



# Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

February-March-April  
2018

## STAFF

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Pastor Joel Pancoast

Pastor Sonja Pancoast

### Faith Formation Coordinator

Madeline Fairfax

### Director of Music Ministry

Adam Torres

### Assistant Director of Music

Noelle Bauman

### Organist/Accompanist

Kathryn Peiffer

### Bell and Chimes Director

Thomas Chen

### Office Manager

Lindsey Walter

### Worship Technology Coordinator

Stig Oresjo

### Bookkeeper

John Sterner

### Childcare

Rae Bowker

Brooke Loftus

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## Foolish Love

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

This year a remarkable thing happens in our calendar. This is no joke! This year, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day and Easter Sunday falls on April Fools' Day. This does not happen very often; the last time these dates coincided like this was 1945! In 1945, World War II ended. You could buy a house for about \$4,500 (yes, only two zeros!). The most popular song was "Sentimental Journey" by Les Brown and Doris Day. The Detroit Tigers won the World Series in Major League Baseball. Only a few of you remember those events in history; do you remember what it was like to celebrate Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day together, and Easter Sunday and April Fools' Day together?

This confluence of dates and holidays is unique, but it also gives Christians an interesting opportunity to reflect on the meaning of our Ash Wednesday and Easter observances. On Ash

Wednesday, many Christians receive an ash cross on their foreheads as they hear the words from GENESIS 3:19: ... *you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*" The ash has several different meanings, each taken from Scripture. It reminds us of the dust of the earth from which God made us, but it also is rooted in ancient biblical practices of wearing ashes (and sometimes sackcloth) as a sign of penance. We receive the ashes as a sign of grief that we have sinned and fallen from God, but the ash is marked as a cross to remind us that this same God who created us from dust also loves and forgives us.

Don't get any ideas—we won't be replacing ash with Valentine's chocolate for Ash Wednesday! In our cultural celebrations of Valentine's Day, very few people have any idea who Saint Valentine was or why a day is named after

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*Foolish Love continued from page 1.*

him, and I suppose that is okay—I am not sure I would want my children giving Valentine’s cards to their friends reminding them of 3rd century Valentinus, who refused to deny Christ and as a result was beaten with clubs and stones, and finally beheaded! Another legend of Valentinus was that he defied the emperor by marrying couples so that the men would not have to go to war. There are many legends and stories of St. Valentine, but the true love of all of these stories and of Valentine’s Day is not romantic love but in Valentine’s knowledge of God’s love that goes to extreme lengths to be known.

Love can make us do foolish things. I remember my own early youthful experiences of love and how it made me completely irrational, and to be honest I kind of find joy in watching children coming of age become completely irrational in love. But the most foolish love of all is God’s. Some may think that is irreverent of me, but leading up to Easter, we reflect on the “passion” of Christ, which is the story of his suffering and death for us, and while we often use the word passion to describe strong and sometimes even uncontrollable emotion, the root of the word passion is from the Latin word that means “to suffer.” God’s love for us is so strong that he suffered for us, even to the point of death on a cross. Jesus said, *“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”* (JOHN 15:13).

That is why it is also so interesting that Ash Wednesday / Valentine’s Day leads to Easter

Sunday / April Fools’ Day this year. The cross is foolishness! Paul writes, *“We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute”* (1 CORINTHIANS 4:10). Paul writes this with irony, because while many of the Christians in Corinth saw that his life was full of suffering and hardship all for the sake of sharing the love of Christ, they began to boast in their accomplishments and great faith. They thought their faith was stronger and their wisdom was greater, but Paul wants them to see that success and wisdom that the world desires is not the success and wisdom that God desires and expresses. His “foolishness” of suffering for the sake of others is a reflection of God’s “wisdom.”

This confusion of foolishness and wisdom that Paul wrote about still happens today. Commitment to the gospel and to showing God’s love that goes to extreme lengths seems foolish compared to the ways of the world. It will not lead to success or fame or wealth. It may not even necessarily lead to good health or long life or happiness. But it does rest in a sure and certain hope of the resurrection, new life in God’s kingdom. And that hope leads us to do foolish things, like giving our time, talent, and treasure to God’s mission of redeeming the world. Christian faith may seem foolish, but it is no less foolish than a God who loves you to death—literally. This year, as we reflect on God’s love for us that goes to any extreme, join me in being fools for Christ.

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## Music Ministry

*Adam Torres*

God's love manifests itself in any number of ways—as an individual who has dedicated his life to the arts, His love manifests itself in my life every day—through music. I am grateful that Zion has been able, and will continue, to show generosity and love by its support of the arts community of Loveland. For example, in October/November 2017, Zion offered use of its sanctuary on several occasions for Loveland Opera Theatre auditions and chorus rehearsals; this generosity to outside arts organizations helps to cultivate community and promote the beauty of music. We'll be hosting "Classical Revolution" (with our own NOELLE BAUMAN conducting) in our sanctuary on February 2 at 6:00 p.m., which will feature art music written by African American composers. We will be hosting a new musical entity, Hyperprism Music, as it begins its inaugural year and mission to support young composers, conductors, and performers. The ability to show God's love through generosity enables these organizations to share their gifts of music with the greater Loveland community. Additionally, the work of the music ministry also continues in worship on a weekly basis. I am especially grateful to the chancel choir, children's choir, praise band, and bell choir, for their efforts at the end of 2017, particularly in the Advent and Christmas season, and I am eagerly looking forward to the efforts of these groups in 2018.

It is with excitement that I would like to announce the next major project of the chancel choir: a joint cantata with Trinity Lutheran Church, to be performed on Passion Sunday, March 25, at the 10:45 a.m. service. This cantata will incorporate Theodore Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, a dramatic musical setting of the end of Christ's life. This unique opportunity to enter into holy week will see the choirs of Trinity and Zion collaborate with soprano, tenor, and bass soloists, and small chamber orchestra. I hope that you will join us, either as a temporary choir member for the project, or in joint fellowship in worship. Please send an e-mail to [music@zionloveland.com](mailto:music@zionloveland.com) if you're interested in being a part of this project.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the greater music ministry at Zion, by sharing your musical gifts in our ensembles, through financial support, and by being a part of the Zion community in our joint mission in celebrating the extravagant love of God by loving and serving all.

## **“The Great I AM” Sunday Worship for Lent**

Our lectionary Scriptures for worship have taken us through the narrative arc of the Bible, starting with Creation at the end of summer, winding through the prophets in preparation for Christmas, and taking us through the Gospel according to John through the season after Epiphany as we encountered Christ in many ways. During Lent, our journey through John’s Gospel continues with Jesus’ many “I AM” statements.

These “I AM” statements in the Gospel according to John reveal Jesus’ identity in all its fullness. When Jesus says “I AM...”, no matter what qualifier follows, he is referring back to the name of God first given in Exodus 3. This name tells us both that God is personal and has a name to be known by, and that God’s name implies power and action. The name of God implies that God is life itself, not the mere creator of life. Throughout this series during Lent, we hear many of the ways Jesus connects himself to God as the great “I AM.” Whenever Jesus says, “I am the bread of life,” or “I am the Good Shepherd,” or any other “I AM...,” the fullness of God as “I AM” stands behind that claim. Jesus as human cannot be separated from Jesus as God, and that is good news for us as we move toward the passion and cross of Jesus, for the great “I AM”—life itself—will bring resurrection and life for all humanity and all creation.

Consider a quotation that has been floating around throughout social media:

“I AM. Two of the most powerful words; for what you put after them shapes your reality.”

This Lenten series helps us imagine that what Jesus puts after “I AM” in the Gospel of John shapes our reality, and who we are.

DATE	WORSHIP THEME	SCRIPTURE
February 18	I AM the Good Shepherd	John 10:1-18
February 25	I AM the Light of the World	John 8:12-20
March 4	I AM the True Vine	John 15:1-17
March 11	I AM	John 6:16-20
March 18	I AM the Living Bread	John 6:48-58
March 25 8:15 a.m. service	I AM the Resurrection and the Life	John 11:17-44

## Lenten Midweek Theme

# Places Along the Way—The Footsteps of Jesus

PASTOR JOEL and PASTOR SONJA, who were fortunate to have an opportunity to go to the Holy Land in January, share insight into that experience.

We traveled with a group made up of mostly ELCA clergy led by Good Shepherd Travel. Before we left, we were struck by the number of people who had expressed that a trip to the Holy Land was something they always wanted to do. While we were there, we posted pictures and reflections on Facebook of the sites we saw and experiences we felt, and we were amazed not only by the number of people who commented on our travels, but on the number of comments from people who felt as if they were traveling with us. Upon our return home, many people were anxious to know when we would share our experience. The response before, during, and after our trip was enough to cause us to change the direction of our Lenten midweek emphasis that we had already been planning for several months.



**Pastors at the River Jordan.**



**Pastors at the Wailing Wall.**

This year we will share “Places Along the Way,” which will include some of our experiences and pictures of places where Jesus walked. There is nothing like being able to stand in those places and bring life to the stories of the Bible, and in some cases shatter the images that have stayed with some of us since childhood, but we hope to take you on a spiritual journey—a pilgrimage to see the sites and reflect on the Scriptures along the way.

February 21	Origins: Bethlehem and Nazareth
February 28	Baptism, Temptation, Death and Rising: Jordan River and Wadi Qelt
March 7	Early Ministry and Discipleship: The Shores and the Depths of the Sea of Galilee
March 14	Synagogue and Temple, Empire and Simplicity: Capernaum and Caesarea Philippi
March 21	Silent Witnesses: Mount of Olives and Jerusalem's East Gate
Maundy Thursday	
March 29	The Depths of the Pit: Upper Room, Gethsemane, and the House of Caiaphas
Good Friday	
March 30	Behold! The Life Giving Cross: Via Dolorosa and Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Jesus' tomb and cross)

## **Lent and Holy Week Worship Schedule**

### **Ash Wednesday—February 14**

12:00 noon	Joint ELCA Worship at Trinity Pastor Sonja Pancoast (Zion) preaching
7:00 p.m.	Zion Worship

### **Midweek Lenten Worship**

#### **Wednesdays—February 21, February 28, March 7, March 14, March 21**

1:00 p.m.	Daytime Prayer Service with “Places Along the Way”
5:00 p.m.	Soup Supper (dinner is served any time between 5:00 and 5:45 p.m. so come when you are able)
5:45 p.m.	Small Groups with Conversation and Meditations on Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus
6:30 p.m.	Holden Evening Prayer with “Places Along the Way”

### **Palm Sunday and Passion of Our Lord—Sunday, March 25**

8:15 a.m.	Traditional Worship with Raising of Lazarus leading to Jesus’ Arrest and Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
10:45 a.m.	“Seven Last Words of Christ” Cantata, led by the combined choirs from Trinity and Zion

### **Maundy Thursday—March 29**

“Maundy” comes from the Latin word that means “commandment.” This day focuses on the “new commandment” given by Jesus to “love one another” and the depths of God’s love for us in Jesus’ passion and death.

12:00 noon	Joint ELCA Worship at Zion Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry (King of Glory) preaching
7:00 p.m.	Zion Worship with First Communion Milestone

### **Good Friday—March 30**

We call this day “good,” even though its focus is on the death of Jesus, because it is by his death that the world has life.

12:00 noon	Joint ELCA Worship at King of Glory Pastor Chris Davis (Trinity) preaching
7:00 p.m.	Zion Worship

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*Lent and Holy Week Schedule continued from page 6.*

### **Easter Vigil—March 31**

The Great Vigil of Easter is among the most ancient (and most fun!) of Christian worship services. At this service, we tell the stories of the Old Testament that Christians could look back upon to see that resurrection was something God was already doing, even before the resurrection of Jesus. It is a service of growing light, beginning with the darkness of Good Friday toward the celebration of Resurrection.

6:30 p.m.                      Easter Vigil Celebration

### **Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter)—April 1**

6:30 a.m.                      Sunrise Worship  
8:15 a.m.                      Traditional Worship  
10:45 a.m.                    Contemporary Worship

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## **Children's Music Ministry**

*Noelle Bauman*

Lots of celebrations are to be had for the musical children at Zion and Monroe. This last quarter was full of events with elementary, middle, and high school students. None of it would have been possible without the volunteers—new and returning—and the help of MADELINE FAIRFAX.

The children's choir completed their third season in December. We are growing in numbers and in friendships between Monroe and Zion children. The volunteer base is steady; this has been a learning experience for all involved. It is a beautiful thing to watch the knowledge gained by the teacher spread to the students. We are continuously adapting what works for our specific age group, demographic, and community.

With help from the children's choir, and all of the Sunday schools, we presented a Christmas program in December. I relate the process to any watercolor experience: it was never controlled, but allowed to form, move, and blend within its realm. The elementary children practiced the songs during the Sunday school openings, the high school and middle school performers learned their parts on their own with scripts and CDs, and

HOWARD ABRAHAM and CINDY KURTZ made their performance debuts a smashing success. Aside from these groups, the Zion praise band had an enormous hand in the program. We are so fortunate to have their musical efforts and abilities shared with us.

We are now rolling into a new season of the Zion children's choir with new children, new volunteers, and lots of excitement. We are looking at sharing our gifts with an even broader community who may need some cheer, by performing at a nursing home, soup kitchen, or hospital. This is still in the works, so if anyone has a request, please let me know. I want to celebrate the people who have been with this program from the beginning. Establishing a base of dedication is essential to growth of any program. I am so thankful for the help from Zion members and my own students from Colorado Early Colleges in Fort Collins.

As we embark on this new season, I look forward to worshipping with all of the beautiful voices that God has created.

## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

### Rocky Mountain Synod Youth Gathering

Sixteen Zion and King of Glory youth gathered with about 400 other youth from around the synod in Colorado Springs over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. Together, they worshipped, attended workshops, shared meals, and gathered for daily devotions. Our youth were challenged to see new perspectives and learn from others' stories as they explored the concept of Church for the Sake of the World.



Zion's youth and adult leaders who attended the 2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Youth Gathering.



## Faith Formation

*Photo credits: Maddie Elder*

When asked what they learned or experienced over the weekend, here's what some participants had to say!



*I experienced acceptance.*—BEILYNN



*In one of our workshops, I learned about the hardships some immigrants face when relocating to the U.S.*—JONNY



*I had the opportunity to meet new people and connect with other youth.*—SOPHIA



*I experienced our youth listening to each other and hearing the Gospel.*—Adult Leader BOB MAJESKI

### VISION OF RMS YOUTH GATHERINGS

Youth gatherings are intended to be a place to equip our youth and their leaders to live into what God has called them to be as his faithful disciples. A youth gathering is an opportunity for youth to be gathered together as the body of Christ, learning from each other, and being sent out to live as Christ has called them into a life of discipleship, service, and sharing of the gospel.

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## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

From Madeline:

One of my favorite passages in Ecclesiastes is about seasons and the necessary rhythms of life. Lent is my favorite of all the church seasons. I appreciate the time and space for solemn reflection and contemplation between the busy, joyous seasons of Christmas and Easter. I'm really looking forward to Wednesday evenings in the weeks to come, as I see a lot of potential for cross-generational interaction and faith formation within our congregation. Consider joining us! Sit next to someone you don't know very well for dinner, join in conversation within a small group, then breathe in deeply as we sing through Holden Evening Prayer. Even if you don't have a mentor or mentee during Lent, check in with someone to hear how God is at work in their life, right this very moment. We might be surprised at the Spirit's presence in our midst when we take the time to listen, pray, and dig deeper into the Bible. Lent is a season of challenges and deep darkness, but we have the gift of knowing that the season of new life is right around the corner! Let's settle into the time in between—connecting with each other, walking with Jesus through the stations of the cross, and finally on Easter, indulging in extravagant love that we are called to share.

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### First Communion

#### Discernment Class

February 4  
9:30 a.m. or Noon

#### Classes

February 25 and March 4

#### First Communion

Maundy Thursday  
March 29  
Evening Worship

At Zion, we do not have a specific age for first communion.

If you're interested in learning more, parents and guardians are invited to a discernment class on Sunday, February 4, at either 9:40 a.m. or noon.

### L2F2 Kids' Night In / Parents' Night Out Friday, February 9, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Parents—enjoy an evening just for you!

Kids—wear your pajamas, bring a sleeping bag and pillow, and get ready for a fun night of pizza, a movie, and games in Fellowship Hall!



All ages children welcome.

Childcare provided free of charge. Adult supervision and youth assistance provided from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Drop off or pick up anytime in between!

Please RSVP in advance with the blue connection sheet or by texting/calling/emailing Madeline:

419-270-6233 and [faithformation@zionloveland.com](mailto:faithformation@zionloveland.com)

## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

### Lenten Festival

**Sunday, February 11, 9:40 a.m.**

Lent is a special time of contemplation and reflection. We invite everyone into this season of learning and growing with a special Faith Formation Lenten Festival. Participants will receive a Lent-in-a-Bag kit for use throughout the season. Join us in Fellowship Hall from 9:40 to 10:30 a.m.

### **L2F2 High School Lunch and Ice Skating Saturday, February 24 Noon to 3:00 p.m.**

All high school youth and friends are welcome to join in the fun—lunch at Chick-fil-A and ice skating at Centerra! Bring \$20 per person. RSVP to Madeline, on the bulletin board, or via the connection sheet. Meet at Zion at noon to carpool.

### **L2F2 High School Winter Retreat Friday, March 2-Sunday, March 4**

All high school youth are invited to get away for a weekend of winter fun and fellowship! Skiing, group activities, devotions, and more all in a YMCA rental house near Winter Park. Meals, lodging, ski/snowboard rental equipment, and Winter Park lift passes are included in the \$150 price. Register by February 11.



### *Palm Sunday Breakfast*

**Palm Sunday Breakfast  
Sunday, March 25, 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

All are welcome to this Holy Week feast! This fundraiser helps make youth ministry at Zion possible. Come and enjoy breakfast and fellowship. There will not be Sunday school due to breakfast.

### Easter Festival

**Sunday, April 1, at 9:40 a.m.**

We have the joy of knowing that Jesus is alive! Celebrate the resurrection and rotate through Easter stations in Fellowship Hall. This will be in place of PK-12th grade Sunday school.

### **Family Sunday School Sunday, April 8, 9:40 a.m.**

Family Sunday school is a time for preschool through 5th graders to dig deeper into our Sunday school Bible stories with the caring adults in their lives. Join us as we explore Doubting Thomas and Lydia in April and May!

### **Confirmation Retreat Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith April 13-15**

Our confirmation youth will be learning about other faiths and denominations on a weekend trip to Denver. The retreat is Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, with lodging at a church in Denver. Programming and meals provided. More information at confirmation class.

### **L2F2 Minute to Win It Game Night Friday, April 20, at King of Glory**

Minute to Win It games are fun for all ages!

This L2F2 event will feature dinner, games, and lots of laughter! More details to come in late March!



## L2F2 Bridge Ministry Events

Bridge Ministry offers opportunities for seniors from King of Glory and Zion to gather together for a meal, and learning or fellowship each month. We have lots of exciting events scheduled through the summer! Mark them on your calendar now, then watch for more details to come in the Sunday bulletin and e-on Zion closer to the date!

### Spring and Summer 2018

- February 18—12:15 p.m.—Meet at Zion for potluck lunch and a presentation.  
Lutheran Church Impact in the Holy Land  
Presented by PASTORS JOEL AND SONJA PANCOAST  
  
Pastor Joel and Pastor Sonja visited the Holy Land in January and while there they were blessed to see the impact that the Lutheran Church is having in that region. They will share their experience at the Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem and the Lutheran Church at Beit Sahour, Palestine.
- March 18—12:15 p.m.—Meet at King of Glory for potluck lunch and storytelling from local refugees.
- April (date and time TBD)—Spring dance at King of Glory featuring live music!
- May 18—5:00 p.m.—Travel around town for a progressive dinner! Appetizers at King of Glory, then dinner at Zion (6:00 p.m.) and ice cream at North Lake Park (6:45 p.m.)!
- June 10—12:15 p.m.—Meet at Zion for lunch and a movie on the big screen!
- July 15—Old-fashioned church picnic at Mehaffey Park.
- August 19—Paint Your Heart Out.

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### Love Languages—Sundays at 9:40 a.m.—February 11 through March 18

Love is the foundation of who we are as Christians. *“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God....God is love”* (1 JOHN 4:7-8). God is love and we as Christians show love to others every day—love shared with family, friends, co-workers, colleagues, and even strangers. However, sometimes we may not show the other person love as they want to be loved. We may not receive love as we want to be loved.

Gary Chapman has discovered that because of our differences, we often express our care, concern, or love in different ways. He believes that five primary ways, five Love Languages, can typify how we relate to each other. Relationships can be strengthened when we come to understand what our primary love language is as well as the love language of the people with whom we interact.

Zion is in the city of love (Loveland), and this year Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, happens to

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**"Steering the Helm"  
Zion Leadership Event  
Saturday, February 10  
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**



Quiz Time:

After Jesus, who is the most important leader of the church?

Answer:

It's not the pastors; it's YOU!

Everyone at Zion provides leadership and direction for Zion's mission and ministry. The Scriptures remind us that YOU are the body of Christ, and individually members of it. A body needs different parts to lead, depending on the needs at the time. The body of Christ at Zion is no different.

Everyone who serves on a committee or any other ministry is invited to participate in this event "Steering the Helm." Often when people serve on committees, they are unsure of their role in leadership, specifically on the committee they have been called to, or overall in Zion's ministry.

This event has been planned by Zion's Leadership Development Committee to be interactive and fun. It will be a chance for you to get to know others on your committee and other committees, and understand the roles of committees.

It is very important that each committee member come for the sake of the year ahead of us. If you haven't already, please call or email the church office to let us know you are planning to attend. Thank you to all who serve in any role to advance Zion's mission into the world!

**Shrove Tuesday**

**Interdenominational  
Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner!**

Tuesday, February 13

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

533 Grant Avenue

The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday is sometimes celebrated as "Fat Tuesday," or Shrove Tuesday. In some traditions, it is called Fat Tuesday because it is observed as the last day to feast on rich foods before the ritual fast of Lent that begins on Ash Wednesday. In others, it may be called Shrove Tuesday from the word "shrive," which means "absolve" and points Christians toward Lent as a time of repentance and forgiveness to reflect on specifically what a person of faith may need or want to focus on to focus on God's unrelenting love.

This year in Loveland, we are celebrating Fat Tuesday with other congregations in Loveland as a way to feast together and celebrate Christian unity! A freewill offering will be collected for the Community Kitchen. Please come to join in fellowship with other Christians as we approach this great season of walking with Jesus toward the cross and resurrection as God's ultimate expression of love.

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*Love Languages continued from page 12.*

be on Valentine's Day. Throughout this Lenten season, you are invited to take some time to learn your love language and how you can become proficient with other people's love languages. PASTOR JOEL and PASTOR SONJA will be teaching a 6-week class on the five Love Languages on Sundays at 9:40 a.m., starting on Sunday, February 11, and ending on March 18.

Come and learn how to improve your relationships, connect with others, and show the love of God in our world.

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## January 28, 2018—Zion Annual Meeting Highlights

*From the Minutes submitted by Ruth Sprain*

1. The meeting began with opening devotions by Pastor Sonja Pancoast.
2. The 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.
3. The 2017 Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted. Terri Sloan stated that a family donated an additional \$2,169 to cover the 2017 deficit, so the 2017 budget balanced.
4. 2017 Council Report—Joel Brauner highlighted three of Zion's ministries.
  - a. Monroe Elementary Partnership—described the events and activities that happened through the partnership. In a video, John and Linda Sterner told of their experience volunteering in a kindergarten classroom and how that experience enriched their lives.
  - b. Children's Music Ministry—number of students has increased to 15, joining Zion's worship six times in 2017. In a video, Pam Stevens shared her experiences working with this ministry—from snacks to teaching music concepts.
  - c. Reformation concert called Ein Feste Burg was held to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, featuring the combined choirs of King of Glory, Trinity, and Zion accompanied by an orchestra. In a video, Eileen Huddle shared her experiences with music and why Ein Feste Burg was so meaningful to her.
5. Pastor's Report—Pastor Joel Pancoast
  - a. Pastor Joel contrasted what's been accomplished in the past with what is to be done in the future in the areas of
    - Invite** (for those outside the Zion community),
    - Welcome** (once a visitor is at our building), and
    - Integrate** (creating disciples through Zion's ministry).
  - b. Kitchen Update—Long Range Planning is investigating all options for the kitchen; the Kitchen Committee has gotten multiple bids for remodeling the kitchen; and we can expect the kitchen to be remodeled in 2018.
  - c. Global Outreach—Zion will be sending a small team to explore an ongoing partnership with a Nicaraguan church, in an area where other Northern Colorado Lutheran churches are working. The Zion team will investigate a recurring trip.
  - d. Midweek Lenten Study—The midweek Lenten gatherings will be built around the Pastors' experiences during their recent trip to Israel, titled "Places Along the Way—The Footsteps of Jesus." The pastors will tell their first-hand stories, share many photos, and in a spiritual journey bring life to the stories of the Bible.
  - e. Pastor Joel Pancoast said thank you to the congregation and staff.

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January 28, 2018—Zion Annual Meeting Highlights continued from page 14.

6. Elections—Motion to accept the slate of candidates offered on the ballot passed. People newly elected were introduced.
  - President, Council—Joel Brauner (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Secretary, Council—Joyce Robinson
  - Members-at-Large, Council—
    - Tyne Klammer, youth
    - Rich Marquardt
    - Elaine Nichols
  - Endowment Committee—Randy Davis
  - Finance Committee—Tyrell Hirschert
  - Leadership Development Committee—
    - Linda Juergensen
    - Kristi Peach (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
  - Synod Assembly Voting Members—
    - Will and Kathy Reents
7. 2018 Budget Proposal—The 2018 budget was approved as presented by Terri Sloan.

Major budget changes from the 2017 budget in 2018 include:

Synod Benevolence—\$2,163  
Maintain tithe, increase scholarships and Women's Ministry

Faith Formation—\$2,360  
Ministry

Outreach/Monroe—\$1,100  
Increase outreach opportunities

Music—\$ 850  
Increase to cover music and camps

Property Maintenance—\$2,300  
2017 budget understated

Natural Gas—(\$900)  
Lower cost due to new boiler

Pastors' and Other Staff Salaries  
\$7,375—2% salary increases

Staff Insurance and Pension—\$3,610  
Office manager pension/reduction in insurance costs

Administration—Copier Lease—\$3,000  
2017 budget understated

Various other accounts—(\$196)

**Total Increase—\$21,662**  
**4.2% increase from 2017**

**Total proposed 2018 Budget—\$539,435**

8. Recognition of Outgoing Members
  - Ruth Sprain—Secretary, Council
  - Don Harris—Member-at-Large, Council
  - Preston Green—Member at Large, Council
  - Stig Oresjo—Member at Large, Council
  - Larry Huddle—Endowment Committee
  - Donna Freed—Finance Committee
  - Erin Bachman and Rich Marquardt—Synod Assembly Voting Members
  - Jim Linden—Leadership Development

Members responded with applause.
9. Thank you to John and Linda Sterner, Eileen Huddle, and Pam Stevens for sharing their faith stories in the video presentations.
 

Joel Brauner invited other members to share their faith stories.

Mel Haack invited people to serve at the Community Kitchen on the second Tuesday of the month.
10. Pastor Joel Pancoast concluded the meeting with a prayer and blessing.

Attendance: 67 people.

The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

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## L.I.F.T (Ladies in Fellowship Together)

*Phyllis Zimmerman*

L.I.F.T. is a group for Zion ladies who are widowed, single, or who would like fellowship together for lunch to help “lift” up their spirits.

We feel blessed to have this chance to get to know each other beyond that “friendly hello” when we greet each other at church. Friendship is such a blessing in our lives and especially if we’ve lost someone dear to us, and we need the love and support of our church family.

Over the last few years, the group has grown to 20 to 30 ladies each month, sharing this special time together for lunch and fellowship. Some of our ladies enjoy our group so much they have invited a family member or friend to come with them. What a blessing that is!

We meet the fourth Tuesday of most every month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at a different restaurant in Loveland. (We try to pick restaurants that have a private room so it’s nice for visiting.)

Our December meeting is extra special when we celebrate Jesus’ birthday and also the birthdays of all our ladies for the year. At that meeting, we also take our annual group picture.

We have a regular calling list so we can make a restaurant reservation for the number of ladies expected to attend that month. If you would like to be on the calling list or have any questions, contact PHYLLIS ZIMMERMAN at 667-3861.



Zion's L.I.F.T. (Ladies in Fellowship Together) celebrated “Happy Birthday Jesus and Friends” at their December 12, 2017, gathering.

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### We want your Lenten soup recipes



We would love to piece together a Lent recipe book from the wonderful soups you provide each year. We attempted to do this last year, but there weren't quite enough. When you bring in your soup, please bring in a copy of the recipe or send it electronically to [office@zionloveland.com](mailto:office@zionloveland.com). If you borrow the recipe from a cookbook or website, please include this information for us to publish. We are excited to make your recipes available for our congregation. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us this Lenten season!



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## Zion Welcomes New Members

### **NICK , PAM, ROXIE (AGE 3), AND LUCAS (AGE 1) DAVIS**

6107 Normandy Court, Fort Collins, CO 80525, 970-222-4507

Nick and Pam live in south Fort Collins. They started coming to Zion when Nick's parents Randy and Brenda joined Zion. Pam is a dentist in Loveland, and Nick is in sales management. Roxie is enjoying preschool Sunday school, and Lucas was baptized at Zion in 2017.

### **JEFF AND MADELINE FAIRFAX**

2955 West Stuart Street, #8, Fort Collins, CO 80526, 419-270-6233

Madeline moved to Colorado in August to begin her position as Faith Formation Coordinator at Zion. She and Jeff were married in September. Jeff is a Program Director at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp and has worked there for over a year.

### **MATT, AMY, AND SHYLA (AGE 6) MOORE**

312 East Nebraska Avenue, Berthoud, CO 80513, 614-843-1504

Amy and Matt live in Berthoud. The very first week they came to Zion, Shyla knew this was where she wanted to be. Amy is an office manager, and Matt is a mortgage investigator.

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## Baking Bread with Charlotte

Did you know everyone loves when Charlotte Schmidt bakes bread for Zion's communion? Charlotte thinks that's great and is willing to teach you her recipe and technique during a class offered at her house. If you are interested, contact Charlotte. She then will set a date and time convenient for everyone. Her number is 970-372-7706.

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## Zion's midweek gatherings during Lent

### **Soup Suppers—Caring Conversations—Holden Evening Prayer**

#### *Sign up to help with Lenten dinners*

Throughout the season of Lent, Zion will have midweek Lenten gatherings with nourishing soup suppers, caring conversations, and inspiring worship.

For that, we invite you to bring a soup, bread, or dessert for 12 to 15 people. Or, you can help with the set up and clean up.

Select the date that best suits you. The five Wednesdays of Lent begin on February 21 and end on March 21.

You can sign up two ways.

1. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the narthex.
2. Sign up on the blue connection sheet enclosed in the Sunday bulletin, and Lindsey will contact you with more information.

Soup suppers will be served starting at 5:00 p.m.

## Among Members and Friends

### At Rest in Our Father's House

*We keep in prayer:*

*Family of **Mary Jane Clark** who died on December 24, 2017, and whose funeral was at Kibbey-Fishburn on January 3, 2018.*

### Joyous Celebrations

*We celebrate the birth of **Declynn Marie Buck** who was born on January 11, 2018, to Taylor Buck. Declynn was 6 pounds 11 ounces and 19.5 inches long. Declynn is the granddaughter of Ronda Buck and is welcomed by her sister Leigha Buck.*

*We celebrate the birth of **Charlotte Joy Wadsworth** who was born on January 19, 2018, to Jerry and Brittney (Freed) Wadsworth. Charlotte was 8 pounds 9 ounces and 20.5 inches long. Charlotte is the granddaughter of Phil and Donna Freed and great-granddaughter of Don and Arlene Roney.*

### We Keep in Prayer

*Zion offers up prayers  
for those in need—  
for members, for friends,  
for community,  
and for the world.*

*To Our Zion Family,*

*Thank you to everyone for the many expressions of kindness, support, and love all of you have shown us during this difficult time. The cards, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated. It is so comforting being a part of such a great faith community.*

*The Deane Steine Family*

*To My Zion Family,*

*I cannot begin to express how grateful I am to my Zion family. With the recent passing of my grandson Joe, I have received heartfelt kindness in so many different ways. Not only were compassion and love shown to me, but they were extended to my daughter, Cristy and her husband. Many of you whom I have known from years at Zion and many who are new, made me feel loved, and the compassion you have shown is out of this world. Thank you from the depths of my heart for everything you have done for me and my family during this difficult time of grieving. I feel truly blessed to be part of a wonderful, loving, church family.*

*Harriet Colton*

*Metropolitan State University of Denver announced that **CLAYTON RAYMOND BUCK** received the degree of Bachelor of Arts with a major in Sociology with a Criminal Justice and Criminology minor in December 2017.*



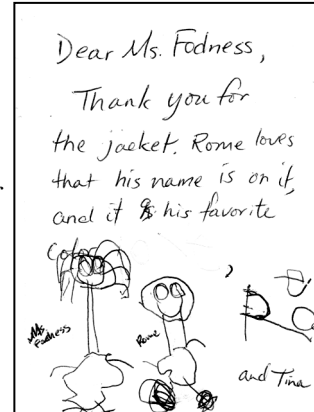
## Among Members and Friends

*Friends in Christ,*

*We join as the Church Together in times of joy and in times of crisis. This fall we as the church responded with profound generosity to our brothers and sisters who were impacted by hurricanes and tropical storms. Reports as of the end of October [2017] reflect gifts totaling over 9.7 million, with **over \$250,000 coming from individuals, ministries, and congregations of the Rocky Mountain Synod.** Because of your regular mission support giving, 100% of funds given to Lutheran Disaster Response goes directly to response and recovery efforts. Thank you for your continued commitment to being Christ's Church, Better Together.*



[signature of Bishop James Gonia, Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA]



**Thank You from a Monroe student for a winter jacket.**

### Thank You Letters to Zion

- October 19, 2017—From House of Neighborly Service for a contribution of \$236.67.
- November 17, 2017—From Loveland Habitat for Humanity for a gift of \$278.09.
- November 20, 2017—From ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal for a gift of \$2,595. This Zion gift was in support of our Faster Pastors running for South Sudan.
- November 28, 2017—From Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado for a donation of \$125.

#### New Address for EVELYN HABER

Effective January 24, 2018, Evelyn will reside at:  
Columbine Commons Assisted Living  
1475 Main Street  
Room 220  
Windsor, CO 80550

*Dear Zion Lutheran,*

*Jim and I wish to thank you for having THINK HUMANITY at your church to see products made by women displaced by war in Uganda.*

*Our math shows with four children sleeping under each net that you have provided protection (from malaria) for 720 children. These nets last up to five years so your impact is huge! Total sales (ornaments and other products) was \$2,771.50. One hundred percent of all sales go toward Think Humanity programs in Uganda.*

*We enjoyed your services, including the Children's Christmas program.*

*You are a very compassionate church. We felt welcomed and we cannot thank you enough.*

*May God bless your church.*

*Sincerely,*

*Beth Heckel, Founder Think Humanity*

*Jim Heckel, President Think Humanity*

www.thinkhumanity.org      2880 Spring Mountain Dr.  
bheckel@thinkhumanity.org      Loveland, CO 80537  
970-667-9335

Headquarters in Colorado and Hoima, Uganda



*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*At a time when conversations in the church tend to focus on survival and sustainability, in light of a future filled with so much uncertainty, it's more critical than ever that we remember that the Body of Christ exists not for itself but for the sake of the world God so loves. As people of faith, we have been called to new life in Christ so that we may serve as the Spirit's instruments of hope and healing for every neighbor on our globe as well as for the earth itself. Join our 2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly as we explore what it means to be Christ's Church Together, for the life of the world.*

*In faith,  
Bishop Jim Gonia*



eConnection 01/03/2018, e-newsletter from the Rocky Mountain Synod. 2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Pre-Assembly Information Packet.  
[rmselca.org/assembly](http://rmselca.org/assembly).

## **An Invitation from Bishop Gonia for Synod Assembly Voting Members**

Every year at our Synod Assembly, a common refrain is heard among first-time voting members: **"It's so inspiring to be here. We had no idea how much our church does together!"** In anticipation of our 2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly, we are inviting those of you serving as congregational voting members to an exciting new opportunity. In addition to preparing for and participating in the Assembly, you will be commissioned as a **Church Together Ambassador** for the next year. What does this mean?

- You will **serve as an advocate** of our shared life and witness as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America until we meet in Assembly in 2019.
- You will **receive monthly materials** containing stories or insights about why our life as church together matters; these materials will highlight ministries of our congregations, partners, synod and wider church.
- In coordination with your pastor, **you will share these stories and insights** with your congregation monthly, ideally in worship.
- You will be **encouraged to network with other Church Together Ambassadors** and seek additional ways to share the energy and enthusiasm generated when we gather in Assembly.

Look for more details to come – and thank you for your commitment to our life as Church Together!

eConnection 01/17/2018, Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA.

## Stephen Leaders Commissioned



Pictured with Pastor Sonja are newly commissioned Stephen Leaders Barb Roman and Don Barnes.

On Sunday, December 10, Zion commissioned two new Stephen Leaders to help lead our Stephen Ministry program, DON BARNES and BARB ROMAN. They each spent a week of intensive training in order to become a Stephen Leader. Don attended Stephen Leader training in February 2017 and Barb attended in August 2017.

We are blessed to have over 25 years of Stephen Ministry at Zion and thankful for Don and Barb sharing their gifts of compassion and leadership to make this program of one-on-one Christian care giving a success at Zion. Don and Barb join our other Stephen Leaders, CHERYL GILLPATRICK, GINGER KLEIN, and PASTOR SONJA.

### How to be a Friend to Someone with Cancer

Please join our Stephen Ministry team for a presentation on cancer by a member of the Greeley chapter of the American Cancer Society. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. Handouts with additional information and resources will also be available.

WHERE: Fellowship Hall  
Zion Lutheran Church

WHEN: Saturday, April 14  
9:00 to 11:30 a.m.



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

## 2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly—May 3-5 Westin Hotel in Westminster, Colorado

Zion's synod assembly voting members for 2018 are WILL and KATHY REENTS, who commented in Zion's 2017 annual report, *"Hopefully, having been long-time members of Zion, we can apply our knowledge to current issues in the church. This will be our first time representing Zion at the Synod Assembly as voting members. We are looking forward to this new experience and hope*

*that you will talk with us about your concerns that may be addressed at the assembly."*

Several elected positions will be voted on at the assembly, key of which is the election of a bishop. The bishop is elected to a six-year term. In the Rocky Mountain Synod, there are no term limits.

**Together, we proclaim and embody God's unconditional love for the sake of the world.**

Rocky Mountain Synod Mission

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## ELCA Presiding Bishop responds to reported racist comments

1/12/2018 1:30:00 PM

I am very disappointed and disturbed by the remarks that President Donald Trump is reported to have said yesterday – and confirmed by others who were present – in the context of a discussion about immigration.

Regardless of the context, references of that kind have no place in our civil discourse and, if true, reflect racist attitudes unbecoming any of us, but especially a president of the United States.

Instead, we should be fostering a world where each of us sees every person – regardless of race, origin, ethnicity, gender or economic status – in the image of God and, therefore, worthy of dignity and respect. Our church has relationships and partnerships with Christians and others on six continents. These are our sisters and brothers. We strive to accompany them and they us, across boundaries and cognizant of our diversity, yet all seeking the common good. In working for a healed, reconciled and just world, we all should faithfully strive to participate in God's reconciling work, which prioritizes disenfranchised, vulnerable and displaced people in our communities and the world, bearing witness – each of us – to the love of God in Jesus Christ.

*"We have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of our civilization"* —Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

God's peace,

Elizabeth A. Eaton  
ELCA Presiding Bishop

[news@elca.org](mailto:news@elca.org)

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## From Bishop Gonia



In my life and ministry, I have spent significant time in the very places the American President recently derided. I cannot state strongly enough my rejection of such divisive and racist comments. Our nation is immeasurably enriched by neighbors who come not only from these nations, but from all across the entire globe. Our human diversity is a gift, the Divine Invitation for us grow beyond our limited perspective and vision.

The immigrant story that is part and parcel of our legacy as a church body becomes a gift to the world when we as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are at the forefront of welcoming new neighbors from around the world to our country.

Bishop Jim

eConnection 01/17/2018, Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA.

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## Global Missions—Zion Mission Committee

### *Will and Kathy Reents*

This year the Zion Mission Committee collaborated with a local N.G.O., Think Humanity, which was founded 10 years ago by Beth and Jim Heckle.

At church, on December 10 and 17, we sold items made by women from Uganda who had been displaced by war. On the sales table, Think Humanity posted signs reading, “For every \$5.00 spent on purchasing Christmas ornaments, one mosquito net will be given to people living in Uganda.” In total, \$900.00 worth of Christmas ornaments were sold. Thus, Zion made it possible for 180 nets to be purchased. We have been told that four children are able to sleep under one net. Thus, Zion provided protection from malaria for 720 children. The average net lasts for five years.

In addition, Zion’s Ruth Circle donated \$67.00 and the items sold, not including ornaments, amounted to \$1,804.50. Those items included earrings, bracelets, necklaces, hand-woven baskets, colorful cloth bags, trivets, aprons, and greeting cards. Many of the women who created the craft items were previously chopping rocks in the hot sun to be used for road base at a salary of \$1.00/day.

In total, Zion raised \$2,771.50 and contributed 180 mosquito nets.

One-hundred percent of the sales goes toward Think Humanity programs. Think Humanity targeted their assistance to refugees as they are often located in higher risk areas where there is

inadequate health services, malnutrition, lack of clean water, and sanitation issues.

Think Humanity organizes one trip per year to Uganda. Beth and Jim lead the trip and other Board members and interested parties join them. It is vital that a close relationship is developed between the N.G.O. and the people receiving the assistance. Dr. Reents is a Board Member of Think Humanity and has gone to Uganda and hopes to return again this year.

Think Humanity grew from a small organization supplying mosquito nets to one that today provides healthcare, water wells, education, living quarters (girls’ hostel), and socio-economic development projects.

At Think Humanity, instead of having an expatriate staff who may not fully understand the local people and ways of operating, they engage six local Ugandan leaders. Think Humanity helps to empower them to make the changes necessary in their communities.

The Zion Mission Committee would like to thank Zion members who so generously contributed to the success of this fundraiser. Think Humanity takes this opportunity to thank Zion members as well.

[Editor’s Note: See a thank you from Beth and Jim Heckle, Think Humanity, on page 19 of this newsletter.]

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## Meet Our New Leaders

### **RANDY DAVIS—ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

Brenda and I moved to Loveland on October 28, 2016, due to my semi-retirement and the fact that all three of our children live in Fort Collins and Loveland along with their spouses and our seven grandchildren. We lived in Mason City, Iowa, for over 43 years. With five of the grandkids being age 5 and under, we wanted to be a part of all the grandkids' lives.

We started to attend services at Zion in December 2016 and officially became members in April 2017.

Brenda and I grew up together in a small farm community of Fredericksburg in northwest Iowa and became high school sweethearts. We both like the simple life and outdoors. Family is a really big thing for us. Brenda was a nurse for many years and is planning on volunteering at the hospital. She loves to babysit our grandkids and go shopping with her daughters and daughter-in-law. I was a CPA in public accounting with a national firm and headed up the local office in Mason City for several years. I love to ride bike, hike, and work on house projects and woodworking.

Brenda and I were active in our prior church in Iowa, being members on boards and committees. Over the 40 plus years I was an usher, including being a head usher. I have joined the usher crew at Zion, and Brenda has become a welcome person. I have now been asked to be on the Endowment Committee.

I hope to bring my accounting and tax experience as well as my prior church committee experience to the Endowment Committee.

### **LINDA JUERGENSEN—LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

My husband Dan and I have four adult children: Jami, David, Joe, and Pete. We also have the privilege of enjoying eight grandkids, and three step-grandkids. We have been members of Zion for 41 years. I was a pediatric nurse for 30 years. We enjoy the general excitement and enthusiasm of the members at Zion and their eagerness to join in and help where needed. I hope to bring my willingness to help out and desire to accomplish great things for our church and community.

### **RICH MARQUARDT—MEMBER AT LARGE**

I have been married to Martha for 43 years. We have two daughters, ages, 37 and 32. We have three grandsons, ages 5, 4, and 3. Martha and I have been members of Zion for 3 1/2 years. I enjoy playing a little guitar and have written a few songs that I performed at my daughter's wedding. I really enjoy Zion's community outreach. I enjoy helping with Interfaith Hospitality, setting up and being an overnight host.

### **ELAINE NICHOLS—LONG RANG PLANNING**

I have lived in Loveland since 1983 and was a member of Zion in the 1990s. My husband Phil, who died four years ago in January, and I raised two sons Jeff and Chad. After retirement we became snowbirds going back and forth to Lake Havasu City, Arizona. (My son Chad and I still have a home there.) I became a Zion member again in July 2014. Zion has been a wonderful comforting church family, and I've had many opportunities to volunteer, including the altar guild, Monroe school, VBS, IHN, serving at funerals, folding bulletins, and substituting in the church office. I also enjoy the Wednesday noon Bible study and monthly Priscilla Bible study Group. I always look forward to attending our

*Continued on page 25.*



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*Meet Our New Leaders continued from page 24.*

monthly L.I.F.T meetings and am grateful for the time Phyllis Zimmerman puts into making them successful.

**WILL AND KATHY REENTS—SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS**

We grew up in Sibley, a small town in northwest Iowa. We've known each other since the third grade and were high school sweethearts. We have been members of Zion for 43 years. We have three grown children (Kristin, Nate, Peggy). For the last 8 years they all lived with their families in Thailand.

While at CU , Peggy spent her Semester Abroad in Thailand. After graduating, she returned to Thailand and worked for the Semester Abroad program, falling in love with a Thai guy, Jon Jandai. He is known for his expertise in earthen building, seed saving, and organic farming. Peggy and Jon have one son, Tahn, age 13. After spending time in the Peace Corp in Honduras and working in Bolivia, Nate decided to use his knowledge of environmental engineering to work on water projects in Thailand. In addition, he is an organic farmer and earthen builder. His girlfriend, Yao, has taught Thai cooking classes in Loveland as she has two restaurants in Chiang Mai. Kristin and her family (Kam, age 10 and Kai, age 14) moved to Chiang Mai, Thailand, and taught at Lanna International School. This past summer they returned to Jefferson, Colorado (2 1/4 hours from Loveland) where Kip rejoined the staff at Platte Canyon (Bailey) and Kristin is teaching at Fairplay Elementary. Recently, you may have seen Kristin and her family attending worship services at Zion.

Will feels strongly about using his medical skills to help the poor, at home and in other countries.

Locally, he volunteers at St. Mathews Clinic in Loveland and Christ Clinic in Fort. Collins. He has done medical mission trips in Madagascar, Thailand (giving free care to Burmese migrants and refugees), Ecuador, Honduras, Nigeria, and Uganda. He travels to Bangladesh with Medical Teams International helping to provide medical care for the Rohingya (Refugees from Burma). Kathy's skills are different. Having been an elementary school teacher, she enjoys teaching English to small groups and has been known to hold a "torch" (flashlight) for medical personnel.

We are pleased that Zion folks are willing to give monetarily as well as their time and talents to support missions. The Zion Mission Committee rallies forth when needs arise.

This will be our first time representing Zion at the Synod Assembly as voting members. We are looking forward to this new experience and hope that you will talk with us about concerns that may be addressed at the assembly.

**JOYCE ROBINSON—SECRETARY**

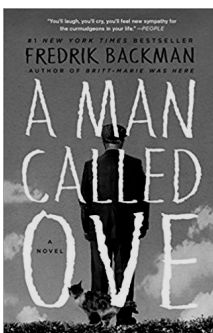
I've been married to Tom for 24 years. We have a daughter Jennifer who is 16 years old; she was baptized and confirmed at Zion. I also have a step-daughter, Lori, who is 32 and lives in Phoenix. We have been members of Zion twice, once in 2000 to 2003 and currently since 2013 when we moved back. Zion is our home. We've been members at other Lutheran churches, and the people at Zion are the friendliest!

I love super hero and science fiction movies and love to read. I'm excited about expanding Zion's ministry to people who might not feel comfortable coming to church. I was praying for a way to help out more at church and my prayers were answered.

## Zion Evening Book Group for Spring 2018

*Scott Sprain*

FEBRUARY—**A Man Called Ove** by Fredrik Backman. 2014. 353 pages. Fiction.



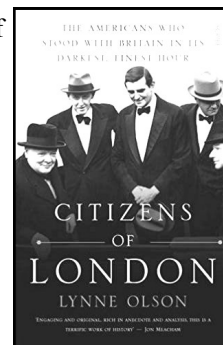
Meet Ove. He's a Swedish curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him “the bitter neighbor from hell.” But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations.

We meet on Thursday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Lois Jurgens, 1000 West Eisenhower, #17, Loveland, 80537.

MARCH—**Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in its Darkest, Finest Hour** by Lynne Olson. 2011. 496 pages. Nonfiction.

The acclaimed author of *Troublesome Young Men* reveals the behind-the-scenes story of how

the United States forged its wartime alliance with Britain, told from the perspective of three key American players in London: Edward R. Murrow, the handsome, chain-smoking head of CBS News in Europe; Averell Harriman, the hard-driving millionaire who ran FDR's Lend-Lease program in London; and John Gilbert Winant, the shy, idealistic U.S. ambassador to Britain. Each man formed close ties with Winston Churchill—so much so that all became romantically involved with members of the prime minister's family. Drawing from a variety of primary sources, Lynne Olson skillfully depicts the dramatic personal journeys of these men who, determined to save Britain from Hitler, helped convince a cautious Franklin Roosevelt and reluctant American public to back the British at a critical time. Deeply human, brilliantly researched, and beautifully written, **Citizens of London** is a new triumph from an author swiftly becoming one of the finest in her field.



We meet on Thursday, March 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Florence Doksansky, 3695 Leopard Street, Loveland, 80537.

APRIL—**Celine** by Peter Heller. 2017. 352 pages. Fiction.

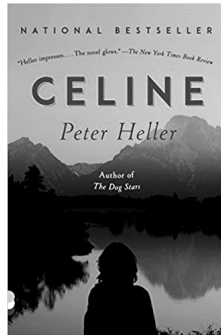
From the best-selling author of *The Dog Stars* and *The Painter*, a luminous, masterful novel of suspense—the story of Celine, an elegant,

*Continued on page 27.*

Zion Evening Book Group for Spring 2018 continued from page 26.

aristocratic private eye who specializes in reuniting families, trying to make amends for a loss in her own past. Working out of her jewel box of an apartment at the base of the Brooklyn Bridge, Celine has made a career of tracking down missing persons, and she has a better record at it than the FBI.

But when a young woman, Gabriela, asks for her help, a world of mystery and sorrow opens up. Gabriela's father was a photographer who went missing on the border of Montana and Wyoming. He was assumed to have died from a grizzly mauling, but his body was never found. Now, as Celine and her partner head to Yellowstone National Park, investigating a trail gone cold, it becomes clear that they are being followed—that this is a case someone desperately wants to keep closed. Inspired by the life of Heller's own remarkable mother, a chic and iconoclastic private eye, *Celine* is a deeply personal novel, a wildly engrossing story of family, privilege, and childhood loss. Combining the exquisite plotting and gorgeous evocation of nature that have become his hallmarks, Peter Heller gives us his finest work to date.



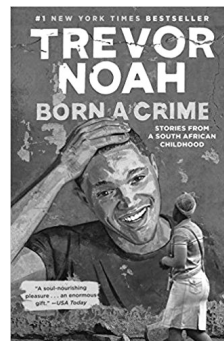
We meet on Thursday, April 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jaci Engel and Wes Melander, 4110 Bonnell Drive, Loveland, 80537.

MAY—**Born a Crime** by Trevor Noah. 304 pages. 2016. Memoir.

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show

began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

**Born a Crime** is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son



from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a

mother's unconventional, unconditional love.

We meet on Thursday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Scott and Ruth Sprain, 5260 Crabapple Court, Loveland, 80538.

We will also select books for discussion in the coming year.

## Troop 314 Status Update—Winter 2017/2018

*Jenny Hutson*

Snow is afoot, .....or underfoot, and boots are getting a workout. Troop 314 has been focusing on some indoor activities. But we are still enjoying the outdoors!

We wrapped up November working on rank advancement. The older scouts were plugging away on merit badges, troop leadership, service projects, and more on their way to the rank of Eagle, all the while, taking time to work with the newer and younger scouts on their tasks. A significant number of boys advanced at least one rank this fall. Quite an accomplishment. During November, the troop attended camping weekend at Camp Pitaya where the focus was on youth leadership and training and team-building.



We joined other troops in town to participate in flag ceremonies on Veterans Day to honor our Armed Forces.



*Continued on page 29.*

*Troop 314 Status Update—Winter 2017/2018 continued from page 28.*

December is normally a thinner month of activities due to the holidays and multitude of school activities. However, the troop managed to still be busy. We spent our weekly meetings working on citizenship and first aid as well as preparing the boys for the snow camping months.

Once the holiday buzz had passed, Troop 314 got back to business in January. The weekly meeting theme for January was electronics. Many of the boys opted to do a take-home project where they had to create a circuit board activity by utilizing a solder station. A big thank you to Mr. Balliew who taught the boys and also made himself available at his home to scouts who wanted to use his solder stations and electronics expertise.

As it is winter, the month of February will focus even more on SNOW! Our scouts will spend the weekly meetings learning about snowshoeing, team operation of Klondike sleds, going ice skating and more. In addition, we will be joining other troops in our District at Camp Tahosa to participate in the yearly Klondike Derby where the boys will camp and compete in a variety of

outdoor skill challenges. We are scheduled to attend Sunday Services at Zion on Scout Sunday, so we hope to see you there! And finally, we finish out the month with a winter campout at North Michigan Reservoir where our boys will be ice fishing

March is still in the planning phase, as we will be doing a variety of merit badge tasks we have dubbed "Merit Badge Mayhem." Scouting for Food is the Saturday after Spring Break, and we will be collecting nonperishable food to donate to the House of Neighborly Service.

On a proud note, Troop 314 has THREE scouts who have earned the rank of Eagle! NOAH BURTIS, COLTON MROZ, and PAUL MILLER all earned the rank of Eagle and we could not be prouder of these fine young men!

As always, we are always looking for young men seeking a challenge and opportunity to have fun while gaining skills and learning leadership. If you know one who might be interested, send him our way!



**Congratulations to scouts Noah Burtis, Colton Mroz, and Paul Miller.  
They each earned the rank of Eagle!**

## News from Lutheran Campus Ministry

*Pastor Deb Abbott*

Did you know that campus ministry provides a network for students throughout the country?

At the beginning of January, 80 students gathered in Chicago for the Lutheran Student Movement's national gathering, including nine students from Colorado. Students from campus ministry in Greeley, Fort Collins, and Boulder spent their New Year's in a very chilly Chicago with Lutheran Campus Ministry students from around the country for worship, conversation, and decision-making. We are Christ's Church, Better Together!

You can be a part of our ministry by inviting young adults you know to join us. Then make sure and pass their info on to us so that we can invite them to join our community as well. If you would like to refer a student or bring a meal this semester to feed students please contact us.

In February, we are looking forward to our Winter Retreat, February 16-18, at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp with students and staff from Lutheran Campus Ministry CSU (Colorado State University), CU Boulder (University of Colorado), and UNC (University of Northern Colorado). Retreat opportunities support students on their faith journey and expand our communities.

For more information about Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado, contact PASTOR DEB ABBOTT at [pastor@lcmgreeley.org](mailto:pastor@lcmgreeley.org). For more information

about Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University, contact PASTOR PAUL JUDSON at [pastor@lcmcsu.org](mailto:pastor@lcmcsu.org).



Excerpts from a November 13, 2017, letter of appreciation from Campus Pastor Paul Judson, LCMCSU.

*Pastors Sonja and Joel and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church,*

*We give thanks to God for your regular support of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Fort Collins. To date, our 2017 records show that your support has included \$875 in donations. Thanks especially for the gift of \$500 in February [2017] that goes beyond your annual budgeted plan of support of \$500. We are also grateful for your congregation's support through hosting a student on Campus Ministry Sunday and for the many hours of your members who help on our board (thank you, John Sterner) and our financial secretary (thank you, Pastor Sonja). You have also hosted me as a supply preacher and beyond your prayer support, I am sure there are other ways you have cared for our ministry over the year for which I am unaware.*

....

*We encourage the congregation to consider hosting another Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday on February 11, 2018. Again, it will be our opportunity to bring a trained student preacher to proclaim the gospel and to give personal thanks for the support of Zion.*

*Paul Judson  
Lutheran Campus Pastor*

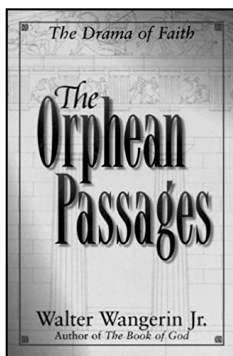
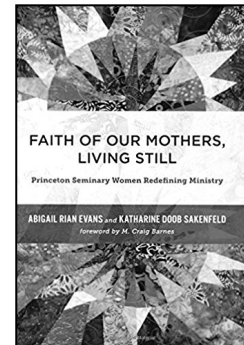
Hello There!



It's Bookworm here once again. It has really been fun to see some of you in Zion's library! I would like to see many more of you there! There are so many good books in the library. Come find some you would enjoy reading.

That reminds me about two featured books I think you might enjoy. Let me tell you a bit about them.

The first one is entitled **Faith of Our Mothers, Living Still** by Abigail Evans and Katharine Sakenfeld. This book celebrates the diverse ministries in which women are called to serve God and others. This book showcases twenty-eight first-person narratives by women from a variety of backgrounds. Readers will be interested to know that one chapter was written by our own PASTOR SONJA! Be sure to look on page 51.



The second book was written by a very good friend of mine. The name of the book is **The Orphean Passages** by Walter Wangerin. This book is Walter Wangerin's compelling story of a Christian pastor's career and the drama of his faith. Wangerin writes that "faith is a 'relationship' with the living God enacted in this world." Wangerin sees in the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice an extraordinary parallel of the twists and turns individuals follow in their journeys of faith. Walter Wangerin is presently a professor at Valparaiso University.

I hope I see you soon in Zion's library!

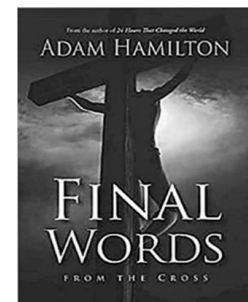
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## **The Final Words by Adam Hamilton** **A 7-week study led by Janie Lichtfuss** **February 4 through March 18**

Hamilton examines Christ's dying hours and his final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross.

Moving through each chapter you will begin to understand and respond to Jesus' final words at the cross while learning about those who were eye witnesses to the crucifixion. In the final chapter, Hamilton moves beyond the cross to Jesus' words to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and to those who were witnesses to the Resurrection.

The class will meet in Zion's downstairs classroom. Cost of the book is \$10.





**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## 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.

### ***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 2/18

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

February 2	Classical Revolution, Noelle Bauman conducting
February 4	First Communion Discernment Class; The Final Words
February 9	Kids' Night In / Parents' Night Out
February 10	Steering the Helm Leadership Event
February 11	Love Languages; Lenten Festival; Campus Ministry Sunday
February 13	Shrove Tuesday
February 14	Ash Wednesday
February 18	Lutheran Church Impact in the Holy Land by Pancoasts
February 24	High School Lunch and Ice Skating
March 2-4	High School Winter Retreat
March 18	Storytelling from Local Refugees—Bridge Ministry KOG
March 25	Palm Sunday; Cantata "The Seven Last Words of Christ"
March 29	Maundy Thursday; First Communion Milestone
March 30	Good Friday
March 31	Easter Vigil
April 1	Easter; Easter Festival
April 8	Family Sunday School
April 13-15	Confirmation Retreat
April 14	Stephen Ministry: American Cancer Society Presentation
April 20	Minute to Win It Game Night