



# Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

February-March-April  
2020

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Pastor Sonja Pancoast

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### Director of Music Ministry

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## Wilderness

*Pastor Sonja Pancoast*

As we enter into the 40 days of Lent, we are reminded of the 40 days Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and are reminded of the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. The time in the wilderness is a not an easy time, but it is a time of learning who we are and whose we are.

When Jesus was in the wilderness, he found temptation and struggle, but he also found fasting, resting, and wandering that shaped him for his ministry. This time in the wilderness was transformative for Jesus because he connected to God the Father. He was shaped for his ministry as he discovered more deeply *who* he was as the son of God. He also learned more deeply *whose* he was—a beloved child of God.

As the Israelites wandered 40 years in the wilderness, they found the wilderness to be a place of challenge. They often wanted to return back to Egypt and the life they knew before, even if it was a

life of slavery. In the wilderness, these challenges helped the Israelites learn who they were and whose they were. They learned how to be the people of God as God gave them the Ten Commandments. They learned to trust God each day as God provided just enough manna for that day. If they hoarded more manna, it rotted. In the wilderness, they learned again who they were as the chosen people of God, whom God freed from slavery and led to the Promised Land; they learned whose they were. These lessons guided them as they entered into the Promised Land. If they had not had the wilderness time, they would not have been shaped into people of God.

We may find ourselves in the wilderness for a variety of reasons. Many times we find ourselves in the wilderness of unemployment, divorce, empty nest, retirement, illness, grief, depression, anxiety, or addiction. Our wilderness times are times when the future is unknown

*Continued on page 2.*

*Wilderness continued from page 1.*

or uncertain. We may feel disconnected from our past, and we don't know what the future will hold. We rarely enter the wilderness willingly, but through our wanderings in the wilderness we learn again who we are and whose we are. We are reminded again that God is leading us. We are reminded again that God is providing for us. We are reminded again that there is no wilderness space that is too harsh or threatening for God's love.

In this time of transition at Zion, it may feel a bit like we are in the wilderness as a congregation. There is a disruption in the way of life as we knew it before. The future feels unknown as we readjust our budget to accommodate the new building priority. We come to worship and things are out of place; everything is a mess because of the expansion and remodel. We have to find new ways to do what we always have done before such as midweek Lent without soup supper and funerals without receptions. We are challenged to live into normal congregational life when things feel disrupted all around us. We know that God is leading us while we are in the wilderness, but we don't know exactly what the future holds. For those of us, like myself who are planners, these times can feel a bit uncertain and a bit scary. Yet, it is exactly these times that help us to grow in our identity as the people of God and to follow where God is leading and trust in God providing.

In our visit to the Holy Land, one of the most impactful experiences was looking over that vast wilderness. The desert goes on as far as the eye can see, and yet, God is there in the midst. I have a picture of the wilderness taken by a good friend from our first trip to the Holy Land that hangs in our bedroom to daily remind me that God leads us each day and provides for us for what we need for that day. The photo reminds me to trust in God's leading and to have faith in God's provision for the future. The wilderness is shaping me. The wilderness is shaping you, and it is shaping our congregation.



**This photo reminds Pastor Sonja that God is there in the midst of the wilderness, leading and providing for us each day.**

As we enter into this Lenten season, we invite each of you to enter into the wilderness of these 40 days and be transformed through your wilderness wanderings.

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*Wilderness continued from page 2.*

On **Sunday mornings**, we will discover how the wilderness is a place of transformation—a place of beginnings, a place of mystery, a place of isolation and connection, a place of disruption, a place of new life, a place of joy. As a community, we will embrace the gifts that come to us in the wilderness as we focus on who we are and whose we are.

**Sunday, March 1—A Place of Beginnings**

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-17 and Matthew 4:1-11.

**Sunday, March 8—A Place of the Unknown**

Psalms 121 and John 3:1-17.

**Sunday, March 15—A Place of Isolation ... and Connection—Exodus 17:1-17 and John 4:5-42.**

**Sunday, March 22—A Place of Disruption**

Psalms 23 and John 9:1-41

**Sunday, March 29—A Place of New Life**

Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 11:1-45.

**Sunday, April 5—A Place in the Crowd**

Palm / Passion Sunday—Matthew 21:1-11.

**Sunday, April 12—A Place of Unexpected Joy—Easter—John 20:1-18.**

In the midst of the many transitions all around us during our Lenten midweek, we return to the familiar *Holden Evening Prayer*, a beautiful liturgy that keeps us grounded in God. Each week, we will *Enter the Passion of Jesus: Picturing Ourselves in the Story*. We will take time throughout Lent to hear again the central story of our Christian faith, Jesus' Passion which tells of who God is and embodies God's love for us. Each week, we will freeze-frame a moment in that story and picture ourselves in that story as we ground ourselves in God's central story of who God is and whose we are. In the midst of the wilderness, we cling to God's story to lead us and guide us.

**Midweek Worship—*Entering the Passion of Christ: Picturing Ourselves in the Story***

**Ash Wednesday—February 26**

Preparing the Canvas

- Noon—Joint ELCA Worship at Zion
- 7:00 p.m.—Ash Wednesday Worship at Zion

**Midweek Lenten Worship—Wednesdays**

1:00 p.m.—Small Group Conversation and Worship in Chapel

6:30 p.m.—Holden Evening Prayer in Sanctuary

March 4—The Parade

March 11—The Temple

March 18—The First Dinner

March 25—The Last Supper

April 1—The Garden

During this wilderness season, come and ground yourself in God's Word, in community, and in worship and praising the Lord as we are reminded again of who we are and whose we are.



**During Lent, enter the wilderness and be transformed by your wilderness wanderings.**

## Music Ministry

*Keenan Boswell*

**J**ust when we think we know exactly what God is doing, just when we try to make ourselves secure in what we know, God sends us on a wilderness journey to receive His love through surrendering to what we don't know.

When God began calling me in the summer of 2019 to relocate from Texas to Colorado, I had no idea that I would be accepting a call to direct the music ministry of Zion Lutheran Church in Loveland.

After stepping away from years of working as a music minister in the Lutheran church, I was just becoming comfortable with the ebb and flow of being self-employed in Austin, Texas. I had finally gotten used to the extreme Texas heat. But God was tugging on my heart. Sign after sign after sign was pointing me to the Fort Collins area of Colorado. I surrendered enough to make the move. But upon arriving in Colorado in early November, I had only gone ankle deep into the refreshing cool of the Rocky Mountain streams.

Over the next month, God began quickly revealing his bigger plan for me here and many things in my personal life outside of church unexpectedly shifted, requiring me to dive head first into the unknown. My mind tried to convince me these changes were somehow bad and that they were my fault and that I should retreat back to controlling everything in my life where it felt safe. After daily coming up against the monsters of this self-induced anxiety, I began surrendering more and more through the healing work of music ministry.

With the ever-present help of the Holy Spirit, I was gently guided to begin breathing deeper,

surrendering to the heart where His infinite love resides. In this surrender, I have found myself being daily refreshed in the deep of His grace with greater opportunities for music leadership in the church than I initially could imagine when I was still clinging to what felt safe in my own mind. The more one immerses themselves into the ministry of facilitating music leadership for the church, the more one recognizes the need to receive the healing this leadership brings to them—that this surrender to receive the healing of congregational + choir voices united in song is actually the healing work of bringing Heaven to Earth.

I have been so blessed to begin this ministry position with a firm foundation already put in place by your previous music minister, ADAM TORRES and the rock-solid assistance and interim music ministry leadership of NOELLE BAUMAN. The remainder of Zion's staff, PASTORS JOEL and SONJA PANCOAST, LINDSEY WALTER, MADDY SCHWARTZ, and STIG ORESJO have been paramount in creating a space of ease for my transition into music ministry for your church community. Equally as important has been the open-hearted willingness of Zion's music ministry volunteers to co-lead week in, week out with chancel choir and praise band. I am grateful to have the opportunity to witness each of your unique God-given gifts and help facilitate the growth of Zion's music ministry as the Holy Spirit leads me.

I look forward to the remainder of the season after Epiphany leading into the focus on the wilderness during Zion's Lenten season. I look forward to continuing to identify each volunteer's unique God-given gifts that help lead

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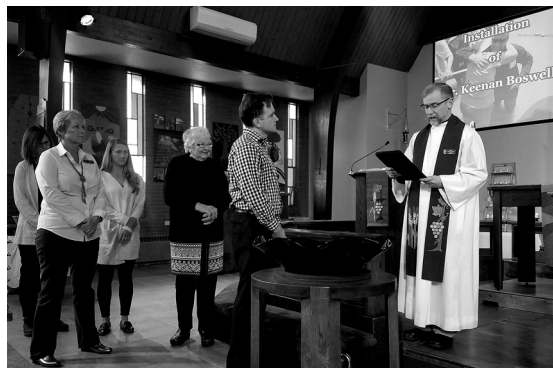
*Music Ministry continued from page 4.*

the community into deeper communion with our Almighty loving God. I believe deeply and firmly that each soul carries a unique signature of God's love and that I am called to encourage the expression and therefore *leadership* of each soul who volunteers their time in Zion's music ministry.

This path of surrender that each of us is individually called to is never the path most taken. We can't draw up the GPS for easy directions by simply mimicking someone else's path or relying on anyone else's advice. Walking this path requires daily surrender to God and His greater plan. Though we daily try to convince ourselves "I'm not worth His time," "my gifts aren't as special as so-and-so's," "oh look I've messed up again," this resistance to our own divinity cannot match the power of Jesus resurrected and his Holy Spirit indwelling within us carrying the power of God's all-creating love. Even in our resistance, he gently guides us with His infinite love to see where surrender to this love opens us up to greater joy, peace, and strength than we could have ever found in our attempts to keep life "comfortable" and "the same." It is in this surrender that we find God positioning us perfectly to each lead in our own uniquely empowered way that reveals God's kingdom on earth.



Thank you, Zion Lutheran Church, for calling me to minister to you during such a time as this. Our world may seem to be growing darker daily. If we want to find something to be afraid of, we'll find it. But isn't it beautiful and overwhelmingly glorious that God can remind us through worship each week that His love is stronger than this fear! God is fighting for us, pushing back the darkness, lighting up the kingdom that cannot be shaken. And He is lighting up the kingdom through you, through me, in our weakness and in our strength all the same. Let us remember as we go forward through this wilderness of the unknown that God is leading us to receive His Kingdom Come on earth. Every time we make the decision to honor God through raising our voices and making music together, we bring that Kingdom of infinite Love and Grace ever closer. What a gift we are called to receive. What a gift it is to receive this gift with you all as your music minister. May God, through His Holy Spirit, continue to guide me to facilitate the building of His Kingdom through the encouraging of your unique musical gifts at Zion Lutheran Church. May we all continue learning to embrace the beautiful discomfort of the unknown that guides us back to His loving arms.



**Zion celebrates the installation of Dr. Keenan Boswell as their Director of Music Ministry.**

## Children's Music Ministry

*Noelle Bauman-Stucky*

Thank you all for the support you gave to the Watoto Children's Chorus! It was so nice to partner with Jane, the new music director at King of Glory Lutheran Church, so we could all share in the moving performance. A very special thanks to everyone who housed some of the children. In the midst of their touring season, I hope your generosity brought them warmth, comfort, and encouragement.



**Sponsored by Zion and King of Glory, the Watoto Children's Chorus from Uganda, East Africa, performed at King of Glory on January 29.**

Working toward an upcoming program, concert, or large event always brings excitement, but sometimes it is nice to take a step back and focus on the inner workings of the daily routine, the relationships around you, and the valuable feedback from those relationships. Zion's children's music ministry will have a chance to relax and enjoy some normalcy of schedules and bask in the expected structure of the season. My goal for this season is to reflect on where we have come from, where we are currently, and what could be the most beneficial for the children in the future.

As we move through February, March, and April, we will have Sunday School music once a month

during which we will sing songs and analyze the words they contain. Sunday School members will have the chance to sing in the second service on February 2 and March 1. I am encouraged by the involvement of the Sunday School when we invite them to share their voices. What beautiful gifts we are given.

The Zion children's choir meets every Tuesday from 3:40-5:00 p.m. If your child is interested in joining us, please know they can do this at any time through the semester. We accept children who are in first grade and higher. Monroe Elementary continues to be a huge support of our choir. There are members from Monroe who have been in the choir every season since we have included the school. We also have a large group of new members who are improving by watching our veteran members. These children learn and grow so much through a semester by observing our congregation, one another, and our volunteers. We are so fortunate to have ESTHER LUCERO, KATHY PANCOAST, PAM STEVENS, and JUDIE WASS. Not only do these volunteers commit time to planning for lessons, but they help one another. We all have family matters, schedule conflicts, and unexpected requirements. Our volunteers are incredibly understanding and supportive of one another's efforts, and this understanding is demonstrated for the children who observe their hard work.

The choir will be singing in the early worship service on February 2, March 1, and April 12. They will have a concert on May 3 at 2:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and come see how these kids have grown!

## Children's Music Performances



The children's choir performed a special concert in early December. On December 15, the Sunday School and children's choir presented their Christmas program, telling the story of Christ's birth through speaking, singing, and playing instruments.



## Holy Week and Easter Schedule

### Palm / Passion Sunday—April 5

8:15 a.m.	Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m.	Palm Sunday Breakfast
10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Worship

### Maundy Thursday—April 9

12:00 p.m.	Joint ELCA Worship at King of Glory
7:00 p.m.	Worship with First Communion at Zion

### Good Friday—April 10

12:00 p.m.	Joint ELCA Worship at Trinity
7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Worship

### Easter Vigil—April 11

6:00 p.m.	Joint ELCA Worship at Zion
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### Easter Sunday—April 12

6:30 a.m.	Sunrise Worship
8:15 a.m.	Traditional Worship
9:40 a.m.	All Ages Easter Faith Formation
10:45 a.m.	Contemporary Worship

## **Campus Ministry Sunday February 9**

Zion supports Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin) at both Colorado State University and University of Northern Colorado. These campuses are both in our area, and we have had some of our own students attend and participate in LuMin. This year, we will host our annual Campus Ministry Sunday on Sunday, February 9.

At both services, Karey Olson, a student from CSU LuMin will preach and share her perspective of faith and life in college and as a young adult leader in the church. Karey is in her last semester and will graduate with a degree in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources. She hopes to be a National Park Ranger. She grew up in Pueblo, attending King of Kings Lutheran Church. Karey serves in many capacities at LuMin, including serving as sacristan for worship and baking all of the communion bread.

College can be a trying wilderness time for many people, but LuMin helps young adults find belonging and make sense of how God is working in their lives in what can sometimes be some of the most trying, lonely, and challenging times. Come to worship February 9 to celebrate the work that we do together as church to welcome young adults and college students as Christ!

## **Scouting Sunday February 16**

Many Scouts spend time in the wilderness, honing skills for survival, an appreciation for creation, and developing teamwork. But perhaps one of the most important dimensions of every branch of Scouting is learning about self and reverence to God.

On Sunday, February 16, Zion will observe Scouting Sunday in worship. All Scouts are invited to wear their uniforms to worship and be recognized for their participation in these important development organizations, whether involved in the organizations that Zion sponsors or in other Scouting organizations.

Zion is honored to charter both Scout Troop 314 and Cub Scout Pack 298. Almost every Tuesday night, if you come to the building you will find it active with boys and girls learning and growing together.

Both boys and girls are welcome, and if you are interested in knowing more about these organizations, come Tuesday nights or call the church office for contact information.

## **CSU LuMin Campus Open House**

**Sunday, February 9—12:00-2:00 p.m.—805 South Shields Street—Fort Collins, Colorado 80521**

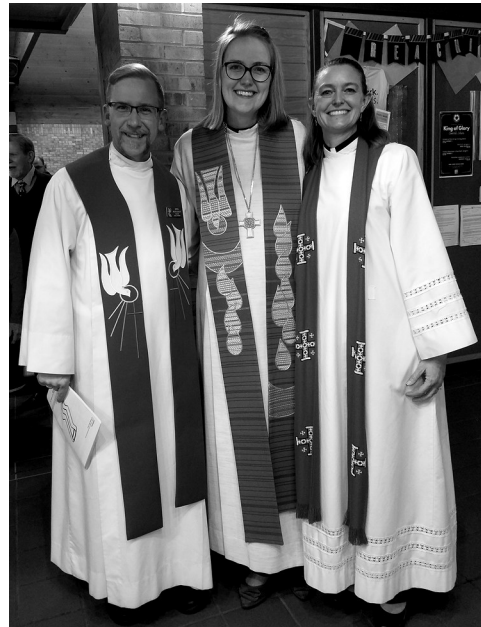
Join with LuMin supporters from across the Front Range for light lunch and tour their remodeled spaces! With new restroom and shower facilities, updated gathering room and kitchen, and new laundry appliances, LuMin just finished Phase 1 of a major remodel, thanks to the support of generous donors and congregations. The ministry now has the ability to provide laundry, shower, and study space services for students who are housing insecure.

Come check out this incredible space and see how Zion can continue to partner with LuMin to provide for the spiritual and physical needs of area young adults.





## Pastor Courtney Steitz



**On November 22, Courtney Steitz was ordained as pastor at King of Glory Lutheran Church, her home church. Pastors Joel and Sonja were among many from Zion who attended the ordination.**

On August 11 of last year, Zion said “farewell and Godspeed” to Intern Pastor Courtney Steitz after a year of serving as a teaching parish for her internship. She was approved as a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and immediately began discerning calls and interviewing with congregations to be called as their pastor.

Through all of her wilderness wanderings, she was called to serve as a co-pastor at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lakewood, Colorado. On November 22, Courtney Steitz was ordained as pastor at King of Glory in Loveland (her home church), and her influence at Zion was evident by the large numbers represented in worship. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow with Courtney, but we celebrate the gift she is to the greater church.

## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

### **L2F2 Young Adult Trivia Night**

Wednesday, February 19

6:30 p.m.

Verboten Brewing

127 East 5th Street, Loveland

Join a team of young adults and young couples from Zion and King of Glory for a fun, laid-back night of trivia at Verboten Brewing!

Trivia starts at 6:30 p.m. Depending on the number of participants, we may split into multiple teams.

If you plan to attend, call Madeline at 419-270-6233 or sign up on your Connection sheet.

### **Lenten Wilderness Cross + Generational Sunday**

Sunday, February 23

9:40—10:30 a.m.



We will journey through the wilderness together throughout Lent. This

cross + generational event will bring members of all ages at Zion together to “Bring the Wilderness In” as we create wilderness displays for use in the sanctuary during worship. This hands-on activity will include “wandering” between classrooms to add natural elements to wilderness vase displays while reflecting on poetry, artwork, and scripture. Take home resources to build your own Lenten wilderness display. Keep coming back to worship to see your handiwork displayed in the sanctuary throughout Lent!

#### **L2F2 All Ages Events—Spring 2020**

As Loveland Lutheran Faith Formation, Zion and King of Glory are partnering to host a series of monthly events for church members and friends of all ages! These events will be held at King of Glory due to construction at Zion.

### **Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner**

Sunday, February 23

5:00—7:00 p.m.



Join together for a delicious pre-Lent pancake dinner! Gather for a fun night of good food and festivities! Enter the float-making contest or make a mask to win a prize and participate in our end-of-the-night parade! All float and mask making materials provided during dinner. Parade starts at 6:45 p.m. A freewill offering will be collected at this event.

### **March Potluck + Service Project**

Friday, March 27

6:00—8:00 p.m.

Bring a dish to share as we gather together for a meal and service project. We will be assembling Care Kits for Zion and KoG members to share with people in our community experiencing homelessness. These kits will be filled with snacks, water bottles, and other practical items to share with our neighbors. We will be collecting the items listed throughout Lent at both churches. Items can be dropped off in the collection box outside fellowship hall beginning Sunday, February 23. We will have a Thrivent Action Team to purchase additional items to complete the kits.

## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

### Items Needed for Care Kits—March Service Project

Beef jerky (individual-size bags or beef sticks)	New socks (men's and women's adult sizes)
Chewing gum	Chapstick
Soft granola bars	Cough drops
Flavored water packets	Sunscreen (travel size)
Fruit snacks	Band-aids
Gift card for fast-food restaurant	Cracker packages with peanut butter or cheese
Individual tissue packets	Nail clippers
Feminine hygiene items	Applesauce pouches
Individual hand wipes packets	Handwritten, encouraging notes

### Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sunday, April 5

9:15—10:45 a.m. at Zion

Zion youth will be serving breakfast between worship services as one of their annual youth fundraisers. While the set-up and menu will be a bit different this year due to the construction, the food will be just as delicious, and the service will be excellent as always!

The funds raised from this breakfast make trips and retreats for our middle and high school youth possible.

We will be collecting King Soopers gift cards during Sundays in March to purchase the food for this year's event. Gift card donation tags will be available in \$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20 increments.

Thank you for your generous support of youth ministries at Zion Lutheran Church.

### High School Service Retreat Middle School Spiritual Gifts Retreat

Friday, April 24—Sunday, April 26

Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp

This is a joint retreat weekend with separate tracks for middle school and high school youth.

High school youth will help get Sky Ranch ready for summer programming and also break for group sessions and devotions.

Middle school and confirmation youth will gather to learn and explore their spiritual gifts.

This is a free retreat for both middle school and high school youth. Contact Madeline if you would like to register at 419-270-6233 or [faithformation@zionloveland.com](mailto:faithformation@zionloveland.com).

### SAVE THE DATE L2F2 Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 1—Friday, June 5

9:00 a.m.—noon

King of Glory Lutheran Church

Registration for VBS volunteers and participants will open online on March 1! The link for registration will be available here: [vbspro.events/p/zionkogvbs2020](https://vbspro.events/p/zionkogvbs2020)

**PARTICIPANTS:** Registration is open for any children age 3 through completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The cost for registration is \$15/child or maximum \$30/family. Payment is due June 1.

**VOLUNTEERS:** We are seeking volunteers for a variety of positions and availabilities. Please visit the registration link or contact Madeline for a list of volunteer position descriptions.

## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

### **First Communion Discernment Class**

First Communion age for children is discerned on an individual basis by parents and our pastors. Some children are preschool age, others might be in middle school; there is no right or wrong age for First Communion.

If you would like to learn more about first communion or if you think your child or grandchild might be ready to receive communion, please join us for the spring discernment class. If you choose to enroll your child in First Communion instruction, classes will take place in March. First Communion will be celebrated at evening worship on Maundy Thursday, April 9.

#### **Parent Discernment Class with Pastor Joel**

Sunday, March 8  
9:40—10:30 a.m.

#### **First Communion Classes at Zion for Parents and Children**

Sunday, March 22  
Noon—2:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29  
Noon—2:00 p.m.

### **Summer 2020 at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp**

It's time to start registering for summer programs at Sky Ranch!

Programs are offered every week from the beginning of June until early August. Zion youth and children will attend programs on the following weeks.

Please contact Madeline at 419-270-6233 or [faithformation@zionloveland.com](mailto:faithformation@zionloveland.com) if you plan to register for any summer programs

### **Confirmation Intensive**

**Sunday, June 21—Friday, June 26**

Full week program for youth who have completed 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade by summer 2020. This year, we will walk through Holy Week in Jerusalem, using role playing based on New Testament narratives.

**Cost:** \$380 for Zion youth.

#### **Deadlines for registration:**

- February 23—Zion campership deadline.
- March 29—registration form and \$100 deposit due to Madeline.
- May 24—remaining balance and medical forms due to Madeline.



## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*



### Round-Up

**Sunday, July 26—Tuesday, July 28**

Half week program for children who have completed 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade by summer 2020.

**Cost:** \$150 for Zion children.

#### **Deadlines for registration:**

- February 23—Zion campership deadline.
- March 29—registration form and \$100 deposit due to Madeline.
- June 28—remaining balance and medical forms due to Madeline.

### Homesteaders

**Sunday, July 26—Friday, July 31**

Full week program for children who have completed 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade by summer 2020.

**Cost:** \$365 for Zion children.

#### **Deadlines for registration:**

- February 23—Zion campership deadline.
- March 29—registration form and \$100 deposit due to Madeline.
- June 28—remaining balance and medical forms due to Madeline.

### Labor Day Weekend Retreat- Save the Date!

**Friday-Monday, September 4-7**

Zion's weekend for casual family camping and laid-back programming. Tent, camper, cabins, and lodge rooms available for reservation beginning in June.

**Cost:** \$25-\$55/lodging unit per night.



*I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.*

—PSALM 121:1-2

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## Among Members and Friends

### At Rest in Our Father's House

*We give thanks for the life of **Norman (Jake) Jacobson**, who died on November 2, 2019, and whose funeral was in Decorah, Iowa, on November 16, 2019. We keep in prayer his wife Lucille.*

*We give thanks for the life of **Glenn Sterkel** who died on December 15, 2019, and whose funeral was at Zion on what would have been his 88th birthday, January 24, 2020. We keep in prayer his wife of 64 years, Joanne, as well as many nieces and nephews who mourn his passing.*

*We give thanks for the life of **Jennifer (Markham) Schlagel** who died on January 17, 2020, and whose funeral was at Zion on January 25. We keep in our prayers her husband Bruce, her children Anna and Cate, her parents Bill and Elizabeth Markham, and her brother and sister-in-law Brett and Christina Markham, as well as many extended family, friends, coworkers, and students who are impacted by her death.*

*We give thanks for the life of **Bob Majeski** who died on January 21, 2020, and whose funeral will be at King of Glory on February 8 at 10:30 a.m. We keep in prayer his son Fred and wife Penny, his son Bob and wife Teresa, his daughter Laura and husband John, his grandchildren Rebecca, Rachel, and Ryan, as well as many other friends and family.*

### Joyous Celebrations of the Gift of Baptism

*We rejoice with Brittney (Guerrero) and Brian Goetsch at the baptism of their daughter **Brielle Goetsch** on December 22, 2019.*

*We rejoice with Brittany (Bossie) and Patrick Kanzler at the baptism of their son **Rhett Kanzler** on January 6, 2020.*

*We rejoice with Tana and Nick Wacholz at the baptism of their twin boys **Flynn and Nash Wacholz** on January 19, 2020.*

### We Keep in Prayer

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

*To my Zion family,  
Thank you for your sincere sympathy  
cards during this time of sorrow, but it is with joy  
that I am grateful and thankful.  
Joanne Sterkel and family*

***“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”***

—MATTHEW 11:28

## Among Members and Friends

### Zion's Outreach is Well Received

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you so much for your generosity and support by sponsoring students from our giving tree. We are so lucky to live in such a great community that truly cares about our students and families! Your kindness is greatly appreciated.*

*The Staff of Monroe Elementary School*

*Dear Zion Lutheran,*

*Thank you for your gift of \$150 for Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated by our students and ministry.*

*In Christ's Love,  
LECM Board and Ministry*

*Zion Lutheran Church Members,*

*The staff and board members would like to thank you for your generous donation of 6 Thanksgiving baskets for our families at TVP [Thompson Valley Preschool]. All of the families were able to join in the holiday spirit, and were so appreciative of your support.*

*Thank you so much!  
Gail Yant, Executive Director*

*Pastor Sonja and Pastor Joel,*

*Please accept our appreciation for the donation to KidsPak. "I am grateful" for the support of Zion Lutheran Church. "I am grateful" for the volunteers from Zion. "I am grateful" we can fight hunger in our community.*

*Tom Carrigan*

*Prayer Shawl Ministry,*

*Kathy Pancoast brought me a prayer shawl knitted by one of your members. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and generosity.*

*Dick Webster*

*Dear Zion Staff and Congregation,*

*Though this note is long overdue, please accept our most heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and celebration of our marriage. Zion has been such a blessing to us through the years, and we think of you often. Best wishes for an amazing 2020!*

*Adam and Michael*

### Meet Our Newest Members

#### CINDY BRUSKO

Recently retired from Eli Lilly as a clinical research scientist, Cindy enjoys walking her dog, hiking, and attending musical performances. She visited other ELCA churches and likes how friendly Zion is and how inviting everyone has been. She appreciates the teaching, serving, studying, and socializing aspects of Zion.

#### DONNA SNELL

Donna was born and raised in Minnesota; she moved to the Loveland area in the 1980s. Donna has been affiliated with the ELCA and likes Zion as a community of faith that is willing to share and support one another in life's journey.

#### KAREN WOLFE

Karen is Dave Wolfe's mother. She is a retired early childhood educator and enjoys reading and cross stitch. Karen likes Zion's casual attitude and friendliness.

### Thank You Letters to Zion

- November 14, 2019—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$550.
- January 11, 2020—From SummitStone Health Partners for a contribution of \$100.
- January 15, 2020—From Loveland's Community Kitchen for a 2019 total-year donation of \$2,735.

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

*Phyllis Zimmerman*

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020 to Zion's L.I.F.T. Members and Friends**

We had another good year together in 2019. Now we can look forward to “lifting each others’ spirits up” again in 2020. I am working on setting up our luncheons at restaurants for January through October. (Note: we don’t meet in November when families celebrate Thanksgiving.) In early December, we will meet to celebrate Jesus and Friends Birthdays!! I am trying to schedule our luncheons at our usual time on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at places where we have a private dining room. A private dining room makes it nice for prayers, singing, and visiting.

Reservations are in place for January through March, and I hope to have the schedule for the entire 2020 year soon.

- Tuesday, January 28                      11:30 a.m.                      Durbar Nepalese and Indian Bistro
- Tuesday, February 25                      11:30 a.m.                      Pinocchio’s
- Tuesday, March 24                      11:30 a.m.                      Pizza Ranch

Please watch the Zion calendar and bulletins for the monthly schedule.

L.I.F.T. is for Zion ladies (and their lady friends) who are widowed, single, or who seek fellowship to help lift their spirits up. This is our special time for lunch and fellowship together. We feel blessed to have this chance to get to know each other beyond that “friendly hello” when we greet each other at church. Friendship is such a blessing in our lives and especially if we’ve lost someone dear to us, and we need the love and support of our church family.

I have been in charge of Zion’s L.I.F.T. group for over five years. The current calling list is more than forty ladies. I make calls the weekend before we meet, since I need to let the restaurant know how many ladies to plan for.

Thank you for the support that L.I.F.T. friends have given me. We’re looking forward to another blessed year in 2020.

With love and God’s blessings to all of you.

If you have any questions about L.I.F.T., please call me at 970-667-3861.



## Zion recognizes an outstanding volunteer

*Lindsey Walter*

Zion is blessed with an amazing congregation who are very willing to step up and volunteer when needed—many of whom you don't see and many you do see. Volunteers show up every Sunday to help with serving in worship, make coffee, open the building, and shovel snow off the sidewalk. Others show up to fold bulletins, answer phones, build bulletin boards, set up, and create sacred spaces. We have volunteers who plant flowers, maintain the grounds, help with Monroe, make confirmation stoles, and even change light bulbs.

In this newsletter, Zion would like to acknowledge, with gratitude, one specific volunteer. JIM VOSBERG is a blessing to Zion for his work inside and outside the church. If a toilet is leaking, the water fountain not draining, a shelf needs to be built, a television to be hung, or a church pew to be reinforced, Jim is ALWAYS willing to help, and 99.9 percent of the time he can "fix" the problem; no plumber, electrician, or craftsman needs to be called!

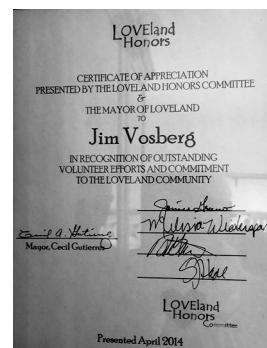
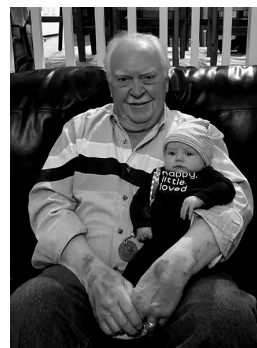
Not only has Jim mastered repairs at Zion, he also has helped members of Zion with restoration projects in their homes and beyond that has assisted other congregations with home repairs for their members. Jim has donated his labor and saved many up to 75 percent of their cost.

Zion would also like to recognize Jim for the faith chests he diligently builds for our baptismal recipients. He just completed his 108<sup>th</sup> baptismal faith chest for our January 19 baptisms. The faith chests are 100 percent handmade and stained by Jim. He recently created a new model that is more cost-effective, using a significant amount of discounted lumber from Home Depot.

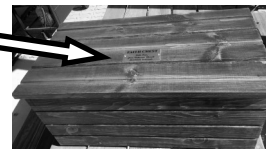
We appreciate Jim for his work. We are blessed to count him among the many talented people we have at Zion. Kudos, JIM VOSBERG!



**A bathroom transformation ala Jim Vosberg.**



Each faith chest has a plaque that reads:  
**FAITH CHEST**  
With Love,  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Loveland, Colorado



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## A newly endowed fellowship honors James C. Linden

The Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering has named Lisa Weber the first recipient of a newly endowed graduate fellowship named after Emeritus Professor Jim Linden.

An anonymous donor created the James C. Linden Fellowship to honor Linden, who served 30 years on the CSU faculty before retiring in 2008. His research interests focused on biomass refining to produce ethanol and/or single-cell protein; cultivation of fungi and bacteria for enzyme production; and elicitation of disease responses by plants and plant cell cultures.



**Pictured are fellowship recipient Lisa Weber, Jim and Susan Linden, and Chemical and Biological Department Head David Dandy.**

“Jim is a revered member of the faculty and has been an inspiration for many, many students over the years,” said David Dandy, head of Chemical and Biological Engineering. “We are honored to present this fellowship in his honor thanks to the generosity of this donor.”

Zion congratulates and gives thanks for JIM LINDEN for the great honor of having a graduate fellowship at CSU named after him.

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## Journeying with Monroe

Each season provides different opportunities for our partnership with Monroe.

In the fall, we help prepare the classrooms, volunteers begin to help weekly, and we provide meals and supplies to help children be successful in school.

In the winter, we provide for many basic needs such as coats, gloves, Thanksgiving baskets, and Christmas presents. Thank you to everyone who opened their hearts and supported our children at Monroe throughout the holiday season. It is greatly appreciated beyond what words can express.

In the spring season, we find ourselves in a different rhythm with our partners at Monroe. The big ramp-up for the fall is over, and everyone is in a great rhythm at school. We continue to add weekly volunteers in the classrooms and other areas and so as we start into the spring semester this is a great time to help out on a weekly basis at Monroe. We also continue to support the teachers during their parent / teacher conferences; on Wednesday, February 26, we will provide soup, bread, veggies, and dessert for the teachers.

Thank you for all that you do to support the children and teachers at Monroe as they journey through the school year together.

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## The Loveland Reporter-Herald features Zion's George Stevens on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

As reported in the Loveland Reporter-Herald by John Vahlenkamp, managing editor of the Longmont Times-Call and Loveland Reporter-Herald.

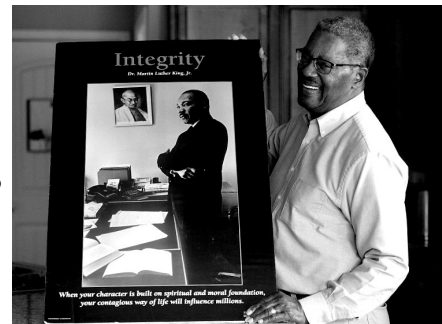
To read the entire article, go to <https://www.reporterherald.com/2020/01/19/five-questions-dr-george-stevens-says-mlks-message-remains-important-today/>

Loveland remembers the message and the cause of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday evening during its annual community celebration.

Behind that event is a group of volunteers who work not only to organize this annual event, but — according to their website — to “coordinate, sponsor, promote and support local events, community projects and educational opportunities for justice, equality, diversity, peace and non-violence based on the teachings, legacy, and values of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.”

And at the heart of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Loveland Events committee is George Stevens, a man who has experienced racism and who credits the role models in his life for his numerous achievements. Today, Stevens talks about where he came from and why King's message is still important here and now.

*[The caption to the poster in George's hands reads, “When your character is built on spiritual and moral foundation, your contagious way of life will influence millions.”]*



**Dr. George Stevens poses for a photo holding a poster of Martin Luther King Jr., on Jan. 10, 2020, in his Loveland home. Stevens serves on Loveland's MLK Jr. Day Committee. (Jenny Sparks/Loveland Reporter-Herald)**



**Rocky Mountain  
Synod Assembly**

**May 1-2**

**Zion's Voting  
Members:**

**Alison Stone and  
Amy Moore**

## Mobile Laundry Truck—Making A Difference



**Zion is one of two sites in Loveland where you will find the mobile laundry truck in operation. On the side of the truck, you will see Zion's logo, demonstrating our support for this laundry service.**

Zion provided the very first financial contribution to get the mobile laundry truck ministry off the ground, and we are honored to be one of two sites in Loveland where you will find the truck parked during the week. They receive laundry from people who may feel like they're struggling through the wilderness. Some are working multiple jobs to make ends meet, others are spending their days trying to find jobs, and most of them are trying to raise

children in difficult environments. Clean clothes provide dignity in life, yet many people either don't have the time or resources to wash their own clothes. If you are struggling to hold it all together and can't find the time to do laundry, bring it to the mobile laundry truck on Thursday mornings.

Here are three stories from people who have been served by the mobile laundry truck:

*At the Loveland Public Library, we washed clothes for "Dave" and "Brenda." Dave's sleeping bag was pretty beat up, so we asked if he needed a new one. He said his was okay, but that Brenda (who appears to be going through chemo) could use a sleeping bag. You see, she was sleeping in Dave's car covered by all the blankets he owns. We were grateful to be able to give Brenda a new sleeping bag!*

*At Zion Lutheran Church, we've seen "Heidi" every week. She brings at least 10 loads of laundry for her large family every week. Last week, she brought us a beautiful handwritten note, thanking us for our ministry.*

*Finally, we met "Donald" this week. He told us he used to be homeless and addicted to drugs and alcohol. Now, "thanks to the wonderful people of Loveland," he's clean and sober and operating a catering business. He brings meals to his neighbors who can't cook for themselves and brought us laundry from his neighbors who can't do their own.*

Interested in supporting the mobile laundry? Our two biggest needs are:

1. A warm garage to store the truck on cold winter nights.
2. Fuel cards (gas and propane). Our preferred provider is Poudre Valley Co-op.

You can go to <https://homewardalliance.org> for information about supporting the mobile laundry truck.

## Building Community by Sharing God's Light

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

If you've been to Zion since early December, you know that big changes are in the works. As of late January, the structure for Zion's new gathering and fellowship space is taking shape. A hole is blown into the side of the building between that new space and the old fellowship hall, and the concrete floor in the old fellowship hall is almost entirely gone, dirt exposed inside a building! The old kitchen has been gutted and is being prepared for a new bathroom space. The project is well underway, and though it is a huge inconvenience, we look forward to having a space that allows more opportunity for gatherings, both for the Zion community and for the many community, neighborhood, and family groups that use the building. Thank you for your patience in this process. It feels like wilderness, but we pray it will eventually bring us to peaceful valleys.

If you are excited about what is happening and have not had a chance to contribute financially to make this happen, please know that every dollar given allows us to continue to do the regular ministry that God has given us to share. There are envelopes in the church with the "Building Community by Sharing God's Light" logo with pledge cards to be filled out and returned, or simply make a contribution designated for the capital campaign.

A building is just a building. It can actually be a stumbling block or a millstone. But it can also be

a gift to share with the community, and a sign of God's grace through the church. Thank you for your generosity and patience as we share God's light with others.



**The concrete floor in the old fellowship hall is almost entirely gone, dirt exposed inside a building!**



**A hole is blown into the side of the building between the new space and the old fellowship hall.**



**It feels like wilderness, but we pray it will eventually bring us to peaceful valleys.**

## Celebrating as Community in Campus Ministry



From Pastor Paul Judson, Lutheran Campus Ministry CSU: "We give thanks to God for Brianna, newly baptized child of God!"—eConnection, Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA, December 11, 2019.

*Dear Partners in Ministry,*

*For those of you who do not know me, my name is Kyra Jensen, and I am a student at CSU's Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin). This year, I have been given the incredible opportunity to serve as the LuMin student ambassador to congregations for the 2019-2020 school year. You can expect a monthly newsletter from me filling you in on all of the "hot deets" (college student lingo for "details") regarding what's happening in the LuMin community!*

*Remodeling at LuMin continues with new plumbing, electrical, and HVAC being installed. Soon drywall will start going up on the new arrangement of walls.*

*On September 22, seven of twelve LuMin student leaders gathered at Pastor Ed Cheryl Smith's lakeside home in Loveland. We had a great time discussing our ministry's focus for the year, developing Christ-centered leadership standards, and getting to know one another.*

*A BIG THANKS to all who attended our Open House back in November! Thanks to your generosity, two sets of washers and dryers have successfully been installed in the building!*

*December was full of fun and festivities at LuMin. Not only did we get the chance to celebrate the season with a group of high schoolers from the FoCoLu churches, but we also celebrated a baptism of one of our own! [See the photo above.]*

*February 9 is Campus Ministry Sunday. In light of this upcoming celebration, we continue to give thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity in caring for college students.*

*Grace and peace to you,  
Kyra*



## Pie-in-the-Face Thankful

On Sunday, November 24, Zion joined with King of Glory and Trinity for a Thanksgiving worship. Worship was a powerful experience with a joint choir and three congregations coming together to give thanks to the Lord.

Following worship, we enjoyed fellowship together. We ate pie and also auctioned off pies with all the proceeds going to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

The dare was that the pastor of the congregation with the least amount of donations would get a pie in the face. Pastor Joel was sick that night (rather convenient of him) and unable to participate in the pie auction. Thus, Pastor Sonja stepped up in hopes that Zion would not come in last place. Graciously, Pastor Chris Davis, Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry, and Pastor Sonja Pancoast determined that if they could jointly raise \$2,500, they all would take a pie in the face. Last year, the auction raised about \$1,800 so this seemed to be a challenging goal. They should have gone higher, for the the



**Pastors Ruth Ann, Chris, and Sonja are all smiles behind the pie for the huge success of the Thanksgiving pie auction.**

generosity of those gathered was amazing. We jointly raised \$4,151 for Habitat for Humanity in Loveland and all three pastors took a pie in the face.

Thank you to everyone who came to worship, ate pie, and bought a pie in the pie auction. We truly have shown that we are Better

Together with our brothers and sisters in our ELCA congregations.

Look what God can do when we come together in love and service to others.

## Moving Day for Fat Albert aka the "Haber" Tree



Moving the enormous Fat Albert evergreen tree on November 7, 2019, was fun to watch. All agree the new

location is a beautiful placement, complementing the outside of the sanctuary and welcoming people as they come in the west driveway. And, with the relocation, the tree is safely spared from all the construction traffic and debris throughout the remodeling.

The tree was a gift from EVELYN HABER in memory of her husband Glenn.





**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
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Loveland, CO 80538

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Web: [www.zionloveland.com](http://www.zionloveland.com)  
Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church-Loveland

## Join Us in Worship

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

## ***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 2/20

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

February 2	Children's Choir and Sunday School Children Sing
February 9	Campus Ministry Sunday; CSU LuMin Open House
February 16	Scouting Sunday
February 19	L2F2 Young Adult Trivia Night
February 23	Lenten Wilderness Cross + Generational Sunday
February 23	Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner
February 23	Sky Ranch Campership Deadline
February 25	L.I.F.T.
February 26	Ash Wednesday
March 1	Children's Choir and Sunday School Children Sing
March 8	First Communion Parent Discernment Class
March 22 and 29	First Communion Class
March 24	L.I.F.T.
March 27	Potluck and Service Project
March 29	Sky Ranch Registration and Deposits Due
April 5	Palm / Passion Sunday with Breakfast
April 9	Maundy Thursday
April 10	Good Friday
April 11	Easter Vigil
April 12	Easter; Children's Choir Sings
April 24-26	High School and Middle School Retreat
May 1-2	Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly
May 3	Children's Choir Concert
June 1-5	Vacation Bible School