Director- Judy Johnson
Organist - Helen Steele
Organist/Choir Accompanist - Jonathan Shim
Contemporary Service Director- Dan Stisser
Bell Choir Director- Jim Abbatiello
Children's Center Director- Jessica Russell
Nursery Attendant
Custodian- Freddy Ortegon
Building & Grounds Coordinator - Ray Valero

Church Council Officers

President- Leslie North
Vice President- Tammy Myers
Secretary- Debby Jascur
Treasurer- Eric Roehl
Church Council: zion-council@zionkerrville.org
Interim Pastor: Pastor Bobby Vitek (830-456-0000)

Staff Emails:

Diane Hartjen: finance@zionkerrville.org
Johnna Taylor: office@zionkerrville.org
Jonathan Shim: jonathans@zionkerrville.org
Media Center: mediacenter@zionkerrville.org
Judy Johnson: judyj4819@gmail.com
Dan Stisser: danmusic@zionkerrville.org
Children's Center: children@zionkerrville.org

Representatives

Children's Center- Larry Cattran
Property- Mike Collins
Outreach- Patty Putnam
Worship & Music- Kimber Rhoads
Parish Education - Jana Nolan
Stewardship - John Miller
Safety - Gary Hartjen

Our main purpose for being the church is enabling each person to grow a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Child, Youth, and Family Coordinator

Love Jesus? Love working with youth? Help us build the next generation!

Zion Lutheran Church in Kerrville is seeking a passionate, high-energy Child, Youth & Family Coordinator to join our team!

If you are a faithful leader with a heart for discipling youth and a knack for organizing communities, we want to hear from you. This is a unique opportunity to:

- Lead Bible-centered youth ministry & family outreach.
- Recruit and inspire volunteers to serve the Kingdom.
- Grow our mission in the heart of Texas.

Details: 24-30 hrs/week | Part-time (Full-time potential) | Based in Kerrville, TX.

Check out the full description and apply today at <https://zlckerrvilletx.org/job-opportunities/>

Questions? Send your resume and a letter of interest to office@zionkerrville.org

Worship & Music Notes

Judy Johnson

This year, May is filled with special days on the church year calendar. Since Easter is a “floating” holiday, these special Sundays don’t always occur in May, but this year they do, especially since May has 5 Sundays. Of course, Mothers’ Day is not a religious holiday, but we still honor our mothers during worship, as well as those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom on Memorial Day.

On the church calendar, we celebrate Christ’s Ascension on May 17, Pentecost on May 24, and the Holy Trinity on May 31. Then you throw Graduation into the mix and you have a very busy month!

Also, the Bell Choir will ring their last anthem on May 10, and the Chancel Choir will sing their last anthem on May 17. I always let the choir repeat their favorite and they chose “You Raise Me Up.” Very appropriate for Ascension Sunday, yes?!

As we begin to think about a new shepherd for Zion, we reflect on the leadership and pastoral care that Pastor Bobby Vitek has provided. We can’t thank him enough for coming to us in our time of need. As a staff member and worship leader, I want to say what a joy it is working with him. His positivity, wonderful sermons, love for the Lord, organizational and people skills are over the top. What a blessing you are, Pastor Bobby!

Since our 2 choirs take a summer break, we are looking for musicians to fill the offering slot. Please let us know when you can sing or play during June, July and August. We like to plan ahead so don’t be shy! Also be thinking about joining our choirs for the year ahead.

Blessings from your Worship & Music staff!

Thank You

Linda and I are so thankful for the support of our Zion family as we navigated challenging medical issues the last few months. We praise God for the way you have blessed us with your cards, calls, prayers, meals and flowers.

God Bless,

Hank & Linda Johnson

May Worship Assistants

Liturgists: Brenda Abbatiello, Judy Johnson, Carol Greene, Kimber Rhoads, Jonathan Shim

Ushers: Darla Pfiester, Patty Putnam, Beverly Fischer, Raylene Sherbourne

May 3	9:00 a.m.	Reader: John Nielsen
	11:00 a.m.	Reader: Katy Kappel
		Altar Flowers: Katy Kappel
		Children's Message: Shelby Balser
May 10	9:00 a.m.	Reader: Gary Hartjen
	11:00 a.m.	Reader: Patty Putnam
		Altar Flowers: Lane & Johnna Taylor
		Children's Message: Darla Pfiester
May 17	9:00 a.m.	Reader: Henrietta Keener
	11:00 a.m.	Reader: Amy Jones
		Altar Flowers: Tom & Candy Hakeman
		Children's Message: Pastor Donna Zipp
May 24	9:00 a.m.	Reader: Larry Cattran
	11:00 a.m.	Reader: Donna Shirley
		Altar Flowers: Lane & Johnna Taylor
		Children's Message: Carol Greene
May 31	9:00 a.m.	Reader: Shelby Balser
	11:00 a.m.	Reader: Jerrielee Rust
		Altar Flowers: Tom & Candy Hakeman
		Children's Message: Darla Pfiester



Happy Birthday!

5/01 Jonathan Morrison	5/07 Stephen Frushour	5/14 Justin Rubio	5/24 Kay Linehan
5/02 Carol Greene	5/08 Dylan Ellis	5/14 Owen Smith	5/24 Phylisia Rendon
5/02 Norm Krutsinger	5/08 Edgar Gutz	5/16 Patti Glass	5/25 Susan Dennis
5/04 Carlos Perez	5/08 Jo Havel	5/18 Cordelia Nolan	5/26 Rose Gipson
5/05 Bob Joines	5/10 Debra McLerran	5/18 Carol White	5/29 Ruth Hinkle
5/05 Oda Van Winkle	5/11 Candy Hakeman	5/21 Keith Poole	5/30 Kay Brown
5/06 Shirley Smith	5/11 Willow Hannemann	5/21 Marian Spears	5/30 Cassie Myers
5/07 Mitch Fischer	5/13 Dan Stisser	5/23 Mark Bernhard	5/30 T.J. Wheatcraft
			5/31 Daniel Bigott

WOMEN of the WORD

COMING EVENTS: May 16th : All Zion women are invited to a Ladies Tea at 2 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Gloria Louk will give a presentation on Genealogy. Table hosts are needed; please contact Bibi Brown at (830) 377-1263. Be sure to watch for more details. Tuesday, May 19th: Game Night will be 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please bring a snack to share. May 30th – Twilight Ministry Ladies Conference 10:00am – 4:00 p.m. at the Happy State Bank Event Center. More information to follow. On Friday, June 5th WOW will have a field trip to the Beloved Gallery in Marble Falls to view artist Akiane Kramarik’s paintings. Her painting, “Prince of Peace” of Jesus Christ, was introduced in the book, Heaven is for Real. Admission is free! Please watch the church slides for more information.

The Ladies’ Breakfast Fellowship Group meets the second Monday each month at 9:00 at Cracker Barrel. Please come and join us! The WOW Board’s next meeting will be on May 11th at 11:30 in the conference room. All ladies are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, May 5th - **Martha Circle** meets at noon in the conference room with a Joyce Meyer study. Please text Brenda Abbatiello at (830) 496-6608 for more information.

Thursday, May 7th – **Ruth/Rebecca Circle** meets at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room. Their study is A Woman Jesus Can Teach by Alice Matthews.

Thursday, May 14th – **Deborah Circle** meets at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room. Their study is Overlooked and Overwhelmed by Tara Sun.

Magdalene Evening Circle meets the first and third Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Zion Cares Ministry: If you know of someone who might benefit from a casserole or has other needs, please contact the church office.

Special thanks to those ladies that shared their skills at last month’s Teach & Learn Craft Fellowships.

Zion Men Of the Bible

Zion Men of the Bible (ZMOB) meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Our main focus is to study the Bible and discuss how it affects our daily lives. Our meetings start with a light dinner at 6:30pm followed by discussion of any special activities that are being planned. Such activities include service projects and organizing special events like the Classic Car Show. The rest of the evening is devoted to Bible study.

Due to the rains in April, the Classic Car Show at Zion has been postponed to Saturday, June 27th from 8:00am – 3:00pm. Other Zion organizations will also be involved with the show serving food, beverages, crafts, prizes, silent auction, and a raffle. This event has previously drawn large crowds and allows us a great opportunity to show off our beautiful facilities and our love of Jesus. You are encouraged to attend and invite your friends, especially those who enjoy Classic Cars.

ZMOB invites all men to join us for food, fellowship, and the opportunity to go deeper into God’s Word. ZMOB welcomes non-ZLC members to join us. Future meetings are May 5, 19 and June 2, 16. For more information, please contact John Nielsen at jwnielsen2014@icloud.com or 830-928-6758.

May 2026



Every Sunday
 8:30 Prayer Cell
 9:00 Traditional Worship
 10:10 Children's Sunday School
 11:00 Contemporary Worship

All activities are subject to change

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	2 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
3 Communion 9 & 11 Services 10:15 Congregational Meeting 10:10 Lutheranism 101 for kids 6:00 NA	4 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	5 9:00 LWR quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 12:00 Mary/Martha 6:00 Magdalene Circle 6:30 Men's Group	6 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 Potluck for No Reason 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 AA	7 9:00 LWR Sewing 9:30 Ruth/Rebecca 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 4:00 Violin classes 5:30 Thrivent Seminar 6:00 Praise Team 7:00 Nar-Anon	8 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	9 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
10 Mother's Day 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Lutheranism 101 for kids 6:00 NA	11 9:00 Women's Fellowship Breakfast 11:30 WOW Board Mtg 12:00 Women's AA 5:00 Zion Cares 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	12 9:00 LWR Quilting 9:00 Holy Casserollers 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 12:00 Staff Appreciation Lunch 5:30 Church Council	13 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 VBS Planning Meeting 7:00 AA	14 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 2:00 Deborah Circle 4:00 Violin classes 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	15 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	16 10:00 AA 10:00 NA 2:00 Ladies Spring Tea
17 Ascension Communion 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Lutheranism 101 for kids 6:00 NA	18 9:00 Hill Country Quilt Guild 11:30 ZLCC Board Mtg 12:00 Womens AA 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	19 9:00 LWR Quilting 9:00 Hill Co. Quilt Guild 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA Meeting 6:00 Magdalene Circle 6:30 Men's Group	20 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 7:00 AA	21 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 4:00 Violin classes 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	22 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	23 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
24/ Pentecost 31 Trinity 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Lutheranism 101 for kids 6:00 NA	25 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	26 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA	27 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 7:00 AA	28 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 4:00 Violin classes 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	29 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	30 10:00 Twilight Ministries 10:00 AA 10:00 NA



Texas District

Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



HARVEST
WORKERS

Who's Sitting in Your Pews?

Years ago, a pastor friend of mine invited me to consult with his congregation on vision and long-range planning. During this process, two younger men stepped up, full of energy and new ideas. Both felt called to do more than fill a pew. They were eager to help lead worship, give the announcements, and even willing to preach on occasion to mix things up. Here were two men already in the church who were ready to grow and go!

I could not have been more thrilled. What an opportunity my friend had to invest in and mentor these two young men! And, in my mind, one or both might end up being a pastor someday. But my friend was not thrilled. He didn't doubt the men or their gifts. Instead, he confessed that he couldn't get past wondering what people would think. He was insecure about his own role. He said, "If these young men are leading and preaching, people will start to wonder what we are paying the pastor for."

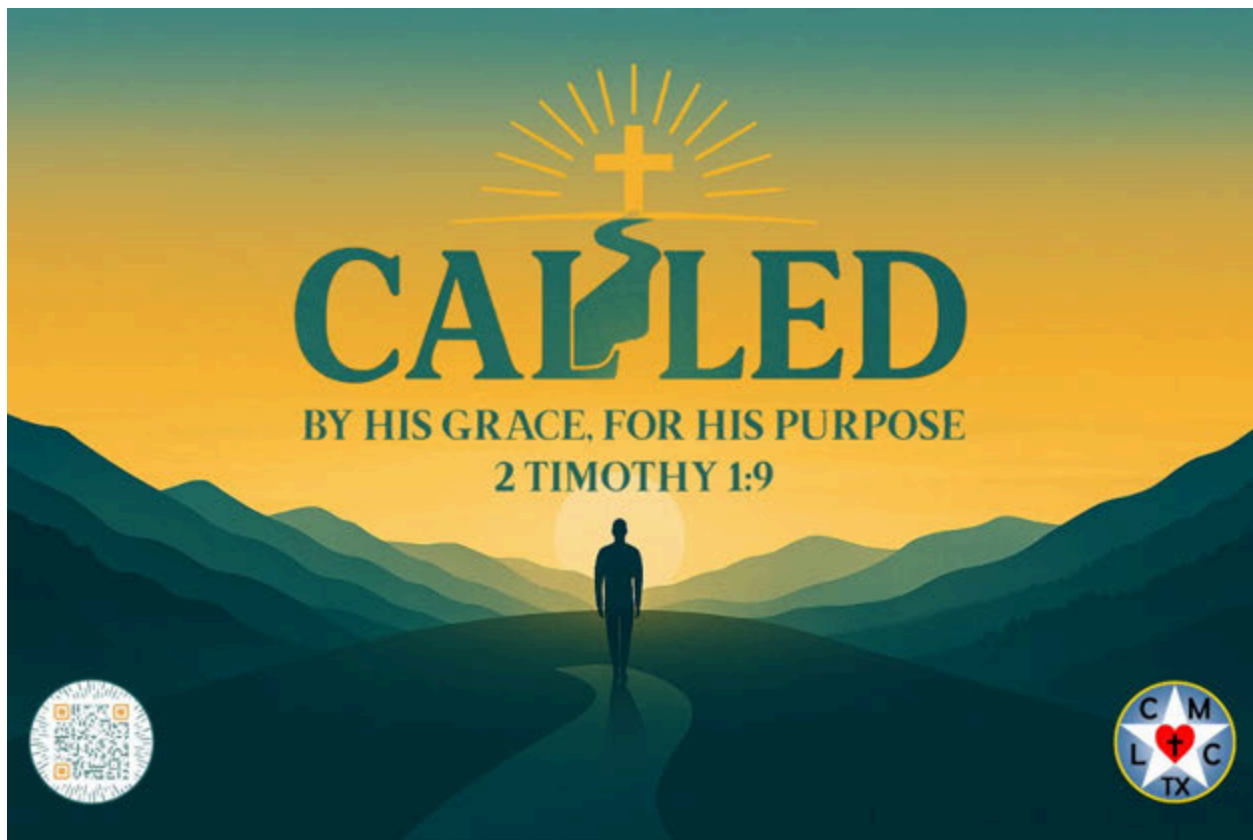
I have never forgotten that conversation. My friend wasn't a bad pastor; he was a faithful shepherd. But his confession made me think about all the fears pastors have that stifle leadership development: the over-functioning pastor who artificially limits how much ministry laity can do; the large-church pastor who keeps staff from attending LCMC retreats or gatherings to prevent them from connecting with others which could lead them to be called away; or the driven pastor who only develops his or her own people to serve only that congregation.

I understand these fears because in my years of pastoring congregations, I confess that I, too, was focused on raising up leaders for my own local congregation only. I did not have a Kingdom mindset. Like many driven pastors, I developed tunnel vision focusing on my church's mission, and lost sight of a broader Kingdom mission. Pastors need the prayer, support, and encouragement of congregations to equip leaders for Kingdom mission.

Leadership development is not just a pastor problem to solve. It is something the whole congregation is called into. In 2 Timothy 1:9, Paul reminds Timothy that God has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began. God's calling is not ours to dispense or withhold. The Lord of the harvest calls, equips, and sends. Our job is never to limit the call but to pray for it, look for it, see it, bless it, and help it grow.

So, who is sitting in your pews? Who is God already calling, already gifting, already nudging toward greater service in his Kingdom? And what fears might be keeping your congregation or pastor from seeing them, blessing them, and sending them? What a joy it is to equip and release leaders for mission and ministry in God's Kingdom!

Our 2026 LCMC Texas District Annual Gathering is July 24-25 in New Braunfels, and our theme is CALLED, based on 2 Timothy 1:9. Register by June 30 for early-bird pricing at www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering. Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.



Join us for Annual Gathering 2026

"He has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began." -2 Timothy 1:9 CSB

We come together for great food and fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ to learn about ministry opportunities, receive powerful teaching, and worship the Most Awesome God!



FRIDAY & SATURDAY

July 24-25, 2026



**SAINT PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
New Braunfels, TX

**MORE INFO &
REGISTRATION
COMING SOON!**



Website

www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering



Phone Number

512-942-7776

NAVIGATING Your Finances

Before, During, and

After **RETIREMENT**



Thursday,

May 7th, 2026

5:30 PM

Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall

624 Barnett Street, Kerrville, TX 78028

A meal will be provided.

RSVP To Thrivent Cecilia Conlee (210) 735-1130 by April 27th, 2026

Tax Planning

ADAM TOSTADO

Accountant & Tax Manager at A
Tostado Corporation

Social Security

OSCAR GARCIA

Owner of your Social Security
Strategies

Retirement Income

DANNY DEAN & BRADLEY DEAN

Wealth Advisor at Thrivent Heart of
Texas Associates

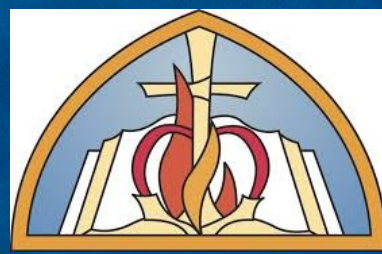
Asset Protection & Legal Affairs

TODD MARQUARDT

President & Managing Attorney
at Marquardt Law Firm

Host: Zion Lutheran Church

Benefitting: Youth, Women and Men in Faith



- Free Parking
 - Free Admittance
 - Food Concession
 - Indoor restrooms
- Donations Accepted

**RED
CAR**

WHITE



**BLUE
SHOW**

Divisions/Award Levels

- Pre-50's Original(1-3)
- 50's On up Original (1-3)
- Pre 2000's Muscle Car (1-3)
- 2000's On Up Muscle (1-3)
- Hot Rod (1-3)
- Project Car (1-3)
- Off Road (1-3)
- Rat Rod (1-3)
- Motorcycle (1-3)
- People's ChoiceAward1

Registration:

Early Registration:

\$25 per vehicle-All Divisions

On-site Registration: 7:30 a.m.

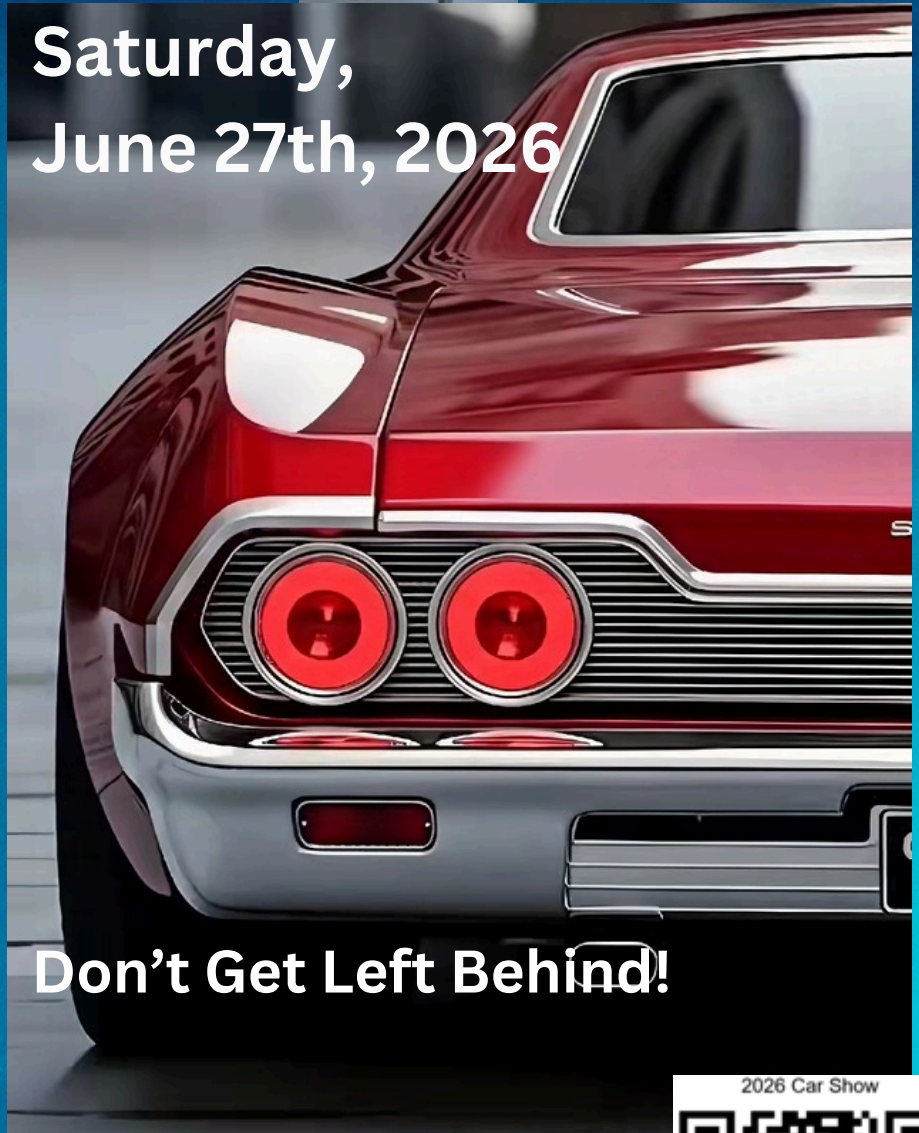
\$30 per vehicle - All Divisions

Event Begins at 8 AM



Silent Auction Items

**Saturday,
June 27th, 2026**



Don't Get Left Behind!

**Early Register
Here** →



Zion Lutheran Church

624 Barnett Street, Kerrville, Texas 78028

What's Happening at Zion Lutheran Children's Center

ZLCC is an outreach ministry of Zion Lutheran Church; serving the Kerrville Community by providing Quality Education in a Nurturing Christian Environment.

May Birthdays

Sailor Nova
Cruz
Joslyn
Jason



Curriculum

Week 1: Shades of Spring
Week 2: Magical Moms
Week 3: Lions, Tigers and Bears
Week 4: Lovely Ladybugs



Bible Focus

Week 1: It's All Good
Week 2: Think Good Things
Week 3: Telling the Truth
Week 4: Encourage One Another

Special Days In May:

May 8th: Muffins with Mom (7:30-9:00 a.m.)

Happy Mother's Day!

May 22nd and 25th: ZLCC is Closed



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13



You are cordially invited to join us on Sunday for Church!

Services

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School is at 10 a.m.



All are welcome!



Foundations Christian Academy

As we enter the month of May, we find ourselves reflecting on a year filled with growth, perseverance, and God's abundant blessings. From the first day of school to now, we have seen our students grow not only academically, but spiritually as they continue to deepen their walk with Christ. This season brings both celebration and transition. We look forward to honoring the hard work of our students, especially our graduating class, as they step into the next chapter of their lives. We are reminded of Jeremiah 29:11, that the Lord has plans to prosper and guide each of them in His perfect will. Thank you to our families and supporters for partnering with us throughout this year. Your prayers, encouragement, and commitment have made a lasting impact on our school community. As we finish strong, we give all glory to God for what He has done and look ahead with faith to what is still to come.

Important Dates:

- ★ 5/11 Alexis Birthday
- ★ 5/12 Steven's Birthday
- ★ 5/20 Last Day of School
- ★ 5/22 Graduation at 3pm



Student Spotlight

For always lending a helping hand and being her best possible self!!!

Alexis Naismith

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

Contact Information for the School
Email: faofkerrville@gmail.com
Phone number: (830)370-1828

English:

Writing essays

Math:

Graphing linear equations

History:

Learning about Russia and its people

Science:

Natural Disasters

Bible:

We will reflect on God's faithfulness and the importance of finishing strong. In Bible class this month, we're focusing on perseverance, gratitude, and trusting God's plan for our future

As we move into the coming year, our school will be stepping into a very different season. With changes in our location, we will be continuing in a much smaller capacity, creating a more intimate learning environment while we seek what God has next. While this brings certain limitations and challenges, it also reflects a continued commitment to pour into the students God has entrusted to us, even when the path forward requires sacrifice and faith.

We hold tightly to Proverbs 3:5-6, trusting that the Lord is directing each step, even when the road looks different than expected. Our mission has not changed—only the setting in which we carry it out.

