



# **Eye on Zion**

**A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church**

May-June-July  
2016

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Pastor Joel Pancoast

Pastor Sonja Pancoast

### **Faith Formation Coordinator**

Open

### **Director of Music Ministry**

Adam Torres

### **Assistant Director of Music**

Open

### **Organist/Accompanist**

Kathryn Peiffer

### **Bell and Chimes Director**

Thomas Chen

### **Office Manager**

Lindsey Bowling

### **Technology and Communications**

### **Ministries Coordinator**

Brooke Loftus

### **Bookkeeper**

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### **Childcare**

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Rae Bowker

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### **Custodian**

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## **The Body of Christ**

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

Dear Friends in Christ,

*Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.*

—1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

The theme for this issue of the *Eye on Zion* comes from the worship theme in the month of May, focusing on 1 Corinthians. What is it that draws us together as a church community, in spite of our differences? Sure, we are very much alike in many ways, but we still come together with various political opinions, social values, ages, and backgrounds. I would hazard a guess that there are some things about each other, that if we met one another in any other situation, we may not choose to meet again. And yet, as the body of Christ, we do meet again, and

again, and again.

Beyond those differences, we are drawn together in spite of both theological and geographic differences. The body of Christ is individual Christians and congregations all over the world, as witnessed by our mission in April to raise funds for Ejeda Hospital in Madagascar and to be drawn together to learn about the culture and the church there. Finally, the body of Christ surrounds us. In Loveland, we are drawn together with other Lutherans, and with Christians of other congregations that may seem so different from us. We may be different from them, but we are still the same body together, working together for the same purpose.

For all the differences we may see, we are drawn together for the sake

*Continued on page 2.*

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*The Body of Christ continued from page 1.*

of the whole body, and perhaps more importantly for the sake of the world. When our differences threaten to divide us, what keeps us together is that Christ is at the center of it all. We are drawn together by Christ, to be Christ's body for the world. Teresa of Avila, a saint and theologian from the 16th century, wrote, "*Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the earth, yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good and yours are the hands by which He is to bless us now.*"

What is your place in the body of Christ? What is our place together, as one expression of Christ's body? Within this issue of the *Eye on Zion*, you will find diversity, many activities, much cause for both celebration and challenge to grow as disciples. In all this, know that together as the body of Christ, Christ is our head, Christ is our center, and Christ is our support.

Blessings to you!  
Pastor Joel

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## **The Body of Christ**

### **The Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA**

### **Bishop Jim Gonia Preaches at Zion on Sunday, June 19**

We are a part of the broader church beyond the walls of our congregation. We are one of many congregations who make up the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). On a regional level, we work together with the other 162 congregations to make up the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA. The word "synod" comes from a Greek word meaning to travel a common road—to walk together. We walk together to make a larger difference in our world more than any one congregation could make. We are Better Together.

On Sunday, June 19, Bishop Jim Gonia, the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA, will be joining us in worship to share the amazing ways that we are better together and to give thanks for Zion's partnership in this mission. Zion has made a commitment for many



**Bishop Jim Gonia**

years to give 10 percent of budget to the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA, which keeps half of this money for regional ways that we work together as the body of Christ and sends the other half to the national church, ELCA, to support ways that we make a difference throughout our country and the world.

Bishop Gonia will also have time to share more from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. about the mission of the Rocky Mountain Synod, have conversation, and answer questions. Come and hear how you are a part of making a difference in the lives of others in our region, how together we are the body of Christ.

# Music Ministry

*Adam Torres*

What a joy, to celebrate our connection as the Body of Christ through our ministry at Zion Lutheran Church! I am grateful for a meaningful Lenten season, and want to extend my sincere thanks to every single musician, usher, acolyte, reader, communion assistant, altar guild member, office volunteer, audio and video volunteer, and my colleagues in the pastors and staff at Zion, for all of the hours put in to prepare for Holy Week, Easter, and beyond. I am especially grateful for the work of the Praise Band, Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and our organist Kathy Peiffer, for their dedication and artistry through the years. The combined forces of the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir make a joyful sound, and I look forward to future collaborations between ensembles. And if you missed out on Kathy's interpretation of Widor's Toccata on Easter Sunday, I would encourage you to make plans to be present at the next opportunity!

As we look forward to our ministry together, the music ministry will continue to be extremely busy this summer and beyond. If you (or someone in your family) has interest in offering talents in worship as a songleader (outdoor services) or in special music, please contact me at [music@zionloveland.com](mailto:music@zionloveland.com) (or call the church

office) to schedule this opportunity. We welcome the opportunity to serve at Zion through music, and I encourage you to consider being a part of the music ministries at Zion.

Additionally, many of you know that Zion is forming a Children's Music Ministry, beginning in earnest this fall. The search is underway for a candidate that will help grow a generation of musicians and help them find connections to worship and our Lutheran heritage through music. For more information, please see the related article in this newsletter (page 6) for Children's Music Ministry.

To help celebrate the formation of this new ministry, I am excited to announce that the Milwaukee Children's Choir will be presenting a concert at Zion on Tuesday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m. Please see the related article in this newsletter (page 7) on the Milwaukee Children's Choir on how you can help make this a success—we cannot host a concert of this magnitude without your support, and I am confident that we will begin our inaugural year of children's music ministries with a bang.

As you can discern, there's a lot coming just around the corner. Thank you for your support, and I hope you will be a part of this exciting period of musical growth in Zion's rich history.

## THE BODY OF CHRIST **Worship Series on 1 Corinthians**

*Pastor Sonja Pancoast*



In Corinth, the gathering of Christians, which the Apostle Paul helped establish during his 18-month stay in Corinth, had come into difficulties because of a variety of leaders with differing ideas, concerns about the right religious practices, as well as theological questions. The Apostle Paul writes to help answer the questions and to encourage them to unity. What joins this diverse group of Christians together is that they are all a part of the Body of Christ. Throughout the month of May, we will dive into Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and what unites the Body of Christ.

### **May 1—United in Baptism—1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Our unity comes to us in the one baptism given to us in Christ.

### **May 8—Rooted in Love—1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

Dedication of Lutheran World Relief Quilts. Zion's quilters have shared their gifts as they have worked tirelessly this year making 55 quilts. We will dedicate these in worship and send them to care for those in need around the world.

### **May 15—Activated by the Spirit—Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13**

Pentecost Sunday. We give thanks for the work of the Spirit who empowers us for mission and provides each one of us with gifts for ministry.

Dedication of Homeless Sleeping Mats. Throughout the winter, we collected over 3,000 plastic bags, cut them into strips, rolled them into balls from which the Sunday Stitchers crocheted them into five sleeping mats for the homeless. We will dedicate these in worship and take them to After Hours which serves the homeless at Civic Center Park in Denver.

### **May 22—Sent with the Gifts—1 Corinthians 12:22-31**

Gratitude Sunday. God has gifted each one of us with gifts for mission. On Gratitude Sunday, we want to thank you for sharing these gifts within the Zion community and within the broader community of Loveland. We will give thanks for Zion's many ministries in worship.

Following worship, the Generosity team will host a Gratitude Picnic at noon as a way to say THANK YOU for all that you do. (See the related article on page 17 of this newsletter.)

### **May 29—Raised to New Life—1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57**

Honoring Those Who Died in Faith. On this Memorial Day weekend, we will give out white carnations in worship. People may place these on the Veterans Memorial at Dwayne Webster Veterans Park in honor of those who died serving our country, place them on the grave of a loved one, or take them home to remember those who have died in faith.

# Digging Deeper: Misused Verses in the Bible

## Summer Worship Series

We often hear people quoting the Bible to fit a particular argument, or to prove their faith to others. Maybe you have done that yourself. Sometimes it works, but sometimes when the quote is taken out of its original context, it ends up far from the intended meaning. Sometimes, people even quote the Bible...only to be told or to discover that the “quote” is not actually from the Bible at all.

This summer we are going to be “digging deeper” into some of these quotes to see just what the Bible says about them. This is going to be an exciting, but also challenging theme, as it may challenge some of our assumptions of our faith. In the schedule below, can you find the problems with each of our titles, taken from popular quotes today? If not, do not fear! We intend for this theme not to tear down, but to build up and lift up the Gospel and share the good news for us and for all in Jesus Christ.

- June 5 "All Scripture is Inspired By God" (2 Timothy 3:16)
- June 12 "Anything You Ask for in My Name" (John 14:13-14)
- June 19 "Train a Child in the Way They Should Go" (Proverbs 22:6)
- June 25 "Money is the Root of all Evil" (1 Timothy 6:10)
- July 3 "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves" (Hezekiah 6:1)
- July 10 "I Can Do All Things through Christ" (Philippians 4:13)
- July 17 "Judging Others" (Matthew 7:1)
- July 24 "Repent and Be Baptized" (Acts 2:38)
- July 31 "Prayer Offered in Faith will Heal the Sick" (James 5:15)
- Aug 7 "For I know the Plans, Plans to Prosper You and Not to Harm You" (Jeremiah 29:11-13)
- Aug 14 "An Eye for an Eye" (Exodus 21:23-25)
- Aug 21 "It's Part of God's Plan" (Psalm 139:16)
- Aug 28 "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle" (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- Sept 4 "Working All Things for Good" (Romans 8:28)

**Please note that our summer worship times change starting June 5 and will continue through September 4, Labor Day weekend. We will have outdoor worship every Sunday, weather permitting, at 8:15 a.m. and indoor worship at 10:15 a.m.** These times are slightly different from previous years during the summer, to allow some time between services for musicians to set up and rehearse, and for shorter, additional education opportunities.

Though summer is certainly more relaxed, the church does not take a break, so we hope you will join us each week for worship. Sometimes people bring the pastors bulletins or other material from churches they have worshiped with while on vacation. We love seeing where you worship, and witnessing to the diversity of worship experiences within the larger body of Christ.

# Children's Music Ministry

*Adam Torres*

Zion Lutheran Church is excited to announce the formation of a new staff position; we will be hiring an Assistant Director of Music, who will oversee the formation of a Children's Music Ministry. We hope to complete the hiring process in the next couple of months to begin preparations for our inaugural season beginning this fall.

The new Assistant Director of Music will be an integral part of the Zion community, occasionally leading children's choirs and other youth ensembles in worship, integrating music into the Sunday School curriculum, and potentially offering their gifts in a variety of other ways. The possibilities are endless, and the sky is the limit. Our Children's Music Ministry will be developing knowledge of and connecting to worship through music and our Lutheran heritage. Zion children and youth will have a wonderful opportunity to gain an appreciation and knowledge for music and worship. Additionally, this ministry will create an outreach opportunity to children at Monroe Elementary and our surrounding area to share our love of music with others. If we are connected as the body of Christ, surely music is one of the ways in which we can seek that connection with one another, all in the greater glory of God's name.

I am privileged to have served on a committee with many passionate supporters for this new program, including ERIN BACHMAN, AMY BLACK, BETH ANN HATFIELD, AMY OLINGER, DAVE and SUSAN SAMUELS, and PASTOR JOEL PANCOAST. Because of their commitment and dedication, this ministry will become possible. Please take a moment to thank them for their guidance and insights through this process, which has been in the works for nearly a year. It's truly amazing how everything has fallen into place —donations to provide initial funding, the foresight of our Council and Long-Range Planning Committee to integrate the Children's Music Ministry into our overall financial structure, our continued relationship and outreach with Monroe Elementary, and the enthusiasm of many parents at Zion with whom this ministry would directly connect through their children.

Finally, I would encourage you to pray and consider being a part of this wonderful ministry. We will need volunteers for the after-school program, your wisdom as we experience the growing pains that are inevitable with any new ministry, and your prayers as we seek God's plan forward through the Children's Music Ministry. If you'd like to know how you can help, or if you might know potential candidates for this position, please contact me at [music@zionloveland.com](mailto:music@zionloveland.com). I look forward to our continued conversations as we move forward with this exciting ministry.

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ZION WILL BE HIRING AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC,  
WHO WILL OVERSEE THE FORMATION OF A CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM.

DETAILS ARE IN THE ABOVE ARTICLE.

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# Milwaukee Children's Choir

*Adam Torres*

As a special kickoff to our inaugural year of the Zion Children's Music Ministry, we have invited the Milwaukee Children's Choir to perform a concert at Zion Lutheran Church on **Tuesday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m.**

Zion has had the privilege to work with Artistic Director Marco Antonio Melendez, who was a guest clinician and artist in October 2015 with the Chancel Choir. Marco is an accomplished vocalist and conductor, having studied at the prestigious Westminster Choir College, and he has worked with a number of youth choirs in his years in the profession. Marco was a consultant as we began discussions at Zion for the development of a Children's Music Ministry, and the work he has done with the Milwaukee Children's Choir is most impressive. You won't believe the amazing sound that comes from these kids!

To make a concert of this magnitude a reality, there are some logistical considerations which must be accomplished. The music ministry has contributed to the Milwaukee Children's Choir so that the concert can be free, but donations will be asked for to help further defer the costs of travel. Additionally, we will need host families

for the choir members for two nights (Monday and Tuesday, June 27 and 28). Serving as a host family would include transportation to and from Zion, breakfast, and providing a welcoming and safe atmosphere for our young guest artists. The children will have been accustomed to sharing beds (two students per bed) while on tour, so it would be ideal to host students in groups of two. For more information, the Milwaukee Children's Choir has provided a "Guidelines for Host Families" document that will be available at the Zion office. And, finally, we have agreed to feed those involved with Milwaukee Children's Choir the evening of the concert (June 28 at 6:00 p.m.), and we will need help in providing this meal. Sign-up sheets for host families and the June 28 meal will be available through the Zion office. Additionally, you can send an e-mail to me at [music@zionloveland.com](mailto:music@zionloveland.com).

Thank you for all of your support, year after year, for the work of the music ministries. I am excited to see this concert come to fruition, and I believe it will be an inspiring experience for youth and adults alike on the incredible abilities of young musicians as we begin our ministry in children's music.

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THE MILWAUKEE CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL PERFORM A CONCERT AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, AT 7:30 P.M.

HOST FAMILIES ARE NEEDED FOR TWO NIGHTS.  
HELP IS NEEDED FOR PROVIDING DINNER ON JUNE 28.

DETAILS ARE IN THE ABOVE ARTICLE.

## Among Members and Friends

### At Rest in Our Father's House

*Prayers for family and friends of long-time member, **Marge Blehm** who died on March 23, 2016, and whose funeral was on March 28 at Resthaven Funeral Home and Memorial Park. We keep in prayers her sons, Norm and Don.*

*Prayers for family and friends of long-time member, **Patricia Buck** who died suddenly on April 8, 2016, and whose funeral was on April 23 at Zion. We keep in prayers her husband Michael and her children Kathryn and Chris.*

### Joyous Celebrations of Birth

*Prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of **Samuel Murphy** to Christine and Kyle Murphy on March 3, 2016.*

*We rejoice with Phyllis Zimmerman on the birth of her great-grandson **Kohlton Dean** who was born on March 10, 2016, to Micah and Kristen Galvan.*

*We give thanks for the birth of Jerry and Ginger Klein's great-grandson, **Ethan John** who was born on April 18, 2016.*

### Joyous Celebrations of Baptism

*At our Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 26, two youth, **Dakotah Bowens** and **Riley Kline** were baptized. We rejoice with them in their new life in Christ.*

### We Keep in Prayer

***Ed Schroeder** who has a bleeding ulcer and multiple complications. He was hospitalized after Easter and is now at Good Samaritan.*

***Emily Cassell** who is having surgery in early May.*

### First Communion

*We rejoice with the following young people who received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 24, 2016.*

**Ryan Black**  
**Gordon Kuhns**  
**Alex Prazan**  
**Garrett Prazan**

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*Dear Family and Friends,*

*As we reflect on the death and resurrection of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, the Barela family hopes and prays that you had a great Easter and are now looking forward to His teachings and ascension. We also hope and pray that this letter finds you in good health and happiness in this joyous season.*

*Mutt, Jennifer, Zephaniah, Rachel,  
and Elijah Barela*

*Pastor Joel, Pastor Sonja, and Zion  
Congregation,*

*Thank you for the nice retirement reception, and especially the gifts. I hope you will continue to use our library. It has a lot to offer. If you are at all interested in keeping it going, let the pastors know.*

*Carolyn Smela*



## Among Members and Friends

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*Thank you so very much for the generous gift certificate to the 4th St. Chophouse. A special thanks to Pastor Joel for picking out the "silver bar." It will be a special treat to dine there. Thank you, Pastor Joel, for your very kind words at the meeting. It was my pleasure and privilege to serve on the council for 4 years. I will miss it but look forward to new opportunities to serve.*

*Love,*

*Valerie Boyce*

*To the Sunday School Children and the Parents at Zion Lutheran Church,*

*We thank you so much for the soft warm blankets that you made and also for "The Twelve Days of Christmas" book, that David and Elaine Hart brought to us. We so appreciate everything and feel very blessed that you remember us. May God bless you for being so thoughtful! You will be in our prayers.*

*Dallas and Polly Hansen*

*To Our Very Special Pastors and Dear Friends at Zion Lutheran Church,*

*We thank you so much for the beautiful cards with the words and expressions of love and best wishes to us for our 70th wedding anniversary. We have been so very blessed that God has given us this many years together! We miss being in church, participating in the service of our Lord and the fellowship with all of you. We are so thankful you keep us in your thoughts and prayers. It means so much to us! May God Bless Each and Every One of you!*

*NOTE: We thank God that Dallas has remained in stable condition since entering the Health Care Center where he receives skilled nursing. If weather permits, I drive to see him every other day, God willing.*

*Dallas and Polly Hansen*

### Thank You Letters to Zion

- February 25, 2016—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$525.
- March 8, 2016—From Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado for a donation of \$125.
- March 18, 2016—From ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal for a gift of \$1,916.27 November 2015 through January 2016.
- March 22, 2016—From Wartburg Theological Seminary for \$600 credited to the account of Bruce Burbank.

*We sincerely thank you for allowing us to use your facilities this year! God Bless!*

*Daisy Troop 76035*

*Ms Kate and Ms Mandie*

*Dear Zion Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you for being so welcoming to our "No Place for Hate" training. We had a great day!*

*Conrad Ball Middle School's "No Place for Hate" Club*

*Kindra Burruss Thank you so much for the beautiful space! Heather Hammons*

*Rhine Halmer*

*Kindra W. Ms. Miller*

## Zion celebrates Carolyn Smela upon her retirement as librarian

On Sunday, March 13, 2016, Zion celebrated CAROLYN SMELA upon her retirement after 32 years as Zion's librarian. In 1983, a small group of dedicated people came together with the vision to start a church library. They dreamed and visioned, but the vision did not become a reality until a librarian was in place to care for the library on a regular basis. Carolyn Smela stepped up to take on that ministry, surely not knowing she would hold this position for the next 32 years. Carolyn tirelessly cared for Zion's library as she cataloged, purchased, and reshelfed books. Along the way, she had many helpers, but they all took direction from Carolyn. Carolyn's ministry was a behind-the-scenes kind where most people don't even know it is going on until it does not happen. One cannot begin to count the time and love that Carolyn has put into the library over the years. When you go to other church libraries, you realize how amazing Zion's library is. This is all due to the work of Carolyn. Thirty-two years is a long time to do anything, and so at the end of 2015 Carolyn retired from this ministry. We give thanks to God for Carolyn Smela and her 32 years as Zion's church librarian.



**Pastor Sonja congratulates Carolyn Smela upon her retirement as Zion's librarian.**

## When God closes a door he opens a window

Without the attentiveness of a dedicated librarian, Zion's library began to fall into disrepair despite the initiative of a library committee of volunteers who stepped up to help with the transition. Meanwhile, God's Spirit was at work, and it was JANIE LICHTFUSS who felt His nudge to offer her gifts to Zion's library. As many of you know, when Janie takes on a task she gives it her all. As the new church librarian, Janie wanted to make sure she knew what books we had in our library. Already she has spent hundreds of hours going through the books, organizing them and getting rid of duplicates. She has touched *every* book at least once, but most likely two to three times. Carolyn prayed that the work she accomplished as our librarian would continue and in that her prayers were answered when Janie stepped up to the task. Truly Janie is doing an AMAZING job as our new church librarian. On page 13 in this newsletter, Janie reintroduces herself in this new role.

But Janie was not alone in feeling the nudge of the Holy Spirit. So, too, PAM STEVENS felt His nudge. Pam, who works in the church office on Wednesdays, was asked to simply put away books that had been returned. As she began this work, she felt drawn to the library's children's corner, making sure that when the children come to the library they can easily find interesting books. The more time Pam spent in the library, the more she enjoyed the work. Pam will assist Janie and continue her work in the children's corner under Janie's leadership.

## A Zion Member in Service to his Community

### Emeritus Professor Dr. George Stevens visits Mountain View High School in honor of Martin Luther King Day



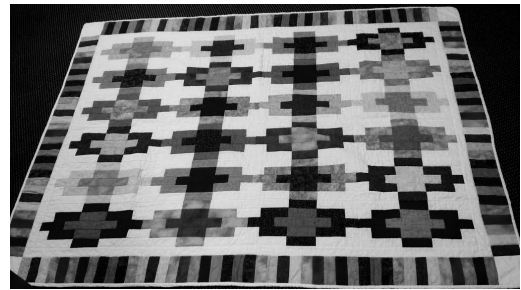
While enjoying pizza, students engaged in a conversation with Dr. George Stevens, Trish Murtha, and Nancy Kain, members of the MLK committee. They discussed the importance of carrying on their work outside the classroom, and how they can embody 21st century learning.

## Stephen Ministers Sharing their Gifts with the Body of Christ

Stephen Ministry is a program of Christian caregiving. Lay members of the congregation are trained in 50 hours of caregiving such as listening, confidentiality, prayer, and support in the community. We are blessed to have commissioned four new Stephen Ministers on February 7, 2016.



**Kneeling at the altar as they are commissioned as Stephen Ministers are Pam Stevens, Kathy Anderson, Charlotte Schmidt, and Don Barnes.**



## A Quilt of Prayers Lifted Up

From the strips of rainbow prayer cloth offered up at Zion's prayer station in the Fall 2014, CHARLOTTE SCHMIDT created a work of art, inspired by the Holy Spirit to take the cloths with their prayers of pain and joy and make something beautiful. The quilt is on display at Zion as a visual of how the body of Christ comes together through many members, many colors, many gifts—creating beauty beyond our wildest dreams.

# God's call to ministry in the church comes through the body of Christ

The Zion community is part of the faith formation of many, many disciples of Jesus, and some have become called and rostered leaders in the church. We currently celebrate two individuals who have been called into ministry as pastors.

## Diana Linden

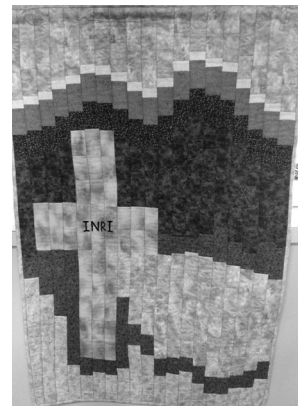
DIANA LINDEN grew up at Zion. She is the daughter of JIM and SUSAN LINDEN. Diana has received a call as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in El Paso, Texas. We congratulate Diana in this new stage of her life and ministry, and we pray God's blessings for her and her family, and for the church, the body of Christ.

## An Invitation from Diana

Zion has been supportive of Diana in many ways throughout her discernment process, and she would like to invite you to celebrate by attending her ordination on Saturday, May 21, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul in Denver (1600 Grant Street).

## Bruce Burbank

BRUCE BURBANK has served the music ministry at Zion in many capacities. He played the organ, led the band, directed the choir, and served as the director of music ministries. In addition to those music responsibilities, Bruce shared his faith and leadership by leading Bible studies and small groups. Those who were part of his small groups know his gifts go far beyond his musical talents! Bruce will graduate from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, on Sunday, May 15. He has been called to serve a congregation in Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA. His ordination is tentatively set for Saturday, June 18, at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, as a part of the assembly for the synod to which he has been called. Zion will host a celebration of Bruce's ministry sometime during the weekend of July 15-17, when Bruce and Lisa will be back in Colorado visiting. Stay tuned for details.



**Zion created this banner to give to Bruce upon his graduation from seminary.**

We all are the body of Christ together, and together we all serve the body of Christ. Diana and Bruce have both been called to serve in ordained ministry through the body of Christ, both here at Zion and in many other expressions of the Church. But why stop there? We have many other gifted individuals through whom the Church would be blessed. So keep listening, praying, encouraging others to engage in active service and leadership to the body of Christ! You never know who from Zion's ministry will be the next new pastor we get to celebrate!

## Janie Lichtfuss reintroduces herself as she assumes her new role as Zion's librarian

I was born in Illinois. I have two sisters, Judy and Jeanette, and we were often addressed as "The Three Js."

I graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana, having two majors —business AND economics— and a minor in theology. I met Armin at Valpo, and we were married shortly after my graduation.

Armin and I were married for 54 years. We honeymooned in Colorado, and 5 years after we were married, we moved to Boulder where we lived for almost 30 years. We moved back to Valpo for 7 years as I had been hired as the executive director of the Valparaiso University Guild.

Our move back to Colorado brought us to Milliken where I served on the Town Board for 10 years, the last 4 serving as mayor. While in Milliken, Armin died on December 1, 2010.

After I was no longer mayor, I decided to move to Loveland since my oldest son Hans and his wife Carolyn live here. They have seven children.

My youngest son Kurt and his wife Karen live in Nederland, although Kurt is in Washington, D.C. right now. He has worked for the State Department for many years but will be retiring soon.

I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to do many things. Besides the positions previously mentioned, I served as president of a number of organizations. I am a church organist having served in that capacity at Grace Lutheran in Boulder for over 25 years and at Zion for 8 years. Arthritis ended that stage of my life. I am a Registered Parliamentarian, was a pilot of small planes, and drove large semi rigs over-the-road for 5 years ending that career in the year 2000.



**Janie Lichtfuss,  
Zion's new librarian.**

Presently, I serve as president of the HOA (Home Owners' Association) where I live, am chair of the Loveland Housing Development Corp, volunteer at McKee Hospital, and often teach a Bible class at Zion.

Although I have never been a librarian, I am "addicted" to books and reading. It has been an absolute delight to work in the library at Zion, and I sincerely hope that everyone will put it to good use.

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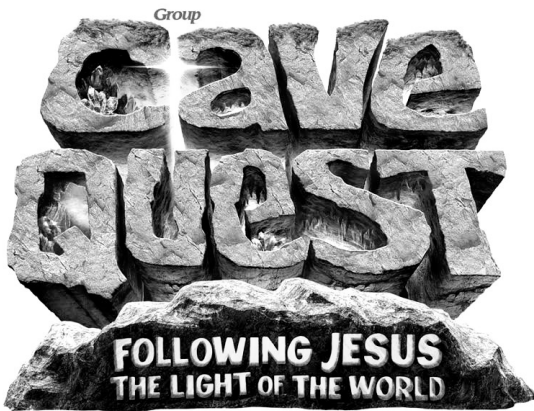
***But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.***

—2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

(NOTE: This is the scripture read by Pastor Sonja on Sunday, March 13, in recognition/celebration of Carolyn Smela's 32-year ministry as Zion's librarian.)

## Youth and Family

### **Cave Quest Vacation Bible School June 6—10 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon**



Children age 3 through entering 5th grade are invited to join us for Cave Quest: Following Jesus the Light of the World.

The cost per child is \$15 or \$25 per family.

Those who register before May 15 receive a CD of the songs from Vacation Bible School.

Pick up a registration at Zion on the Youth and Family board or e-mail Pastor Sonja at [youth@zionloveland.com](mailto:youth@zionloveland.com), and she will send you a registration form.



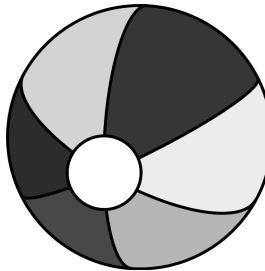
### **Sky Ranch Summer Camp**

We are excited to already have 34 people registered for Sky Ranch summer camp this year. If you have not registered, there is still time.

Dates for camp include:

- Youth GO! for High School Youth—June 12-24
- Confirmation Intensive for Middle School Youth—June 26-July 1
- Homesteaders for 3rd-5th grade—August 7-12
- Round Up for 1st-3rd grade—August 7-9

See Pastor Sonja for registration forms and information.



### **Summer Fest 2016**

**Sunday, August 14**

**5:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Winona Pool  
1615 4th Street**

Mark your calendars for Zion's summer fest 2016.

- bring your friends
- bring your dinner
- bring your swim suits

Come for a night of fun with other members of the body of Christ at Zion.

Zion will provide ice cream treats for all!

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## Youth and Family

### Blessing our Graduates—May 22

*Continued on page 19.*

In worship on Sunday, May 22, we give thanks for those high school seniors who will be graduating and send them with our prayers and blessings as they move into the next phase of their lives.

**CHLOE ALLEN** is graduating from Northridge High School in Greeley. She is planning to attend University of Northern Colorado (UNC) with a major in secondary music education and an emphasis in English Language Learning and Unconventional Learning Styles with a minor in Vocal Performance.

**ELLE BARTELSON** is graduating from Mountain View High School and is going to Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff to pursue a medical career.

**SOLVEIG HEDGESPEETH** is graduating from Loveland High School and plans to attend community college for 2 years. She has a variety of interests and plans to use this time to help determine what major she will pursue at a 4-year college.

**ADAM MAI** is graduating from Loveland High School and will attend Colorado State University in business as well as continue his work with the karate studio.

**JACOB NORTON** is graduating from Thompson Valley High School and will be attending Ames Community College in the fall for IT (information technology).

We also give thanks for our college graduates.

**REBEKAH CHRISTENSEN** is graduating from University of Colorado with a BA degree in neuroscience and a minor in leadership. After graduation, she plans to attend some form of graduate school.

We pray for God's Spirit to lead and guide these amazing faith-filled youth.

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## The Body of Christ Gathering in the Beauty of God's Creation

### Zion's Annual Retreat to Sky Ranch

### Labor Day Weekend—September 2-5, 2106

Don't miss out on Zion's annual gathering at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, in the beautiful Rocky Mountains! Bring your tent or camper, or stay in a cabin or lodge room. Enjoy hiking, fishing, campfires, crafts, friendship, stargazing with telescopes, and just relaxing and getting refreshed. You can stay 1, 2, or 3 nights as your schedule allows. Several group activities will be available this year, including hikes, fishing, crafts, and campfires. **RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED BY JUNE 15!** Reserve your spot by filling out a reservation form and returning it to PASTOR SONJA PANCOAST, with a deposit check for \$25 (made out to Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp). If you have any questions, feel free to email Pastor Sonja at [youth@zionloveland.com](mailto:youth@zionloveland.com) or call 970-667-1836. Registration forms can be found on the Youth and Family board or in the church office.



## Being the Body of Christ to our Neighbor Zion Awarded by the Thompson School Board

On April 20, Zion received a distinguished volunteers' award from the Thompson School District in honor of our work with Monroe Elementary. Monroe Principal Kathy Sather submitted a letter to the board for consideration of this award of which excerpts are printed below. Truly this is the body of Christ gathered at Zion working together to make a difference in our community. We partner with Monroe in many ways, and people share their gifts in so many different ways. We are truly many different members of the body with many different gifts. With Christ as our head, we are led to share these gifts and live out the motto of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—"God's Work. Our Hands." Thank you to each one of you for all that you do. This is truly an award that goes to each member of Zion.



**Zion volunteer Elaine Nichols  
accompanies Pastor Sonja as they  
accept the Inspiring Students' Award.**

*Dear Dr. Scheer,*

*I wanted to take a moment to tell you how appreciative our school is of a wonderful church that has "adopted" us and has made themselves available however we need them. Each year, their commitment to supporting our school community has increased.*

*... I just have to say that I am just overwhelmed at the generosity, love, and kindness that Zion has given to the Monroe staff, students, and families! What a Blessing that they have taken our school under their wing! Each year they just step it up a notch which is amazing!*

*I know we can never repay the Zion Community for this support. But, I personally think that we need to do something other than just send a thank you card to them. Especially for Zion going above and beyond this year in helping with the Giving Tree. I think I made 44-45 stockings to hang on the tree and I bet they took over 30 or so of those stockings!*

*If you'd like to publicly honor them, we'd be greatly appreciative and can provide an even more exhaustive list of the many ways they support us. We've been blessed by their generous hearts and commitment to our school!*

*Kathy Sather, Principal, Monroe Elementary*



**Reprinted from the  
Reporter-Herald RH Line  
March 17, 2016**

**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank Zion Lutheran Church for providing meals for the teachers at Monroe Elementary and Monroe Early Childhood. We really appreciate the support.



## **Gratitude Picnic Sunday, May 22, at Noon**

The church is the body of Christ, and we are individually members of it. We each have been given gifts according to the Spirit for the building up of the body of Christ.

Generosity Team members RHONDA MCCAUGHEY, PASTOR SONJA, DON RONEY, JOHN STERNER, and CRAIG WILSON want to thank you for generously sharing your gifts and giving back to God. It takes so many people to make the ministries that go on at Zion and in the community happen. We want to THANK YOU for all that you do.

Bring nothing, just yourself. Everything will be furnished. This is just one small way we can thank you for all you do. Put the date on your calendar now.

## **Encounters with Jesus “The Rest of their Stories”**

### **A 7-Week Study Led by Janie Lichtfuss Sundays at 9:30 a.m. June 5 —July 17**

These are compelling stories to engage the curious, the broken, the skeptical, and the intelligent.

This study affords us the unique opportunity to learn the words and ways of Jesus, interact with those words and ways we learn, and then it challenges us to live those words and ways. Hopefully, our lives will become the context through which others might experience the words and ways of Jesus.

This is a 7-week study beginning the first week of our summer church schedule. The cost of the book is \$10.00.

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## **Blessing of the Bikes and their Riders—Sunday, June 19**

Summer is a wonderful time to get outside and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. We want to ask God's prayers of safety as we get out on the roads.

Join us on Sunday, June 19, as we bless bikes and their riders during both services. Ride your bike to worship that day if you can. This blessing includes all types of bikes, whether they have one, two, or three wheels, whether they are powered by a motor or your legs.

## **Bike-to-Work Day—Wednesday, June 22**

On Wednesday, June 22, the ELCA Lutheran Churches of Loveland (King of Glory, Mustard Seed House Churches, Trinity, and Zion) are hosting two bike-to-work stations. Zion will cohost the station at 29th and Taft with one of those churches; the other two churches will host a different station.

We will hand out breakfast goodies to those who are biking to work that day, encouraging them to care for the bodies God has given them. Come and visit our bike-to-work station, and if you can, stay to help hand out food to the riders who stop by.

## Faith Formation Coordinator

In November, Zion said “farewell and Godspeed” to ANGIE ELDER in her role as our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. Since then, the pastors and a team of others from Zion have been exploring several possibilities for how God is leading us into the future toward the most sustainable ministry possible that serves all generations.

Over many months, many possibilities have been discussed and explored in depth, and together with King of Glory, we have prayerfully decided to share in ministry together. On April 10 and 17, the council presented a proposal to the congregation for feedback and questions, and based on those questions, a few changes were made.

The first thing we want you to know is that by “shared ministry,” we do not mean that we are sharing staff. Zion will have our own Faith Formation Coordinator, and so will King of Glory. What is shared is the many, many activities, planning, and administrative responsibilities that both congregations do. We believe a very large percentage of these ministries involve the same kind of activities. By sharing all of these common points of ministry, our hope is that we will be able to save time for each congregation’s staff, build a greater level of support and collegiality, and increase opportunities for creativity. As an integral part of this shared ministry, a team that includes pastors

from both congregations called Loveland Lutheran Faith Formation (L2F2) will be created to determine on an ongoing basis how we walk forward in ministry together. This team will help our staff distribute responsibilities. We hope that this will provide greater sustainability in this ministry.

There are still ministry responsibilities that are “site specific” that will not be part of L2F2 shared ministry.

These areas include Sunday School, nursery, worship, and possibly some of our fund-raisers.

We are excited about the possibilities this shared ministry will bring for Zion, King of Glory, and our shared witness to the community. A search team made up of JUDY GUSTAFSON and BEILYNN, KRISTI PEACH, SUSAN SAMUELS and RACHEL, and PASTOR JOEL are currently working with a team from King of Glory, and we hope to have both positions filled sometime during the summer.

Please pray for the search team, the process, and for candidates that God is already leading our way. If you have questions about the ministry or the progress of the search process, talk to any member of the search team. You can also find the job description on our website at [www.zionloveland.com](http://www.zionloveland.com).

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**We are excited  
about the  
possibilities this  
shared ministry  
will bring for Zion,  
King of Glory, and  
our shared  
witness to the  
community.**

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## Youth and Family

### Mission Trip 2016 High School Youth Travel to Lame Deer, Montana July 23-30

This year 16 high school youth and 4 adults from Zion Lutheran Church and King of Glory Lutheran Church will serve others on the high school mission trip to Lame Deer, Montana, July 23-30, 2016.

They are participating in a Groupcamp with over 400 other youth and adults as they reach out to the proud Morning Star people by sharing God's love on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.



The youth will share God's love with others as they serve real people in need while working on projects like building wheel chair ramps and handrails, fix leaking roofs, weatherize homes and trailers, reconstruct sagging porches, help with significant paint projects, or do interior or exterior carpentry.

We are excited for these youth to grow in their faith and serve others. Thanks to everyone for all your support of the youth's fund-raising efforts to make this dream a reality.



### Friends, Food, Fun, Fellowship Young Families Summer Dinner Gatherings

#### Third Saturday of the Month—5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

This summer, families of infants, toddlers, preschool, and elementary age children are invited for a monthly dinner gathering in various people's homes. This is a time to grow in our fellowship with one another so that we can support each other as we raise our children in a community of faith. Everyone will bring a dish to share.

- June 18—Home of Jacob and Jessica Kuhns with a Mexican theme.
- July 16—Home of Aaron and Laura Dimmitt with a BBQ theme.
- August 20—TBD.

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## Mission Accomplished . . . AND MORE! Zion exceeds its goal for a Well for Wellness

Throughout April, Zion conducted a special appeal to raise awareness and funds for a new well for clean water at the hospital in Ejeda, Madagascar —a “well for wellness.” The goal was to raise \$11,000 to build this well along with drilling for the piping from the well to the hospital and providing a solar pump for the well. Throughout the month, Sunday worship included information of this urgent need

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featuring guest speakers, and week by week, the donations progressed toward the goal that by month’s end exceeded the goal.

**\$13,819.06**

**is the amount  
received as of  
April 24.**

Thank you for your generosity. Donations were received from 59 Zion families, several visitors, and many, many more anonymous contributors. As of April 24, \$13,819.06 had been donated. The donations received beyond the initial goal will also be sent to Global Health Ministries for other needs at the Ejeda hospital in Madagascar.

**Thank-you Zion.**

Thank you for your participation throughout the month at special events in behalf of this appeal, and a special thank you to the efforts of the Global Mission Committee for bringing this need to our attention.

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During the “kids in Christ” time on Sunday, April 24, the donations received were weightily presented with Zion’s youth leaving the sanctuary and returning, lugging gallon jugs of water each representing \$500 worth of donations. At that time, there were 21 jugs with one being less full, representing less than \$500.



## Zion welcomes Pastor Doug Cox

On April 24, Zion welcomed Pastor Doug Cox, Executive Director of Global Health Ministries, who is overseeing the well project for the hospital in Ejeda. Pastor Cox led worship, preached the sermon, and shared insight as to the impact that this hospital and health ministries have in transforming lives around the world.



Dr. Will Reents of Zion's Global Mission Committee, Pastor Doug Cox the Executive Director of Global Health and Ministries, and Zion's Pastor Sonja demonstrate the heftiness of Zion's generosity.

### **Pastor Doug Cox writes:**

*Dear Pastor Sonja,*

*Thank you for these photos to top off what is a truly inspirational show of support for Ejeda Hospital! The news of giving by Zion for Ejeda is fantastic! Thank you for all your leadership of Zion in this partnership with Global Health Ministries to strengthen the ministry of Ejeda. Your congregation is so vibrant and genuine in their love and support. It was a privilege to be with you on Sunday and I look forward to sharing updates as the work in Ejeda progresses! It would also be a joy for me or one of our staff to come again to speak whenever it might be supportive to your engagement in mission. May God bless and guide your family and your ministry!*

*Together in Christ,  
Doug*

## **“HELPING THE HANDS THAT HEAL”**



## Lutheran Kids Stamping Out Meningitis



In memory of Laura Loken  
(5/8/1971—3/21/1988)

Date: Saturday, June 18, 2016

Where: Foundations Church in Loveland, 1380 Denver Ave.

### Schedule of Events:

- 6:30 a.m.—Registration and Check-in Opens
- 7:45 a.m.—Registration Closes
- 8:00 a.m.—5K Run/5K Walk Begins
- 9:00 a.m.—Kids Fun Run Begins
- 9:30 a.m.—Awards and Raffle Drawing

### FREE Meningitis Vaccination Clinic Starts at 8:00 a.m.



Andy Marso

Andy Marso survived a nearly fatal bout with bacterial meningitis that cost him parts of all four limbs. Courageously, he became a national advocate for vaccinations and an award-winning author of the book titled, **Worth the Pain**.

Registration forms are available at the Zion church office.

Please complete a registration form by May 22  
and return it to the Zion church office.

- Reduced Race Fee for Kids Run and Students (through grade 12)
- Kids Fun Run = No Fee
- 5K Run/5K Walk = \$20.00

Questions: please contact Sarah Vrem at [slvrem@live.com](mailto:slvrem@live.com)

### Save the Date

Women's Retreat 2016

Saturday and Sunday

November 12 and 13

Peaceful Valley Ranch  
Lyons, Colorado

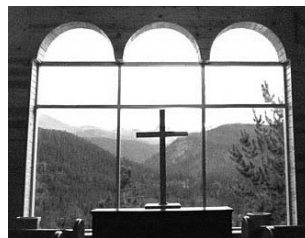
**We are excited this year  
to bring back  
Emma K. Lee as our  
Women's Retreat speaker.**

Our retreat focus will be  
joy in our lives.

In response to some of our women not being able to be away from family for 2 nights as well as cost considerations, we have changed the official programming of the retreat to run from mid-morning Saturday to mid-afternoon on Sunday.

For those who desire the option, a Friday night stay will be available, but the official programming will not begin until Saturday mid-morning.

Save the date and come for an  
amazing life-changing event.





Hi—

Let me introduce myself. I am BOOKWORM, and I live in the library at Zion Lutheran Church among lots and lots of wonderful books. I really enjoy books and love to read. I hope you do, too.

Have you been in the library lately? There have been lots of changes that, hopefully, will make it easy for you to see what is available. If you have any problems or questions, I know that Janie, the librarian, will be happy to help you.

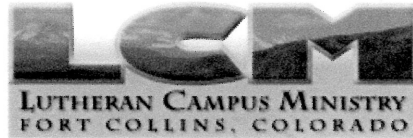
Each quarter of the year, when the newsletter comes out, two or three books will be “featured.” They will be in a prominent place in the library so you can check them out, if you wish. I would like to tell you about three new books that may interest you. Here they are.

1. **The Defense Never Rests** by Craig A. Parton. As a professor of theology wrote, “St. Peter calls us to be prepared to make a defense of the faith to those who ask for reasons. Since defense was typically used of defending a case in court, it makes sense that good lawyers make good apologists. . . . Craig Parton knows the objections to Christianity and is ready with clear, concise, and convincing answers. *The Defense Never Rests* is a peerless introduction to the case for the Gospel.”
2. **Confirmed in Christ** by Roy G. Gesch. You’re confirmed. Congratulations! Confirmation is a big step. But it’s also just the beginning. You’ve got a lot to live for! Being alive in Christ is an all-out exciting way to live. But you may be asking yourself “So what’s next?” What will the months and years that lie ahead look like? This book is a straightforward picture of life in Christ—and it’s written for YOU.
3. **House of Living Stones** by Katie Schuermann. In the small Illinois town of Bradbury, change doesn’t come often, and it certainly doesn’t come easily. So when Pastor Fletcher hires Emily Duke as the new choir director at Zion Lutheran Church, he unknowingly sets in motion a chain of events that turns the life of his congregation upside down. The crusty church secretary, Mrs. Scheinberg, must learn to adjust her curmudgeonly ways. Zion’s talented but pompous organist, Evan Ebner, must recognize his shortcomings. Emily must come to terms with her past. Even Pastor Fletcher must face reality when his world is shaken by the baggage Emily brings and by the handsome Zachary Brandt who pursues her. There are a host of lovable characters in this book for you to enjoy.

So—there are three new books for you to enjoy, along with all the other books where I live. Please come see me soon!

“BOOKWORM”

## Letter of Gratitude to Zion for their Support to LCM CSU



Dear Pastor Joel Pancoast, Pastor Sonja Pancoast, Council and Zion members,

Blessings and peace to you all in Christ! Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University has been through a long transition period over the past two years. At times, things have been difficult, but your congregation has helped support us through this period with your prayers, personnel talents, and financial gifts.

We are a mission of the Rocky Mountain Synod, and we take the responsibility seriously to steward your gifts to this ministry with care. As with all mission churches, success comes from collaboration, cooperation, and sometimes the selfless support from talent within our local congregations. Thank you's do not get said perhaps as often as we would like; please know that we are extremely grateful for the support offered by your congregation.

Your financial support to our mission is so valued. We would also like to lift up Pastor Sonja. She has been a gift to our ministry by joining our Board this past year as our Rocky Mountain Synod representative. Her talent with financial matters, vision, and overall energy has been a blessing to us. When times are difficult, God along with the Holy Spirit does respond. We thank you for sharing her gifts with us!

As our ministry moves forward into 2016, we are excited to bring in new pastoral leadership. We are grateful for your continued prayers of support for this ministry, the college students, our worshipping community members, and our Board. We look forward to what God has in store for this ministry and the continued relationship it brings with your ministry.

Blessings,

Jonathan Marston - Board Member

Thank you from the Board, students and worshipping community members



# News from Lutheran Campus Ministry

*Pastor Deb Abbott*

The academic year wraps up this month (May) with finals weeks and graduations at Colorado State University (CSU) and University of Northern Colorado (UNC). Thank you for your support for campus ministry this past year! This month we officially welcome Pastor Paul Judson who has been called to be Campus Pastor for Lutheran Campus Ministry at CSU. Pastor Paul was installed at the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly on April 28, and we are thrilled to have him join us in campus ministry. For more information about Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado contact Pastor Deb Abbott at [lcm.unco@gmail.com](mailto:lcm.unco@gmail.com). For Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University contact Pastor Paul Judson at [pastor@lcmcsu.org](mailto:pastor@lcmcsu.org).

## Bishop Gonia Visits LCM CSU



In the Fall 2015, Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop Jim Gonia (front left) visited the Lutheran Campus Ministry at CSU.

*Reprinted from the  
Reporter-Herald  
Faith Briefs  
March 25, 2016*

### King of Glory church recognized for mission

King of Glory Lutheran Church, 2919 N. Wilson Ave., has been recognized by Reconciling Works (formerly Lutherans Concerned/North America) as the most recent Reconciling in Christ congregation in Northern Colorado.

The recognition comes after the congregation officially adopted a public statement of welcome for “all people regardless of race, age, culture, ability, socioeconomic status, personal background, sexual orientation or gender identities, or other circumstances that can divide us.”

According to a news release, the recognition is consistent with the King of Glory mission statement that “As God’s people ... graced by differences, we invite and welcome all to grow in faith.”

## Called Forward Together in Christ: A process to discern the ELCA's future

As we anticipate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, many people are asking what kind of church do we believe God is calling the ELCA to become? How do we become an inclusive, diverse church that is inspiring and relevant in different communities?

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is leading a process endorsed by the ELCA Church Council and in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops and other leaders from across this church that will guide us as a church together to discern in faith the future of the ELCA.

Through an initiative titled Called Forward Together in Christ, we'll be assessing where we are as God's people and working to understand what God has in store for us. We are going to do a lot of listening—to God and to one another.

Together, we will create a vision for the future ELCA, a church with solid foundations

that shares the good news of Jesus Christ and makes a difference in the world.

### **What is the Called Forward Together in Christ process?**

In the three main stages of Called Forward Together in Christ we will:

- Have a conversation across this church about the future.
- Consult on directions and priorities that emerge.
- Reach decisions as a church about the directions in which we will head.

Between now and May, people in ELCA congregations, synods, social ministries, educational institutions and the churchwide office will be invited to take part in the conversations by providing ideas and feedback—hearing from as many people as possible.

In July, a consultation paper on the future directions of the

ELCA (based on these conversations) will be released. It will present themes and ideas for the future that will be tested in August and September.

At its November meeting, the ELCA Church Council will consider and approve a statement to articulate the future directions and priorities for our church. The goal is to launch this statement in 2017 as part of the ELCA's Reformation anniversary observance and begin to move in the direction in which God has called us.

Look for information about this initiative at upcoming meetings, including the Conference of Bishops gatherings, ELCA Church Council meetings, synod assemblies, the ELCA Multicultural Summit and the Churchwide Assembly, and Grace Gathering event this August. For more information, visit [ELCA.org/future](http://ELCA.org/future).

*Reprinted from Seeds for the Parish. Spring 2016.*

## Freed in Christ to serve: The 2016 dedicated day of service

The ELCA's dedicated day of service—known as “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday—will be Sunday, Sept. 11. The day offers an opportunity for Lutherans to extend the work they do in their communities every day, from preparing and delivering meals to people rendered homeless to thanking emergency responders. This year’s day of service will also mark the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

“The world can be a dangerous place. But there are some who, when disaster strikes, run toward the danger. These are first responders, firefighters, police and EMTs, who live out their baptismal vocation in service to their communities in times of intense need. They do God’s work with their hands,” said Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton.

She added, “The Rev. Stephen Bouman, executive director for ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission and former bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod at the time of Sept. 11, recounts this story: “He had a pastor in his synod who was a chaplain to the fire department. When the first plane hit the first tower, the chaplain rushed to the site where firefighters were mustering. He prayed with them and then took oil and marked their foreheads with the cross. Then the firefighters rushed into the building. The people who survived said they could see the crosses shining on the foreheads of the firefighters.”

“In baptism we have been marked with the cross. We are the ones who go into the broken places of the world. We are the ones who, by showing up on ‘God’s work. Our hands.’ Sunday, shine the light of the cross in our communities.” Since 2013, thousands of ELCA congregations have dedicated a day to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all people. Congregations are encouraged to select another day if Sept. 11 is not feasible.

*Reprinted from Seeds for the Parish. Spring 2016.*

## On the way to greater unity: Lutherans and Catholics prepare declaration

Preparing for the 500th Reformation anniversary in 2017, Lutherans and Roman Catholics in the U.S. have prepared an ecumenical text, “Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist.” At its heart are 32 “Statements of Agreement,” existing points of convergence whose cumulative impact has surprised even many of those who have closely followed the 50 years of dialogue between the two traditions. The document also indicates differences that remain and suggests some possible ways forward.

In its conclusion, the “Declaration” calls for reception at all levels—from international bodies to local settings, for which it offers concrete suggestions. It encourages Catholics and Lutherans locally to connect in “a deeper commitment to Christ and greater engagement and collaboration with one another.” It also suggests that the expansion of opportunities for Lutherans and Catholics to receive Holy Communion together would be a sign of the agreements already reached.

In August, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider the “Statement of Agreements.” It already has been unanimously affirmed by the Church Council and by the Conference of Bishops, as well as by the Bishops Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The text of the “Declaration on the Way” and more information are available at [ELCA.org/Declaration-on-the-Way](http://ELCA.org/Declaration-on-the-Way).

*Reprinted from Seeds for the Parish. Spring 2016.*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
815 East 16th Street  
Loveland, CO 80538

Phone: 970-667-1836  
Fax: 970-667-1468  
Email: [info@zionloveland.com](mailto:info@zionloveland.com)  
Web: [www.zionloveland.com](http://www.zionloveland.com)  
Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church-Loveland

## Join Us in Worship

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month,  
the two worship styles switch.

**Summer schedule starts June 5.**  
**8:30 a.m. outside on the lawn**  
**10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary**

## *Our Mission:*

We build and nurture a  
welcoming faith community  
for all generations.

## *Our Vision:*

All shall know Jesus Christ  
as Lord and Savior,  
and love each other  
as He loves us.

**Celebrate Your Faith—  
Renew Your Spirit—  
Love One Another**

Change Service Requested  
Issue 5/16

## Important Dates Related to Newsletter Content (Read the Articles for Details)

May 21	Diana Linden Ordination
May 22	Blessing our Graduates Gratitude Picnic
June 5	Summer Worship Schedule Begins 7-Week Study with Janie Lichtfuss Begins
June 6-10	Vacation Bible School
June 12-14	Sky Ranch Camp Senior High Youth
June 15	Registration Deadline for Sky Ranch Labor Day Weekend
June 18	Sierra's Run: Lutheran Kids Stamping Out Meningitis
June 19	Bishop Gonia Preaches at Zion Blessing of the Bikes and their Riders
June 22	Bike-to-Work Day
June 26-July 1	Sky Ranch Camp Middle School Youth
June 28	Milwaukee Children's Choir Concert
July 15-17	Bruce Burbank Celebration (specific date to be determined)
July 23-30	High School Mission Trip to Lame Deer, Montana
August 7-9	Sky Ranch Camp 1st-3rd Graders
August 7-12	Sky Ranch Camp 3rd-5th Graders
August 14	Summer Fest 2016