



Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

August-September-October
2018

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A Faith That Works

Pastor Joel Pancoast

In September, our worship theme will focus on the New Testament book of James, which is the epistle reading for the Revised Common Lectionary (the set of prescribed readings for worship) for this season. Some think that James has a unique place in the Bible for its no-nonsense, practical, proverbial wisdom. Others follow Martin Luther's lead, who thought that James was an "epistle of straw" because in his opinion, he thought people would take its writings and put together a straw (i.e., weak) foundation of works righteousness instead of a gospel of grace.

James is not always my favorite book, but I sometimes wonder if Luther went too far to call it an epistle of straw and suggest removing it from the Bible. Perhaps it shows how far we have come as inheritors of the Reformation and descendants of what Luther insisted were the three "solos" (Latin for "alone" or "only"): Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone. How can you have three things that are all alone? Because only these three things point us to Christ Alone.

- Grace Alone—Grace is God's free gift of love, received through the work of Jesus, and not by any work or good deed we do.
- Faith Alone—Faith is a gift from God through the Holy Spirit, a gift that trusts only in Jesus. Sometimes you feel Christ's presence in your life, and sometimes you feel nothing. Sometimes your faith is "on fire," and sometimes you are full of doubt. No matter what you feel, Christ's presence is an objective reality, and forgiveness and new life are always available to you in Jesus Christ.
- Scripture Alone—We follow Jesus Christ, not a book. The Holy Scriptures testify to the Word of God becoming incarnate (in flesh) in Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are a vessel that contain the Word of God, and it is the Word of God (Jesus Christ) alone that will save you and give you new life.

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All of this points us to Jesus Christ! Knowing that, maybe we can hear the writings of James differently than people in Martin Luther's time could. After all, maybe James is an "epistle of straw," but there are precious pearls hidden in that straw! James can indeed give us practical wisdom that calls us to live out our discipleship—not as a requirement for being holy and righteous, but as a response to God's grace already given to us. The book of James shows us a faith that works, not for the prize, but because it.

We are called together as a community of faith in action. In worship during the month of September, God will speak to us through the book of James as a community to encourage us to express faith outwardly, to improve our relationships with others and with God, and to help those in need.

But don't wait until worship in September! You will find ways to live out your faith in these months ahead, as well as many ways that others in the community have lived out their faith in the previous months, all throughout this issue of the "Eye on Zion." Celebrate that, give thanks for God's love, but then let's get to work together because God has given us a faith that works! We are God's hands and feet! I invite you in this season to pray this prayer, credited to Teresa of Avila, a 16th century saint.

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world.
Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with
which He is to bless His people. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes,
you are His body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours. Amen*

September Worship Themes

September 9	James 1:17-27	Just Do It! (Loveland "God's Work. Our Hands.")
September 16	James 2:1-17	Body and Soul
September 23	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	The Good Life
September 30	James 5:13-20	Powerful Prayer

Music Ministry

Adam Torres

While the Zion newsletter serves to keep its community afloat of past and upcoming events, I often return to a recurring (and perhaps redundant) thought during the writing process of my article duties. That is, I find myself continually blessed to serve at the head of a ministry that is selfless with sharing its time and talents with the Zion community. Between the work of our staff and our many volunteers, serving week in and week out, offering their artistry and ministry through music at Zion and beyond, alongside the financial and emotional support of our congregation at-large, it remains to me a profound revelation of the importance of music in worship and in our every day lives.

We have had a relatively quiet summer within the music ministry. After a year which saw projects such as the Reformation 500 Concert *Ein Feste Burg* and the *Seven Last Words of Christ* Passion Sunday Cantata come to fruition, this summer has seemed comparably quiet. I am grateful for our outdoor worship song leaders and the work of our music staff in continuing to coordinate music offerings during the summer.

In case you missed it, Noelle Bauman led our second annual mini-music camp with the children's music ministry. With approximately twenty children working with Noelle and a host of volunteers, their June performance of Allen Pote's *A Technicolor Promise* was a rousing success! It was a joy to accompany this production from the piano and see Noelle's enthusiasm for her craft in action. Alongside Noelle were many Zion volunteers, and we even were blessed to have help from a local musician Cathy Verbayla, who also performed special music on horn during worship in June. If you missed the performance, contact the church

office for a YouTube link, or you can find it on our website at www.zionloveland.com.

As we continue to expand our ministry into the community, June also featured the first of several hosted concerts this summer, featuring Rachelle Crowell, flute, and Tony Federico, bassoon, in an intimate summer recital featuring works by Weber, Schumann, and Farrenc.

On August 12, we will feature local musicians Mike Patterson, saxophone, and Alan Krech, trumpet, in a "jazz" inspired Sunday with the praise band.

Outside of worship, upcoming Zion-hosted events include the following concerts:

- "Songs and Fanfares," featuring Dan Morris, trombone, Emily Morris, soprano, Nathan Wilson, saxophone, and Adam Torres, piano. Saturday, August 4, 5:00 p.m. (Zion sanctuary).
- "Bernstein and Beyond!" featuring Cary Dodson, clarinet, K. Dawn Grapes, flute, Chue Vue, viola, and Adam Torres, piano. Sunday, September 9, 2018, 2:00 p.m. (Zion sanctuary).

Admission to these events is free. Any donations will benefit the performers and their concert sponsor, Hyperprism Music.

Finally, as we begin to look toward the fall, I would encourage you to consider joining the efforts of our music ministry. While all ensembles and groups within the music ministry would find ways to encourage your ministry through music, we are especially on the lookout for chancel choir singers, a bass guitarist for the Zion praise band, and continuing to grow our children's music

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program and children's choir. Please reach out to music@zionloveland.com for more information about these opportunities. Generally, the bell choir and children's choir meet/rehearse on Tuesdays, the chancel choir rehearses on Thursdays, and the praise band generally rehearses on Sunday mornings between worship services.

Thank you for your continued support of all we do within the music ministry, and it is my prayer that our efforts help shape our community at Zion in a meaningful way (in worship and beyond) through music. I hope you have a wonderful rest of summer, and I look forward to seeing you in worship at Zion!

Children's Music Ministry

Noelle Bauman

This August will wrap up two years for the programs offered through Zion's children's music ministry. This year brought a small amount of procedural similarities with a lot of experimentation. Here is a quick recap. The children's choir continued to sing during late services on Sunday mornings, and we added a small outreach performance for the Brookdale Senior Living. The Sunday School children began sharing during worship service. We will continue to integrate their musical experiences throughout the next year. Our summer music event ended its week with a booming performance of a musical. This will be discussed later. Every season is a new adventure, and I am excited for everyone who will be involved.

There were many wonderful outcomes from the children's summer musical camp. The camp occurred during the second week of June, and was full of crafting, snacking, and rehearsing. The kids worked to learn songs, lines, and choreography in five days in order to perform "A Technicolor Promise," which is a humorous and sincere retelling of Noah and the Ark. The reasoning, engagement, and interpretation held by the kids was the most impressive observation. We were lucky enough to have children from our own worship community, and a few who poured over from VBS (Vacation Bible School) the previous week (I offer a huge thanks to those who organized VBS in a way that made kids want to

come back to our church). We were also very lucky to have our volunteer team so dedicated to the snacks, crafts, and break-out rehearsals. It would be a shame not to mention that the performers had two days with Adam Torres as the accompanist. Reacting to live music is very beneficial to children of any age.

Because there was a great interest in acting, the children's choir may incorporate a program in our spring season. Education is a major priority of the choir, and we have a wonderful curriculum and volunteers to teach it. We will continue to use the curriculum, but we will put more emphasis on it during the fall.

As this program transforms to meet the needs of Zion, I am thankful for the commitment of the choristers, volunteers, and Monroe Elementary. There are so many extracurricular options, and I am happy kids can be exposed to numerous clubs and sports. If you have a child who is interested in the Zion children's choir, encourage them to try it for a season. The nature of the curriculum meets kids where they are at, then moves at their speed. We will begin our fall season on September 11. Registration forms can be found online, and you can always email me at CMM@zionloveland.com. As always, I am looking forward to seeing how the children grow in faith, character, and knowledge throughout the coming months.

Exploration and Connections Becoming a Member at Zion

Anyone can be an active part of Zion's ministry, whether they have made the commitment to membership or not. In fact, members receive no extra benefits that anyone else does not receive. However, after people have participated in the life of the Zion community, they often want to make a different kind of commitment to the mission and ministry of Zion by joining as a member.

Each fall and each spring we offer a two-step opportunity for visitors to explore what it means to be a member at Zion. The first step is an "exploration" conversation. This is an opportunity to talk with pastors and others about expectations and advantages for membership, and about the next steps toward membership.

Exploration Conversation

Sunday, October 21, at 9:40 a.m.

After this exploration conversation, anyone who wants to join or is considering the next step is invited to a "connections" dinner, hosted by members and sponsors. During the dinner, we focus on connecting with relationships and ministry areas that may nurture each person's growth as a disciple and participant in Zion's mission and ministry.

At Zion, we practice a faith that works, not in order to earn anything, but in response to God's incredible, extravagant love. Membership is always about relationship. Being a member helps us grow together in our relationships with each other, so that we all grow more intimately connected with Jesus.

Connections Dinner

Sunday, November 4 at 5:00 p.m.

October Worship Themes The Upside-Down Kingdom (Mark 10)

During October, our worship focuses on chapter 10 from the Gospel according to Mark. This chapter focuses on the nature of discipleship, which is based on a life contrary to the perspectives and priorities of the world. In a sense, the values of the kingdom of God lead to shocking reversals and seek to turn the world upside down.

Each week God's Word will reveal a way that God calls us to live a life "upside down."

October 7	Mark 10:2-16	Where Children Are Blessed
October 14	Mark 10:17-31	Where the Last Are First
October 21	Mark 10:35-45	Where the Least Are the Greatest
October 28	Mark 10:46-52	Where the Blind Can See

Faith Formation—Summer 2018

Madeline Fairfax

Vacation Bible School 2018

L2F2 Vacation Bible School was June 4 through 8. We explored the “Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus” theme with singing, outside games, interactive Bible study, yummy snacks, and amazing art projects! Thanks to our incredible team of youth and adult volunteers who made VBS a success for our 74 participants.

Save the date for VBS 2019! June 3-8 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at King of Glory Lutheran Church. Registration will be open to children age 3 through entering 6th grade.



HS Youth Summer 2018

Our high school youth have had a busy summer! We began with celebrating the graduation milestone with many of our high school seniors. Other summer activities have included games and fellowship at the Samuels', whitewater rafting, making cupcakes for firefighters on Serve Day, and leadership training at Youth Go! And, of course, the ELCA youth gathering in Houston.



Playing games at the Samuels'!



Robert and Maddie
at Youth Go!



Celebrating our graduates!

Faith Formation—Summer 2018

Madeline Fairfax

ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas

Twelve youth and four adults from Zion and King of Glory flew to Houston in late June for an exciting experience at the ELCA Youth Gathering. There, along with 30,000 other participants from ELCA congregations, they gathered in the summer heat for worship, learning, and service. Highlights from the week included a service project at a local elementary school, interactive learning sessions that challenged youth to live out their faith in tangible ways, worship with over 600 youth from the Rocky Mountain Synod, opportunities to learn from leaders and peers within the ELCA, and important time together to grow as a community. This formative experience would not be possible without financial support from our three annual youth fundraisers. Thank you!



Planning ahead: The ELCA Youth Gathering 2021 will be June 29-July 3, 2021, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Faith Formation—Summer 2018

Madeline Fairfax

Confirmation Intensive at Sky Ranch

This year at Confirmation Intensive camp, our middle school youth immersed themselves in the Early Church as they walked through the book of Acts from Jesus' ascension to Paul's conversion, and into the creation of the Nicene Creed. This hands-on week truly makes the Bible come alive! Thanks to our L2F2 high school helpers Colby, Jack, and Tyne for their leadership!



All Ages at Sky Ranch

In late July, 17 L2F2 kids in 1st-8th grade gathered at Sky Ranch for a week to explore the summer theme, Beyond Belief! Camp activities included leading worship, Bible study at Beaver Falls, low ropes, archery, campfires, day hikes, and more! For several of our children, this was their first time away at camp! Many thanks to all our campership sponsors who make this week possible for our kids.



ENCOUNTERING CHRIST ON THE MOUNTAINTOPS



Faith Formation—Upcoming Events

Madeline Fairfax

Young Families Picnic

All young families are invited to meet on Sunday, August 5, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Seven Lakes Park. Bring a dish to share for some late summer fellowship and fun! RSVP to Madeline at faithformation@zionloveland.com or 419 270 6233.

Summerfest Pool Party

Everyone is invited to this annual L2F2 event! We'll meet at Winona Pool on Sunday, August 12, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Pack a swimsuit and towel and hop in the pool to celebrate the end of summer! Bring your own picnic dinner, if you'd like. Ice cream and pool entrance fees provided!

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 19, at 8:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. worship. Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks and receive a blessing for an exciting school year ahead!

Bridge Ministry

Bridge Ministry is a monthly event for senior adults at Zion and King of Glory. Friends are always welcome!

Come and paint a canvas for our August meeting! No artist skills required! All materials provided, no cost. We'll meet at Zion on August 19 at noon. Please bring a potluck lunch item to share!

Rally Day

Sunday, August 26, at 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. All families with children in preschool to 12th grade are invited to this Sunday School kickoff event.

Join us in fellowship hall for food and fun as we

register for fall Sunday School. All forms and class information will be available on the August 26. The first day of Sunday School classes will be Sunday, September 9, from 9:30 to 10:40 a.m.

Confirmation Kickoff

Sunday, August 26, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in fellowship hall; lunch will be provided.

All 6th to 8th grade youth and their families are invited to gather as we kick off the Confirmation programming year. Come and learn about what this year will have in store! Schedule, expectations, and curriculum resources will be shared at this meeting.

Labor Day Retreat at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp

August 31 to September 3.

We currently have 23 families registered for this relaxing weekend in the mountains!

There are currently a few lodge rooms and cabins available (campground is full). Please contact Madeline ASAP if you are interested in registering. If you've already registered, programming information and balance due will be emailed out soon!

There will be a potluck dinner outside the Sky Ranch lodge at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday September 1. All are welcome, if you want to drive up and meet us for dinner!



Faith Formation—Still More

Madeline Fairfax

Annual Fundraiser Save the Dates

These three annual fundraisers provide financial support for our youth which makes their summer trips and other ministry events possible!

Rent-A-Youth—Saturday, October 20— 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(submit work requests in September).

Bella Notte Dinner—Sunday, February 3, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
(make table reservations in early January).

Palm Sunday Breakfast—Sunday, April 14, 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
(no reservations required).

Faith Formation Festival

An All-Church Brainstorming and Visioning Event

Sunday, September 30, between services, 9:40 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in fellowship hall.

We need YOU! Yes, YOU!

- Whether you are 3 years old or 103!
- Whether it's your first time at Zion or you've been here since birth!
- Whether you're super involved or prefer to stay under the radar!

The Faith Formation team wants YOUR ideas for Zion.

- What do you dream about for faith formation at Zion?
- What event would you be thrilled to sign up for?
- Is there a ministry you are passionate about developing?
 - an event you would love to see happen?
 - a service project that would be a great fit?
- What changes can you suggest for current ministries or events?

We can help make it happen here! But we need YOUR input!

On September 30, visit the stations in fellowship hall to brainstorm, submit ideas, and get your creative juices flowing!

We are seeking ideas for events, programs, outreach, and more for any age level.

Have ideas to share, but can't make it on September 30? Contact Madeline at faithformation@zionloveland.com or 419 270 6233.

Faith Formation—Confirmation

Madeline Fairfax

Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

Sunday, October 28, at 10:45 a.m.

Confirmands: Beilynn Geiss, Fischer Peach, Autumn Vrem, Bailey Vrem.

Faith Statements Schedule:

September 9	Fischer Peach at 8:15 a.m.
September 23	Beilynn Geiss at 8:15 a.m.
	Autumn Vrem and Bailey Vrem at 10:45 a.m.

A Conversation about Flip Sunday

Zion's worship schedule, published in newsletters, bulletins, the website, and other communications states we have a more traditional style of worship (music led with organ and choir) at the early service and a more contemporary style of worship (music led by a band) at the later service. Except, we make a special note that every third Sunday of each month the styles of worship switch times. For many years, this has been Zion's practice.

The institutional memory is that Flip Sunday began when Zion first offered contemporary worship. Some members were very upset that a new style of worship was offered during the time they preferred to worship, while others wished this style of worship was offered during *their* preferred worship time. A compromise was dreamed up, and Flip Sunday was created. This was a solution that either made everyone happy, or no one happy.

Some of you love Flip Sunday. Some have even joined Zion specifically because of this practice. Others do not understand why we do it, and yet others loathe this practice because either they prefer a particular worship time or worship style.

At the semiannual meeting on July 29, the council started a conversation about Zion's Flip Sunday practice. For different reasons, some not fully

understood, there is a history that attendance on the third Sunday of each month is below average. Numbers are not everything, but the music staff and many volunteers find the Flip Sunday practice difficult. Most importantly, however, is that Flip Sunday is not welcoming to visitors. Many times, visitors have come to worship one week, and no matter how well we try to publicize the Flip Sunday practice, they are surprised when they come back on a Sunday that is the third Sunday of the month and find a style of worship different than they expected.

The conversation continues. No decision has been made. However, in order to make an informed decision, the council needs your feedback. Do you like Flip Sunday? Does Flip Sunday bother you? Do you avoid coming to worship on Flip Sunday? If you have grown to like the practice, can you understand why it would be difficult for visitors to remember or keep track of which Sunday we switch worship styles? Do you have any new thoughts or ideas that would bring fresh insight to the conversation?

Please add your voice to the conversation. On the first three Sundays of August, council members will set up a table in the fellowship hall to continue the conversation. All feedback will be brought to the August 21 council meeting.

Intern Pastor Coming Soon to Zion

Pastor Joel Pancoast

The Zion council approved for the congregation to serve as a pastoral internship site for the 2018-2019 academic year. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to serve in an intentional position for the formation of a student preparing to be ordained as a pastor. Internship in the church provides leadership experience under the supervision of a pastor. You might think of it like a residency in the medical field, or student teaching in the education field.

During internship, a student practices and engages in the full range of ministry as a pastor, including key leadership areas of administration and leadership, preaching and teaching, stewardship and evangelism, conflict resolution, and more. A beautiful thing about this opportunity is that while it provides a constructive learning experience for the student, it also provides energy and learning for the congregation.

Serving as an internship site can be costly for a congregation. The intern pastor is paid a fair monthly stipend, along with other expenses. Recently, a need for an internship site arose here in Northern Colorado, and because of an estate left by Sharon Olson, who died in 2014, we have the financial ability to make this happen. Sharon was a lifelong educator who loved the church, and a portion of her estate left to Zion was designated for “educational initiatives to include Zion becoming a training ground for beginning pastors.” I am convinced that Sharon would be proud of this opportunity.

Courtney Steitz will begin August 13 as Zion’s 2018-2019 intern pastor. Please welcome her as a pastor and learner with us, and look for information coming soon about an official welcome to her and her husband Andy.

Meet Intern Pastor Courtney Steitz!



Andy and Courtney Steitz

My name is Courtney Steitz and I want to introduce myself because I am going to be an intern at Zion starting in August. I grew up in Minnesota and came out to Colorado for college. After college, I worked for several years with refugees in Greeley before feeling called to go to seminary. I got my Master of Divinity from Denver Seminary in the spring of 2017. I have spent the last year taking classes online at Luther Seminary. For the past several years my husband and I have been attending King of Glory here in Loveland.

My husband Andy is a high school teacher and we’ve been married six years. I enjoy being outside, hiking, and trail running. I love watching and playing almost any sport or game.

I am really looking forward to starting this internship at Zion. I’m grateful for the opportunity to learn from Pastor Joel, Pastor Sonja, and all of you, and I’m looking forward to getting to know you all in the coming year.

A Faith that Works in Real Life—Mel and Mary Jo

Kathy Pancoast

Knowing Mel and Mary Jo Haack describes a “faith that works” in two meanings. For the 70 years of their life together, their faith has been a hopeful confidence and dependence on God. Mel helped his dad on the farm, except for a short tour in the army. On June 6, 1948, he married Mary Jo and for another 12 years they farmed and operated a dairy in Bird City, Kansas. Often they shared or traded duties of cooking supper or milking cows. I stand in awe of the farmer who plants crops, does the best to manage his land, and yet must still rely totally on God for the rain and sun to produce a plentiful harvest—a faith that works trusts solely on God to provide.

Mel and Mary Jo held this same faith as they reared a family. Their son was born with multiple serious illnesses and not expected to live, but their faith never gave up caring for their child and willing him to live in spite of hopeless diagnoses. Two daughters were also born to this union. After moving to Loveland, they included an Asian young lady in their family. This faithful union has gone on to be blessed with nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Their faith continued to work

when, after Mel’s illness from years in the dust of the wheat fields, Mel and Mary Jo left all that they had ever known. A 1960 Abraham and Sarah, Mel and Mary Jo came to make a new home in Loveland, Colorado. Mary Jo was here alone with three young children starting school until Mel could join the family after the sale of the farm. Mary Jo cared for their own and others’ children while Mel managed his gas station before going to work for the post office.

In Loveland, Mel and Mary Jo joined Zion Lutheran Church and their faith that works became hours of service to God’s church. They treasure their many friends at Zion. Young people have been touched by their teaching in Sunday school and confirmation. Adults learned through Bethel Bible study, Lutheran Encounter, and other Bible studies. Mary Jo served as part-time church secretary for 23 years while Mel served as president of the congregation during the challenging times of deciding to build on to Zion or start a mission. They continue to serve as Stephen ministers.

Loveland has also seen Mel and

Mary Jo’s faith that works. Meals on Wheels, begun in 1968, knew Mel and Mary Jo for 25 years as drivers, recognizing them several years ago as Volunteers of the Year. They so enjoyed getting to know the people to whom they delivered meals. However, Mel and Mary Jo as a part of the Loveland Interfaith Ministry saw a need beyond the homebound. In 1996, the Community Kitchen began serving hot meals two days a week to anyone that wanted to come to the basement of the First Presbyterian Church. Mel delivered food from the Food Bank to the kitchen, and Mary Jo coordinated Zion’s participation. The faith that worked has now grown to serve meals seven days a week in the building that houses Meals on Wheels. Mel and Mary Jo most enjoyed visiting with the people who came, helping to give food to the hungry, conversation for the lonely, and a brief rest for the struggling. They have led an extraordinary life of faith working for the sake of others and they are especially grateful that Zion continues the faith that works by serving the Loveland community.

ELCA Loveland STRONG Celebrating “Better Together”

In Loveland, we are blessed with three warm, gospel-oriented and mission-driven congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Last year, the pastors of King of Glory, Trinity, and Zion Lutheran Churches started dreaming about how God is calling these three congregations to serve our community together in a unified, intentional way. Though each congregation has its differences and unique characteristics, we are also very much alike. We share a common witness, we read the Bible and understand God in similar ways, and we are all planted as churches of the ELCA in Loveland. Most importantly, we can be church—better together!

This year we added to the joy and shared witness of these three churches by celebrating a “Better Together Loveland” Sunday on July 15. The pastors from the three congregations had the experience of leading worship in each others’ congregations. Pastor Joel and Pastor Sonja led worship and preached at King of Glory, Pastor Chris from Trinity was with us at Zion, and Pastor Ruth Ann from King of Glory was at Trinity.

To end the celebration of “Better Together Loveland,” people from all three congregations gathered for a picnic, with a mixer led by Madeline Fairfax and Joe Jedrzejewski, the Loveland Lutheran Faith Formation (L2F2) coordinators. This mixer got us meeting and talking with people from the other congregations. And, if you think a potluck picnic with one church community is great, imagine the food when three congregations gather!



Enthusiasm for the celebration was in no way dampened despite the picnic moving indoors due to rain.

God's Work. Our Hands.

Any suggestions?

For several years, we have engaged in a day of service together called "God's Work. Our Hands." with other ELCA congregations across the United States.

Last year was our biggest year with numerous ways to serve all around the community and a picnic at North Lake Park.

We will continue "God's Work. Our Hands." this year on Sunday, September 9.

If you are interested in helping pull together ideas for service projects around the community, let one of the pastors know.

HNS Donations for June

Zion's response to the June drive to benefit HNS yielded

- **685 pounds of food**
- **7 pounds of nonfood items**
- **\$1,082**

Thank you to all who contributed.

Volunteers Needed for IHN

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is an outreach program of House of Neighborly Service (HNS) serving families with children. Zion is among the churches that participate in this homeless ministry by hosting families for one week several times a year. For each hosting visit, many volunteers are needed. We invite you to prayerfully consider in what area you can put your faith to work and support these families in need.

Setup—

Set up the rooms with beds, bedding, and lamps; clean bathrooms; and arrange tables and toys in fellowship hall. Setup is done on Sunday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the beginning of the IHN week.

Teardown—

Beds are disassembled, carpets vacuumed, rooms returned to regular arrangements, and toys put away. Teardown is done on Sunday before church from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at the end of the IHN week.

Dinner preparation—

Provide and prepare food for dinner for guests and Zion hosts (menus provided), set tables, eat with IHN guests, approximately 5:15 to 7:30 p.m.

Evening hosts—

Come for dinner with IHN guests at 6:00 p.m., stay until 8:30 p.m. playing with children and talking with IHN guests.

Overnight hosts—

Come at 8:30 p.m. and spend the night at Zion until 7:00 a.m. the next morning, talk with IHN guests, and lock up the church.

Laundry—

Wash sheets and towels from IHN guests, return folded linens to church office, pick up bags of used linens from office at end of IHN week.

Among Members and Friends

At Rest in Our Father's House

We keep in prayer the family and friends of:

Irma Freel, mother of Sandy Bilstad, who died on April 21, 2018, and whose funeral was April 30 at Zion.

Kay Musser, mother of Shirley Kurtz, who died on June 6, 2018, and whose funeral was June 13 at Zion.

Jim Anderson, husband of Ceri Anderson and son-in-law of Chris and Eunice Holthusen, who died on June 25, 2018, and whose funeral was July 6 at Crossroads Church with Pastor Sonja officiating.

Carolyn Ekeberg, homebound member of Zion who died on April 16, 2018, and whose funeral will be at a later date this summer out of state.

Joyous Celebrations of the Gift of Baptism

We rejoice with:

Ed Bickle and his son Jonny, age 14, who were baptized on Sunday, April 22.

Viola Gatton, daughter of Angela Gatton, who was baptized on April 22.

Zoe Kile, daughter of Richard and Tiffany Kile, who was baptized on April 29.

Aaron Kretschmer who was baptized on May 27.

Kaylee Ann Huffsmith, daughter of Zach Huffsmith and Kelsey Fieselman, who was baptized on July 29.

Thanksgiving and Celebration

We celebrate with:

Ginger and Jerry Klein at the birth of a great-grandson Maverick James.

Chloe Allen who graduated with a degree in Medical Assisting.

Craig and Julie Wilson at the birth of their granddaughter, Juniper Grace.

Cody and Hannah Kuehl who finalized the adoption of their two daughters, Madeline and Lily on July 17.

Those Serving in the Military

We keep in prayer:

Justin Dennis deployed to Afghanistan.

Jerry Colton, grandson of Harriet Colton, deployed to Afghanistan for his 6th tour.

Noah Roberts, who is checking on his team in Afghanistan.

We Keep in Prayer

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

Among Members and Friends

Thank You

Another journey of loss has impacted my family with the death of my grandson Tim. My strength and faith have been tested, but with the support of my church family, I feel recovery is possible. My thanks to all for the cards, calls, and hugs. A special thanks to Pastor Sonja for her reaching out to me. I feel so lucky and blessed to have Zion in my life right now.

*Thank you,
Gwen Boswell*

Thank you for the very special pink card that you made for me and the plant also. My special friends David and Elaine brought them to me since I cannot get to church. It made me very happy! God loves you and so do I.

*With God's Blessings,
Polly Hansen*

Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for letting us use the church for our end of year programs. We had large turnouts for both classes, so the church was just right.

*Thank you again,
Gail Yant, Executive Director
Thompson Valley Preschool*

Pastor Joel and the members of Zion,

Thank you for allowing us to stay at your church! What a wonderful place and it feels like home. :) We appreciate your kindness and generosity. You are a blessing to us as we travel to do God's work! If you're in Minnesota, feel free to stop by and stay... or have a cup of coffee!

*Peace,
Linda Rambow*

[This note of appreciation is from Trinity Lutheran Church in Lindstrom, Minnesota. In June, 34 youth and adults stayed in our building on their way to a Group Workcamp.]

Dear Pastor Joel and Zion Lutheran,

Thank you so much for your hospitality Saturday night and for welcoming us to join you for worship! Traveling always comes with bumps along the way, and so it was such a blessing to find refuge in your walls overnight. May God bless your congregation and continue to empower you and inspire you to be Christ's hands and feet in this world.

*Peace,
Pastor Valerie Teppo*

[This thank you note is from a church mission group from the Petersburg-Dahlen Lutheran Parish in North Dakota. They stayed in our building July 14.]

Thank You Letters to Zion

- April 16, 2018—From Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado for a donation of \$125.
- June 21, 2018—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$525.
- June 26, 2018—From Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado for a donation of \$125.

Monroe Thanks Zion for Supporting Soccer

Thank you so much for supporting our young men.

Ryan Howard (coach)

Your help and support are so valued. Thanks so much! Kathy Sather (principal)

Thank you! Gracias!

*Braiden, Chris, Gabe, Izrael, Josh,
Juan, Mitt, Robert, Steven, Tyler,
William (players)*

Reaching others through Zion's prayer shawl ministry

At her assisted living community at Columbine Commons in Windsor, Zion's Evelyn Haber is reaching out to those in need of comfort by giving them prayer shawls made by the people of Zion. To date, Evelyn has distributed shawls to twelve people.

Dear Lovely Ladies,

I received the most beautiful prayer shawl from my second mom, Evelyn Haber. I treasure it and use it daily. Thank you for the kindness you do for others; it means so much.

Blessings,

Leigh Ann Gerk

What a wonderful ministry! The prayer shawl is just what I needed. Sometimes I'm hot, sometimes cold, due to a rare blood disease which I have. Thank you for both the shawl and the prayers.

Sincerely,

Roy Nell Matulik

Evelyn Haber gave me the shawl.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Update

Linda Tegeder

Thank you to everyone who has prayed while knitting and crocheting shawls. The sanctuary was beautiful when we blessed them on May 13.

We would like to update our suggestions for preparing shawls.

- Please use SOFT acrylic yarn.
- All shawls need to be washable.
- We do not want tassels on the shawls as they can get caught in wheelchairs.
- Also, we accept all shapes (triangle, wraps, and oblong).
Oblong shawls should be at least 15 inches wide by 60 inches long.

Also, we invite anyone to join us at Zion on the second Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. for fellowship.

Habitat Thank You

On Saturday, April 21, Gene Elder, Peggy Klammer, Amy Moore, and Elliott Pancoast joined other ELCA volunteers to work on a Habitat house for Sarah. They spent the morning painting doors and sills and spackling the freshly installed door molding in the home. Thank you to these valuable members of the ELCA Habitat volunteer team.



Save the Date

Loveland Habitat for Humanity Builder's Ball—November 3, 2018—5:00 to 10:00 p.m.—Ellis Ranch

An evening of fun and fundraising. Wear your favorite western attire. See details at www.LovelandHabitat.org

Faster Pastors Running for Syrian Refugees

The Faster Pastors are at it again! On September 7 and 8, Pastor Joel and Pastor Sonja will be joining a team of 10 pastors and church leaders to run the Flaming Foliage Relay, which is a 165-mile relay race from Idaho Springs to Buena Vista. The team will run over Guanella, Georgia, and Fremont Passes, reaching almost 12,000 feet in elevation.



Pastor Joel and Pastor Sonja at an exchange location between runners in the middle of the night.

Why would they do such a thing? Not for fun! The pastors are joining this team again for an important cause. They choose to run because there are many people who are forced to run for their lives, from their homes and families and everything they know. They are refugees. Specifically, the Faster Pastors have chosen to target their efforts toward the Syrian refugee crisis.

Syria has been locked in civil war since 2011. The resulting numbers of Syrians refugees are astounding, almost unimaginable. More than 5 million Syrians have been forced to leave their country, and more than 6 million are internally displaced within Syria. Four years ago, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said, “The Syria crisis has become the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era, yet the world is failing to meet the needs of refugees and the countries hosting them” (Antonio Guterres, “Middle East Star.” 28 August 2014). To this day, the world seems to lack either the will or the knowledge to do something about it.

**They choose to run
because there are
many people who
are forced to run
for their lives,
from their homes
and families
and everything
they know.**



Pastor Joel passes the baton to the next runner, a pastor from Aurora, Colorado.

Lutheran Disaster Response of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has been providing, and will continue to provide, basic humanitarian aid for those fleeing war and oppression. They do this in partnership with agencies and companion churches in or near Syria to ensure food security, establish shelter, and provide better access to water and sanitation facilities, among other activities. They also bolster livelihoods by providing microloans and skills training to provide jobs and knowledge for health and wellness. Finally, they provide critical psychosocial support needed for the atrocities that many have experienced personally or witnessed.

The Faster Pastors run for our neighbors in need who run for their lives. If you care to support the team, their run, and this great cause, please send any contributions to Zion labeled “Faster Pastors.” Because we are able to work through Lutheran Disaster Response, a ministry of the ELCA, 100 percent of what you give will assist those directly impacted by this crisis and have fled for safety.

Our Faith at Work in Partnership with Monroe Elementary

Pastor Sonja Pancoast

We are so blessed to partner again this school year with Monroe Elementary to support their teachers, students, and families. Our partnership with Monroe has been one of the many ways that we live our faith as we seek to make a positive difference in our community. The motto of the ELCA is “God’s Work. Our Hands.” and truly we are thankful to be doing God’s work with our hands at Monroe.

There are so many ways that everyone can participate with this exciting ministry. Some of the ways are just one-time opportunities while others are ongoing. Let us know if you have other ideas of how to grow in this outreach ministry. Truly, the Holy Spirit is at work in this ministry.

One-Time Opportunities

Help Get Classrooms Ready at Monroe

Tuesday, August 14—9:00 a.m. to noon

Help the Monroe teachers get their classrooms ready for the arrival of their students. We will be helping with a variety of projects.

Homework Kits for 4th Graders

Thursday, August 16—10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Come to Zion and help us assemble all the supplies which have been donated for 40 homework kits for the 4th graders.

Open House for Students to Meet Teachers

Thursday, August 16—5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Hand out popsicles to all the students and their families who are coming to meet their teachers in preparation for a new school year.

Back to School Night Sack Dinners

Thursday, August 30

Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Make sack dinners at Zion.

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Hand out sack dinners at Monroe.

night to learn more about how they can support their child’s education through the coming year. In order to increase family participation, Zion will prepare 250 sack dinners and serve them at the school. We will also be serving dinners at the Early Childhood Learning Center.

Title Night Ice Cream Social

Thursday, September 14— 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We will help serve ice cream to families who will come to learn more about what it means that Monroe is a Title 1 school. They will get their questions answered about innovation status and learn about opportunities available at Monroe.

Parent / Teacher Conference Dinner

Date to Be Determined

The teachers at Monroe do an amazing job caring for the children in their classrooms. We want to thank them and show them a little love for all that they do by providing dinner for them while they stay late for parent / teacher conferences. We will also provide dinner for the Early Childhood Learning Center teachers.

Families at Monroe are invited to Back to School

Continued on page 21.

Our Faith at Work in Partnership with Monroe Elementary continued from page 20.

Donation Opportunities

Winter Boot Drive

October

We will collect boots for the children of Monroe throughout October. We will post a sign with the various sizes and genders of boots that are needed.

Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels

Ongoing

A simple way that anyone can help Monroe is to collect box tops or Campbell's soup labels and place them in the donation box at Zion. Each label

brings the school 10 cents. Those dimes add up quickly.

Underwear

Children often are in need of a new pair of underwear when they come to the nurse's office. The nurse has extra clothes but likes to hand out new underwear. If you come upon a sale for children's underwear, go shopping. Deliver the new undies to Pastor Sonja and she will make sure that the nurse gets them.

Weekly Opportunities

Classroom Volunteer

One to two hours per week during the school day for the duration of the school year

Many of the teachers can use an extra hand in the classroom. It may be reading one on one with a student, working with small groups while the teacher works with another small group, or working with students who need extra help in math; grading papers; shelving books in the library; or even putting up bulletin boards. We can help the amazing teachers at Monroe in many ways, and in turn enjoy the amazing experience helping out in the classroom and know that we are changing lives. Pastor Sonja spends one hour a week in a kindergarten classroom, and we have a handful of other dedicated volunteers who help in various ways around the school.

Playground Buddy

One day a week during lunch recess for the duration of the school year

We are looking for people, especially men, who are interested in hanging out with kids on the playground during lunch recess once a week. Often the kids have not had the opportunity to learn how to have cooperative play. While you are outside you can get to know the kids, reach out to a child who is on the outside, or start up a game like soccer or tag.

After School Kids Club

One hour per week after school (3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.) for three to four weeks whenever works with your schedule

Would you like to share a skill or something you enjoy with the kids at Monroe—cooking, sewing, latch hook, carving, or any skill that would interest the kids? If so, talk with Pastor Sonja and we can set up a once-a-week opportunity for a small group of kids to learn from you. You determine the number of kids that you are comfortable teaching. Pastor Sonja can help find additional adults to be with you to help as you teach.

We have all these ways to make a difference in the lives of the children at Monroe. The amazing result often is that we are the ones positively impacted as we reach out to make a difference in their lives, having a faith that works. God's Work. Our Hands.

Equipped to Care

Barb Roman

Our Stephen Leaders will begin training a new class of Stephen Ministers in September 2018.

Stephen Ministries Saint Louis stresses the importance of being equipped as Stephen Ministers. Their Stephen Series, which is what we use, is a complete system for training and organizing laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian Care to hurting people in the congregation and community.

Christ Caring for People through People is the definition of a Stephen Minister, according to Stephen Ministries Saint Louis. I heard during my Stephen Leader training that God wants all hurting people to know and experience that He loves them. I also heard that when Stephen Ministers show love they become the incarnate grace of God.

In addition to showing love, the Stephen Minister needs to know what to do by learning caring ministry skills, according to Stephen Ministries Saint Louis. During their 50 hours of training, each participant is responsible for reading the assigned modules (25 total) before class from the Stephen Ministry Training Manual. Not only do we read about caring ministry skills like *The Art of Listening*, we also use role playing to practice these skills. As our participants near the end of their training, they will role play *How to Make a First Caring Visit* (to the care receiver) so they can feel prepared

to take on their first Stephen Ministry assignment. Pastor Sonja will teach the module on *Distinctively Christian Caring*. As Stephen Ministers we provide Christ-centered care; we pray with our care receivers. When we cover the module on *Dealing with Depression: The Stephen Minister's Role*, we try to bring in a professional from the mental health field to speak about mental illness.

Stephen Leaders also go through rigorous training. We spend six very full days learning about the Stephen Series system and how to teach the Series to people who want to become Stephen Ministers. Along with the 60 file folders of training materials, we also receive a Supervision Group Facilitator

Manual. One of the most important roles a Stephen Leader has is to lead supervision once a month. During supervision, the Stephen Minister reports to the group about how their relationship with the care receiver is going. As the leader, it is our job to make sure the group stays focused on God. Leaders also provide support, encouragement, and accountability in the group, which includes making sure that confidentiality is being maintained.

Our Stephen Leaders are excited to share the news about the upcoming training for Stephen Ministers. It's good news. When they finish their training, they will be equipped to care for you.



Seminaries announce free tuition

You have a “faith that works.” For most people, this means making daily decisions guided by faith and deepening faith through practices, worship, and community encouragement. For a small percentage of people, a faith that works may lead them to discern the Holy Spirit’s direction as pastor or a deacon in the church.

If you have ever considered a call to professional ministry in the church, today is an opportune

**Recently, at least
two of the eight
seminaries of the
ELCA have
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full-tuition
scholarships
for all students!**

announced full-tuition scholarships for all students! In the last year, Luther Seminary in St.

time to consider more closely. If you have never considered that call, or if you know someone who needs your encouragement toward that discernment, pay attention. Recently, at least two of the eight seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have

Paul, Minnesota, and United Lutheran Seminary with campuses in both Gettysburg and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have announced this new opportunity. It comes as a response to many previous seminary graduates who were hampered by debt that often prevented individuals from entering into healthy, fruitful ministry. In addition to full-tuition scholarships for all students, the ELCA has almost 1,000 more congregations without a pastor than available pastors!

Pastor Joel serves on the candidacy committee for the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA. This committee provides guidance and mentoring for individuals seeking a rostered ministry position in the ELCA, and makes decisions on behalf of the ELCA. If you are interested in exploring the possibility of called ministry either as a pastor or a deacon, talk to Pastor Joel or Pastor Sonja. Perhaps more importantly, this is a perfect time in the life of the church to start to encourage others toward this discernment, whether they are children or youth, or adults who may be feeling the Spirit’s nudge toward a second career path.

Can’t Knit? Can’t Crochet? Can Tie a Knot! Can Donate Fabric!

Voila! Zion Quilt Ti-ers is for you.

Please join the Zion Quilt Ti-ers on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at Zion, beginning in September.

Fingers flying, the ti-ers knot layers of fabric into quilts that provide warmth for those in need. The quilts are distributed through Lutheran World Relief.

And please remember our quilts when you have fabric to donate.

Contact Susan Osborn for more information. susanjro43@yahoo.com

Understanding the Role of Zion's Endowment Committee

Randy Davis

The members of the Endowment Committee decided recently that more information and education provided to the Zion congregation by the committee would not only help the congregation better understand the purpose of the committee, but would provide the congregation members with long-term financial planning ideas and information as well as estate and gift planning. Many Zion members may think that the Endowment Committee might only be involved with the scholarship funds offered to prospective recipient members of the congregation. In reality this is just one facet of the committee's responsibilities. The endowment funds under the oversight of the committee include three different scholarship funds; a property and building program fund; a worship and music program fund; a special projects program for the Stephen Ministry fund and for other special projects; and mission and community outreach funds which include a mission outreach account, a general account, and the Great Gift Away account.

The charter of the committee not only guides the committee members in overseeing the endowment funds and providing annual financial information to the congregation regarding the funds, but charges the committee members to provide education and information to the Zion congregation on annual and long-term planned gifting opportunities and on financial planning ideas related to wills, trusts, and general estate planning. The Endowment Committee hopes that regular information provided in the quarterly newsletters, in the Sunday bulletins, and eventually with short seminars between Sunday services will provide more information to our congregation.

Our worship theme for this coming September, based on the book of James, is "A Faith That Works." Over the years the endowment funds given from the congregation have supported the various programs under the oversight of the Endowment Committee. This is a small part of our worship theme showing that there is "A Faith That Works." In the May-June-July 2018 issue of the quarterly newsletter, information was provided on the Great Gift Away program and disclosed the recent recipients of gifts from that program. This issue of the newsletter recognizes the recent recipients of the scholarship funds and the schools they are attending.

Our hope is that with this information, you now have a better understanding of the purpose of the Endowment Committee.

Thank you your continued gifts to the Zion Lutheran Church endowment funds.

Acknowledging Zion's Scholarship Recipients

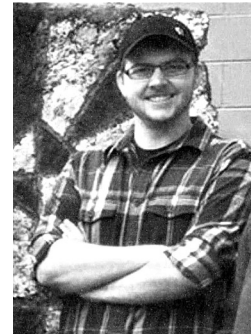
Sprenger Scholarship

**for students attending ELCA institutions*

Recipient: HANNAH TATE
School: Pacific Lutheran University
Amount: \$5,000.



Hannah Tate



Joel Schreiner

Arnold & Clarice Petersen Scholarship

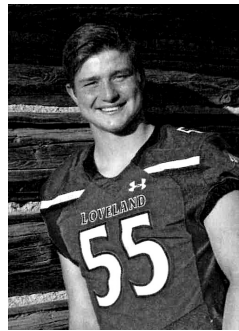
**for students majoring in education*

Recipient #1: JOEL SCHREINER
School: Colorado State University
Amount: \$1,500.

Arnold & Clarice Petersen Scholarship

**for students majoring in education*

Recipient #2: SCOTT TEESDALE
School: Doane University
Amount: \$2,000.



Scott Teesdale



Lilianna Patrick

Arnold & Clarice Petersen Scholarship

**for students majoring in education*

Recipient #3: LILIANNA PATRICK
School: Colorado Mesa University
Amount: \$2,000.

Therp Scholarship

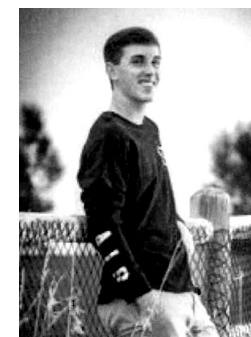
Recipient: LILIANNA PATRICK
School: Colorado Mesa University
Amount: \$1,000.

Distinguished Discipleship Scholarship— continuous

Recipient: DANA E BURSETH
School: Colorado School of Mines
Amount: \$2,500.



Danae Burseth



Preston Green

Distinguished Discipleship Scholarship— 2018-2019

Recipient: PRESTON GREEN
School: Texas Christian University
Amount: \$1,250.

Zion Scholarships Support Boy Scout Troop 314

With the aid of scholarships provided by Zion, scouts from Troop 314 were able to attend National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). Here those scouts share accounts of their training experience and express their gratitude for Zion's generosity.

Dear Zion Church,

Thanks for giving me a scholarship to go to National Youth Leadership Training. I learned a lot that I will take back with me to the real world. I really appreciate your help on my trail to Eagle Scout.

Eli Sparks

Zion Lutheran Church,

My name is Hunter Palomino and I had the privilege to attend National Youth Leadership Training with the donation you provided my Boy Scout Troop 314. At the NYLT week-long training, I learned valuable ways to be a good leader and how to bring teams together and the ways to handle confrontations. I want to thank you for your generosity and continued support of Boy Scout Troop 314. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hunter Palomino

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for helping to send me to NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training). It was a lot of fun and I learned a lot about leading our boy scout troop. For example, a leader listens as much as he talks and a leader does not need to forcefully tell people what to do. I want to teach the troop the fun songs we learned at NYLT. During my time, my patrol and I bonded over the songs that we sang during the camp, and I think that doing the same thing might have the patrol come together better. I also had the idea to have the older scouts run the presentation for the merit badge along with an adult. Thank you again for helping to send me to NYLT. It was an experience I'll never forget.

Cameron Hutson

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting me in my scouting career and allowing me to go to a leadership training. I had a wonderful time at camp and learned many useful skills that will stay with me for life. My favorite part of camp was the day that we worked as a team to create a working catapult. Our team had the record for farthest distance. I also enjoyed meeting new people and gaining friends along with knowledge. I really did learn many skills and now I am able to apply those to daily life.

Sincerely,

Will Pakenham

National Youth Leadership Training is an exciting, action-packed program designed for councils to provide youth members with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home troops and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others. The NYLT course centers around the concepts of what a leader must BE, what he must KNOW, and what he must DO. The key elements are then taught with a clear focus on HOW TO. The skills come alive during the week as the patrol goes on a Quest for the Meaning of Leadership.

<https://www.scouting.org>

Nicaragua—a mission trip upstaged by civil unrest

Pastor Joel Pancoast

June 1-10 of this summer, a small team of eight from Zion were going to join about twenty from Trinity Lutheran Church in Loveland and others from around Northern Colorado to participate in a service learning experience in Nicaragua. We were going to build houses, run a program for children, and help the aging and disabled. We were going to enjoy the hospitality of the Nicaraguan people and the beauty of that country.

Unfortunately, civil unrest prevented the group from going. As of April 18, the trip became tenuous when antigovernment protests were suppressed by government military forces, leaving many dead. The Nicaraguan people are protesting things we take for granted as Americans: first it was unfair social security reforms that would leave people in a dire situation, and now the ongoing protests are in response to what many in the international community recognize as an unjust autocratic ruler in Daniel Ortega, who made his wife vice president. We hoped and prayed the unrest would settle, but the government continued to reject the needs of the Nicaraguan people.

Though our hearts continued to draw us to Nicaragua, when the United States government elevated the travel warnings and withdrew their own embassy staff, we knew it would not be right to go. Since then, our decision has been confirmed as the situation has gotten worse, and what was a quiet protest that hardly made international news is now front page worthy.

Please pray for the people of Nicaragua, that a peaceful resolution may come soon. Pastor Sonja and Pastor Joel traveled to Nicaragua several years ago with their children during sabbatical, and know the country and the people to be very loving and peaceful. If the situation settles in the near future, we may be able to discuss this opportunity for the future, but that will not be a consideration until or unless we know without a doubt that the situation would be safe.

A small group did choose to go, and they represented us well. Please read the letter from Pastor Ed Smith, retired pastor from Trinity Lutheran Church here in Loveland.

Nicaragua—a different perspective

Rev. Edward Smith, Retired Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Loveland

The first time I traveled to Nicaragua to visit that beautiful country was during the Contra war in 1986 against the Sandinista government that had recently overthrown the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza. The new president Daniel Ortega was viewed as a freedom fighter and hero who had helped liberate the Nicaraguans from an oppressive regime. Since then I have returned to Nicaragua every summer for the past thirty years with many members of the Loveland community to build over sixty cement block houses in that country. We also support thirteen students in the universities with full scholarships, a full-time nurse in Somoto, and a church in the village of CauCali. The Lutheran Church in Granby, Colorado, follows our group with a full medical staff for dental, eye, and physical needs providing sixty thousand dollars for much needed medicine. Since the end of the Contra war in 1989 and a pledge by

Continued on page 28.

Working Miracles—a book in progress by a local author who welcomes your storied experience

Lee Freeman, a longtime resident of Loveland and an English teacher at Loveland High School, is doing a writing project on miracles, and would love to hear your stories and experiences of miracles. Lee is writing a book about miracles based on his interviews. His book project has two main goals: 1) To invite skeptics to explore who Jesus is, and 2) to encourage existing believers.

God works in incredible ways, and sometimes (maybe often?) in ways that are unexplainable. The Bible calls them miracles. Many miracles are recorded in the Bible, including casting out demons, healings, raising

people from the dead (or sometimes striking people dead), healing blindness (or sometimes causing blindness), and much more. Miracles are gifts from God that reveal God's presence and glory, and to create a sense of awe and wonder. They tend to either bring people to faith in Jesus, or strengthen one's faith and boldness within the church.

Though we may not experience miracles on a regular basis, they do still happen! God is active in our world, and sometimes in ways that defy explanation and can only create a sense of awe. Some miracles may be like those recorded in the Bible, but some also may

be experienced in different ways. You may have experienced a miracle, or you may even have the rare spiritual gift of miracles.

If you have experienced a miracle, or felt that you have been given the gift of miracles, let Pastor Joel know and he will connect you with Lee Freeman to help him with his book project. Lee will be launching a YouTube channel on September 7 with interviews, and releasing a new story every two weeks after that. November 7 is his publish date for the book, so act quickly to be a part of this project!

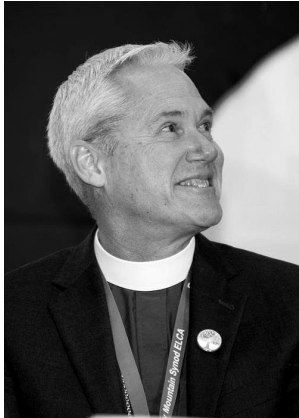
Nicaragua—a different perspective continued from page 27.

the people to renounce violence as a way to settle issues, Nicaragua has greatly prospered and flourished as a tourist and mission destination. It has been for many years the safest place in Central and South America and the people love Americans.

Sadly all of this has suddenly changed. The people still love Americans as we have recently experienced but the great hero of the revolution and liberator the people of Nicaragua Daniel Ortega and his wife Rosario have become the new dictators who refuse to leave office and have been killing peaceful demonstrators. The demonstrators are being led by the university students who now have the support of the entire country. Ortega is being called a murderer and the people have closed down the entire country with roadblocks and demonstrations. They bravely will do this until Ortega leaves office. What they want is freedom of the press, respect for the constitution, rule of law, and an end to political corruption and cronyism.

Continued on page 29.

Bishop Gonia is reelected for a second term



The Rev. Jim Gonia

The first major decision put forth to the 2018 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in May was electing a bishop to serve the synod for the next six years.

Bishop Jim Gonia was reelected to a second term on the first ballot. Of the 391 votes cast,

Bishop Gonia received 321. To reach the 75 percent threshold on the first ballot, 294 votes were needed.

Bishop Jim Gonia served as a missionary in Madagascar from 1988 to 1998. From 1998 to 2009 he was called as the associate pastor of

Atonement Lutheran Church in Denver. Prior to his election as bishop, he served the ELCA's churchwide ministries as Global Mission Area Program Director for West Africa, Tanzania, and Madagascar. In this position Bishop Gonia was responsible for overseeing the ELCA's programs and relationships with Lutheran church bodies and partners in nine African countries.

Bishop Gonia received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana, in 1982; a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Northwestern Seminary (now Luther Seminary) in 1988; and a Master of Theology degree in Islamic studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1997.

His wife, Kim, is an ordained pastor in the ELCA serving a "Called to Common Mission" call at Intercession Episcopal Church in Thornton, Colorado. They have three children, all graduates of Lutheran universities.

www.rmselca.org/bishop. eConnection 05/09/2018.

We invite all into the fullness of God's love. This invitation is inclusive of people of every race, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, physical or mental ability, sex, or station in life. We pledge to use our differences as gifts for our work together. —ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD, ELCA

Nicaragua—a different perspective continued from page 28.

Originally twenty-eight people from Trinity and Zion Lutheran Churches were scheduled to build two houses in Nicaragua this June. Only six of us went due to the conflict. The country is completely emptied of tourists and mission groups which is a great hardship for the people there. We were very well received and cared for and the people there were quite surprised that we had still come. There were many roadblocks and demonstrations to go through on the way to Somoto but discovering that we were Americans we were supported and let through. I have only the highest regard for the brave people of Nicaragua and pray that a change in the government will soon occur so that the country might return to the peaceful path it has traveled on for the past twenty-nine years.

Zion Evening Book Group Selections for 2018-19

Scott Sprain

SEPTEMBER—**A Gentleman in Moscow** by Amor Towles. 2016. 480 pages. Fiction.

In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery. Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another, this singular novel casts a spell as it relates the count's endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose.

We meet on Thursday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Julie Wilson, 3283 Nederland Drive, Loveland, 80538.

OCTOBER—**A View from Flyover Country: Dispatches from Forgotten America** by Sarah Kendzior. 2018. 256 pages. Nonfiction.

In 2015, Sarah Kendzior collected the essays she reported for Al Jazeera and published them as *The View from Flyover Country*, which became an ebook bestseller and garnered praise from readers around the world. Now, *The View from Flyover Country* is being released in print with an updated introduction and epilogue that reflect on the ways that the Trump presidency was the certain result of the realities first captured in Kendzior's essays. A clear-eyed account of the realities of life in America's overlooked heartland, *The View from Flyover Country* is a piercing critique of the labor exploitation, race relations, gentrification, media bias, and other aspects of the post-employment economy that gave rise to a president who rules like an autocrat. *The View from Flyover Country* is necessary reading for anyone who believes that the only way for America to fix its problems is to first discuss them with honesty and compassion.

We meet on Thursday, October 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ken and Michelle Christensen, 1331 West Mountain Avenue, Fort Collins, 80521.

NOVEMBER—**A Piece of the World** by Christina Baker Kline. 2017. 320 pages. Fiction.

To Christina Olson, the entire world was her family's remote farm in the small coastal town of Cushing, Maine. Born in the home her family had lived in for generations, and increasingly incapacitated by illness, Christina seemed destined for a small life. Instead, for more than twenty years, she was host and inspiration for the artist Andrew Wyeth, and became the subject of one of the best known American paintings of the twentieth century. As she did in her beloved smash bestseller *Orphan Train*, Christina

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Zion Evening Book Group Selections for 2018-19 continued from page 30.

Baker Kline interweaves fact and fiction in a powerful novel that illuminates a little-known part of America's history. Bringing into focus the flesh-and-blood woman behind the portrait, she vividly imagines the life of a woman with a complicated relationship to her family and her past, and a special bond with one of our greatest modern artists.

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

JANUARY—The Newcomers: Finding Refuge, Friendship, and Hope in an American Classroom by Helen Thorpe. 2017. 416 pages. Nonfiction.

The Newcomers follows the lives of twenty-two immigrant teenagers throughout the course of the 2015-2016 school year as they land at South High School in Denver, Colorado. These newcomers, from fourteen to nineteen years old, come from nations convulsed by drought or famine or war. Many come directly from refugee camps, after experiencing dire forms of cataclysm. Some arrive alone, having left or lost every other member of their original family. At the center of their story is Mr. Williams, their dedicated and endlessly resourceful teacher of English Language Acquisition. If Mr. Williams does his job right, the newcomers will leave his class at the end of the school year with basic English skills and new confidence, their foundation for becoming Americans and finding a place in their new home.

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

"Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul."

—Joyce Carol Oates

News from Lutheran Campus Ministry

Pastor Deb Abbott

In August, we will be welcoming students to our campus communities!

Please help us reach out to new students attending Aims Community College, Colorado State University, Front Range Community College, or the University of Northern Colorado by sending names and contact information to us so that we can invite them to be a part of Lutheran Campus Ministry.

You can also easily connect your student with any Lutheran Campus Ministry in the country by going to www.elcacampusministry.org.

Don't know any students but love to cook? Meals are needed for our communities on Sunday nights. Lutheran Campus Ministry provides food for the body, mind, and spirit! You can help us feed hungry students this fall by sending grocery gift cards or by signing up to bring a meal for our community on a Sunday night. Gather together a group of friends and sign up for one meal. Our students eat anything and everything and are the most grateful crew you will ever cook for!

For more information, please contact PASTOR DEB ABBOTT at Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado at pastor@lcmgreeley.org or for Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University, contact PASTOR PAUL JUDSON at pastor@lcmcsu.org. Thank you.



Sierra's Race and Faith Active in the Loken Family

Tragedy shapes our lives in terrible ways, but the God of a faith that works in us can also shape our lives to respond for the welfare of others. Take the Loken family. In 1988, the Lokens lost their 16-year-old daughter and sister Laura to meningitis B (MenB). The Loken family, their church, and the community were devastated.



Laura's Team is among the fastest and largest in support of Sierra's Race against Meningitis.

In response to this devastation, the Loken family has been involved with Sierra's Race Against Meningitis for ten years. Sierra's Race raises awareness of the devastating affects of MenB and provides free vaccinations. Sierra's

Foundation has vaccinated over 5,700 people.

Go to <http://sierrasraceagainstmeningitis.com/free-vaccinations/>.

The Loken family has been instrumental in this, providing scholarships to help children and youth register for Sierra's Race. Their team, "Laura's Team," has been awarded the largest team for several years, including this year.

As a medical doctor, Laura's sister Karla has become a national spokesperson for MenB vaccinations. She has had the opportunity to work with the Indiana Immunization Coalition to advocate for awareness and adjust public policy around meningitis vaccinations. She has

been showcased on the national stage with Fox News and NPR about the importance of vaccinating against MenB. She spoke on the floor of the Indiana Senate. As a result, a vaccine is now recommended for all Indiana high school seniors, as well as freshmen enrolling from out of state in public Indiana universities.

Go to <https://www.meetmeningitis.com/hcp/btheone/?cmp=vanity-helpstopb> to see a video of Karla that is being used on national television.

A few facts about meningitis B from the website meetmeningitis.com:

- There are five groups of meningitis, and though uncommon, 60% of all meningitis cases in persons 16 to 23 years of age in the United States are caused by meningitis B.
- Almost 1 in 4 adolescents may be carriers of the bacteria, without showing any signs or symptoms.
- Meningitis B is unpredictable.
- Approximately 1 in 10 meningitis B cases result in death, often less than 24 hours from the first symptoms.
- Approximately 20% of survivors may be affected by significant long-term or permanent disabilities such as brain damage, vision loss, and skin scarring.

We are thankful for the faith at work through the Loken family. In spite of a terrible tragedy, they have made a difference in the lives of countless numbers of people. This year, approximately 1,200 people participated in Sierra's Race by running, walking, receiving vaccinations, volunteering, or just coming for the fun. Sierra's Race is already scheduled for June 15, 2019. Save the date, and make "Laura's Team" the largest and most supportive team again!

Holy Land Trip June 23-July 3, 2019

We are excited to offer the opportunity to visit the Holy Land in the summer of 2019. This is a wonderful experience to walk in the footsteps of Jesus with fellow members of our faith community at Zion. Of course, this trip is not limited to Zion members. It is an amazing experience that friends and family are invited to as well. In addition to seeing the amazing historical sites from the past, we will see the work that the Lutheran Church is doing in Palestine to bring hope to this conflicted region.



Israel welcomes Pastor Sonja and Pastor Joel.

A representative from Good Shepherd Travel, Elias Nawawieh, will be at Zion the weekend of August 18-19. He will be available at two times for you to meet with him to gain additional information and get answers to

your questions. One meeting will be on Saturday, August 18, at 10:00 a.m. and the other on Sunday, August 19, at 11:30 a.m. You do not have to attend this meeting if you already plan on going. Rather, the purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for Elias to answer any questions that people have, face to face, before making a commitment.

The total cost for the trip is \$3,390 which includes airfare, ground transportation in Israel and Palestine, all meals, hotels, and professional guides. It does not include soft drinks, tips to

guides, travel insurance, or souvenirs.

To reserve your place you will need to send in a deposit of \$300 and a copy of your passport along with the reservation application to Good Shepherd Travel or you can give your deposit, copy of passport, and reservation application to Elias when he visits.

An additional payment of \$750 per person is due on September 23, 2018. This can be paid by check or money order. If you prefer to pay by credit card it must pay for the entire amount of the trip.

We invite you to this spiritual pilgrimage to grow deeper in your faith, a faith that works.



Pastor Sonja and Pastor Joel in the desert where Jesus was tempted for 40 days and 40 nights.



At the River Jordan, Pastor Sonja remembers her baptism.

Pastor Sonja stands in the River Jordan which for her is less than knee-deep.



Zion's Semiannual Meeting Minutes

Joyce Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. on July 29, 2018, and opened with devotions.

1. Approval of the minutes from the Annual Meeting 2018
Motion: To approve the 2018 Annual Meeting minutes as presented.
George Stevens moved, Don Roney seconded. Motion passed.
2. 2018 Treasurer's Semiannual Update – Terri Sloan
3. Pastoral Intern
 - Unique opportunity for Zion.
 - Internship will be fully paid for by Sharon Olson funds.
 - Starts August 13.
 - Council considering Zion as a training ground for future pastors.
4. Invite
 - Focus on defining characteristics of Zion.
 - Brainstorming session with 40 attendees.
 - Embracing Our Identity – summer sermon series
 - Relational
 - Cross+Generational
 - Caring
 - Service
 - Education.
5. Welcome
 - Council members have been Secret Greeters on Sundays for the last few months.
 - Secret Greeter is someone designated to intentionally search out and welcome visitors.
 - Council members started, now we look to get others involved.
 - Please talk to a Council member or Pastors if you are interested in being a secret greeter.

Continued on page 35.

Zion's Semiannual Meeting Minutes continued from page 34.

6. Connect

- Change focus to help people connect through the different ministries at Zion.
- Shepherds are paired with people to help them get out and try new ministries.
- Please talk to a Council member or Pastors if you are interested in being a shepherd.

7. Invite -> Welcome -> Connect

- This is **NOT** a ministry for growth.
- 97% of all persons coming new to a church have a life transition event within the last month or two – birth, death, marriage, divorce, etc.
- This is a ministry of Caring.

8. Highlight Flip Sunday

- Flip Sunday instituted as a compromise.
- Council wants to hear how important is Flip Sunday to our identity.
- Council members will be available between service for the next three Sundays to listen.
- We want to hear from EVERYONE.

9. Update on kitchen

- Started as a plan for a simple “facelift” for the kitchen.
- Project has grown and now asking what if we included bathrooms, fellowship area, or expansion.
- Discussions with architect and City at the moment.
- Will be a special appeal to fund the project.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The meeting concluded with a closing prayer and blessing.

Attendance: 33



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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**Fall Worship Schedule Starts
September 9**

Join Us in Worship

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

On the 3rd 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**

Issue 8/18

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

August 4	"Songs and Fanfares" Concert
August 5	Young Families Picnic
August 12	Summerfest Pool Party
August 13	Intern Pastor Begins
August 14	Get Classrooms Ready at Monroe
August 16	Assemble Homework Kits for Monroe
August 18-19	Holy Land Trip Informational Meeting
August 19	Blessing of the Backpacks
August 26	Rally Day; Confirmation Kickoff
August 30	Back to School Night Sack Dinners at Monroe
August 31- September 3	Labor Day Retreat at Sky Ranch
September 7-8	Faster Pastors Run for Syrian Refugees
September 9	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday; Sunday School Starts;
September 11	Children's Music Ministry Fall Startup
September 14	Title Night Ice Cream Social at Monroe
September 20	Zion Evening Book Group
September 30	Faith Formation Festival
October 18	Zion Evening Book Group
October 20	Rent-A-Youth
October 21	New Member Exploration Conversation
October 28	Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)
November 4	New Member Connections Dinner