The Tidings

Zion Lutheran Church

November 2026

Thanksgiving traditions: it's a fun topic of conversation! Some families make a special trip to meet on Thanksgiving weekend because Christmas gets too busy. Other families always gather at the grandparents' home. And there's a ton of special expectations for the food; a special turkey recipe, a pecan pie (with or without chocolate), a green bean dish, a side dish from the old country, and many more.

Our family started a tradition which contributed a rich depth to the meaning of "thanksgiving". Each year after we clear the table, and before we engage in our annual re-watching of "Free Birds", we listen to a Thanksgiving Day proclamation given by one of two United States Presidents.

I'm not going to try and "sell" you on the idea of adopting this tradition but I will ask if you'd give it a try, this year and next. While Thanksgiving is a unique American holiday, and not a Biblical one, each President was evidently prompted, deeply and profoundly, to bend their knee - and call upon everyone else to do the same - to God Almighty. My family and I have found their context (fighting, economics, social conflict, moral decay, etc.) to be very similar to ours, year after year. And we have found their hopes, dreams, and faith, to be encouraging and relevant.

Each link here also provides images of the original documents. Oh, that I might have been given such excellent penmanship!!

However your Thanksgiving happens this year, let us "always give thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father." (Ephesians 5:20)

https://docsteach.org/document/lincoln-thanksgiving-proclamation/

https://docsteach.org/document/washington-thanksgiving-proclamation/

Pastor Tim Sternberg

Council Corner

November 2026

October 2026 has been a busy time! Zion's 125th anniversary is quite an accomplishment - a ribbon cutting and a celebration service on Reformation Sunday. The congregation has been amazing through so many challenges.

As we head into November and the Festival season, we also are addressing the 2027 budget. We have some challenges ahead. We need to hire and train a few people to ensure we have a safety net for our most necessary operations. On the other hand, we need to eliminate as much spending as possible and try to move closer to a balanced budget. George Washington said, "We must consult our means rather than our wishes." Money is a bit tight and spending can feel a bit scary. But some calculated risks are necessary to keep long-term stability and planning on track. Staff is one of the greatest expenses in the regular budget and so hiring seems unwise. However, some staff changes are ahead that require developing new people with the essential skills that keep the operation of the church moving along properly.

Another important consideration at this time is the physical church property and necessary repairs and replacements that are unavoidable. Two years of flooding has created some concerns with masonry and possibly the foundation of the Chapel. And old air conditioners are being nursed along. A positive note on the property is the refurbishment of the Grace House and the beginning of an after school program. This will be a good outreach to the community and it will be an earning operation for the Children's Center and will relieve the church of some costs related to the Grace House.

Attendance and giving are being closely followed. Hopefully there will be increases as the congregation and the pastor adjust to one another. A Chinese proverb says "A gem cannot be polished with friction, nor a man perfected without trials." And 17th century French philosopher, Jean de la Bruyere said "Out of difficulties grow miracles." Let us all begin to grow some miracles.

Leslie North
Council President

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- Ella Shell
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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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

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

Judy Johnson

When I was growing up, my parents taught me several meal prayers which I remember to this day and have taught my grandkids. This one is a little more difficult, however, and I learned it from the King James version:

The eyes of all wait upon Thee, and
Thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand and satisfiests
the desire of every living thing.

Think about how awesome that is! God opens his gracious hand and gives us everything we need, plus our inmost desires. This is the time of year when thanksgiving is given to our Creator, and we express our gratitude for all He has bestowed upon us.

I like to begin my prayers by thanking God for my blessings: those I don't deserve, those of which I'm not even aware, and some that are hidden in circumstances. God has our very best in mind as He prunes and shapes us for His glory. How many times have you seen His hand in a situation after the fact, and said it was a "God thing?"

As you gather with friends and family this Thanksgiving, praise Him for His abundant love, then worship together the next Sunday to usher in the Advent season.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Nov. 1 All Saints

Nov. 8 WOW Thankoffering Service

Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 29 Advent 1

November Worship Assistants

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

Ushers: 9:00 a.m.: Susan & Dean Johnson, Diane Stern, Jim Motheral
11:00 a.m.: David Turlington, Hank Johnson, Donna & Bruce Jenschke, Bob Wilke

November 1	9:00 a.m.	**Reader:** Brenda Abbatiello
	11:00 a.m.	**Reader:** Ward Jones
		Altar Flowers: Penny & Gary Reichenau
November 8	9:00 a.m.	**Reader:** Beth Taylor
	11:00 a.m.	**Reader:** Amy Jones
		Altar Flowers: Cindy & Mike Collins
November 15	9:00 a.m.	**Reader:** Larry Cattran
	11:00 a.m.	**Reader:** Diana Haverlah
		Altar Flowers: Debra Richardson
November 22	9:00 a.m.	**Reader:** Sybil Marsh
	11:00 a.m.	**Reader:** Katy Kappel
		Altar Flowers: Cathy & Norman Krutsinger
November 29	9:00 a.m.	**Reader:** Karen Jones
	11:00 a.m.	**Reader:** Linda Johnson
		Altar Flowers: Adele & Larry Cattran

Happy Birthday!



11/3	Adele Cattran	11/15	Gaynell Klaerner	11/26	Linford Mease
11/3	Kendra Joines	11/16	Larry Cattran	11/27	Jonathan Gutz
11/4	Bob Anderson	11/21	Rylan Cottonware	11/27	Aubree Moeller
11/4	Ryan Balser, Jr. (Deuce)	11/15	Bruce Motheral	11/28	Ralph Hunt
11/4	Elizabeth Oehler	11/22	Sharon Draker	11/28	Tom Klaerner
11/4	James Theis	11/24	Art Brown	11/29	Tim Tompkins
11/6	Cyrus Eaton	11/24	Sharon Griffin	11/30	Susan Johnson
11/11	Joan Anderson	11/25	Weldon Baker	11/30	Matt Keeny
11/12	Capri Marsh	11/25	Ronny Carroll		
11/14	William Craig	11/26	Eileen Hunt		

WOMEN of the WORD

COMING EVENTS:
November 4th "Potluck for No Reason" meal will feature recipes from Zion's Cook with Love cookbook. WOW's Thankoffering Sunday will be on November 8th and our new Hilltop Nursing Home Project will be introduced.

WOW will be providing Thanksgiving pies to the ZLCC staff. Please watch for more information.

The WOW Board Meeting will be on Monday, November 9th 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 at Cracker Barrel. Please come and join us!

The Martha Circle will meet Tuesday, November 3rd 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, November 5th at 9:30 a.m. 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, November 12th at 2:00 p.m. and their book study is Overbooked and Overwhelmed by Tara Sun.

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 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 November 3rd and 17th. For more information, please contact the office.

November 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 All Saints Sunday Communion 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Sunday School for kids 10:15 Adult Sunday School 6:00 NA	2 12:00 Women's AA 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA	3 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	4 9:30 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	5 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	6 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	7 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
8 WOW Thankoffering at 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Sunday School for kids 10:15 Adult Sunday School 6:00 NA	9 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	10 9:00 LWR Quilting 9:00 Holy Casserolers 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 5:30 Church Council	11 9:30 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 12:00 Flying Solo 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 AA	12 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	13 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	14 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
15 Communion 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Sunday School for kids 10:15 Adult Sunday School 6:00 NA	16 9:00 Hill Country Quilt Guild 11:30 ZLCC Board Mtg in Grace House 12:00 Womens AA Meeting 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA	17 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 AA 6:00 Magdalene Circle 6:30 ZMOB Men's Group	18 9:30 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 AA	19 9:00 LWR Sewing 10:00 Ladies Bible Class 12:00 NA 6:00 Praise team rehearsal 7:00 Nar-Anon	20 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	21 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
22 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Sunday School for kids 10:15 Adult Sunday School Annual Congregational Meeting 6:00 NA	23 12:00 Women's AA 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA	24 9:00 LWR Quilting 10:00 Staff Mtg 12:00 AA Meeting	25 9:30 ZLCC Chapel 12:00 Women's AA 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 AA	26 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 12:00 NA 7:00 Nar-Anon	27 5:30 AA 7:00 Speaker Mtg	28 10:00 AA 10:00 NA
29 Advent 1 9 & 11 Services 10:10 Sunday School for Kids 10:15 Adult Sunday School 6:00 NA	30 12:00 Women's AA 6:00 Ladies Reflection AA	1	2	3	4	5

Mission Moment

Texas District

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth

HARVEST WORKERS

Overflowing in Thanksgiving

In early October, I had the opportunity to drive across the Midwest. Abundant summer rains have produced beautiful, lush green grass and fields of crops bursting with promise for the coming harvest. Here in Central Texas, harvest time has come and gone. Growing up in Iowa, I learned that October-November was harvest season: first the soy beans, then the corn. By Thanksgiving, the combines had rolled through the fields and the grain bins were full. Every farmer knows that the harvest each fall depends on the seed planted in the spring. No farmer hoping for a crop leaves their seed sitting in the barn. Abundant harvests require first generously sowing the seed. Despite knowing this, there is something scary about letting go of what you have in the hopes that it may produce more.

The Apostle Paul understood this. In 2 Corinthians 9:6, he encourages the church in Corinth to give generously toward an offering for the church in Jerusalem. Paul writes, The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. Paul is not handing out a formula for how to get rich. Instead, he simply reminds the church of this basic agricultural understanding. The churches across the region were being called to give generously for an abundant harvest in Jerusalem where there was need.

And Paul grounds his appeal for generosity in God's grace: And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8). We do not give to earn God's grace; we give because we have already received it in abundance.

Paul goes on to point out where generosity leads: Now the one who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will also provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us (2 Corinthians 9:10-11). God multiplies the gift, increases the harvest, and produces praise and thanksgiving to God among the givers. When God's people give generously, needs are met, ministry multiplies, and voices are raised in praise to God.

In this season for many of our congregations, budgets for 2027 are being planned. Church councils and finance committees gather around spreadsheets, make decisions about ministries, staff, buildings, and mission support. A church budget is far more than numbers on a page; it is a statement of what a congregation believes God is calling it to do in the year ahead. So, what does your church's budget say? Does it reflect a congregation that sows generously? Does it provide faithfully for the shepherd God has given you? Does it invest in equipping leaders and making disciples? Does it look beyond your own walls to outreach in your community, planting new churches and partnering in Gospel mission around the world? Remember: healthy congregations do not hold tightly to all they have. Healthy congregations trust God to let God's grace overflow through them to others.

And every congregation's budget is actually the sum of the faithful budgets of its members. Individuals and families also make their own plans to give generously to the work of the Lord in their own church and beyond. Each one of us should remember Paul's invitation and prayerfully consider how God may be calling us to sow generously in the year ahead, trusting God to multiply the gift and gather an abundant harvest, and filling our hearts with joy which leads to praise ang thanksgiving. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15). The Lord of the harvest is still at work, multiplying disciples and churches through the generosity of his people. May our giving in the year ahead overflow in thanksgiving to God and produce a bountiful harvest!

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.

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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.

November Birthdays 2025

Darson
Zayden N

Ms. Gloria



ZLCC November Focuses:

Curriculum
Week 1:Early Settlers
Week 2: Native Amricans
Week 3: The First Thanksgiving
Week 4 : Thankgiving



Bible Focus
Week 1: Harmony
Week 2: God Provides
Week 3: We Are Thankful
Week 4: Giving and Sharing

SPECIAL DAYS IN November:

25th-27th: ZLCC will be closed





The grass withers and the flowers fall but the Word of God endures forever.
Isaiah 40:8



Please join us for services on Sundays.

Services

9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Sunday School

10 a.m.

All are Welcome!



Our God is an Awesome God

Youth and Family Corner

Fall is finally here!

Time to grab your cozy sweaters, sip on some pumpkin spice lattes, and watch the leaves turn that perfect shade of gold and red. But beyond the crunchy leaves and pumpkin patches, fall has this amazing way of slowing us down and inviting us to reflect.

It's like God's gentle nudge, reminding us to pause, breathe, and soak in His presence. Whether you're out on a brisk walk, curled up with a good book, or just admiring the beauty of the changing season, God will warm your heart and bring a fresh perspective to your faith journey. (Aniruddha Banerjee)

Our October Pot Luck was delicious and a little funny. Just wait and see what happens next! Please come with a dish from the cookbook and help us bless the WOW group on November 4 @ 5:30!!!

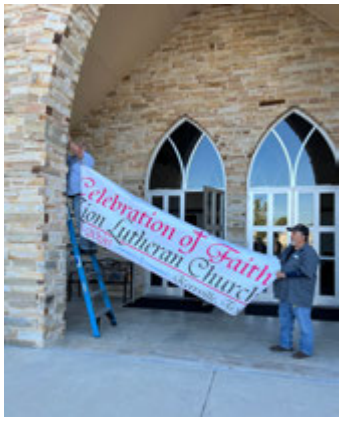
Our Flying Solo group welcomes any and everyone who feels lonely. We have a great phone tree to remind and check on each other. We also have a help list that would benefit everyone. Many times even our spouse cannot do the work or doesn't have time. I would like to give a big shout out to Caleb Shoemake for helping me.

Don't forget Trunk or Treat is October 31 at 5:30!

This corner is working on Thanksgiving and Christmas! More to come!

May God bless you,

Darla Pfiester



Celebration of Faith





23 "I kept looking in the
night visions,
And behold, with the
clouds of heaven







