

The Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church

June 2026



So we've got ourselves a pastor! Yahoo!now what?

It's probably a good idea to first know what a pastor is and what his job is; then we can talk about "now what".

A pastor is a disciple, an apprentice, of Jesus. That makes him the same as every other person who has faith in the Son of God. What makes him different is explained in a helpful way with what my karate sensei told me years ago. "Sensei," he said, "means 'one who has come before.'" A pastor is one who has come before, and is therefore in some respects ahead of others - but not better in the sense of more holy, righteous, or worthy.

A pastor is supposed to be ahead of others because of his years of training, study, experiences, and loyalty to the vocation. With this under his belt he does what Jesus, his Master, has commanded. We read this in Ephesians 4.11-14. "Christ the Lord . . . gave some as pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ . . . so that we are not children, tossed by false teaching, deceived by men." The pastor's job is to help the sheep of Jesus (John 21.17) be equipped for service, know Jesus fully, be wise to evil, and speak the truth in love.

There are also a bunch of things a pastor is to not do. Titus 1.5-11 gives one helpful list of to-dos and not-to-dos. 2 Timothy 4.1-5 is another helpful list which begins with the most important task: preach the word. But what does "preach the word" mean? I recently found a helpful illustration in a sermon by a 20th Century Welsh Protestant minister. In a story about the founding of the United Nations and pressure on the Christian church to give her approval, someone said, "It is not the business of the church to discover world unity and order but to witness to the finished work of Christ."

In other words, it is not the work of the church, or her pastor, to address every symptom of this evil world. It is our task to expose the disease itself and proclaim the one and only cure who is Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, reigning, and returning. There is great pressure on the church today to give comfort and care to the symptoms of the disease of sin and evil and Satan. However, the Master called his church to a greater love; the love which believes, speaks, and lives not a salve for earthly hurts but a cure for eternal separation from God.

The constitution of Zion Lutheran Church describes how this is done. In Article III, it says that the purpose of the pastor will be to preach and teach the Word of God (i.e. give people Jesus - John 1.1-3), and to challenge and equip saints to care for others (i.e. give people Jesus). Jesus is no mere band-aid, NSAID, or even surgery. Jesus is the crucifixion and death of our sins and the resurrection and life of our new life. This bold mission shatters the assumptions of the world and the hopes of the evil one by speaking, without shame, the Gospel which is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1.16)

So that's a pastor and his job in a nutshell. Now what?

Again, the constitution of Zion helps us out. With the pastor doing his God-given tasks, the church "attends and participates, assists the pastor in care, witness, faithfulness, love, and they tithe financially (I might add: tithe also in time and talents).

Basically "now what" is "Let's get to it!" "Let's keep it going and watch Jesus be elevated through our apprenticeship of him." Let's blow the doors off of (1) attendance, (2) bringing people to church with us, (3) loving our church friends, (4) loving our neighbors and community. Let's have our love for Jesus be the best un-kept secret in town!

Pastor Tim Sternberg



Council Corner

June 2026

Big changes! Sad to see Pastor Bobby leave us. We have been so blessed to have his help and comfort during a long stretch of challenges. Hebrews 10:36 says “You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.”

Ben Franklin said “Change is the only constant in life. One’s ability to adapt to those changes will determine your success in life.”

God has not promised there will be no changes or challenges. God promises to always be with us and give us the strength to face those changes and challenges. The past year and a half has shown us how strong we are as a congregation. Challenges are learning opportunities that God provides so that we are ready to receive the good things ahead.

Going forward with Pastor Tim will be a new opportunity for him to learn about us, and for us to learn about him. I am sure we will all be blessed by each other. Let’s put our best face forward and be involved in the changes and new road ahead.

Leslie North
Council President

Jeremiah 29:11 “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 hope and a future .”

Thank You, Zion!

A very special thanks to the Zion congregation for the in-between services celebration that was planned and so well attended on May 24. You went out of your way with the flowers center piece, mints, nuts, breakfast goodies, and especially the LEMON cake! In addition, the quilters presented an “I Spy Quilt” for grandparents and grandkids floor entertainment! There were also tons of cards and other special gifts. No doubt, I feel the love!

My heart is beyond grateful for the fifteen months that I was blessed to team with you as your part-time, limited interim pastor. In our time together I came to truly love the congregation and embrace the journey of faith. We worshipped and served, baptized and buried, celebrated and mourned, laughed and cried, ate great food and ate even more great food! (Zion has some outstanding cooks and wonderfully unique food ministries)! There are so many amazing servant-hearted people at Zion as well as new friends in Christ that were made!

I was truly honored to serve Zion Lutheran Church for this time, and as Ecclesiastes 3 states, “there is a time to be born and a time to die.” I would add, “there’s a time to begin as an interim pastor, and a time that it ends.” Pastor Tim Sternberg will serve you well as your new full-time pastor. Pray for, love on, work with, support, encourage, and team up with your new shepherd as the Great Shepherd leads in your new season of being and making disciples! God bless you all, and continue to hold onto the One who holds onto you!

+Pastor Bobby Vitek

Contact us!

Website: www.zionkerrville.org

Staff:

Financial Secretary- Diane Hartjen
Church Secretary- Johnna Taylor
Interim Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator-
Darla Pfiester
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-vacant
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
Pastor Tim Sternberg: Pastor-Tim@zionkerrville.org

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

It's a great time for Hallmark....Mother's Day, graduations, Father's Day, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, holidays, retirement....there's a card for every occasion. As I sort through my options, I find one that looks lovely, but the inside reads: "Though I don't say how much I care, my love for you is always there."

So what's so hard about saying those words to ones we love? My children hear me end every phone conversation with "Love you." As we celebrate Father's Day this month, let us also say those words to our Heavenly Father.

***I love You, Lord...and I lift my voice
To worship You, O my soul rejoice.
Take joy, My King, in what You hear,
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.***

Many thanks to our Chancel Choir and Bell Choir members for another great year of service music! Let me know if you would like to sing/play during worship during the summer months.

We now move forward with our new pastor, Dr. Tim Sternberg. The music & worship staff has met with him and we look forward to his leadership here at Zion. Thank you, Pastor Tim, for accepting our call!

Have a safe and relaxing summer, continuing to make worship a priority. It's a great way to tell the Lord you love Him!

Christian Alliance Ministry (CAM)

Non Perishable Food Drive

Zion Lutheran Church is collecting non perishable food for CAM. Items needed are cereal, peanut butter, jelly, mustard, ketchup, syrup, spaghetti sauce, granola bars, nutrigrain bars, juice boxes, canned vegetables, tuna, canned chicken, cooking oil, Bisquick (add water only), pancake mix (add water only), and snacks for kids. Also needed are toiletries like deodorant, shampoo and soap. A collection bin is located near the chapel.

June Worship Assistants

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

Ushers: Tom & Gay Klaener and Gary & Penny Reichenau

June 7	9:00 a.m.	Reader:	Gloria Louk
	11:00 a.m.	Reader:	Katy Kappel
		Altar Flowers:	Lane & Johnna Taylor
		Children's Message:	Pastor Tim Sternberg
June 14	9:00 a.m.	Reader:	Eric Roehl
	11:00 a.m.	Reader:	Amy Jones
		Altar Flowers:	Delbert & June Oehler
		Children's Message:	Pastor Tim Sternberg
June 21	9:00 a.m.	Reader:	Karen Jones
	11:00 a.m.	Reader:	Helen Johnson
		Altar Flowers:	Karen Jones
		Children's Message:	Pastor Tim Sternberg
June 28	9:00 a.m.	Reader:	Sybil Marsh
	11:00 a.m.	Reader:	Tammy Callcott
		Altar Flowers:	Tom & Candy Hakeman
		Children's Message:	Pastor Tim Sternberg



Happy Birthday!

6/01	Landon Clary	6/06	Ronald Krueger	6/17	Beck Gipson	6/22	Bethany Brown
6/01	Curtis Clute	6/07	Sandra Stisser	6/18	Katy Kappel	6/23	Tom Myers
6/01	Daniel Haverlah	6/08	Rebecca Priess	6/19	Elizabeth Bryant	6/23	Helen Steele
6/03	Thomas Bryant	6/08	Gladys Rock	6/19	Roger Lampman Jr.	6/24	June Oehler
6/03	Cooper Wehmeyer	6/13	Lexi Callcott	6/19	Rick Louk Jr.	6/26	Jana Nolan
6/03	Bonnie Zysko	6/13	A.J. Raso	6/19	Christopher Platt	6/27	Evelyn Smith
6/04	Vicki Mielke	6/15	Bobby Wilke	6/19	Gerd Rohleder	6/27	Billy Widner Jr.
6/05	Mark Bigott	6/16	Donna Jenschke	6/19	Evan Salinas	6/29	Tom Hakeman
				6/20	Edith McCanless	6/29	Sherri Walters

WOMEN of the WORD

COMING EVENTS:

*The Car Show Bake & Craft sale will be held on Saturday, June 27th from 8:00 to 4:00 pm in the fellowship hall. We need baked goods, crafts, and volunteers to help with selling our goods. More information to follow. A big thank you to the ladies who shared their skills in April at the Teach & Learn Craft fellowship to help us get ready for the Car Show.

*A big thank you to all the ladies who hosted a table and brought finger foods to share at the May Ladies Tea. Special thanks to Gloria Louk for giving a great presentation on Genealogy. We had a wonderful time!

*Special thanks to the Twilight Ministry and Zion's praise team for the inspiring Ignite Ladies' Conference held on May 30th at the Happy State Bank Event.

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 September 14 at 11:30 in the conference room. All ladies are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, June 2nd - 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.

Ruth/Rebecca Circle will take a summer break and meet again on Thursday, September 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room. Their study is [A Woman Jesus Can Teach](#) by Alice Matthews.

Thursday, June 11th - 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.

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.

June 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 Life Line Screening 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	2 9:00 LWR quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 12:00 Martha Circle 6:00 Magdalene Circle 6:30 Men's Group	3 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 Potluck for No Reason 7:00 AA	4 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 4:00 Violin classes 6:00 Praise Team 7:00 Nar-Anon	5 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	6 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
7 Communion 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Lutheranism 101 for kids 6:00 NA	8 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	9 9:00 LWR Quilting 9:00 Holy Casserollers 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA 5:30 Church Council	10 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 7:00 AA	11 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	12 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	13 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
14 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Lutheranism 101 for kids 6:00 NA	15 9:00 Hill Country Quilt Guild 12:30 ZLCC Board Mtg 12:00 Womens AA 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	16 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	17 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 7:00 AA	18 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	19 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	20 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
21 Communion 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Lutheranism 101 for kids 6:00 NA	22 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	23 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA	24 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 7:00 AA	25 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	26 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	27 ZMOB Car Show 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
28 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Lutheranism 101 for kids 6:00 NA	29 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	30 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA				



Texas District

Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



HARVEST
WORKERS

A Holy Calling

Ever think about what a calling is? Both Christians and non-Christians alike sometimes refer to their career, volunteer work, role, or purpose in their family or social group as a calling. One worldly formula is GIFTS + PASSION + VALUES = CALLING. But as followers of Jesus, how do we understand what it means to be called?

Our theme for the 2026 Texas District Gathering is CALLED, drawn from a single verse penned by the Apostle Paul in his final letter to Timothy, a young pastor whom he has mentored. In 2 Timothy 1:9, Paul writes: “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.” In this single verse, Paul both proclaims the gospel while grounding for us what it means to be called.

Paul begins this verse by articulating that calling cannot be separated from the gospel. Paul writes, “He has saved us and called us...” Our call flows from God’s grace that we have received and not the other way around. No one is called because they have earned it, proved themselves, or have the right credentials. As Paul writes, “not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace.” How often do we look at our past mistakes, our lack of training or experience, or our fear of failure and conclude that God must be calling someone else? But God’s Word is clear: the call has nothing to do with our works, but rests solely on God’s own purpose and grace. God delights in calling ordinary, unfinished people and equipping them as he sends them.

While God starts by calling ordinary people, Paul points out that the call itself is a “holy calling.” The word “holy” is often translated as “set apart; consecrated or dedicated to the Lord.” When God calls an ordinary person to Kingdom service, the call is not merely a career path or volunteer activity that matches their personality or brings them a sense of self-fulfillment. Understood biblically, God’s call is a sacred setting apart for Kingdom purposes. God calls people to all different kinds of mission and ministry, both in our ordinary, day-to-day life as well as out into new mission fields that will stretch our faith.

So, what does this mean for us? I believe that this is a reminder to pay close attention to what God is up to. Ask, “God, what are you up to in my life? How are you calling me to be set apart for particular Kingdom service?” And, this is also a call to pray for God to stir up in others as well. The church can and should be a place where we pray for, encourage, and equip one another to take the steps needed to faithfully respond to how God is calling us.

Friends, God is still calling people of faith into Kingdom service, just as he always has. May we help one another recognize and respond in faith to his holy calling according to his purpose and grace.

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.

COMING SOON

Join us in June for a five week sermon series presented by Pastor Tim Sternberg

A FIVE-WEEK SERMON SERIES

new disciples

Zion Lutheran Church, Kerrville

Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
- MATTHEW 4:19



1	2	3	4	5
WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE	WEEK FOUR	WEEK FIVE
				
What is church?	Love God	What's the Why?	Great Lutheran	Walking

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

CAMPING WITH JESUS

Games

Music

Bible Stories



Crafts

Science

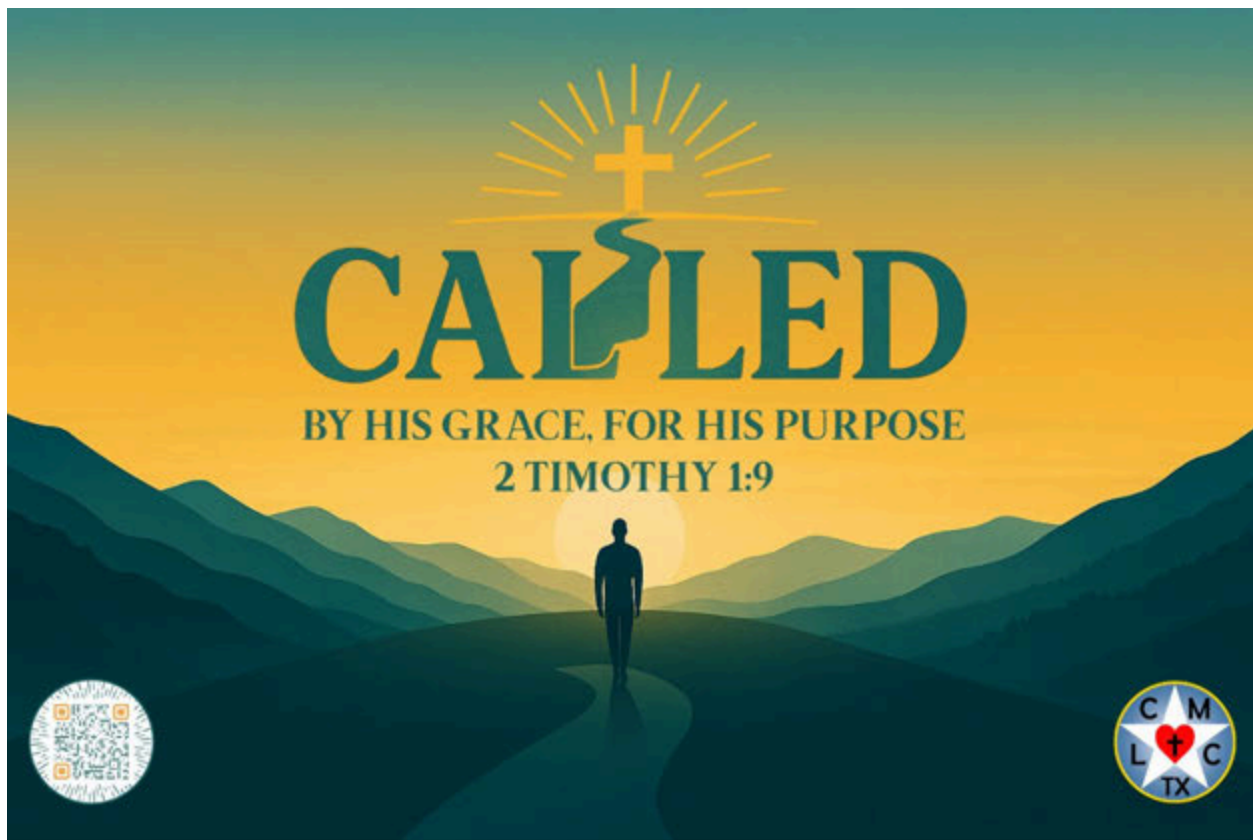
Snacks

VBS

July 13 - 16

8:00 - 12:00





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

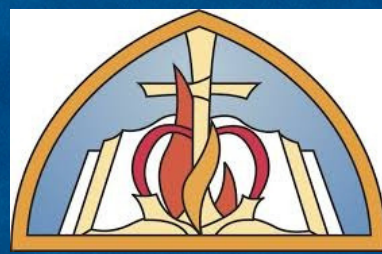


Phone Number

512-942-7776

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.

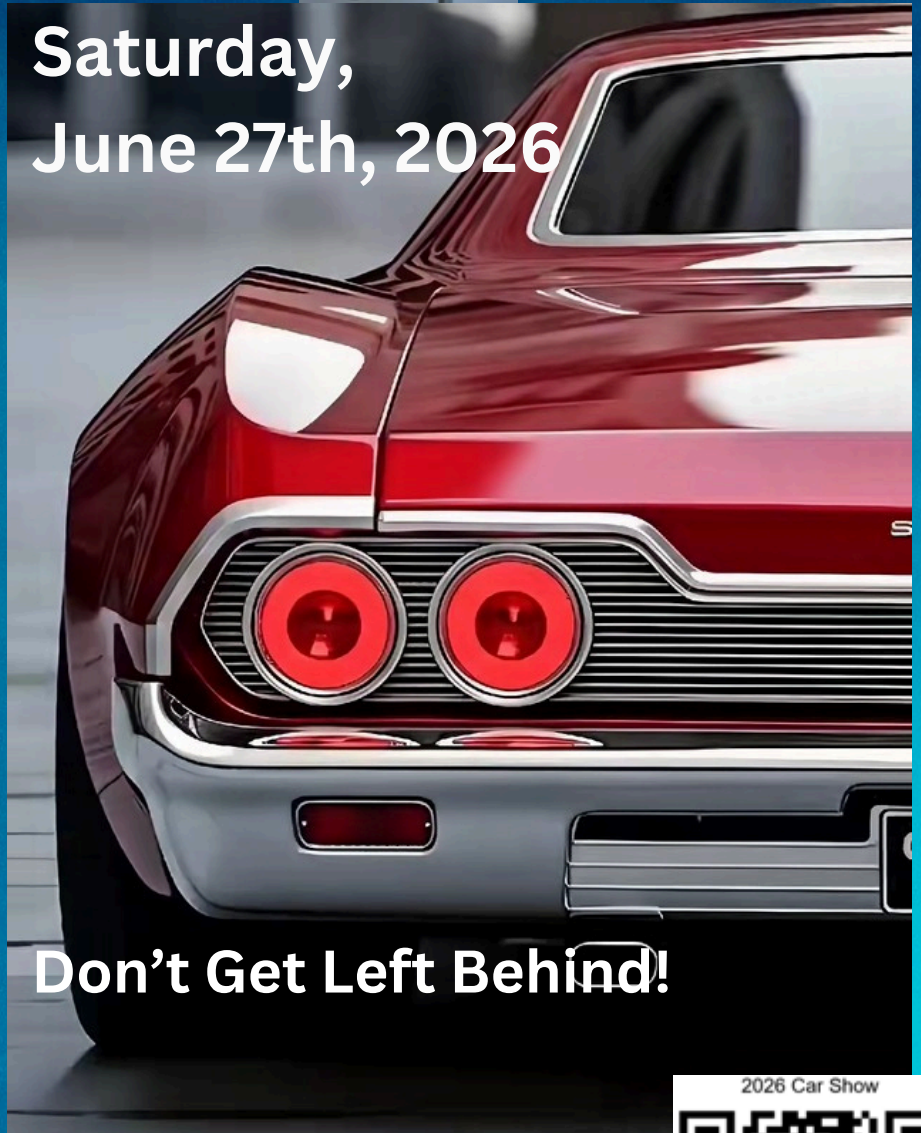
\$30 per vehicle - All Divisions

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.

June Birthdays

Emily
Annalicia
Vincent
Cirilla

Angela



ZLCC June Focuses:

Curriculum

Week 1—Oceans
Week 2—Ocean Life
Week 3—Boats and Ships
Week 4—Fabulous Fathers

Bible Focus

Week 1: In the Beginning
Week 2: Adam and Eve
Week 3: Noah
Week 4: Abraham

Special days in June:

June 19th: Donuts with Dad 7:30—9:00 a.m.



**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart
all your ways submit to Him, and He will
make your path straight.”**

Proverbs 3: 5-6



Zion Lutheran Church services are every Sunday.

Services are held at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m.

God Is Good

