

The Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church

September 2026



Mid-September this year we begin a sermon series on the Lord's Prayer. It is also our re/introduction to the Lutheran Small Catechism. What is this small booklet and why is it important to us?

The Lutheran Small Catechism is a version of the first one that Martin Luther wrote about 500 years ago. So it's been around a while and it has stood the test of time. (And the test of culture, but that's a story for another time.) Martin didn't invent the catechism; there were many around in his day. What Martin did was write a catechism that was useful to the everyday people. It's not some seminary level textbook, it's the basics in an easy to read and digest form. And it's not a text or a Facebook post or an email that is here today and gone in a week. The Lutheran Small Catechism is useful until Satan submits or we are delivered to our eternal life. Here's how Martin said that:

Let all Christians drill themselves in the catechism daily, and constantly put it into practice, guarding themselves with the greatest care and diligence against the poisonous infection of intellectual security or arrogance. Let them constantly read and teach, learn and meditate and ponder. Let them never stop until they have proved by experience and are certain that they have taught the devil to death and have become more learned than God himself and all his saints.

When we say that the catechism is important what we are really saying is that the teachings in it - which are straight from the Bible - are what we need every day for our protection, education, and spiritual growth.

Like most children who learn, when they are older, that their parents actually were smart the whole time, I have learned that Martin's counsel and encouragement were right the whole time. I use the catechism nearly every day. But not because I am a pastor but because I am a Christian! In the catechism are the basics, the foundations of life: prayer, 10 Commandments, God's means of grace in baptism and the Lord's Supper, confession of sins and forgiveness, and the confession of the Christian faith. I pray constantly and the catechism guides me in the Lord's prayer. I confess and I forgive sins every day and the catechism guides me how to do that. I need God's means of grace and the catechism helps me get to them.

There will be catechisms available to all at church. Take one home and use it. Take one and give it to someone who needs it or to someone as a discussion starter about faith and God. Hear God speak to you as you look up the Bible verses that go with each part. This is a gift to you, a gift that keeps on giving, our entire life!

May God our Father continue to bless us that we might bless others!

Pastor Tim Sternberg



Council Corner

September 2026

I like the broad unity of the liturgical churches.... Lutheran, Anglican and Episcopal, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox churches, Methodist, Roman Catholic, and some Presbyterian churches share the liturgical calendar. It is a connection, a unity. If you attend any of them, you will recognize the general rhythm of the service, the creeds, and communion. Many of the liturgical churches focus on stewardship during September.

Stewardship is not just about raising money. Luther said God provides us with everything. We are caretakers, stewards, of all these things God has given us. Stewardship is about using everyone's skills to build the church community. It is also about giving what you are able of financial resources to support church operations, missions, and those less fortunate. Volunteering, being willing to give time and energy to the Church... these are ways we can give back.

September 1522 is when Martin Luther gave the Greek New Testament translation to the ordinary people and completely changed worship and enabled active congregational participation. Luther taught that no pope, bishop, or priest stands higher than any other believer and all Christians have direct and equal access to God and the gospel through Jesus Christ. Having shared information builds unity and strength and makes us better stewards of all of God's gifts.

Corrie Ten Boom said "Be united with other Christians. A wall with loose bricks is not good. The bricks must be cemented together." Being good stewards for God requires unity... working as a team...caring for each other. Zion is an amazing place; let's all keep using our time and talents to cement us together.

Leslie North
Council President

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." — Desmond Tutu

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

Staff Emails:

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Jonathan Shim: jonathans@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.

Job Opportunities @ ZLC Kerrville

Director of Worship and Music

Office Assistant

Nursery Attendant

Child, Youth, and Family Coordinator

Check out the full descriptions 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

Remember the story of the rich young ruler? You know how you've read these Bible stories all your life, when out of nowhere something pops out that you hadn't considered? I've always scratched my head at Jesus' response when the ruler called Him "good teacher." He then replied, "Why do you call me good? Only My father is good." What a humble statement coming from the King of Kings! We could take a lesson from that. How many times have you heard people say "Oh, my goodness!" or that they are a "good person", not realizing they are bragging on their morality, or using that to be comfortable in their eternity?

Next thing the ruler asks: "What must I do to have eternal life?" Not a bad question but theologically wrong. What must he DO? Obviously, he wasn't Lutheran! We have absolutely no assurance of heaven in anything we do, only in what Christ has done. Other religions in this country and around the world depend on things that the followers do to appease their "gods." And most of their "gods" can't lift a finger to respond.

And now the next part....why did the ruler go away sad? Because he realized that he couldn't obey the commandments he claimed to have kept all his life....especially "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." What was his "god"? Money. (Oh no... don't ask me to give that up!) What "gods" do you serve? Money, reputation, job, accomplishments, things, people? We could take a lesson from the widow who gave everything to the Savior who gave everything.

*We give thee but thine own
Whate'er the gift may be
All that we have is thine alone
A trust, O Lord, from thee*

September Worship Assistants

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

Ushers: 9:00 a.m. Gary Hartjen, Tim Tompkins, Jim Motheral, Jackie Gold, Beverly Fischer
11:00 a.m. David Turlington, Hank Johnson, Donna & Bruce Jenschke, Bob Wilke

September 6 9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Henrietta Keener
 11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Helen Johnson
 Altar Flowers: Ralph & Eileen Hunt

September 13 9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Larry Cattran
 11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Sharon Turlington
 Altar Flowers: Diane Stern

September 20 9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Sybil Marsh
 11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Diana Haverlah
 Altar Flowers: Joe & Debra McLerran

September 27 9:00 a.m. **Reader:** Fran Turner
 11:00 a.m. **Reader:** Amy Jones
 Altar Flowers: Roger Lampman

Happy Birthday!



9/02	Ashley Keeny	9/12	Bristol Pfiester	9/25	Melissa Anders
9/05	Shari Borchers	9/12	Alexander Rott	9/25	Brittany Brindle
9/06	Mike Collins	9/13	Sydney Teske-Rumsey	9/25	Karen Kordzik
9/06	Sue Nelms	9/19	Paul Walter	9/25	Dianna Rendon
9/08	Robt Brandon Motheral	9/20	Chris Haverlah	9/27	Marilyn Michel
9/08	Phoebe Nolan	9/22	Patricia Agold	9/27	Carol Mulvihill
9/09	James Wesley Tate	9/22	Darla Pfiester	9/28	Brady Jenschke
9/12	Emma Crews	9/23	Conner Janice	9/29	Alvin Moeller III
9/12	Darlene Kuhler	9/23	Bill Tiemann	9/30	Tommy Johnson

WOMEN of the WORD

COMING EVENTS:

*Please watch the weekly bulletins and church information slides for any future WOW events this summer.

The WOW Board's next meeting will be on Monday, September 14th at 11:30 a.m. in the conference room. All ladies are welcome to attend. The Ladies' Breakfast Fellowship Group meets the second Monday each month at 9:00 a.m. at Cracker Barrel. Please come and join us!

The **Martha Circle** usually meets the first Tuesday of each month. Please text Brenda Abbatiello at (830) 496-6608 for information on September's meeting.

The **Ruth/Rebecca Circle** will meet on Thursday, September 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room. Their new study is Woman of Strength, Living the Best Life Possible for God in This Broken World by Alice Matthews.

The **Deborah Circle** will continue their book study on Overbooked and Overwhelmed by Tara Sun. They will meet on Thursday, September 10th at 2 p.m. in the conference room.

Magdalene Evening Circle meets the first and third Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Their study is Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World by Joanna Weaver.

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

The Flower Ministry could use some more small bud vases.

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 6:30 p.m. 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. Our current study focuses on Steve Murrell's book "Iron Sharpens Iron," taken from Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." This book is designed for small group discussion and discipleship among men, highlighting scripture from several books of the Bible.

ZMOB invites all men to join us for food, fellowship, and the opportunity to go deeper into God's Word. ZMOB also welcomes non-ZLC members to join us. Future meetings are September 1st and 15th. For more information, please contact the church office.

September 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 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 12:00 Martha Circle 6:00 Magdalene Circle 6:30 Men's Group	2 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 Potluck for No Reason 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 AA	3 9:00 LWR Sewing 9:30 Ruth/Rebecca Class 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	4 5:30 Steaks & Stories 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	5 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
6 Communion 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Sunday School for kids 10:15 Adult Sunday School 6:00 NA	7 Labor Day - office closed 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	8 9:00 LWR Quilting 9:00 Holy Casserolers 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 5:30 Church Council	9 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 10:00 Anniversary Committee Meeting 10:00 Sistahs Bible Study 12:00 Flying Solo 12:00 Women's AA 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 AA	10 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Hill Co. Quilt Steering Committee 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 2:00 Deborah Circle 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	11 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	12 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
13 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Sunday School for kids 10:15 Adult Sunday School 6:00 NA	14 9:00 Women's Fellowship Breakfast 11:30 WOW Board Meeting 11:30 ZLCC Board Meeting 12:00 Women's AA 5:00 Zion Cares 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	15 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 6:00 Magdalene Circle 6:30 Men's Group	16 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 10:00 Sistahs Bible Study 12:00 Women's AA 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 AA	17 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	18 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	19 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
20 Communion 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Sunday School for kids 10:15 Adult Sunday School 6:00 NA	21 9:00 Hill Country Quilt Guild 12:00 Womens AA 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	22 9:00 Hill Country Quilt Guild 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA Meeting	23 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 10:00 Sistahs Bible Study 12:00 Women's AA 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 AA	24 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	25 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	26 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
27 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Sunday School for kids 10:15 Adult Sunday School 3:00 Ice Cream Social 6:00 NA	28 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	29 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA	30 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 10:00 Sistahs Bible Study 12:00 Women's AA 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 AA	1 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	2 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	3 10:00 AA 10:00 NA



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



To the Ends of the Earth

Recently I spent three days in meetings with LCMC leaders from across our association. While we discussed many important topics, one stood out from the rest. Service Coordinator Julie Smith and Mike Wind, from our Global Mission Fellowship, put forth this question: What does it really mean for LCMC to become a truly global church?

For most of our history, we have been a largely North American association that included a minority membership of congregations on other continents. We currently have 1049 total congregations with 876 here in North America. Over the past year, global interest in our association has sky-rocketed! For example, Lutheran leaders of more than 1,500 congregations across the African countries of Liberia, Congo, and Nepal have expressed interest in joining our LCMC family. This is a thrilling development, but not without its challenges. In 2001, the 25 charter congregations of LCMC dared to dream of a global church body. Now, 25 years and over 1000 congregations later, we are on the verge of living into that reality in a whole new way!

I appreciated how Mike and Julie named the tension before us: We are now asking questions we have never had to ask ourselves before. But LCMC does not have to become a different association in order to welcome an influx of international congregations because we were designed for that in the beginning and our DNA is strong: We are Free in Christ, Accountable to One Another, Rooted in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, and Working Together to Fulfill Christ's Great Commission. These core values guide how we operate as an association. The challenge before us is to discern which parts of how we operate are essential to the Gospel and which are culturally American. Mike reminded us that our LCMC DNA may get lived out and look different in Uruguay or Myanmar than it does in Texas. I agree with Mike's assessment and therefore do not view these potential new congregations as a threat to who we are, but instead as a gift because of the Gospel taking root in new soil.

And this development is the fruit of faithful mission that began long ago and continues to this day. From Jesus' ascension, He commissioned his disciples to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19) and declared that we would be His witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). For generations, Lutheran missionaries have traveled the world over and proclaimed the Gospel to new people where it has taken root and flourished in ways we can be jealous of. And these recent developments are a gift to our association: we have brothers and sisters the world over that have found us and are interested in joining us in our shared mission!

So how do we LCMC Lutherans in Texas prepare to receive our brothers and sisters abroad? First, we pray for those facing persecution, especially in India, Nepal, and Myanmar. In addition, I would encourage individuals and congregations to build relationships and consider adopting a sister LCMC congregation in a foreign land. And finally, we need to begin opening ourselves to how Lutherans around the world live out our LCMC DNA in a diversity of contexts. A day may soon come when we have far more congregations outside of North America than within. And thanks be to God for the gift of these global congregations.

I'd like to leave you with a final thought from our friend Mike Wind: "Every healthy church should become a blessing beyond itself." Our Texas District mission is to multiply disciples and churches. May we embrace this calling with renewed boldness, encouraged by our international brothers and sisters in Christ.

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.

Sermon Series from Pastor Tim

August 16 - September 13



Coming September 20th

Lord, Teach us to Pray
The Lord's Prayer



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.

September Birthdays

Charlie
Diana
Blakely
Zaydon
Colson

Ms. Jessica

Coming September 20th

Lord, Teach us to Pray

The Lord's Prayer



Curriculum

Week 1: I Am Special

Week 2: My Family

Week 3: My Friends

Week 4: My School

Week 5: My Neighborhood



Bible Focus

Week 1: Jesus Loves Me

Week 2: God Cares About Us

Week 3: Godly Friends

Week 4: God's Word Teaches

Week 5: Love One Another

Special days in September

ZLCC will be closed, September 4th and 7th.

September 13th: Grandparents Day

September 22nd: First Day of Fall



"Gracious words are like honey-comb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."

Proverbs 16:24

Please join us for Sunday Services

9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

All are welcome!

God is Love

Youth and Family Corner

“Families are like branches on a tree – we grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one.” Unknown

God has graced us with a HOT August! We thank Him for all He has done. Our Pot Luck dinner was not only yummy, but a few were blessed with a drawing of gift cards! Next, we participated in the Convoy of Hope and backpacks give away. A special thanks goes to Larry Cattran for his delicious brownies. They saved the day! Our Flying Solo group is growing! We shared memories. It's a blessing to know others feel the same way you do.

Coming up in September, the Pot Luck dinner will be “Fill your plate and play Bingo”. Please help me by bringing a White Elephant Gift, unwrapped please. These will be our winner prizes! It will be fun to see what you pick!

On September 9th Flying Solo will meet at Zion's Kitchen at 12:00. Bring your own lunch! Come join us if you're Solo.

We hold Chapel every Wednesday morning for our Lutheran Children's Center. Ten children have graduated to Kindergarten. We will be sending “Thinking and Praying for You” notes.

In October, we are looking at going to San Antonio to tour the missions. As soon as I can get details, I will put a signup sheet in the narthex if you're interested.

Looking ahead, we are working on Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving, and even Christmas!

May God bless you,

Darla Pfiester



October 11: Cowboy Church Service

October 13: Ribbon Cutting

October 25: Celebration of Faith (125th anniversary)

November 1: All Saints Sunday

