

The Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church

October 2026



Where were you 125 years ago?

I was a glint in my grandfather's eye, I'm told, for 29 years had to pass before my father was born. Having not been around in 1901, I did some historical research. Did you know that in 1901, "Down Under" became a nation? Australia was formerly six British colonies (maybe that's why they have six stars on their flag?) and they federated into one nation on January 1, 1901. I also learned that our cell phones were "born" in 1901. A gentleman named Guglielmo Marconi received, on this side of the pond, a wireless transmission from the U.K. This propelled the development of communication without wires resulting in what we consider today as "normal" communication.

Another notable event happened at latitude 30.051108, longitude -99.136054. A young man (without a horse) named Karl William Friedrich Hans Ernst Ermisch (four middle names????) became the pastor of a mission church called Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Texas Evangelical Lutheran Synod. They had communion that year - TWICE. And over the next dozen years, services were held once, or twice, a MONTH.

How far we have come! My grandfather, through his fourth son, has seven great grand-children and at least four great great grandchildren. There are over 8,000,000,000 hand-held wireless communication devices. And Zion Lutheran Church still has a pastor of German heritage and has communion over 52 times a year in 110 or more services.

Shall we say that God has been faithful? Shall we say that God has provided all good things? Yes we shall! Shall we praise our God for 125 years and over 6,000 worship services? Yes we shall! And we shall do this on the annual celebration of the spark that lit the fire of the Protestant Reformation - October 25, 2026.

So wear your red, bring your friends, come hungry for songs and prayers and praises!

Great is Yahweh, and highly to be praised,
And His greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty deeds.
Men shall speak of the strength of Your fearsome acts.
They shall pour forth the memory of Your abundant goodness,
And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness!

Psalms 145

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

Pastor Tim Sternberg



Council Corner

October 2026

As we approach the 125th Anniversary Celebration and the final quarter of 2026, it seems a good time for a bit of summary.

In March, the Call Committee recommended Pastor Tim Sternberg. The Council agreed to present Pastor Sternberg to the congregation. Over the next couple of months, a package was put together and Pastor Tim was called as our new permanent pastor.

The Grace House was cleared out and the clothing and sundries were all picked up by K*Star. The Grace House is now just a short bit away from being an after school program administered through our Children's Center. Very exciting to have this great outreach for the community.

April and May were "business as usual" with the Prayer Garden work beginning to get underway and advertising for Child, Youth, and Family position and an administrative assistant to begin learning the office tasks as we look towards the future and work on having backups in place for critical staffing.

Pastor Bobby and Tammy put their heads together to get everything in place to install Pastor Tim in style. Pastor Tim came on board in June.

July and again a catastrophic flood. Terrible damage for many parts of the county and the church had a number of water problems. They are being addressed and we were fortunate to not have any extreme damage. We did have people needing help and we used the money we had held from the previous flood fund.

Through August and September, church business has steadied out with Pastor Tim settling in. The anniversary committee is working on getting everything in place for a fine celebration in October. 125 years! Something to be very proud of.

Zion has certainly weathered some storms, literally and figuratively in the past couple of years. Counting our blessings! We are leaning forward and I am sure there are many years ahead of doing God's work and sharing His word.

Leslie North
Council President

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." Isaiah 43:2

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:

Diane Hartjen: finance@zionkerrville.org
Johnna Taylor: office@zionkerrville.org
Rev. Dr. Tim Sternberg: pastor-tim@zionkerrville.org
Darla Pfiester: family-youth@zionkerrville.org
Media Center: mediacenter@zionkerrville.org
Judy Johnson: judyj4819@gmail.com
Dan Stisser: danmusic@zionkerrville.org
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 and Music Notes

Jonathan Shim

An anniversary invites us to remember the people whose voices and service have shaped our congregation.

Think of the children baptized here

The young people confirmed here

The couples married here

The saints whose funerals were held here

The choirs that rehearsed week after week

The musicians who practiced when no one else was listening

The pastors, organists, choir directors, accompanists, teachers, volunteers, council members, ushers, readers, and countless others who offered their gifts Think especially of the congregation gathered Sunday after Sunday:

singing praises and glorifying God together

Some of us cherish the hymns we learned as children. Others have discovered newer songs that help us express our faith. Yet, others find God in instrumental music, choral anthems, sung prayer, or even the simple sound of the congregation singing together.

There is room for all of these gifts.

Our worship music will honor our heritage while continuing to grow, just as the church itself grows.

A proper Reformation hymn (LBW 230)

***Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word,
Curb those who by deceit or sword;
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son
And bring to nought 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 triumphantly.***

***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.***

October Worship Assistants

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

Ushers: 9:00 a.m. Beverly Fischer, Darla Pfiester, Patty Putnam, Rae Sherbourne
11:00 a.m. David Turlington, Hank Johnson, Donna & Bruce Jenschke, Bob Wilke

October 4 9:00 a.m.
 11:00 a.m.

Reader: Shelby Balser
Reader: BiBi Brown
Altar Flowers: Diane & Gary Hartjen

October 11 9:00 a.m.
Cowboy Church 11:00 a.m.

Reader: Mark Bigott, Kimber Rhoads
Reader: Ward Jones, Sharon Turlington
Altar Flowers: Diana Haverlah

October 18 9:00 a.m.
 11:00 a.m.

Reader: John Nielsen
Reader: Donna/Bruce Jenschke
Altar Flowers: Katy Kappel

October 25 10:30 a.m.

Reformation/Anniversary Celebration

Readers: Pastor John Mielke,
Pastor Donna Zipp,
Pastor Ron Walter
Altar Flowers: Mary Heimann
Judy Johnson

Happy Birthday!



10/1 Frankie Behrens

10/1 Bob Gates

10/1 Frank Wehmeyer

10/2 Janet Turner

10/5 Harry Moeller

10/7 Linda Johnson

10/8 Aaron Salinas

10/9 Kathleen Grimstvedt

10/10 Hudson McDowell

10/10 Edward Wellborn

10/12 Jackie Gold

10/14 Eric Roehl

10/15 Terry Kordzik

10/15 Barbara Pollei

10/15 Rheba Schwarz

10/16 Cynthia Ann Tate

10/17 Lolita Holczer

10/17 Jack Vestuto Jr.

10/20 Walter Saunders

10/21 Beverly Fischer

10/24 Lloyd Hemmert

10/24 John Wellborn

10/27 Verna Jo Griffin

10/27 Paula Kimpel

10/28 Dylan Ellis

10/29 Joe Anders

10/30 Ryan Rendon

10/30 Norma Wheatcraft

10/31 Larry Agold

10/31 Judy Johnson

10/31 John Miller

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 Meeting will be on Monday, October 12th at 11:30 in the conference room. All ladies are welcome to attend. The Ladies' Breakfast Fellowship Group meets the second Monday each month at 9:00 at Cracker Barrel. Please come and join us!

The Martha Circle will meet Tuesday, October 6th at noon in the conference room. Please text Brenda Abbatiello at (830) 496-6608 for more information.

The Ruth/Rebecca Circle will meet on Thursday, October 1st at 9:30 am in the conference room. Their Bible study is Walking by Faith, Not by Sight by Rev. Brian Crocker.

The Deborah Circle will meet on Thursday, October 8th and their book study is Overbooked and Overwhelmed by Tara Sun.

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

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 6:30 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 October 6th and 20th.

October 2026

Every Sunday

9:00 Traditional Worship

10:10 Bible Study for All Ages

11:00 Contemporary Worship

All activities are subject to change

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 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	2 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	3 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
4 Communion 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Sunday School for kids 10:15 Adult Sunday School 6:00 NA	5 10:00 Anniversary Committee 12:00 Women's AA 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	6 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 12:00 Martha Circle 6:00 Magdalene Circle 6:30 ZMOB Men's Group	7 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 10:00 Sistahs Bible Study 12:00 Women's AA 5:30 Potluck for No Reason 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 AA	8 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 2:00 Deborah Circle 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	9 9:00 San Antonio missions trip 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	10 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
11 9 & 11 Cowboy Church 10:00 Cowboy breakfast 6:00 NA	12 9:00 Women's Fellowship Breakfast 11:30 WOW Board Mtg 12:00 Women's AA 5:00 Zion Cares 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	13 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Ribbon Cutting 12:00 AA 5:30 Church Council	14 9:00 ZLCC Chapel 10:00 Sistahs Bible Study 12:00 Women's AA 12:00 Flying Solo 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 AA	15 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	16 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	17 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
18 Communion 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Sunday School for kids 10:15 Adult Sunday School 6:00 NA	19 9:00 Hill Country Quilt Guild 12:00 Womens AA 12:00 ZLCC Board Meeting 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	20 9:00 Hill Country Quilt Guild 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA Meeting 6:00 Magdalene Circle 6:30 ZMOB Men's Group	21 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	22 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	23 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	24 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
25 Reformation Sunday 10:30 Zion 125 th Anniversary Celebration 12:00 Luncheon 6:00 NA	26 12:00 Women's AA 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA 7:00 Zion Recovery	27 9:00 Holy Casserolers 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA	28 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	29 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	30 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	31 10:00 AA 10:00 NA 5:30 Trunk or Treat



Texas District

Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



HARVEST
WORKERS

Double Honor

October is Pastor Appreciation Month and faithful people in congregations across the country will be blessing their pastors with gifts and acts of thanksgiving and kindness. From greeting cards to gift cards and from free cups of coffee to all-expense paid vacations, these gestures communicate to pastors that they are loved and appreciated.

Paul writes in 1 Timothy 5:17-18, The elders who are good leaders are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching ...“The worker is worthy of his wages.” Double honor, understood biblically, refers to demonstrating respect in addition to providing ample compensation for pastors as their livelihood.

If you spend any significant time talking to a pastor about their work, you are likely to learn about the ways that ministry is a joy and what they love about their calling. But if go a little deeper and the pastor speaks freely, you will also discover some of what is not so great and the weight of responsibility that many pastors carry.

Pastors report some of the highest rates of job-related stress. Just dealing with the pastoral care needs of a congregation can be a significant burden: visiting the sick and shut-ins, comforting those mourning, helping families and marriages in trouble, nurturing the faith of those struggling, dealing with crises that come at all hours. Never mind the fact that the pastor has a sermon, a Bible study, and a confirmation class to prepare; worship services that need planning; staff that needs guidance and supervision; committees or ministry teams that need input; and a disgruntled church member that demands attention and things to go their way! All the while the pastor wonders whether they are neglecting their own family's needs or their own self-care.

Shepherding a congregation is difficult work and faithful pastors often silently bear these burdens instead of burdening the people they are called to lead, love, and serve. So how might your congregation double honor your pastor not just in October, but all year long? Here are three practical steps you can take to care for your pastor.

First, speak well of your pastor. Do this both directly to your pastor as well as in conversations when they are not around. In 1 Thessalonians 5:13, Paul says to regard pastors very highly in love because of their work. A specific, heartfelt word of encouragement can be a way God uses you to help fill your pastor's tank. Be specific about how they have been a blessing and be sure to tell others, too, both in your church and in your community.

Second, guard your pastor's rest. When the pressures of ministry mount, the first thing to go for a pastor typically is their own sabbath rest. Protect their day off, encourage them to take their vacation time as well as to attend retreats and conferences that refresh their soul and renew their minds. Adopt a sabbatical policy to provide for extended leave (Contact me for a sample sabbatical policy). A rested, encouraged pastor is a gift to the whole church.

Third, provide for your pastor generously. The primary reason good pastors consider new calls is insufficient compensation. Fair and faithful compensation is biblical. And remember, there likely is another church searching for a pastor that's offering a much more generous compensation package. Reviewing your pastor's salary and benefits each year with honesty and generosity is the most concrete way a congregation shows double honor. When a church cares well for the one who labors among them as their spiritual leader, they free their pastor to serve fully in the ministry of the gospel.

Caring for our pastors is not a distraction from our mission; it is essential to it. Honored, well-supported pastors are leaders God is using to carry the mission of God forward in and through our congregations for this generation to the next. So this October, do more than sign your name to a card. Offer the shepherd God has given you the double honor that Scripture calls for.

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.

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.

October Birthdays

Matthew
Zayden



Special days in October

October 7th: Picture Day

October 12th: ZLCC is CLOSED

October 30th: Harvest Festival and Parties

Firetrucks to be announced



Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen.

James 5-7



Curriculum

Week 1: Harvest Happenings

Week 2: Fall on the Farm

Week 3: Fall in the City

Week 4: Fairy
Tales and Fables



Bible Focus

Week 1: Be Kind to One Another

Week 2: The Bible Shows Me the Way

Week 3: Jesus is the Light

Week 4: Jesus is the Good Shepherd

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

How does it feel to know you have a Heavenly Father who loves you and provides for you? When was the last time you prayed instead of making a wish? Why wish upon a star when we can pray to the One who created it? The Bible says that in the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth and that He knows the end from the beginning. (Taken from Crosswalk.)

As October is a time for cooling off, we at Zion are Not!

October 7th is going to be tasty! Come and see.

October 9th San Antonio Missions trip

October 14th Flying Solo-meeting at the church! 12:00 bring your lunch for some fun! I have a list for helpers.

October 31st Trunk or Treat - We need more trunks! BEE careful!

The calendar is full, but our Sunday School classes are not. People have very busy lives and I pray they take time for God. As a congregation let's pray for our young families to return to church and we welcome them with open arms.

Please invite family, friends and neighbors. More is coming about bringing them in!

May God bless you,

Darla Pfiester



October 7: Potluck for No Reason

October 9: San Antonio missions trip

October 11: Cowboy Church Service

October 13: Ribbon Cutting

October 25: Celebration of Faith (125th anniversary)

November 1: All Saints Sunday

