



Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

February-March-April
2019

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God on the Move

Intern Pastor Courtney Steitz

Growing up, I attended a Catholic school that was run by nuns. Not the smack-your-knuckles-with-a-ruler kind of nuns, but kind, loving, and joyful nuns. Some of my classmates would joke that Sister Marie-Therese never sat down; she was always on the move. She was constantly talking with middle school students during their religion class, holding hands with a kindergartner who had gotten lost in the hallway, laughing with high school students in the lunchroom, or playing her violin with the school orchestra. Sister Marie-Therese was always on the move and she blessed people everywhere she went.

And just like Sister Marie-Therese, God is on the move. God is on the move for us, seeking us out and claiming us with God's grace. God's movement toward us is most evident in Jesus' movement toward Jerusalem, the cross, and out of the tomb. It is through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection that God moves toward us bringing mercy, grace, and reconciliation. We can trust that God is on the move with us, no matter what we are doing or facing.

And during this season of Lent (the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter), we are invited to join God on the move. Throughout Lent, we will follow Jesus' journey up the mountain, into the desert, and to Jerusalem. But these movements are not just to or from physical locations. During our Lenten readings, Jesus is also moving toward people as Jesus moves past all obstacles and down the road. With each week in Lent, Jesus will move closer to Jerusalem, closer to the Last Supper and closer to the cross.

And as Jesus moves toward the cross in our Gospel readings, we are invited to move too. Lent is a time of preparation—forty days that the church sets apart specifically for repentance and reflection as we prepare for Easter. Traditionally, Christians have engaged in Lenten practices (like prayer, alms giving, and fasting) that have moved them a little further outside of themselves and helped to turn their attention toward God and their neighbor.

And God is not done moving.

Continued on page 2.

God on the Move continued from page 1.

Jesus' journey to the cross and out of the tomb are not the end of the story. God continues to act and move in so many ways all around us. Lent can be a time to reflect, repent, and refocus. And as we journey with Jesus, it can also be a time to pay attention to the ways that we see God moving in our lives and the lives of those we love. Sometimes it is in large, miraculous ways, but God also moves in smaller, quieter ways—as we pray together at church, serve teachers and kids at Monroe, or even enjoy time with family and friends. As we see God on the move in our Lenten readings, may we also see God on the move in our lives.

God on the Move Sundays

March 3	Up the Mountain	Luke 9:28-36
March 10	Into the Desert	Luke 4:1-13
March 17	Past All Obstacles	Luke 13:31-35
March 24	Over the Fence	Luke 13:1-9
March 31	Down the Road	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
April 7	Self-Emptying	John 12:1-8; Philippians 2:4-11
April 14	To the Cross (Palm Sunday)	Luke 23:1-49
April 21	Out of the Tomb (Easter Sunday)	Luke 24:1-53

Children's Music Ministry

Noelle Bauman

The Sunday School children and the Zion children's choir will be singing in worship on February 3, March 3, and April 21.

I am so thankful to our congregation for the support and love they have shown the children. Though we talk about singing to glorify the Lord, they still feel incredibly nervous to sing in front of a room filled with people.

The children's choir will be presenting a musical at the end of May. The concert they prepared for December went very well, and was a result of

dedicated practice the children had completed. I hope for May to bring the same sense of success for the children.

As always, I want to share my thanks for the wonderful volunteers. I absolutely could not run the choir without them.

Sunday School music is continuing with the same schedule as last year. The children get to sing, play instruments, and learn music every first Sunday of every month.

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Music Ministry

Adam Torres

When one thinks of the transitive and transformative power of music, one can only be thankful for this amazing gift from God which is one way that unites us and inspires us. There have been many studies that look at musicians' ability to nonverbally communicate when performing, and there have been many studies looking at the positive effects of music for those who manage challenges such as dementia and autism. With this newsletter focusing on "God on the Move," I think it's important to connect music as a gift from God, present in so many facets of our everyday lives; it stands to reason, then, that through music, we can see a small glimpse of God's glory.

More concretely, I believe God is "on the move" when music speaks through each of us. And, for that, I believe our volunteers in the music ministry are a great example of God on the move through the ELCA motto "God's Work, Our Hands." Through the generosity of the Zion community, we are able to welcome outside arts organizations into our church, showing the kindness and generosity of living in Christ. Through this generosity, we have developed a children's music program that positively affects the lives of dozens of children each year. The annual budget expresses a commitment to music and the power of music through support for staff and other costs associated with the music ministry. Because of this support, music is a significant component of our community at Zion, and we are able to viscerally feel God on the move through music.

As we approach Lent 2019, I want to take a moment to acknowledge our midweek Lenten services. For many years, we have utilized Marty Haugen's *Holden Evening Prayer* as the base of our Wednesday worship. This year, we will be using a different setting, experiencing Ray Makeever's *Joyous Light: Evening Prayer*. We hope that a unique musical setting will offer the opportunity to freshly examine our sung words in worship and see another vision of a musical approach to evening prayer. If you are interested in serving as a song leader for this service, please contact music@zionloveland.com.

Thank you for being a part of the music ministry at Zion, by volunteering, through your support financially, and in offering verbal encouragement. I look forward to seeing you in worship in the near future, and challenge you to see God on the Move, through music, in our sanctuary and beyond.

Forgive: The Real “F” Word

Pastor Sonja Pancoast

In the Lord’s Prayer, we pray this simple petition but one that is so hard to do: “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.” Forgiveness is something that many of us struggle with. We may have people close to us who have hurt us deeply. We may have those who disagree with us and slander our opinions. We may have loved ones who let us down, said hurtful things, or even physically harmed us. Our world is full of division. All around us are pain, and hurt, and brokenness.



Forgive in many ways is the real “F” word, because it is so offensive to forgive someone who has wronged us. We want justice, retribution, and for them to pay for what they did. In the midst of this, Jesus gives us these words in the Lord’s Prayer, “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.”

During our midweek Lenten worship, we will explore more deeply what Scripture tells us about forgiveness.

March 13	What is Forgiveness? What it is Not?
March 20	Why Should I Forgive? Part 1—God Has Forgiven Us
March 27	Why Should I Forgive? Part 2—We Don’t Want to Miss Out on the Party
April 3	How Do I Forgive?
April 10	Forgiveness without I’m Sorry

Join us during the daytime or evening worship throughout this Lenten season.

Midweek Schedule

1:00 p.m.	Daytime Worship and Small Group
5:00-5:45 p.m.	Lenten Soup Supper
5:45-6:25 p.m.	Small Group Conversation
6:30-7:15 p.m.	Joyous Light Evening Prayer
7:15 p.m.	Lenten Mentoring for Confirmation Students

My God Moments

Resa Mai

The first conversation and realization that Emilee had grown up was hard, and it just kept getting harder. After belly dancing one night, Emilee looked at me and in a rush of sounds and syllables she told me, “You know I love you, and I love everything we do and all the fun we have and everything, right Mom? You know we always have the best time. I want to move to Arizona with Ally, and we are moving in three weeks. I love you.” It may have only taken her 12 breathless seconds to say the words but in those heart beats everything slowed. Everything dragged. Everything blurred. My breath stopped. And all of a sudden, nothing made sense. My little girl was leaving—leaving me, the house, the family, and the state.

I supported her, as much as I could through the tears. I went through bouts of not talking at all to saying too much. I helped her pack; we even made an amicable distribution of our mutual shoe collection. We emptied drawers and filled boxes, and I never completely knew what I was doing, why I was doing it, or if it was the right thing to do. But I knew I had to have faith—faith in Emilee’s decision and faith in God’s plan. I may not have my daughter under my roof, but I had to have faith.

Emilee moved away, and I survived. She grew and thrived and adapted, and I became empowered.

Then she met a boy, a man really, seven years her senior, in the Air Force, and from as far away as Florida. But they met in Arizona, because that is where Emilee said she was moving. My faith grew, and my pride grew. She was exploring and learning and becoming a young lady who was

poised to take the world by storm. She faced health issues, car issues, and roommate issues. Each one she managed, corrected, and overcame. She continued to thrill and amaze me. Until her next rush of words knocked the breath right out of me.

“Mom, you know I love you, and family is everything to me. (This time she took a breath.) I met a boy and he wants to get married, and after we get married, he is being reassigned to Japan, and I want to go with him.”

I knew it was her life. I knew she was strong and smart and was embarking on an adventure that I could never provide for her—a world I could never imagine and a future that is hers to write. But still, I needed faith—faith that I could let go, faith that she had learned all she needed from me, and faith that God would keep her in the palm of his hand. I needed faith that I could live with her half a world away and faith that my tears would eventually dry. I needed faith then more than I had ever needed it.

My God moments in this come every morning when we talk (6:00 a.m. my time is 9:00 p.m. her time), and we talk. My God moments are the faith and knowing that she shares through laughter and happiness. I could not have created this life for her. I would not have sent her so far away, but God did. And he is now and everyday letting me see what a blessing she is to us, to her husband, to everyone she meets, and to the world around her. I needed faith that my daughter would be okay. In return, I received not only faith, I also received a best friend and the pride in a woman who is so much more than I ever expected.

God is on the Move in my Life

Emilee Christensen

I am Emilee Christensen, and I am a sophomore at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado.

When you're away from your home and church for the first time, it's hard to adjust. It's hard to find your home away from home. It's hard to get comfortable, and it's hard to find where you fit in when you move to somewhere new.

**One door closed, so
God opened another,
and I couldn't be
more grateful.**

But, the one place you fit in anywhere is in God's arms. God gives you grace, comfort, and love anywhere you go. I believe that God has helped me settle into Grand Junction and helps me feel comfortable calling it my second home.

God led me to my leadership role as a Resident Assistant (RA) and also led me to find friends who match my beliefs and values, which Zion has helped build into me. One of my RA friends brought me to a church in Grand Junction last semester; I ended up liking it, and we go together. It helped me reconnect with God even in my home away from home.

God has brought so many amazing people into my life to make this adjustment as easy as possible for me. One door closed, so God opened another, and I couldn't be more grateful. As an RA, I also get to use my gifts from God to help guide my freshman residents to find their home away from home. I feel as though I am paying it forward. My RA helped me, and now it's my turn to make an impact on others.

God is moving with me whether I am away at school in Grand Junction and need help finding my home or I am in Loveland where I have already found my home. I am blessed.

United in Love: Community Canvas Painting

**Saturday, February 23
10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Potluck Brunch**



Bring your favorite potluck item for a group brunch before we start painting!

We will create a beautiful mural to represent all we've learned in the January and February worship series: Body of Christ.

This project is open and accessible to ALL AGES; no artistic skills required. All supplies provided.

RSVP via a blue connection sheet or with Madeline at faithformation@zionloveland.com or 419-270-6233.

God on the Move

Esther Lucero

“Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times if one only remembers to turn on the light.”

—ALBUS DUMBLEDORE

Have you ever felt like you were alone—that nobody was there?

I have.

But then I realized that I was wrong.

We are never alone. We just have to remember to turn on the light.

Let Jesus be that light. Don’t forget to call upon him at any time and he will turn on the light. I almost forgot to turn on the light, when I was in a terrible relationship. My two children and I were held against our will. I thought that we would not make it. Then a little light came on.

I first asked, “Why, why would you do this to us?” And he answered, “My child, I have not done this to you. I am right here going through this with you. The pain you feel, I also feel. You are hungry as am I.”

I don’t know if I was hearing his words or feeling his words, but my light got turned back on. I prayed and prayed for the safety of my children and me, now knowing that Jesus was with us and that we would be okay.

My brother found us. He said he just knew he needed to come to see me, that something just didn’t feel right. He was my light. He was the person that God worked through.

God also worked through many other people to help us get to where we are today. It is a miracle. The Lord kept us together, safe, and happy. We have a wonderful, safe, happy, healthy place to live. We have found an amazing church family to worship the Lord with.

It is amazing what he can do. It is amazing what he can do through us! God is always moving through us! All of us! Even if we think that our situation is hopeless, remember God is moving through someone to bring you some light.

L2F2 Bridge Ministry: Sharing Stories

Dr. Will Reents Presents

Sunday, February 17

12:15 p.m. at Zion—Potluck Lunch

Bridge Ministry is a shared ministry for senior adults at Zion and King of Glory.

Our gatherings for the first quarter of 2019 offer a series of sharing by members of Zion and King of Glory with interesting life experiences.

First up is a presentation by DR. WILL REENTS from Zion who will show pictures and tell about his medical work in Bangladesh and Uganda. [See page 8 of this newsletter for more information.]

God on the Move

Dr. Will Reents

When asked to write about how I have experienced God in my medical mission work, at first I was uncertain as to how to answer this question. I then thought of the resilience of the many refugees and Burmese immigrants. How do they do it? Is this what Jesus is referring to when he says “Blessed are the poor in spirit?” Is God giving them that resilience? When I compare their lives to those of us living in western societies, I notice that if they can get food, shelter, and medical care and live in peace, some appear to be as content with their lives as we. Many of their problems are due to war and violence as they can grow much of their own food and build grass huts for shelter. I have the opportunity to help with medical care which is often lacking. If we can truly bring God’s kingdom to this earth, meaning peace and lack of violence, many of these problems can be solved.



Refugee camp in Bangladesh



Mosquito net distribution in Uganda

I have hope that God is bringing his kingdom to earth through us. Being part of that process gives more purpose and meaning to my life. Even though my work with the poor in Africa or Bangladesh may seem to be dramatic and possibly dangerous, it rarely is. It’s just helping people in a faraway place. I often can’t say that I made a huge difference, but hopefully some. (Kathy said to be sure and mention how helpful she was by holding the flashlight for a dentist in Honduras!)

Treating the refugees’ diseases also gives them hope that someone from a first-world country cares about them. More importantly, I have had the opportunity to interact with people of different cultures, meet interesting patients and other health care workers, and had a chance to treat and learn about diseases and health care problems not found in our country. Thus, I receive more benefits than what I provide.

As Richard Rohr reminds me, God is in us and in all creation. So our challenge is to live in this real world, but also recognize that God is in us all the time and that there is this other mysterious spiritual dimension.

On February 17, I will show pictures and tell about my medical work in Bangladesh and Uganda last year at Bridge Ministry at Zion at 12:15 p.m.

Coming soon: Newly trained Stephen Ministers on the move.

Barb Roman

I am filled with emotion as I think about the commissioning of our new class of Stephen Ministers in March. This class—BONNIE, CAROL, DON, JAMI, LINDA—has been a joy to teach, and they will bring joy to those of you they care for in the coming years. The joy they bring will come from the characteristics they embody as Stephen Ministers: being Christ-centered, being compassionate, being full of faith, being skilled, and being trustworthy. Through them, we will see God on the Move at Zion.



Our Stephen Ministry class and Stephen Ministers received QPR training (an interactive presentation about how to save a life from suicide) from Robyn Potter and Emily Lehman of SummitStone Health Partners.

During the first class of their Stephen Ministry training, our students learned from the Stephen Ministry Training Manual that Jesus is always at the center of a Stephen Minister's person and ministry. The idea of Christ-centered care is captured in the Stephen Ministry Caregiver's Compass. Instead of the North, South, East, and West coordinates, this compass has Compassionate, Skilled, Full of Faith, and Trustworthy as its coordinates. At its center is the P and X (first two Greek letters for Christ), which are used as a symbol for Jesus. The Stephen Minister demonstrates their Christ-centered approach by praying with you (their care receiver) at the weekly visit as well as for you during the rest

of the week. They believe that Jesus will bring healing and wholeness to you. They also understand that although they are the caregiver, it is God who is the cure-giver.

Before their commissioning, our graduating Stephen Ministers will sign what is called the Stephen Minister Covenant. In it they agree to care faithfully for [their] care receiver. This means that they will be trustworthy (Caregiver's Compass) or accountable to you by showing up weekly for the caring visit. They also prove themselves trustworthy when they agree to attend [once] monthly supervision. Supervision is vital to the success of the Stephen Minister. While giving an update about their care receiver, they receive feedback from the group of other Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders that enables them to provide the best possible care for you. The Stephen Minister also agrees to maintain confidentiality with respect to his or her own care receiver and the care receivers of other Stephen Ministers during supervision. In this way the Stephen Minister remains trustworthy by not sharing identifying information about the care receiver.

As our Stephen Ministers take their vows during their commissioning, we will also ask the congregation to take a vow. We ask you [the congregation] to accept their ministry when you need help, to allow these individuals to work with you as you face struggles in your life. Our Stephen Ministry program cannot flourish without the support of this congregation. Your understanding of the role of the Stephen Minister is essential so that you can confidently refer people to us or receive care for yourself.

Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

Middle School and High School Youth Gathering



Zion and King of Glory youth attended the Regional Youth Gathering held in Estes Park January 19-21, exploring the theme of *Who, me?* and digging deeper into their calling as children of God.

Gathered with 275 Lutheran youth from Colorado and Wyoming, our group of eight middle school and six high school youth worshiped, listened to young adult speakers, and participated in workshops with topics ranging from self-acceptance,

Enneagram, outdoor ministry, guided meditation, post-high school discernment, re-imagining Bible stories, sign language, and teen mental health.

High School Winter Retreat

Fourteen high school youth from Zion and King of Glory will attend the annual High School Winter Retreat March 1-3, 2019. They will be skiing at Monarch Mountain and staying at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp.

Please pray for safe travels and adventures in the mountains for our group! This is a time of enjoying snow-covered creation, community building, and thoughtful, faith-filled reflection away from home. Thanks to adult leaders BRENDON PEACH and JEFF FAIRFAX for accompanying us on this trip.



Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

Bella Notte: Tropical Getaway
Sunday, February 10

BELLA NOTTE

a beautiful night for giving

Thank you to everyone who has donated food or made a dinner reservation for Bella Notte, our annual youth fundraiser.

If you would still like to make a table reservation for Sunday, February 10, please contact Madeline at 419-270-6233, to see if there are remaining seats available.

Zion youth appreciate all that you contribute to enable them to have offsite experiences of faith formation. These experiences include our upcoming summer service trip, Confirmation retreats, and camp experiences. Your donations make a sincere difference in the faith journeys of our youth.

First Communion

At Zion, parents are encouraged to discern when is the best time for their child to enter into First Communion instruction. We will offer a parent/guardian discernment conversation with one of the pastors on Sunday, February 24, during Faith Formation from 9:40-10:30 a.m.

If your family decides that now is the best time for First Communion instruction, a series of classes will be offered in March and April, culminating in First Communion at the Maundy Thursday service on April 18.

If you plan to participate in First Communion, please register with Madeline at faithformation@zionloveland.com or via a blue connection sheet.

Parent Discernment Session:

Sunday, February 24—9:40-10:30 a.m.

First Communion Classes: Sunday, March 31, and Sunday, April 7—Noon-2 p.m. with lunch.

First Communion Worship: Thursday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m.



Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

Palm Sunday Breakfast Sunday, April 14

Fellowship Hall

Between 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Worship

All are invited to a breakfast feast served by Zion youth on Palm Sunday. The food for this meal is donated by Zion members, cooked by parents, and served by youth, so that the proceeds go toward Zion youth programming and ministries.

Thank you in advance for donating and joining us for breakfast!



[Please note there will not be any other faith formation or Sunday School classes on April 14.]

Sierra's Race Against Meningitis Save the Date: Saturday, June 15

All are invited to register for this Loveland 5K run/walk to raise funds and awareness for meningitis. For children who register, the registration fee is waived, and for youth the registration fee is reduced by 50 percent, all thanks to contributions from the Laura Loken Memorial Fund, on behalf of the LOKEN FAMILY.

More information on team registration will be available this spring. Last year, Laura's Team won for the largest team. Let's do it again this year!

Vacation Bible School

Save the Date: June 3-7

King of Glory Lutheran Church

L2F2 Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held at King of Glory Lutheran Church this year! We are excited to welcome children ages 3 through 5th grade to register for this exciting week of learning about Jesus!

Stay tuned for a theme announcement and online registration in late February! Registration will be available February 24 at this link: vbspro.events/p/zionkog2019 or from the Zion website.

We will need a great team of youth and adult volunteers to make VBS possible! If you are able to help, please contact MADELINE at faithformation@zionloveland.com or call 419-270-6233. Volunteer registration will also be open at the link above on February 24.



Zion celebrated Sky Ranch Sunday with a sermon by Jeff Fairfax and a campfire sing-along led by Brad Abbott.



Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

Sky Ranch Weekend April 26-28

Confirmation Worship Retreat + High School Retreat + Adult Work Weekend Volunteer Opportunity

This April weekend will feature several opportunities for Zion to gather at Sky Ranch.

Our Confirmation/Middle School Worship Retreat has been expanded to allow for high schoolers to register for a simultaneous retreat. High school youth will assist with parts of the Confirmation Retreat, but will also have separate group time for reflection on their own theme in the mountains.

Adults are also invited to register for help with work projects at Sky Ranch the same weekend. Needed are skilled laborers to finish work in the new retreat/staff housing building. Projects will include painting, trim work, and bunk bed assembly. Please contact the Sky Ranch office directly for registration information:
www.skyranchcolorado.org.

Register now for Sky Ranch 2019

Memorial Day Work Weekend

May 24-27 (for adults interested in volunteering)
(contact Sky Ranch directly to register)

High School Youth Go! Leadership Training

June 9-21

High School Staff-In-Training

June 16-21

Middle School Confirmation Intensive

June 23-28

1st through 5th Grade Zion and King of Glory Week

July 28- August 2 (includes Round-Up and Homesteaders)

L2F2 Labor Day Weekend Family Retreat

August 30-September 2 (RV, tent, cabins, lodge rooms)

(registration info coming at the end of April)

NOTE: To register campers for the June and July program weeks, please find a registration packet on the Faith Formation bulletin board.

Scholarship Applications are due March 3.

Registration forms and deposits are due April 7.

Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp—Summer 2019

**We are anticipating over 30 children and youth from Zion will participate in summer camp at Sky Ranch this summer!
Help us reach our goal of raising \$4,000 for Zion camp scholarships!**

Many of you joined in some summer fun with a campfire sing-a-long in January as part of Sky Ranch Sunday! Thank you to those of you who have already donated to the Zion Sky Ranch Campership Fund. We have raised \$775 so far, but we have a goal of \$4,000 in order for all scholarship application requests to be rewarded. The average cost for a week at camp is over \$400, and we want all Zion campers willing to go to camp, to be able to go, financially! Please consider donating to this special fund; camp experiences are a great foundation of faith that we can build on at Zion throughout the year!



Meet Zion's new members welcomed on December 9, 2018

ERIN AND DAVID MOTTA LUKE

David and Erin came to Zion because it is an ELCA congregation. Their new baby Luke, who was baptized December 9, really likes the music at Zion, and they are pleased that there is a cry room available.

JAMES (JIM) AND CHIEKO POPPE

Jim and Chieko are both retired. They are new to Loveland after relocating from Vancouver, Washington, to be closer to children and grandchildren in the Loveland area. They joined Zion because of the friendly people.

CHAS AND AFTON FARASYN ELLE AND GRAHAM

Chas and Afton have been attending Zion for several years. They decided to join Zion because of its friendly and welcoming atmosphere. They are looking for ways to get involved at Zion with their children. Elle was baptized in 2015 and Graham was baptized at the end of December 2018.

JANICE EHLERS

Janice is retired and enjoys hiking, walking, snowshoeing, and crafting. She has been in Loveland since April. She likes the people of our faith community. She plays with the bell choir, volunteers with Community Kitchen, and is involved with Monroe school. She has the support of new friends in church and is growing in her faith journey.

LINDA HITCHCOCK

Linda loves crafts (especially crochet), bowling, and camping in her free time. She was baptized in the Lutheran tradition and was looking for a Lutheran church. She felt like Zion is where she belongs. Linda is helping with Monroe.

CAROL KEELING

Carol enjoys reading, watching tv, walking, Greeley Women's Guild, and her grandchildren. She came to Zion because CHARLOTTE SCHMIDT told her about our church. She enjoys the message, outreach, and

other opportunities to serve through this faith community.

ESTHER LUCERO MODESTO AND KHALEESI

Esther loves reading, sewing, cross stitch, and being outdoors. Esther was looking for a church to grow in with her children. She currently helps with the Zion children's choir. She feels that Zion is welcoming and she and her children belong here.

AARON KRETSCHMER

Aaron has been attending Zion since 2015. He loves Legos and anything he can build. He likes to share his creations with others. Aaron has been involved in HNS and enjoys serving others, especially children. He wanted to join Zion because he feels like Zion is his family, and he believes that by becoming a member, he is truly part of the church family.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

—ROMANS 15:7

The process of joining Zion as a member

God is on the move, but often that means God moves us. God moves us to try new things. God moves us to new locations. God moves us to love and forgive and serve. God moves us together, to be the body of Christ living and active in the world. That's why we have churches, and that's why we would even consider the possibility of "joining" a church. When we join a church as a member, we don't receive anything we wouldn't have received if we had never joined. We join a church because we see God at work in that congregation, and we want to be part of its mission and ministry.

We offer opportunities for people to explore the possibility of joining Zion twice a year. This spring, our new member conversations will be in April. If you want to know more about Zion's mission and ministry in the world around us, or if you want to explore how you fit in or how you can participate, contact the church office or one of the pastors to let them know. The following two dates outline the process of joining Zion as a member; however, if you are unable to make these dates, talk with the pastors to arrange alternative opportunities.

Sunday, April 7, at 9:40 a.m.—New Member Discovery

Join us during the faith formation hour to talk with the pastors and others considering membership about Zion's mission and ministry, as well as topics of Lutheran Christian identity. We will begin the process of spiritual gifts discovery, identifying how the Bible identifies and defines spiritual gifts.

Sunday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m.—Connections Dinner

Join the pastors and other Zion members to complete the spiritual gifts discovery, exploring how God might be calling each of us into the ministry of Zion with our unique set of gifts.

If you are already a member, this is a ministry of hospitality and teaching that we want to share with you. If you are interested in helping to provide the dinner or connecting with those considering membership, please contact one of the pastors.

Among Members and Friends

At Rest in Our Father's House

*We pray for the family and friends of **Ed Schroeder** who died on November 21, 2018, and whose funeral was on January 4, 2019, at Zion.*

Joyous Celebrations

*We rejoice with Justin and Maddie Dennis at the birth of their son **Liam Dennis**.*

*We rejoice with Blanca Lujan at the birth of her son **Adida** on October 28.*

*We celebrate with Dave and Erin Motta at the baptism of their son **Luke** on December 19, 2018.*

*We celebrate with Chas and Afton Farasyn at the baptism of their son **Graham** on December 30, 2018.*

Prayers of Comfort

***Brenda Davis** at the death of her mother Genevieve.*

***Janie Lichtfuss** at the death of her sister Judy.*

***Cindy, Lisa, Joel, and Jim Vosberg** at the death of Keith Schoeder, Jim's brother-in-law and Cindy, Lisa, and Joel's uncle.*

***Dave Loges** at the death of his mother Eileen.*

***Mel and Mary Jo Haack** at the death of their sister-in-law Vernetta Haack.*

***Paul and Deborah Price and Marvin and Trudie Huth** at the death of Deborah's cousin and Marvin and Trudie's niece Emma Benda at the age of 26.*

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



Long-time member **Cheryl Gillpatrick** has moved into an assisted living facility near her son David. Her new address is:

Cheryl Gillpatrick
Apt. 215
Brighton Gardens of Columbia
7110 Minstrel Way
Columbia, MD 21045

Cheryl's cell phone remains the same:
970-426-6479

Among Members and Friends

Dear Pastors Joel, Sonja, and Courtney, and Zion Congregation,

Thank you for the beautiful baptism gifts. We are lucky to have found a community that reaches out so much. Thank you for the beautiful and joyous baptism ceremony.

The Mottas (Dave, Erin, and Luke)

The Schroeder family would like to thank all that participated in the memorial service for our father, grandfather, brother, and friend, Edward Schroeder. Having served in the choir for pretty much all his life, having the choir and soloists send him off with music was particularly touching. Pastor Joel's message of tying in Ed's life with a wonderful Epiphany message was amazing and so comforting. A big thanks also for all the setup, the media, flowers, tables, and such a delicious lunch.

*Thank you,
Curt*

We wish to thank everyone who has prayed for Mike over the last six months through his extreme illness. He continues to improve and is able to walk a few feet at a time. All of your prayers have been much appreciated and your visits are even more appreciated. I also want to thank all of you for your prayers for me through this very stressful time. Also to Pastor Sonja and Pastor Elliott for visiting and offering communion. I know Mike misses seeing all of you and hopefully by Easter we can be a family in church again. Thank you and Blessings to all of you.

Mike and Linda Tegeder

Appreciation for Zion's Prayer Shawl Ministry

As winter sets in, my beautiful new blue prayer shawl is already giving me great comfort and warmth. It means so much! Thank you and God Bless you all!

Darlene Thieking

Evelyn Haber just gave me a shawl to be treasured. The beautiful colors, cream, pale aqua, and rose blend with everything in my apartment. Above all, it will keep me warm on chilly days. It is my pleasure to thank all who create such loveliness.

Janet Langtry

*Dear Friends,
A beautiful prayer shawl was delivered to me by Evelyn. It was just what I needed as my shoulders are always cold. You ladies are doing a great service, and I know God is helping you all the way. Thank you so much.*

*My love,
Dora Pearcey*

Thank You Letters to Zion

- November 1, 2018—From House of Neighborly Service for a contribution of \$315.
- November 14, 2018—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$525.
- December 10, 2018—From Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado for a donation of \$125.
- December 18, 2018—From Loveland Habitat for Humanity for a gift of \$1,000.
- January 2019—From Loveland's Community Kitchen for an annual 2018 donation of \$2,500.

Pastor Joel,

Thanks very much for the fun, fellowship, and fundraising on Thanksgiving Eve. It was a wonderful event, and we're grateful that you thought of us. So thankful for your support.

Best, Vince Deely



Habitat for Humanity was the recipient of the funds raised at the pie auction plus the offering for the ELCA Thanksgiving Eve worship. The pastor of the church donating the least amount received a pie in the face; that honor went to Pastor Chris of Trinity Lutheran Church.



Faith Build 2018 Home

On Saturday, December 15, 2018, the Habitat Faith Build home was dedicated to Kevin and his family, the recipients of the new home, who helped build their home alongside volunteers. The news that they were approved for a Habitat home filled them with hope and happiness for a better future in Loveland.



Kevin and his family are recipients of the 2018 Habitat Faith Build Home.



Gene Elder presents a gift basket from Thrivent to the family, and Pastor Elliott presents them with a Bible.



At their year-end get-together, Zion's Ladies in Fellowship Together (L.I.F.T.) celebrated Jesus' birthday along with a year's worth of their own. As you can see, the party was well attended.

THANK YOU ZION FOR BEING A SUPPORTING CONGREGATION OF SKY RANCH LUTHERAN CAMP

Sky Ranch — forming faith and changing lives — one camper at a time!

Thank you again for your support of the ministry at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp. You are one of the congregations of the Rocky Mountain Synod who use, own, and operate this camp. Your prayers and financial help are very much appreciated. As a seasonal ministry, we serve over 3,000 youth and adults each year.

On July 30, Sky Ranch began construction on the new 2,940 square foot summer staff/seasonal retreat cabin. The cabin has four bedrooms with bathrooms housing up to 32 summer staff, a meeting area, and two external bathrooms for adjacent staff cabin use. This winterized cabin is located on the western edge of the property. By locating all the summer staff in one area of camp, we will have three more cabins in the center of camp for camper use.

We have been upgrading other facilities to meet a growing demand from retreat groups. Volunteers combined to contribute over 2,000 hours of service to improve facilities and grounds at Sky Ranch. Last summer we,

- built a new footbridge over Beaver Creek
- replaced benches at Sondance worship area
- constructed a covered grill area in the Chuckwagon area
- finished replacing heaters in camper cabins and upstairs of the lodge
- built a new archery shed
- replaced exterior siding on Bonhoeffer cabin
- built new picnic tables and a new bench/storage area outside the lodge.

Sky Ranch has a rich tradition of training staff to be church leaders regardless of their vocation. Of the ten college graduates on last summer's staff,

- two are starting the candidacy process with the ELCA
- one is serving with Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Minneapolis
- one is in Rwanda with YAGM (Young Adults Global Mission)
- one is teaching
- two are in graduate school for a master degree (one social work, one in education)
- one is serving a not-for-profit formerly associated with Border Servant Corps.



Sky Ranch 2018 Staff

Did you know? Sky Ranch owns 117 acres of land and maintains 26 buildings and facilities. In this outdoor setting, dynamic college-age counselors ignite the faith of youth and adults alike and are inspired in their own faith.

Only two-thirds of the camp's budget comes from program fees. Your financial support is vital to keeping camp affordable! We hope you will include Sky Ranch in your missional budget and continue to support this ministry.

God Moves Us Into Our Community—Monroe Ministry

Pastor Sonja Pancoast

God is truly on the move and moves us outside of these walls at Zion. We continue to find God's presence in the many children, teachers, and staff at Monroe Elementary. We are truly blessed to partner in this amazing ministry.

The year is in full swing, and our weekly volunteers continue to love and support the children at Monroe.

- On Wednesday, February 27, we will provide soup, veggies, bread, and desserts for the teachers as they have parent / teacher conferences.
- We continue to beautify the school and will be painting positive quotes in the bathrooms on Thursday, February 28, and Friday, March 1.
- Finally, mark your calendars for the pozole dinner on Friday, April 26, at Zion.

God is truly on the move, and we are so thankful for the many ways God moves through us into the community at Monroe.

To ZION FROM GIFT STOCKING # 5A/5B

Thank you for my sweater. It is my favorite color and it fits and the cookie plate I can use it and the little mug and the chocolate spoon and hot cocoa mix and rocks and minerals book and the colored pencils and art pencils, and sketch books!

Thank you so much for sponsoring my son this Christmas. The smile on his face brought me overwhelming joy! All the amazing gifts you gave him are so deeply appreciated!! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and many blessings in the New 2019 Year.

*Sincerely,
The (ANONYMOUS) Family
THANK YOU!*

To ZION FROM GIFT STOCKING # 33A/33B

*Dearest Kind Humans,
Thank you so much for helping me make my son's Christmas magical! You'll never know how grateful I am for wonderful people like you!*

*Thank you!
Merry Christmas!*



The after-school sewing group learns to sew on buttons in the most creative way, thanks to leaders Susan Osborne and Elaine Nichols.

One Community One Family

God is on the move through One Community One Family (OCOF)! OCOF is an incredible program designed to assist families struggling through homelessness. This program came to Loveland almost three years ago after being started as a statewide initiative by Governor Hickenlooper. The program title bears a simple description of what it is all about: it is one community taking on an intentional relationship and responsibility to help one family get into consistent, dependable housing. The community has been made up of coworkers, family members, churches or other faith-based groups, schools, organizations, or just a group of friends. Members of that community form a small team, who participate in a training together, then meet regularly with their assigned family experiencing homelessness to make a tangible and measurable difference one family at a time.

A small team from Zion participated in one cycle of OCOF over the last year, and not only did they successfully help the family they were working with get into housing, but also strong, meaningful relationships between the team and the family were formed that have lasted beyond the family's move into housing and graduation from the OCOF program.

One Community One Family is an incredibly successful program. Of course, as a church community we need to continue to support agencies like House of Neighborly Service, Community Kitchen, and KidsPak because they continue to provide essential services for families and individuals in need. But OCOF partners with those agencies in a different way by providing one-on-one relationships that creates accountability, relationship, and love—things that ensure stability in the lives of the families in the OCOF program.

God is on the move once again through OCOF and Zion. After completing the first cycle of OCOF last year, we have the funding to move forward again to help one family. The next training will be sometime in February or March. If you are interested in participating in the next training to decide if serving on this team is right for you, contact PASTOR JOEL or the Zion office.

What Happened to the Kitchen Remodel?

At the annual meeting in January 2018, the council report shared the expectation that the kitchen would be remodeled in 2018, but at the time the Long-Range Planning Committee was investigating all options for that remodel. One year later, you may notice that the kitchen has not been remodeled. While it may appear that this plan has fallen stagnant, God is on the move and moving us in a different direction. Because of the promise of a generous gift, the Long-Range Planning Committee and Council were presented with an opportunity to dream about how the kitchen and fellowship hall could more fully assist the mission and ministry of Zion. Throughout much of 2018, Long-Range Planning met with representatives from Hauser Architects in Loveland to pursue this dream.

The dream is one that will not only provide a larger and more up-to-date kitchen, but also more than double our current bathroom capacity, create a new fellowship hall that is more than twice the size of the current one and can be divided into two separate rooms, and provide a beautiful outdoor plaza for worship and fellowship gatherings. All of this will not only allow us to do more for our own ministries, it will also allow us to continue to provide a hospitable space to the many groups throughout the community that use our building.

At this time, there are a few more details that need to be explored. As soon as all the information has been gathered, a special congregational meeting will be called to fully present the plan in detail, along with costs, timelines, and any other pertinent information and to call for a congregational vote of approval. Stay tuned for this exciting development!

Women's Retreat 2019

Deadline to register is much earlier this year.

Planting Seeds to Grow into Who God Designed You to Be

Women's Retreat—October 18-20, 2019

YMCA of the Rockies at Estes Park

Cost \$175

Deadline to Register—August 4, 2019

Lisa Worley of Pearls of Promise Ministries will be leading our retreat as we focus on “Planting Seeds to Grow into Who God Designed You to Be.” Lisa is a dear friend of DEBORAH PRICE; they were roommates in college at Texas Lutheran. Worley started Pearls of Promise Ministries and speaks to women's groups around the country.

We will retreat at the YMCA of the Rockies from Friday evening, October 18, until lunch on Sunday, October 20. The cost for the two-night retreat is \$175, and scholarships are available. The date is earlier than in previous years, so the registration deadline is August 4.

Mark your calendar now and look for registration materials after Easter.

The Night Before Christmas program gave our children and youth an opportunity to curl up by the fireside and share Luke 2, to remind us of the true reason for the season: Jesus!



I walked 120 kilometers on the Camino De Santiago

Jessica Kuhns

In November 2018, I had the opportunity to travel to Spain and walk 120km on the Camino de Santiago.

Background— The Camino, Spanish for way, is a medieval pilgrimage route founded in the year 812 to honor Saint James, the patron saint of Spain. Legend holds that Saint James, the brother of James and disciple of Jesus went to Spain as a missionary after the death and resurrection of Jesus, then returned to Jerusalem where he was martyred (Acts 12:2). The story here becomes one of medieval imagination where the marble casket of Saint James miraculously floats along the Mediterranean to the northwest coast of Spain and lands aground near Finisterre. Then through a series of events, the casket is taken to the city of Compostela, translated as either field of stars or more likely the burial place. The tomb was then forgotten about until a Spanish bishop had a vision of the tomb around the year 800 and soon a pilgrimage route was created. Many stories exist attributing miraculous events to Saint James over the centuries, especially during Spain's long struggle with the Moors. In times past, people went on a pilgrimage to receive forgiveness of sins, as a penitence for crimes, or as a spiritual discipline. Today, while the actual historicity of the legend of Saint James is doubted, the experience of walking a route that faithful Christians have walked for over a thousand years is a moving and spiritual experience.

My Group— The trip I went on was hosted by the Episcopal Church in Colorado and was billed as a pastor's trip and advertised in the Rocky Mountain Synod newsletter. Having read about the Camino some months before, I really wanted

to go. So, I contacted the Episcopal church and asked if I could go as a lay leader and they welcomed me into the group. In the end, we traveled with five Episcopal priests, one Episcopal deacon, one Presbyterian pastor, another lay leader, and me—the only Lutheran. It was a great group.

The Trip— We spent the first few days of our trip exploring the life and places of Saint Teresa of Avila, a nun who lived in the mid 1500s after the reformation. Teresa is widely known for her devotional writings, primarily "The Interior Castle" where she beautifully describes Christian meditation and mindfulness. Who knew that a nun 500 years ago was teaching mindfulness practices we could all benefit from today!



**Cruz de Ferro
(Iron Cross)**

Our first foray onto the Camino was at a devotional marker known as Cruz de Ferro, or the Iron Cross. It is tradition for pilgrims to bring with them a stone from their home to leave behind at the foot of the cross. I brought a green stone from Sky Ranch to leave behind mostly because Sky Ranch is also a place of great spiritual connection for me.

We began our Camino in earnest from a town called Sarria, just over 100km from Santiago. If a pilgrim walks, rides a horse or bicycle, or sails at least 100km along any of the many Camino routes they are eligible to receive a Compostela or certificate of completion. Our group spent the next four days walking between 14 and 20 miles

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I walked 120 kilometers on the Camino De Santiago continued from page 24.

per day! We were walking just slightly off season, with the main time for pilgrims being between May and October. We had beautiful weather with only one partial day of rain! The other days while often overcast were cool and pleasant.



Jessica at the way marker outside of Sarria

Personally— I walked much of the first two days in solitude and while the landscape was beautiful, I became lonely. The third day I asked my roommate Maria if I could walk with her all day; she was very encouraging and a wonderful walking companion. The third day, however, was our longest day and also the hardest. Maria and Charis, with whom I walked, both led walking ministries, and I asked if they would lead a mindfulness exercise. We decided to spend 20 minutes walking in silence and at the end we would share what we saw. It just so happened our 20 minutes coincided with the longest hill of the trip. The path was difficult and the pace was fast. At the end of our 20 minutes, we all had incredible joy to share. I myself could not stop crying for several minutes; the greatness

of it, a purging and cleanness energized me for the rest of the day. I was struck by the difference between intentional, communal silence and solitude.

I had the opportunity to experience this contrast a second time as our group as a whole walked the final 4km from Mount Gozo or the Mount of Joy down into Santiago in silence. It was beautiful and moving to walk together from the rolling countryside into the medieval city in silence, our quiet contrasted with the noise of the city.

We arrived in Santiago in time to meet the Episcopal bishop of Spain who traveled five hours by train from Madrid to meet our group and celebrate the end of our pilgrimage. The



The group of travelers outside the cathedral and Jessica with Maria inside



Jessica on the Camino De Santiago



The Spanish Bishop and the Cannons of the Ordinary of Spain and Denver presiding over the Eucharist

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I walked 120 kilometers on the Camino De Santiago continued from page 25.

Catholic cathedral in Santiago allows the Episcopal church of Spain to use a small side chapel for celebration of the Eucharist. The breaking of bread in such an ecumenical environment was very special.

The following day I attended the Pilgrims Mass in the cathedral, spoken entirely in Spanish and was not able to partake in the Eucharist. I did, however, participate in the traditional veneration of the relics in the cathedral.

First, I ascended the marble steps behind the altar and hugged the statue of Saint James; honestly it was weird. What I did find moving were the indentions made in the marble steps from the thousands of pilgrims who had walked the path before me.

Second, I went down the steps below the altar where the remains of Saint James rest in a silver casket. I had carried a class list for Gordon's class in my pocket the whole way and often prayed for each of the kids as I walked; I left that list there under the care of Saint James. The previous week I had attended a field trip with Gordon's class and discovered the list on the way to Cruz de Ferro and felt compelled to pray over it. It was interesting participating in such old and different traditions.

On the bus we discussed the roles of Saints in the various Christian traditions represented; Catholics, of course, have a very specific criteria for a person to be called a Saint, Episcopalians choose Saints by committee, and Lutherans name all believers Saints. I feel honored to be part of such an inclusive tradition.

We ended our Camino by traveling by bus to Finisterre, the traditional end of the world. We celebrated the Eucharist again on the beach after

collecting the traditional scallop shells that pilgrims of old would bring back from their journey as proof they made it to the end. We then watched the sun set into the ocean, it was a fitting and beautiful end to our journey. Tradition, however, holds that the Camino never ends, as we now know the world is round and the way continues ever before us. As the priest at the Pilgrims Mass described: pilgrims often hope to learn profound insights or revelation as they complete their Camino, but often the insights are subtle, and our growth must continue as we continue walking our path of faith.

I learned how important community is to me as I walked the trail both alone and with companions, but I also felt deeply how my journey is not complete. So here I continue walking along the way.



Jessica at km marker 000 at Finisterre

Holy Land Pilgrimage Update

In the flesh of Jesus, God was on the move. In his shoes, God walked. With his eyes, God saw. With his emotions and thoughts, God felt pain and longing and love in the same way we do. Imagine walking where Jesus walked, seeing what Jesus saw, and hearing his words in the places where he might have said them.

When Pastor Joel and Pastor Sonja had the opportunity to travel to Israel and Palestine in January 2018, they knew that it was an opportunity of a lifetime to walk where Jesus walked, and be moved by the living God to see the story of Scriptures in new ways. They did not know, however, that they would have the opportunity to return the next year. After sharing some of their experiences throughout the season of Lent, many people started to share that they had often considered going to the Holy Land, and asked if the pastors would take a group.

As of January 2019, thirty-eight people are registered to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Pastor Joel and Pastor Sonja. Though the deadline has passed, there is still room for

those interested. Contact one of the pastors immediately to see if you can still join the group. The dates are June 23-July 3, and the cost is \$3,390. We will be gathering the pilgrimage group soon to spend some time in spiritual preparation and to get to know one another.



Pastor Joel and Pastor Sonja at the Wailing Wall

God still moves and loves and acts today. God moves in and through you today, wherever you are. You don't have to go to the Holy Land to experience God on the move, but it is an enlightening experience that just might change the way you understand the Scriptures.

Angel House 2018 in Review

Angel House is the program that runs IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network).

We want to give a **HUGE THANK YOU** to the volunteers who have dedicated their precious time, contributed meals, and offered endless love, support, and encouragement to all the Angel House children and their families who came through their doors in 2018. We truly appreciate and value each and every person who partners with us. We couldn't do our rotation shelter program without you ALL!

- Congregation shelter rotation program: 15 families, 14 adults, 27 children.
- Nights of shelter provided by congregations: 3,380.
- 100 percent of Angel House families stayed together in 2018.
- 80 percent of Angel House families remained safely housed 0-6 months post-shelter program.

Zion Evening Book Group Selections for Spring

Scott Sprain

All readers are welcome to join any month.

FEBRUARY—**Frankenstein** by Mary Shelley. 1818. 166 pages. Fiction.

This is the 200-year anniversary for the famous story. Few creatures of horror have seized readers' imaginations and held them for so long



as the anguished monster of Mary Shelley's

Frankenstein. The story of Victor Frankenstein's terrible creation and the havoc it caused has enthralled generations of readers and inspired countless writers of horror and suspense. Considering

the novel's enduring success, it is remarkable that it began merely as a whim of Lord Byron's. "We will each write a story," Byron announced to his next-door neighbors, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin and her lover Percy Bysshe Shelley.

The friends were summering on the shores of Lake Geneva in Switzerland in 1816, Shelley still unknown as a poet and Byron writing the third canto of *Childe Harold*. When continued rains kept them confined indoors, all agreed to Byron's proposal. The illustrious poets failed to complete their ghost stories, but Mary Shelley rose supremely to the challenge. With

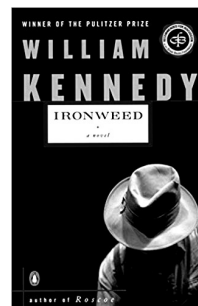
Frankenstein, she succeeded admirably in the task she set for herself: to create a story that, in her own words, "would speak to the mysterious fears of our nature and awaken thrilling

horror—one to make the reader dread to look round, to curdle the blood, and quicken the beatings of the heart."

We meet on Thursday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Lois Jurgens, 1000 West Eisenhower, #17, Loveland, 80537.

MARCH—**Ironweed** by William Kennedy. 1984. 240 pages. Fiction.

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, the third in Kennedy's Albany cycle, Francis Phelan, ex-ballplayer, part-time gravedigger, and full-time bum with the gift of gab, has hit bottom. Years earlier he'd left Albany after he dropped his infant son accidentally, and the boy died. Now, in 1938, Francis is back in town, roaming the old familiar streets with his hobo pal, Helen, trying to make peace with the ghosts of the past and present.



We meet on Thursday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jaci Engel and Wes Melander, 4110 Bonnell Drive, Loveland, 80537.

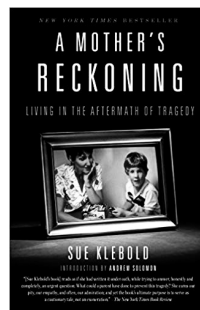
APRIL—**A Mother's Reckoning** by Sue Klebold. 2016. 336 pages. Nonfiction.

On April 20, 1999, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold walked into Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Over the course of minutes, they would kill twelve students and a teacher

Continued on page 29.

Zion Evening Book Group Selections for Spring continued from page 28.

and wound twenty-four others before taking their own lives. For the last sixteen years, Sue Klebold, Dylan's mother, has lived with the indescribable grief and shame of that day. How could her child, the promising young man she had loved and raised, be responsible for such horror? And how, as his mother, had she not known something was wrong? Were there subtle signs she had missed? What, if anything, could she have done differently? These are questions that Klebold has grappled with every day since the Columbine tragedy.



In ***A Mother's Reckoning***, she chronicles with unflinching honesty her journey as a mother trying to come to terms with the incomprehensible. In the hope that the insights and understanding she has gained may help other families recognize when a child is in distress, she tells her story in full, drawing upon her personal journals, the videos and writings that Dylan left behind, and on countless interviews with mental health experts.

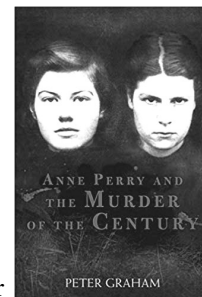
We will meet one week later than usual to avoid a conflict during Holy Week.

We meet on Thursday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jill Shannon, 4320 Bonnell Drive, Loveland, 80537.

MAY—Anne Perry and the Murder of the Century by Peter Graham. 2013. 384 pages, Nonfiction.

On June 22, 1954, teenage friends Juliet Hulme—better known as bestselling mystery writer Anne Perry—and Pauline Parker went for a walk in a

New Zealand park with Pauline's mother, Honora. Half an hour later, the girls returned alone, claiming that Pauline's mother had had an accident. But when Honora Parker was found in a pool of blood with the brick used to bludgeon her to death close at hand, Juliet and Pauline were quickly arrested, and later confessed to the killing. Their motive? A plan to escape to the United States to become writers, and Honora's determination to keep them apart. Their incredible story made shocking headlines around the world and would provide the subject for Peter Jackson's Academy Award-nominated film, *Heavenly Creatures*. A sensational trial followed, with speculations about the nature of the girls' relationship and possible insanity playing a key role. Among other things, Parker and Hulme were suspected of lesbianism, which was widely considered to be a mental illness at the time. This mesmerizing book offers a brilliant account of the crime and ensuing trial and shares dramatic revelations about the fates of the young women after their release from prison. With penetrating insight, this thorough analysis applies modern psychology to analyze the shocking murder that remains one of the most interesting cases of all time.



We meet on Thursday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Charlotte Schmidt, 2306 Firstview Drive, Loveland, 80538.

And, we will select books to be read “next year,” starting in September 2019.

Free Money: Try a King Soopers Card

Scott Sprain

What? If you shop at King Soopers, please consider using a King Soopers Gift Card from Zion. When you do, Zion receives 5% of your expenditures. The card can be used for groceries and gas.

Why? In 2018, Zion received \$3,386.24 “free money.” In 2019, the proceeds will be split between ELCA World Hunger and KidsPak in Loveland.

How? Pick up a free “gift card” from SCOTT SPRAIN on Sunday mornings at the Fair Trade Coffee table or pick one up in the office. The only hassle: before shopping, you need to load your money onto the card at Customer Service or at the grocery checkout or at the fuel station booth.

Free Cards: If you have lost your card or it has gone inactive, please pick up another card without cost.

NO GUILT: Don’t switch to King Soopers for this “deal.” Don’t stop supporting other groups or organizations that might also use this deal for raising funds. Don’t worry about starting again if you once used the cards and have stopped.

“Free Money” can help those in need. Why Not?

Can't get enough of that "free money?"

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, you can designate more “free money” to Zion or any other registered nonprofit organization. If you already designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to another organization, please continue to do so if you want to support that organization. More than 40,000 churches and nonprofit organizations are enrolled to receive Thrivent Choice Dollars, so the possibilities are almost endless! A quick search for Loveland brings up 40 possibilities, and for Fort Collins there are 62 possibilities.

Every year, the Zion council has the privilege of directing funds we receive from both King Soopers gift cards and from Thrivent Choice Dollars. For 2019, the council has committed to using these funds for hospitality. For many years, we have provided donuts for our Sunday morning fellowship. Any contributions at the donut table that were above the cost of the donuts have provided for scholarships for ministry with children and youth. Unfortunately, in recent years that amount has decreased, and often is even less than the cost of the donuts. Thrivent Choice Dollars will allow us to provide this hospitality to members and visitors each Sunday morning. If you direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to Zion, thank you for your generosity and your commitment to hospitality.

Online Giving / Automatic Giving is available to you to make contributions to the church

Here's how!

We are pleased to announce that as of January 2019, we are now using the same company who provides our church offering envelopes, to also provide online and automatic giving. This will streamline the process and save money for the church.

The option of Online Giving / Automatic Giving makes use of current technology and security standards and allows you to make automatic transfers of your tithes and offerings. It also enables our church to take advantage of new tools to have your offerings automatically withdrawn on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly basis.

Online Giving / Automatic Giving is intended to be a convenient tool for your use, and we strongly support it along with offering envelopes for your contributions to the church. Online Giving / Automatic Giving is the electronic way to participate in tithing.

If you would like to enroll in Online Giving / Automatic Giving our office manager, Lindsey Walter, will be here the four Sundays in February to help you sign up. Please bring your routing number and checking or savings account number.

To enroll:

1. Visit our church website at zionloveland.com and click on the online giving link.
2. Create a secure and confidential account.
3. Schedule your recurring gifts.

To download the app on your phone or tablet:

1. Go to your Play or App Store.
2. Search for Online Giving (Our Sunday Visitor Inc.).
3. Install the app; after the app has downloaded, open it.
4. Click Register.
5. Enter your organization ID (4726).
6. Select search and click on Zion Lutheran Church.
7. Complete all the required fields (this is your account, so you will need to select a username and password you can remember).

If you have any questions, email the church office at office@zionloveland.com or call the office at 970-667-1836. Ask for Lindsey.

Oh, so you CAN tie a knot. Well, then, Quilt Ti-ers is for YOU!

Susan Osborn

Zion Quilt Ti-ers meet the third Thursday of the month to tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief donations. Please remember our group if you have fabrics to donate for the tops and backings and blankets for the batting (middle layer). Also, please join us on one or all of the third Thursdays from now through May at Zion. "If you can tie a knot, please join us."

Troop 314 Status Update—Winter 2019

Jenny Hutson

The leaves are down and the crisp weather has arrived. 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!



November and December were spent working on rank advancement.

During November, the scouts participated in hands-on workshops where they learned the

basics of electrical and plumbing work as it relates to home repair, our theme for the month.

We joined other troops in town to participate in flag ceremonies on Veterans Day to honor our Armed Forces. Also, a small group of scouts

participated in a community service project supporting the families at Edmondson Elementary.

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 learning about music with a visit from a world champion fiddler, an accomplished musician. The boys learned about different careers in music as well as explored different instruments and types of music. Our campout at BDSR was supposed to be focused on ice fishing, but the warmer weather changed our plans, and the group enjoyed a weekend of shooting rifles instead!

Now that the holiday buzz has passed, Troop 314 is back to business in January. The theme for this month is split between programming and winter sports. Many of our scouts are participating in Merit Badge University, a two-weekend event where scouts work intensively on a couple of chosen merit badges. A camping trip to Pinewood Lake is planned for mid-January and it's going to be a big turnout!

As it is winter, the month of February will focus even more on SNOW! Our scouts will spend the weekly meetings learning about ice fishing, team operation of Klondike sleds, cold weather camping, and more. In addition, we will be joining other troops in our District 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!

March and April are still in the planning phases, but we do know we will be working on the merit badges for disability awareness, geocaching, and swimming.

Continued on page 33.

Troop 314 Status Update—Winter 2019 continued from page 32.

Lastly, I am proud to share that we have two new Eagle scouts in our troop! Tucker Leadbetter and Zach Balliew earned the prestigious rank of Eagle and will be celebrating with the troop at their Eagle Court of Honor this month. We are immensely proud of these two young men!

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!



Eagle Scouts Tucker Leadbetter and Zach Balliew

Cub Scout Pack 298

Tom and Julie Call

Here's a great example of God on the move. What better place to start but at the feet of those in need.

Cub Scout Pack 298 stepped up to help sort more than 4,000 pairs of new and gently used shoes and 2,900 pairs of socks in support of the 30th Annual Shoes for the Holidays campaign. Key contributors of the shoes and socks were the Metal of Honor Fund and Walmart. Metal of Honor is a program through the HVAC industry. Employees serve and give back to their communities in many ways.

The donations will be distributed by House of Neighborly Service, Mary's Cradle, Gabriel House, Homeward Alliance, Crossroads Safehouse, Junior League Career Closet, Guadalupe Center, and Needs Inc. The sponsors of the drive were Anderson Podiatry Center, Doug Baldwin's State Farm Insurance Agency, Morning Sky Ministries, and Loveland Design Carpet One.



Building on the Spirit's work among us—A vision for 2019

Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Beloved in Christ of the Rocky Mountain Synod,

As we begin 2019, know that your Synod Council is engaged in a visioning process that will provide us with a new synod mission plan for the next three years. Building on the Spirit's work among us, we will continue to focus on the following key areas that empower us to proclaim and embody God's unconditional love for the sake of the world.

- **Claiming Our Gifts**—Teach, proclaim, and share the significance of our ELCA way of being part of Christ's Church with a clear and contagious vision from abundance.
- **Connecting in Ministry and Witness**—Foster a Spirit of active collaboration and intentional connection across our Synod.
- **Equipping All Leaders**—Build healthy and vibrant faith communities by equipping lay leaders, pastors, and deacons for excellence in leadership.
- **Accompanying One another into God's Future**—Seek and promote new ways of being Christ's Church together in the world.
- **Growing in Generosity**—Strengthen our financial capacity for ministry and witness relying on a spirituality of generosity and abundance.



Your faithful investment in our life together allows this vision to become reality. As you finalize your congregational spending plans for 2019, we ask you to give prayerful consideration to your congregation's mission support for 2019, knowing that your generosity not only funds our work as a synod but contributes to the impact made by our vast churchwide ministries. Our goal next year is to share 48% of all congregation support with our ELCA Churchwide organization.

Thank you for the many ways that you enable us to live and serve as Christ's Church, Better Together!

Yours in Faith,
Bishop Jim Gonia
Vice President Earline Bohling

News from Campus Ministry

Pastor Deb Abbott

Campus ministry offers opportunities that support students on their faith journey and expand our communities. Your gifts to campus ministry support opportunities for worship, Bible study, peer ministry, service, and community building.

- In February, we are looking forward to a winter retreat at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp with students and staff from all over the Rocky Mountain Synod.
- In March, ten young adults and staff will spend spring break serving and experiencing Holden Village in Washington.

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

For more information about Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado, contact Pastor Deb Abbott at pastor@lecmgreeley.org or visit www.lecmgreeley.org.

For Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University, contact Pastor Paul Judson at pastor@lcmcsu.org or visit www.lcmcsu.org.



Thank you for your support!

2019 Synod Assembly

May 3-5

Embassy Suites, Albuquerque, New Mexico



As the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod, we've been focused this last year on what it means to be Christ's Church for the Life of the World. Our attention now turns to what animates our witness and ministry as Christ's Church by exploring the Spirit's work within us—individually and communally. Under the theme "Be Transformed," our 2019 Synod Assembly will consider the changes that take place in our hearts, minds, and very being as God's love in Jesus takes hold of us.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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Email: info@zionloveland.com
Web: www.zionloveland.com
Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church-Loveland

Join Us in Worship

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

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**

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

February 10	Bella Notte: Tropical Getaway
February 17	Bridge Ministry Will Reents Presents
February 21	Evening Book Group
February 23	Community Canvas Painting
February 24	First Communion Discernment Class; Register for VBS
February 27	Soup Supper for Monroe Teachers
February 28 and March 1	Paint Positive Quotes in Monroe Bathrooms
March 1-3	High School Winter Retreat
March 3	Deadline for Sky Ranch Scholarship Applications
April 7	New Member Discovery; Sky Ranch Registration Deadline
April 14	Palm Sunday Breakfast
April 18	Maundy Thursday; First Communion
April 21	Easter
April 25	Evening Book Group
April 26	Monroe Pozole Dinner
April 26-28	Sky Ranch Weekend
April 28	New Member Connections Dinner