



**Welcome to Zion
Lutheran Church!**

2800 Pershing Drive
El Paso, Texas 79903

Office Hours:
Mon-Thu 9:30am-5pm
Fri 9:30am-1:30pm

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Stephen E. Heimer
Pastor

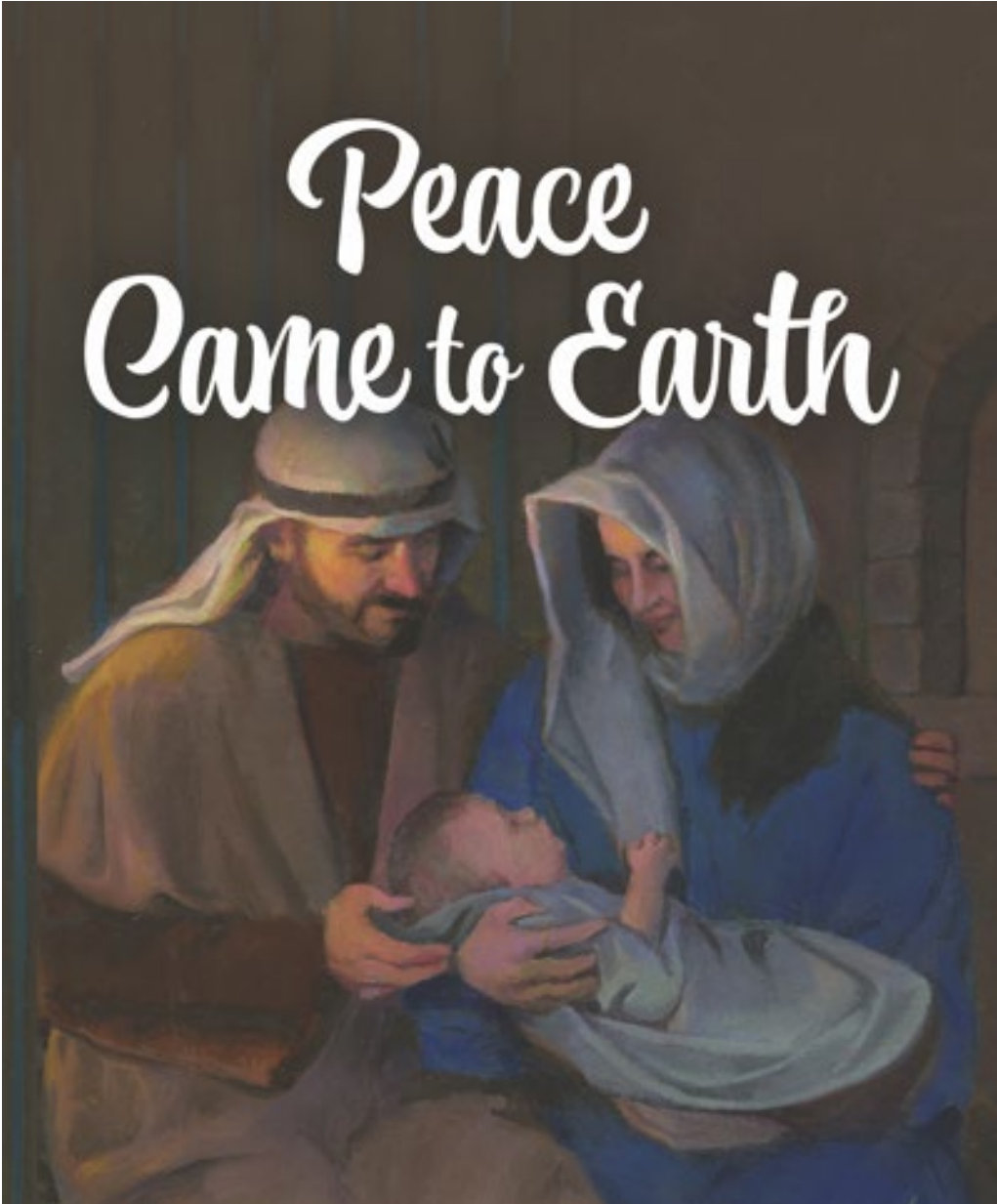
David Garcia
Music Director

Lana Arnold and
Stephanie Lettunich
*Administrative
Assistants*

**Weekly
Announcements**



Peace Came to Earth



"There was no place for them in the inn."

AN ADVENT SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER AND SONG

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

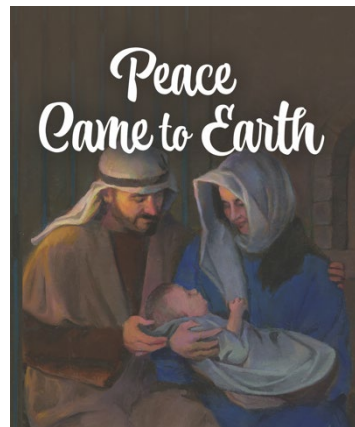
STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

Advent Mid-Week 2

December 13, 2023

AS WE GATHER – "Peace to All, Near and Far"

Today as we prepare to go out onto the sidewalks for the traditional Christmas Posada procession, we pause to contemplate Jesus' word to His followers, "My peace I give to you" (John 14:27). This peace does not come through our attempts to remove ourselves from reality or rearrange the broken pieces of our past. No, it is only by the grace of God that we now receive His peace, His forgiveness, and His restoration through faith in His promises. Gathering us from far and near, no matter who we are or where we have been, our Advent King gives us His peace by means of His death and resurrection. When we trust in Him, we will not simply feel better with a short-term stillness; we will stand fully forgiven by Jesus and at permanent peace with our God.



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Mariachi San Pablo

Vamos a Alabar al Rey (We Will Praise the King)

O Come, O Come Immanuel (instrumental)

En La Noche Los Pastores (At the Shepherds...)

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen Heimer

INVOCATION

OPENING VERSES

Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 4:7

- P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
- C** **and the government shall be upon His shoulder,**
- P** and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
- C** **Mighty God,**
- P** Everlasting Father,

C Prince of Peace.

P The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE, CONFESSION OF FAITH

LSB 805

△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711; Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois; Text and tune: Public domain

- 1 In God the Father I believe, Made heaven and earth and all we see.
Loved He the world so that He gave His Son that we all may be saved.
- 2 In Jesus Christ, I do believe God's Son the Spirit did conceive
In Virgin Mary, born to die, Then rise to reign and judge on high.

Musical interlude

- 3 In God the Spirit I believe and all God's Holy Church are we.
His "saints" by grace through faith we live Forever in vict'ry ovr the grave

Text: © 2019 Stephen E. Heimer. Used by permission

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by the light of Your Holy Word, we may be drawn to Jesus and healed of our brokenness, rejoicing in Him who alone is our peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

POSADA OLD TESTAMENT PROMISE

Micah 5:2

(God tells that the Christ will be born in Bethlehem)

“But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

POSADA NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

Luke 2:1-7

(Joseph and Mary have to travel from Nazareth to the city of David, Bethlehem, and there Jesus is born)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God.

ADVENT 2023 THEME – GOSPEL READING

John 14:25–31

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to You, O Christ.

ADVENT THEME HYMN

"Peace Came to Earth"



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known You, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light
The in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt
In flesh and blood You bore our griefs and pain,
How else could I have loved You, O my God!



And God em - bod - ied love and sheathed His might—
The wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—
In bread and wine You vis - it us a - gain—
How else could I em - brace You, O my God!



Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but see Im - man - u - el!
Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008, Tune: Timothy Shaw, Text: © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CPH Advent License no. 110005077
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MESSAGE

"Peace To All, Near And Far"

OFFERING & OFFERTORY

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" Mariachi San Pablo

+ POSADA PROCESSION +

We process out of the Zion building and to the first "Inn" in the following order to seek lodging now and again toward each new location:

- the processional cross
- the pastor and reader and "innkeeper" singers
- the children dressed as Joseph, Mary, and Angels
- Mariachi San Pablo
- everyone

THE HYMN

"O Come, O Come Emanuel"

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*
4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Ref.*
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

REQUEST AT THE FIRST INN – FIRST REJECTION

Mary and Joseph

**En el nombre del cielo
Os pido posada
Pues no puede andar
Ya mi esposa amada.**

Singable Translation

*In Heaven's name, I ask you,
lend us a room, any will do.
This wife who I adore,
cannot walk anymore.*

Innkeeper

Aquí no es mesón.
Sigán adelante.
Pues no puedo abrir,
No sea algún tunante.

*Here you will find no dwelling
Go now and stop your yelling
Surely this door will not open
Leave now you vagrants, I've spoken.*

Mary and Joseph

**No seas inhumano,
Tennos caridad,
Que el Dios de los cielos
Te lo premiará.**

*How can you be so inhuman?
Won't you show some compassion?
Surely for all you'll have given
God will reward you from heaven.*

Innkeeper

Ya se pueden ir
y no molestar
porque si me enfado
los voy a apalear.

*Now you really must go.
Stop this whole bothersome show
And if you anger me more
I'll beat you up through this door*

All

**Ya se va María,
Muy desconsolada
Porque en esta casa
No le dan posada.**

*Mary goes on searching
Anxious for an opening
Since in this whole dwelling
There's no room for lodging*

**Ya se va José
Con su esposa amada
Porque en esta casa
No le dan posada**

*Joseph goes on searching
His wife ever tending
Since in this whole dwelling
There's no room for lodging*

THE OLD TESTAMENT PROMISE**Isaiah 7:14**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (God with us)."

THE ADVENT PRAYER

L: Lord of all faithfulness, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, grant us the fruit of joy and patience as we eagerly anticipate the coming of our Savior in His birth at Christmas and His return on the Last Day. We pray in the name of Immanuel,

P: Hear our prayer.

THE SONG

“Joy to the World”

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

REQUEST AT THE SECOND INN – SECOND REJECTION

Mary and Joseph

**En el nombre del cielo
Os pido posada
Pues no puede andar
Ya mi esposa amada.**

Singable Translation

*In Heaven's name, I ask you,
lend us a room, any will do.
This wife who I adore,
cannot walk anymore.*

Innkeeper

Aquí no es mesón.
Sigan adelante.
Pues no puedo abrir,
No sea algún tunante.

*Here you will find no dwelling
Go now and stop your yelling
Surely this door will not open
Leave now you vagrants, I've spoken.*

Mary and Joseph

**Venimos rendidos
desde Nazaret.
Yo soy carpintero
De nombre José.**

*Tired, we surely can't bear it.
We've traveled here from Nazareth.
I'm just a builder, a carpenter
Joseph's my name, none other.*

Innkeeper

No me importa el nombre,
Déjenme dormir,
Pues que yo les digo
que no hemos de abrir.

*How should this name impress me?
Go now and let me sleep.
Stay and you'll hear nothing new.
This door won't open for you.*

All

**Ya se va María,
Muy desconsolada
Porque en esta casa
No le dan posada.**

*Mary goes on searching
Anxious for an opening
Since in this whole dwelling
There's no room for lodging*

**Ya se va José
Con su esposa amada
Porque en esta casa
No le dan posada**

*Joseph goes on searching
His wife ever tending
Since in this whole dwelling
There's no room for lodging*

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 12:9-13

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

THE ADVENT PRAYER

L: Lord of all faithfulness, during this Advent season, give us grace to cast off the world of darkness and put on the armor of light. May we live lives of love motivated by the love of the One who is the light of the world. We pray in the name of Immanuel,

P: Hear our prayer.

THE HYMN

“Silent Night”

LSB 363

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

REQUEST AT THE THIRD INN – THIRD REJECTION

Mary and Joseph

**En el nombre del cielo
Os pido posada
Pues no puede andar
Ya mi esposa amada.**

Singable Translation

*In Heaven's name, I ask you,
lend us a room, any will do.
This wife who I adore,
cannot walk anymore.*

Innkeeper

Aquí no es mesón.
Sigan adelante.
Pues no puedo abrir,
No sea algún tunante.

*Here you will find no dwelling
Go now and stop your yelling
Surely this door will not open
Leave now you vagrants, I've spoken.*

Mary and Joseph

**Venimos rendidos
desde Nazaret.
Yo soy carpintero
De nombre José.**

*Tired, we surely can't bear it.
We've traveled here from Nazareth.
I'm just a builder, a carpenter
Joseph's my name, none other.*

Innkeeper

No me importa el nombre,
Déjenme dormir,
Pues que yo les digo
que no hemos de abrir.

*How should this name impress me?
Go now and let me sleep.
Stay and you'll hear nothing new.
This door won't open for you.*

All

**Ya se va María,
Muy desconsolada
Porque en esta casa
No le dan posada.**

*Mary goes on searching
Anxious for an opening
Since in this whole dwelling
There's no room for lodging*

**Ya se va José
Con su esposa amada
Porque en esta casa
No le dan posada**

*Joseph goes on searching
His wife ever tending
Since in this whole dwelling
There's no room for lodging*

THE GOSPEL LESSON**John 14:1-6**

[Jesus, said] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

THE PRAYER

L Lord of all faithfulness, the words and actions of Your Son, Jesus Christ, showed Him to be the promised Messiah, the Christ. May our speech and lives bear witness to Christ, our Savior. We pray in the name of Immanuel,

P Hear our prayer.

THE HYMN**"Go Tell It On the Mountain"**

Chorus: Go, Tell It On The Mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, Tell It On The Mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching, Over silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light: (chorus)
2. The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Saviour's birth: (chorus)
3. Down in a lowly manger Our humble Christ was born
And God send us salvation, That blessed Christmas morn: (chorus)

FINAL REQUEST & WELCOME

Mary and Joseph

**En el nombre del cielo
Os pido posada
Pues no puede andar
Ya mi esposa amada.**

Singable Translation

*In Heaven's name, I ask you,
lend us a room, any will do.
This wife who I adore,
cannot walk anymore.*

Innkeeper

Aquí no es mesón.
Sigán adelante.
Pues no puedo abrir,
No sea algún tunante.

*Here you will find no dwelling
Go now and stop your yelling
Surely this door will not open
Leave now you vagrants, I've spoken.*

Mary and Joseph

**No seas inhumano,
Tennos caridad,
Que el Dios de los cielos
Te lo premiará.**

*How can you be so inhuman?
Won't you show us some compassion?
Surely for all you'll have given
God will reward you from heaven.*

Innkeeper

Ya se pueden ir
y no molestar
porque si me enfado
los voy a apalear.

*Now you really must go.
Stop this whole bothersome show
And if you anger me more
I'll beat you up through this door*

Mary and Joseph

**Venimos rendidos
desde Nazaret.
Yo soy carpintero
De nombre José.**

*Tired, we surely can't bear it.
We've traveled here from Nazareth.
I'm just a builder, a carpenter
Joseph's my name, none other.*

Innkeeper

No me importa el nombre,
Déjenme dormir,
Pues que yo les digo
que no hemos de abrir.

*How should this name impress me?
Go now and let me sleep.
Stay and you'll hear nothing new.
This door won't open for you.*

Mary & Joseph

**Mi esposa es María,
y madre va a ser
del Divino Verbo
Que ya va a nacer**

*This is my wife, sweet Mary
See now a child she does carry
The divine child, God's pure Word
Soon to be born to this world.*

Innkeeper

¿Eres tú José?
¿Tu esposa es María?
Entren, peregrinos,
no los conocía.

*Joseph? Is that really you?
Mary? Your wife has come too?
Enter, dear travelers don't go!
Surely I did not know!*

Mary & Joseph

**Dios pague señores
vuestra caridad,
y que os colme el cielo
de felicidad.**

*May God pay you, sir, so richly
For this great hospitality
And upon you God bestowing
Joy upon joy overflowing.*

Entren Santos Peregrinos - Enter Holy Pilgrims

Innkeeper

Entren, santos peregrinos, peregrinos,
Reciban este rincón,
No de esta pobre morada,
Sino de mi corazón.

*Holy travelers come and enter,
come and enter
Come into this humble yard
Not just to this earthly shelter
But into my lonely heart.*

**The Innkeeper opens the gate and Mary and Joseph
enter the stable where the Christ is to be born.**

Ábranse las Puertas - Open the Doors

All

**Ábranse las puertas,
Rómpanse los velos;
Que viene a posar
El Rey de los Cielos.**

*Let the doors fly open!
Let the veils be broken!
Here comes our new guest
Heaven's King to rest.*

THE POSADA MESSAGE

THE SONG “Glory in the Highest and Peace on the Earth”

Chorus: Glory in the highest and peace on the earth
Glory in the highest and peace on the earth
Sing out the glad tidings of our Saviors birth
Sing out the glad tidings of our Saviors birth.

1. Jesus seek no lodging that sets him apart
Jesus seek no lodging that sets him apart
He looks for a dwelling a home in your heart
He looks for a dwelling a home in your heart
2. Open up your heart then for Christ to come in
Open up your heart then for Christ to come in
And all of your days will be Christmas again
And all of your days will be Christmas again

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Sung to the melody of “Away in a Manger”) LSB 364

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone.
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven’s high throne!**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day.
As we forgive others, our sins take away.
In times of temptation, to lead us be near.
From evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For yours is the kingdom! O’er all things you reign!
And yours is the power, all things to maintain!
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen!**

BENEDICTION (Sung to the melody of “Oh Come, All Ye Faithful”) LSB 379

P The Lord bless you and keep you, look with love upon you,
Be gracious and cause his face to shine with peace!

**All: Glory to Father, Son and Holy Spirit!
The Savior close beside us, God’s love from harm to hide us,
The Spirit’s power to guide us, evermore! Amen.**

ZION STEWARDSHIP TODAY OF + TIME + TALENT + TREASURE

Preacher & Liturgist: Pastor Stephen Heimer

Elder: Jim Smith

Reader: Lydia Williams

Camera Operator: Jaden Heimer

Altar Guild: Mary Sanchez & Barbara Fourzan

Acolytes: Allen Carter & Nathan Selje

Sound Director: Brenna Rodriguez

Offerings

You can contribute offerings using any of the following methods:

In-Person donations: You can place your donation in the offering plate as you enter the sanctuary or in the secure box as you exit after the service.

Online donations: You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at www.zionelpaso.org. We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofits. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

Mail donations: Mail your check to the Zion church office at 2808 Pershing Drive, El Paso, TX 79903. The mail is checked every day.

Donations via an app: If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Mobile app. You can easily set up an account and donate through the app.



Your offerings and support are crucial to our congregation, and we are very grateful for your support!

Contribute to the Special Anniversary Mission Offering Before Dec. 31st

On Sunday, December 31st we will pray to God in thanksgiving for His mission to and through Zion these 125 years and consecrate to Him our anniversary mission offering.

Designate a gift using the "Special Mission Offering" envelopes found in back of the church:

Gifts can also be given online at www.zionelpaso.org/missions or scan this QR code:



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dinner and Piñata – Thank you to everyone who provided food for our dinner this evening and who helped make the service and procession beautiful. To God be all glory! Our evening concludes with a piñata and cake. Stay and enjoy!

Mariachi CDs Available- Thank you to Mariachi San Pablo for leading our singing today. We have asked Mariachi San Pablo to bring some CDs today in case anyone would like to purchase some of their wonderful music.

Youth Christmas Party and Tree Decorating – Dec. 16th at 12pm to put the Chrismons on the Christmas tree. Stay afterwards for fun games and snacks!

Advent continues on Sunday and Christmas begins Dec. 24th! – Come back this Sunday (caroling church), next Wednesday, on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day and the morning of New Year's Eve! Rejoice!
Learn more at www.zionelpaso.org

Sunday School Christmas Program - Important Info

The children and youth of Zion have already been working hard and are excited to share a program with the congregation during the December 24th morning worship! Families participating please remember the following dates/times:

Sunday, December 17 - practice during Education Hour @ 9:15am

Saturday, December 23 - dress rehearsal @ 12:30pm, practice will be followed by a small Christmas party and snacks.

Sunday, December 24 - practice and final preparations during Education Hour @ 9:15am, Share our songs and smiles with the Congregation during worship @ 10:30am
Parents - you should have received an email with your children's parts. If you haven't, please let us know! Please practice with them at home and let us know if you are unable to make a rehearsal but still want to participate. If you have any questions see Lynette, Mary or Krysia.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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