



Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

May-June-July
2020

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“Living Hope”

Pastor Joel Pancoast

How many times can someone say or write that we are living in unprecedented times? Yet that is what many of us feel. Our entire planet is suffering from the global pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus, and the subsequent stay-at-home orders and lockdown of our livelihood and economy. As if fear of illness and possibly even death is not enough, many are anxious about an unknown future, worried about loss of income or jobs, lonely from physical distancing, or just plain bored.

In the midst of this situation, we are reminded that “church” is not the building, and it is not even the hour or so we spend on Sunday morning, though many regularly refer to either of those as “church.” Church is the body of Christ, and though there are many different expressions of church today, God has drawn us together, both as the body of Christ called Zion and the global body of Christ. Though we are unable to gather physically, God is still drawing us together around the Word of God, whether

in livestream worship, at home, or with those who provide care. In this we find hope.

Our theme for worship for the Easter season, right up to Pentecost Sunday on May 31, is “Living Hope.” Just as our “Wilderness” theme for the season of Lent was so perfect for this time, the Easter theme speaks to us perfectly. What is so amazing about both of these themes is that they were planned long before stay-at-home orders were announced. Yet, our lives reflect the pattern we have had in worship: at first we wandered in the wilderness trying to figure out life in a pandemic—and we have exceeded the time anyone could have dreamed of—and we need some sign of hope.

1 Peter says, “By [God’s] great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1:3). We have living hope because we have a living God, who brings us life in so many ways. Just

Continued on page 2.

"Living Hope" continued from page 1.

as Christ was raised to life from the dead, so God will raise us from the dead, and in fact is bringing life to our tombs already through faith in the crucified and risen Jesus. God is raising the body of Christ in this place, even in our physical isolation, by the power and promise of the Living Word.

In times like this, it is easy to get mired in negativity. Our hope for this issue of the "Eye on Zion" is to bring you some signs of living hope in our community. We have hope in that we are still able to gather for worship, albeit much differently than any of us are used to. We have hope in what God is doing to draw our community together in spite of the physical distancing. We also have hope in the many ways that people are finding life in this time and sharing that life with others.

The memory verse that we are learning together in worship throughout this Easter season comes from 1 Peter:

"Cast all your anxiety on him [Jesus], because he cares for you."—1 PETER 5:7

That is a promise for each of us today, knowing that Jesus takes all our anxiety and frees us to live free from all that may cause us anxiety and fear. I hope you find hope in the pages of this newsletter, and, further, if you have other stories of living hope, please share them with us so that we can continue to be a beacon of hope for the community.

Easter Season Worship Theme—"Living Hope"

Many people have heard about Peter, sometimes because of the jokes about him guarding the gates of heaven, and sometimes because Jesus assigned him a prominent place among the twelve disciples. Yet, very few people know about or have even read the two New Testament letters credited to him. In the first two centuries of Christianity, theologians were inspired by 1 Peter's words of comfort, encouragement, and hope. Later, Martin Luther wrote that 1 Peter "is one of the grandest of the New Testament, and it is the true, pure gospel."



What does it mean to be baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ? One of the most important elements of 1 Peter is that it speaks of the radical difference between the values of the society and of the baptized life. In this season of Easter, we will receive the encouragement in 1 Peter that no matter what we may face in life, following the crucified and resurrected Christ gives us a "living hope."

Weekly Themes and Texts:

April 19	1 Peter 1:3-9	Living Hope: New Birth
April 26	1 Peter 1:17-23	Living Hope: In Exile
May 3	1 Peter 2:2-10	Living Hope: Living Stones
May 10	1 Peter 2:19-25	Living Hope: Follow in His Steps
May 17	1 Peter 3:13-22	Living Hope: Saved Through Water
May 24	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	Living Hope: Cast Your Burdens

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Music Ministry for a Unique Time

Keenan Boswell

In the first article I wrote for “Eye on Zion” as Director of Music Ministry, I spoke of how God was guiding me to lead through trusting the path even and especially when it feels uncertain. Well, here we are at the end of April 2020, and our music ministry has been temporarily limited to livestreaming services via Zoom due to an outbreak of a worldwide pandemic. While I knew God had indeed called me to lead music at Zion for a unique time, neither I nor anyone else at Zion knew or could have known the nature of the uniqueness.

In the midst of planning Holy Week music and organizing volunteers to lead the different services, we received word from Governor Polis that we were to shelter in place due to the outbreak of COVID-19. It was in the next few weeks that I really got to see how blessed Zion is to have such an empathetic, hard-working staff team, and how grateful I am to be a part of it. Together, we jumped off the train leading us to Holy Week with a full church and volunteer leadership team to Holy Week with an empty church and a leadership team made up only of essential staff members in accordance with the governor’s shelter-in-place emergency order.

During this time, I decided to keep Wednesday evening choir rehearsals a regular thing and began making audio recordings of choir practice and scans of choir music, sending both files by email to the choir every Wednesday evening so we could keep the rhythm and familiarity of choir. Recently, I met with the choir on Zoom for the first time since this emergency order began. This meeting was heartwarming and so encouraging—to see and hear from the choir and to know that everyone has been staying not only

physically well but spiritually well and bravely walking this unknown path trusting in God’s goodness.

Since the praise band rehearsal does really require an in-person meeting with one another, I had to forego any sort of praise band practice. For a few weeks, I sent check-in emails to the praise band to see how everyone was doing along with some playlists of related music that could encourage praise band members. This past Sunday, we began getting together on Zoom as I did with the choir. Since the praise band cannot rehearse like the choir can, we are cowriting a praise song to Romans 6. For many in the band, it will be their first time writing a song. This past Sunday, I encouraged them that *anyone* can write a praise song and walked them through the basics of how I set a song myself.

While we are all looking forward to getting back together sooner than later and ministering to our church and our local community through song, this time has been such a beautiful opportunity to expand in our faith and find a space for deepened trust in God to guide us in His perfect love. On Good Friday, Pastor Joel poignantly reminded us that the moment Jesus gave up His Spirit here on earth was the moment when we were assured new and eternal life in Him. This message shook me to my core and awakened that part of me that was waiting for something to happen before I could continue looking forward to the blessings that

This time has been such a beautiful opportunity to expand in our faith and find a space for deepened trust in God.

Continued on page 6.

From a Teacher's Perspective

Noelle Bauman-Stucky

On March 13, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., I announced to my first class of the day that they should take everything home with them for spring break on the slim chance that we would not return to the building the week after. At 12:30 p.m., I said good-bye to my colleagues with hesitation, wondering if we would share stories over lunch again. I then scrambled to make packets for high school classes so we could avoid the hiccup of an extra week away. I ended the day discussing the music of Gustav Mahler and his incredible ability to portray seldom-felt emotions through music, specifically in his *Adagietto* from Symphony No. 5. I still had to prepare the students for the email they would see stating we would not be coming back the week after break. The students' attentive eyes and ears absorbed the music and the atmosphere.

The transition into remote learning was neither easy nor enjoyable. Coupling the transition and the underlying fear of COVID-19 made for many afternoons of tears, frustration, and the realization that I was dehydrated and had not brushed my teeth. I never thought I would need to teach a music ensemble online. None of the other music teachers I spoke with seemed to have a fail-proof plan. So, the first week was spent experimenting with technologies, gathering information about what students could submit electronically, trying to help families retrieve instruments, and wondering how we were going to pull off a concert. Then it was announced that we would not be returning until the fall, and that was heartbreaking. I listened to Mahler's *Adagietto* almost every day as the rollercoaster of emotions passed its apex.

I began teaching music at CEC High School four years ago, at the same time I started work at Zion. I added music at the middle school the next

year. This means the students who started with me are either graduating from or transitioning to high school. I am so proud of their progress, vigor, and love for music. This was a time I had been looking forward to since I started teaching. But, instead of celebrating:

- I struggle to find a balance between feeling ineffective and too demanding.
- I struggle to find a space in my home that feels like a classroom.
- I struggle when students are unable to log in for a scheduled lesson.
- I struggle when I cannot motivate them to do any work.
- I struggle when the tone of their voice tells me they are struggling.

I know these struggles are minimal to what some teachers and students are dealing with. It is naïve to think staying at home should be easy for everyone. Time still goes by, food still disappears, grandparents, parents, family pets can still die, a kid can still be taken from a home and put in foster care, an abusive parent or spouse is still an abusive parent or spouse. I struggle knowing these things are still happening, and my students are confined to my computer screen.

Without hope, this would overtake us. Now, when I listen to Mahler's *Adagietto* I still cannot pinpoint the emotions that swell behind my eyelids, but I can say that they inspire hope. When students express their joys of playing with me over unreliable wifi, or I see their smiling faces, they inspire hope. When I see how much teachers struggle being away from their students, families and friends, I feel hopeful for the day when the enormous hole that has been left in our hearts is filled by creating music together.

LET'S GET THIS NATION BACK ON TRACK AND DEFEAT THIS ENEMY!

Bill Kurtz

As I was sitting at home this morning watching our church service on my iPad, I would close my eyes and visualize myself actually sitting in church surrounded by my family and friends and for an hour forgetting about the war being conducted on this virus. At that moment, I suddenly found myself traveling back in time to a Sunday in a foreign land and having the same feeling.

The year was 1971 and that foreign land was Viet Nam. I was fortunate, despite the situation and demands of my job, to have the opportunity to attend a church service on many Sundays. Again, I would close my eyes and visualize myself sitting in my church thousands of miles away with family and friends. I can't begin to explain what a peaceful hour that was as I put the war that was being conducted around me out of my mind. I knew then, as I know now, that eventually I would be back in church and, hopefully, put those wars behind me. Although, the enemy we were fighting then and now were and are different, it led me to believe there is one striking similarity.

Due to the decisions made by the politicians and leaders back then, the war in Viet Nam lasted far longer than it should have, and as a result, many more brave men and women died than should have. Those decisions, as well as the decisions

being made now, allowed the enemy to thrive and continue to wage a seemingly endless battle against us all. In an effort to prevent the same thing from happening again, it is time for all our leaders and elected representatives to put aside partisan politics and come together to defeat this current enemy.

Many good steps have been taken, but many missteps have been taken as well by elected officials of both parties. The longer they bicker, the longer this virus will prevail and the more lives we will lose.

Unfortunately, many of the citizens of this great country are just as bad. There are those who refuse to respect the seriousness of this virus; others continue to adamantly blame the other side for getting us in the position we currently find ourselves in.

All of us, politicians included, have to come to the realization that it doesn't matter if you are a conservative, liberal, or socialist, no one is perfect, we all make mistakes, and the only way to

succeed is to put our heads together, our egos aside, and get back to work to not only defeat this virus, but also turn this country back into the nation our forefathers envisioned, a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people so help us God.

See you in church.



During the April 19 Kids in Christ worship segment, kids of all ages respond to Noelle's invitation to get up and dance as demonstrated here by Bill Kurtz.

Music Ministry for a Unique Time continued from page 3.

lie ahead beyond the storm. Eternity is now. Heaven is now. Though the person of Jesus ascended into heaven after resurrecting, He left us His Holy Spirit to do the same resurrection work here on earth. With Jesus as the foundation and us as the living stones laid upon that foundation, He has *chosen* us as His people for *this* time. He calls us a royal generation—set apart. You and I, we are building His Kingdom here right now in the midst of earthly uncertainty.

Heaven is assured. Heaven is within us. The more uncertain the earth looks, the more we are prone to lean on His Spirit. The more we lean on His Spirit, the more evident Heaven being built on earth through us becomes. Our God showed us through Jesus that Resurrected life is *certain*. This solid rock of certain eternal life is what our faith is built on, what the church is built on, what our ministry is built on.

So we are led ever onward by the Holy Spirit to build the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

I leave you with the words for a song I wrote for Zion's music ministry in this Easter season as we focus on 1 Peter. This song, "Living Stones," is based on 1 Peter 2. It was introduced in service via live stream on April 26.

LIVING STONES

"God has laid in Zion a stone,
a chosen cornerstone
That whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.

Jesus is this stone
The stone we rejected
He died for our sin so we could rise with Him.

Now we are His chosen, royal generation
Called out of darkness into eternal light!

We are living stones, building His Kingdom
We are living stones, alive in Christ
We are living stones, Jesus our foundation
We are building His kingdom here!

If we know the Lord is good
and Jesus lives in us
then why do we still choose to live as slaves to fear?

Let us lean on His Spirit
Learn to love like Him
Choose faith over fear and speak the truth to power.

Now we are His chosen, royal generation
Called out of darkness into eternal light.

Let us take our place as God's chosen people
You and I are building His Kingdom here!"

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Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

—1 PETER 2:4-6

Worship in a time of physical separation

Pastor Joel Pancoast

Before March 15, I would have argued that real community cannot be created in virtual, online space. Since then, my mind has been changed. Of course, livestream worship is still not the preferred, ideal way to worship, but when people cannot gather in groups of more than ten we have found that it works. Sunday, March 15, was the first time Zion attempted online worship, and most of us were saying we would be happy if we had 30 people log in. We chose Zoom as our platform to livestream worship, and we subscribed to a level that would allow 100 participants to log in at one time. Unfortunately, that very first Sunday, we had more people trying to log in than our subscription allowed! So before the following Sunday, we increased our subscription level so that anyone who wanted to log in to participate in worship live could. Since then, we have had regular Zion worshipers, as well as members who live in other parts of the country, and even family members and friends from Florida, New York, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Texas, California, and even Japan, just to name a few locations where our worship reaches.

Many churches have chosen different methods to share worship while we are under stay-at-home orders. At Zion, we have chosen to maintain a worship experience that is as close as possible to what you would experience if we were able to gather physically. In a time when the future is so uncertain, we find hope in consistency. Also, we value livestreaming worship over recording, because we feel that being “present” with each other at the same time offers an opportunity to experience community even when we cannot shake hands, hug, or even just look each other in the eye. That said, every service is recorded and uploaded both to Zion’s website and to YouTube for you to view any time. Whenever the world returns back to normal—whatever that may look like—there are many things that may never return as they once were. For example, we will most likely continue to livestream worship. We are all homebound now, but those who were homebound before the pandemic are now suddenly appreciating worship along with the rest of us, and this is an unexpected gift we expect to keep unwrapped in the future.

We would not be able to offer this kind of worship experience if it were not for Zion’s remarkable staff. This way of worshipping may not be ideal, nor is it easy, and it certainly is not what any of our staff signed up for, yet each one of them has stepped into new roles to bring worship to you every Sunday and Wednesday. KEENAN and NOELLE have adapted to lead the church’s praise, and our hope is that you not only appreciate their leadership, but you are joining in with them from your homes! In addition to his regular responsibility to create the projection for worship, STIG has figured out how to livestream worship with the best quality the technology allows, and this has been no small task. LINDSEY’s responsibilities do not usually require her to be with us in worship, yet she has stepped in to be present every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening to answer phones to help people troubleshoot and get connected, as well as operate the sound and camera so that Stig can focus on projection and livestream. MADELINE does not only lead the Kids in Christ time; when you do not see her on camera, she is keeping a

Continued on page 8.

Worship in a time of physical separation continued from page 7.

watchful eye over participants to make sure their sound is not accidentally interfering with the worship sound, and she makes sure that unwanted intruders are not causing disruptions with offensive messages or images. We are grateful for each of these staff and the extra energy they have given to bring you worship each week.

Preaching to and singing with a nearly empty sanctuary is a strange, and even sad reality of the time we are living in. But we are reminded when we see the worship participants logging in, and when we receive notes and pictures of your worship experience, that God is still gathering us together for worship. Though we are physically distanced, we are drawn ever closer by God's Spirit and Word.



Preaching and singing to a nearly empty sanctuary is a strange reality of the time we are living in.



At home, a burning candle and an open Bible enhance the worship experience.

How to Join Worship from your Home

Worship with us—Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (mountain daylight time)

Watch on your computer or listen on your phone

Until we can again gather together for worship

The church office number is 970-667-1836

We are not sure when we will be able to gather together for worship. The Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod has recommended no public worship through May and believes that we may not be back to worship again until late summer, early fall, or even later. In the meantime, we want everyone to know how to access worship. If you can make a long-distance call, you can participate in worship.

1. Livestream worship—Sundays at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

Click on the link <https://zoom.us/j/824765395>.

A window will immediately open in your browser that will take you to Zoom, and eventually into the worship. This link can also be found at www.zionloveland.com on the front page so you don't have to remember strange letters and numbers each week. You will need to let the computer have access to your audio and video to be able to see and hear but your audio and video are automatically turned off when you enter into worship. We ask that you keep your audio muted throughout the service to avoid interrupting the video and audio coming into the sanctuary. At the end of worship, we have been turning on the chat feature, and the comments, greetings, and blessings shared with each other warm the heart and remind us that we are indeed in a very real gathering of God's children. If you have any issues connecting, please call the church office, and we will help you get connected.

2. Call in and listen to worship on your phone—Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Dial 1-301-715-8592.

You will be asked to enter a meeting code. The code is 824765395#. You may be asked to either enter a participant id number, or if you do not have one to hit #. You will be told that you have entered into the meeting and how many people are in the meeting. If you have any issues connecting by phone, please call the church office, and we will help you get connected.

3. Watch the recorded worship later

All worship services are recorded and uploaded to our website at www.zionloveland.com/sermons.

Sermons are also saved on Zion's YouTube channel. Type "Zion Lutheran Church Loveland" and you should be able to find our channel. Once there, you can "subscribe" to get updates any time we post a new video.

4. Have the sermon mailed to you to read at a later time

For those who have a difficult time hearing on phones or no computer access, we will be mailing the scriptures, sermons, and prayers each week. If you are not already receiving these and would like to receive the sermons each week, please call the church office and we will add you to the list.

Providing Living Hope from Home through Meals and Connection

Featuring Zion's Resa Mai

KDVR TV News has a piece called "Tell Me Something Good," in which they ask viewers to share stories of hope and inspiration during the coronavirus outbreak. Not long after the Colorado stay-at-home order was announced, someone turned in the story about RESA MAI, whom many of you know from worship at Zion.

Resa is the Assistant Director of the Fort Lupton Public and School Library, but like many people during the pandemic, she is temporarily working remotely from home. Since she normally commutes about 70 miles each day to and from the library, she is saving quite a bit of money on gas. Rather than keeping those savings for herself, Resa decided to spend that money on other people by ordering three meals each week from local restaurants and having them delivered to friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors.



Using gas money saved while working from home, Resa provides three meals each week from local restaurants to be delivered to others, thus benefiting many people.

Resa's generosity benefits many people. Other than the people who receive the meals, local restaurants and delivery drivers get business in a pressed economy. Additionally, we should not make light of the living hope that we get to see and celebrate in Resa's incredible generosity and love! When the KDVR reporter asked about the message that she wanted to share, Resa said, "I hope people know that we're still connected, and that we are still thinking about each other." We are grateful for Resa's example of living hope, and hope that you will be inspired to find ways to build up connection and share love with others!

[Source: <https://kdvr.com/news/coronavirus/loveland-womans-random-act-of-kindness-during-pandemic/>]

Lucky to be a part of it all

Julie Ward, school counselor

I was working with a single mom and put a post on Facebook asking for food and household items. Within seconds, there were replies for everything she and her child needed. People left items on their porch or in their driveway, and I was able to easily pick it all up and deliver it to her doorstep by the end of the day. It was a simple, yet amazing, act of human kindness, and I was lucky enough to be a part of it all! We've got so many amazing people in our community!

Teachers, counselors, and other school faculty have had an incredible response to the children and youth in our community!

Chelsea Hirschert, counselor at Centennial Elementary School

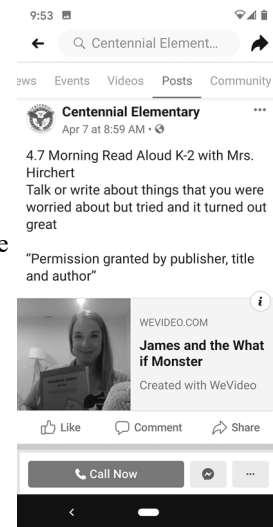
Centennial is doing such an amazing job with reaching students and their families, learning the online world, doing fun things for the kids such as spirit week and read out louds, and keeping engaged with each other with several games during staff meetings and social hour to just talk among staff.

Something I am very proud of is the ability I've had to remain virtually connected to those students I supported in the school building. Not all districts/states are allowing online counseling or check-ins. Several of my kids were having a rough time understanding why they aren't going back to school, trouble sleeping, feeling bored and sad, and experiencing grief. I have had several families experience deaths in the last few weeks. I have been able to send them resources and meet with the parents and students online. They have responded so well to being able to see my face, talk, and feel supported. I am thankful it's something I am able to offer and do during this time.

Many of our kids are getting pets and enjoying that company and responsibility.

One third grade student has been struggling with sleep and anxiety. She was able to meet with me, and I was able to provide skills and resources to both her and her mom and she is now sleeping well and anxiety has lowered a lot.

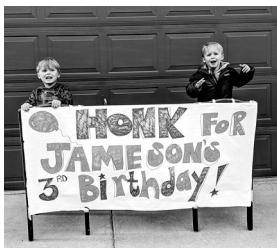
Tomorrow is her birthday, and many friends and school faculty are driving by her house for her birthday parade that she doesn't know about.



The read aloud activity keeps the kids engaged.

How To Celebrate During Quarantine

Many people have had to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other important days while in isolation from others. Schools are trying to figure out how to honor graduates. What do you do for a third birthday party, when it is difficult for a child to understand why friends cannot come to a party? You have a parade! This is the latest way many have taken to celebrate important life events, and in the case of Jameson Hirschert's third birthday, parents Tyrell and Chelsea said this about his birthday.



A birthday parade made the third birthday a hit!



This year Jameson had an amazing birthday during quarantine. Friends showed up in a birthday parade to make him feel loved. He had the best time! Thank you to everyone who took time out of their day, decorated their cars, threw candy, and gave cards and gifts! We are extremely lucky to have you all in our lives. Thank you to all our far-away family that is unable to come that sent texts, snaps, called, and sent cards and gifts in the mail!

What is Faith Formation?

Madeline Fairfax

The ELCA defines faith formation using four tangible components: spiritual practices, respectful relationships, guided learning, and faith-filled service. It's also important to note that faith formation is for EVERYONE—young, old, regular worship attendee, or someone who is brand new to a church community.

Spiritual Practices

Spiritual practices are activities undertaken with intentional awareness of the presence of the Holy. Individuals and communities use these practices to revere and rest in the mystery of the Divine.

In your own life, this could look like daily prayer, artwork or journaling, going on a nature hike with an eye out for God sightings, a meditative Bible reading, or more!

Respectful Relationships

Respectful relationships can be formed with family, friends, church staff, lay mentors, spiritual directors, and coaches. Healthy relationships always include trust, listening, challenge, compassion, and commitment to one another.

At Zion, this can look like cabin time at Sky Ranch, Woman to Woman small group, TGIF, Lenten mentoring with confirmation youth, or joining with members of your family for Faith 5 devotions.

Guided Learning

Guided learning happens when we visit and revisit biblical stories, or hear and share each other's faith stories, with a sense of wonder and discovery. Guided learning is not simply about garnering knowledge, but also about wrestling with how to live faithfully each day.

In our Zion community, guided learning can look like Sunday School, Wednesday Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, or sacred space during worship.

Faith-filled Service

Faith-filled service recognizes the need to act on behalf of one's beliefs. Whether or not the work is done outwardly in Jesus' name, the faith underlying the service makes it a demonstration of love for God and neighbor.

At Zion, some examples of these types of service include volunteering in classrooms at Monroe, serving at Community Kitchen, tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief, donating supplies for Care Kits for Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness, serving as an acolyte in worship, or taking Home Communion to homebound members. The service that you do outside of Zion counts as faith-filled service too! Whether you volunteer at the Food Bank, host a fundraiser dinner for a local nonprofit, or tithe to your favorite cause, you are loving your neighbor in response to your beliefs.

What is Faith Formation at Home?

Madeline Fairfax

The best part about faith formation is that none of these four components needs to take place in a church building! While lots of faith formation events and ministries happen within the walls of Zion, there are EVEN MORE opportunities for faith to be formed outside of church—at home and out in the world, whether we are under quarantine or not. No matter where we find ourselves, no matter how old we are, and no matter what our family looks like, faith formation is an important part of our faith journey. You don't need any special training to engage in faith formation at home, and you can invite others into the journey along the way! We'll continue to send out weekly faith formation at-home resources until we meet again in person. But even when we can gather together, the faith formation that happens at home is so important! Martin Luther believed that one of the best places to experience grace and explore spirituality is in everyday life.

Here are a few examples of what faith formation can look like in our weeks apart, or anytime!

- Creating family artwork that engages your faith (photo courtesy of Katelyn Penley)
- Making masks for healthcare workers
- Going for a walk at River's Edge while contemplating this week's Gospel reading (photo courtesy of Jessica Kuhns)
- Building community while playing games over Zoom
- Watching a movie and looking for evidence of the Holy Spirit in the plot or characters
- Dropping off groceries for a neighbor in need
- Sharing highs and lows and connecting them to a recently read Bible story
- Lighting a candle for each of your prayer requests.



What other examples can you think of?

Coming this Fall—“Nourish” A New Faith Formation Ministry

Joel Brauner

Like everyone, I’ve spent more time at home this last month. Right now, I like to think about all the things I’m going to do when the stay-at-home orders end and restrictions are lifted. I’ve created a big list of places to visit and people to connect with. But when I really think about it, will life really be free of the things that held me back before? I will still have the same amount of work, my sons will have the same activities, and the lawn isn’t going to mow itself. I’ll have the same desire to find deeper fulfillment, but my same restrictions on time.

Is it possible for me and my kids to learn about God together without simplifying ideas so my kids can understand? Is it possible to serve others but still build relationships with the people I’m surrounded by? Can I create a life where church and everything outside church are intertwined? Can I have my spiritual needs met at church without having to join ten different church programs and never connecting with people outside church?!? I don’t have enough time!

Out of this problem, a new ministry idea was born—“Nourish,” a ministry to feed the body, feed the mind, and feed the soul. One evening a month, all are invited to this gathering. The evening begins with a meal as a whole group. After the meal, we split up. Kids will go to an evening program specially designed for them to nourish their love of God. Everyone else will have some time to check in with friends, discuss topics that bridge the gap between faith and everyday life, and nourish their own relationship with God.

**A new
ministry is
born to
feed the body,
feed the mind,
and
feed the soul.**

As a father of two boys, I’ve found that church can be a place where I am more concerned about my kids’ relationship with God than my own. Is it wrong that I want my children to grow in their faith? Absolutely not! But if it comes at the sacrifice of my own faith, what am I teaching my children? I want my kids to know that God is the foundation of my life. And like any good relationship, if I don’t spend time with God, it will fall apart.

Who knows what will happen in the near future with coronavirus, physical distancing, and future regulations, but know that this new ministry will be starting when we are able to meet together again. We will continue to develop and refine this idea and will be looking for people to join and serve in this new ministry. For now, I wait for the day we can meet. But I wait with anticipation and excitement—not fear and worry. I wait knowing that when the time comes for us to meet and start this new ministry, it will be on God’s time.

Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

Labor Day Weekend Retreat at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp! Friday, September 4—Monday, September 7

Register now! FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE LODGING RESERVATIONS

Registration form and \$25 deposit due Sunday, June 21

Reserve your spot now for a fun and relaxing holiday weekend! Complete the registration form (available beginning May 1 in Friday's weekly *e-on Zion* and on the website at zionloveland.com by clicking on the Faith Formation tab on the homepage) and submit your \$25 deposit one of two ways:

1. mail completed form and \$25 check made out to Zion to:
Zion Lutheran Church
ATTN: Madeline
318 E 16th St Loveland, CO 80538 or
2. email a scan or image of the form to Madeline and make a one-time \$25 payment online at Zion's online giving platform (found at zionloveland.com under the Give tab) and designate the payment as "Labor Day." Either way, deposits and registration forms are due by Sunday, June 21.



Families retreat to Sky Ranch for fun and relaxation .

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Madeline at 419-270-6233 or faithformation@zionloveland.com. Either way you register, you will receive a confirmation of receipt of your reservation via email.

Please note, registration is FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE this year. Spaces are not guaranteed for any type of lodging—RV spots, tent sites, cabins, or lodge rooms, regardless of past participation in this event. We are anticipating a "sold-out" event, and reservations will be booked in the order in which they are received. King of Glory families will be joining in the fun this year, and we are hoping to fill Sky Ranch with all kinds of Loveland Lutheran joy! Tent and RV sites, cabins, and lodge rooms are available for reservations for one, two, or three nights. Weekend events will include a potluck dinner, worship, campfires, yard games, hiking, stargazing, and more!

Important note: If this event is canceled due to unforeseen circumstances, your \$25 deposit *is* refundable.

Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

Blessing of the Grads

9:30 a.m. Zoom Worship on Sunday, May 17

We will celebrate this milestone in worship as we surround our high school, college, and other graduates with support and prayer. If you know of any graduates who would like to be highlighted in this worship service, please let Madeline know by May 10 at faithformation@zionloveland.com.

Celebrating High School Seniors—Class of 2020

Caprice Magee Allen

Loveland High School

Caprice will be attending Casper College and double majoring in musical theater and business communications and minoring in dance. She hopes to one day start her own community theater so every kid gets a chance to shine.



Anthony Bartelson [not pictured]

Mountain View High School

Anthony plans to attend Augustana Rock Island.

Ellie Black

Fossil Ridge High School

Ellie will be going to the University of Portland in the fall to major in environmental ethics and policy.



Tyne Klammer

Fossil Ridge High School

Tyne will be heading to Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. She is currently undecided on her major, but would love to study abroad.



Jennifer Robinson

Mountain View High School

After graduation, Jennifer plans to go to school to study fashion merchandising.



Olivia Tate

Mountain View High School

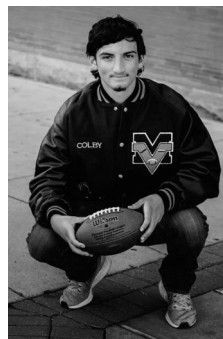
Olivia plans to pursue a nursing major. She plans to intern clinical rounds that emphasize a career as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner or Obstetrics and Gynecology Nurse Practitioner. Olivia sends big thanks to members of the church that have supported her throughout her education and religious journey!



Colby Vrem

Mountain View High School

Colby plans to attend Front Range Community College in the fall.



Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

Sierra's Race

5K Walk/Run for Meningitis Awareness

Saturday, June 20, at Foundations Church, Loveland

Register under "Laura's Team" to join the Zion and Friends group!



New this year!! With generous support from the Laura Loken Memorial Fund, the first 65 people (adults, teens, kids, everyone!) who register through Zion under Laura's Team will receive a \$15 discount off of race registration.

To receive this discount, you will need to register with a paper registration form. This printable form will be available on the Zion website beginning May 1. Completed forms and registration checks made out to Sierra's Race can be mailed to Zion at 815 E 16th St Loveland, CO 80538. Completed forms and payments must be received at Zion by Sunday, May 31. If you have any questions about registration, please contact Madeline at faithformation@zionloveland.com.

With discounted registrations through Zion, race registration fees will be as follows:

- Kids Fun Run: Free! (normally \$10)
- Pre-registration for teens and adults: \$15 (normally \$30)
- Pre-registration with tech-shirt for teens and adults: \$22 (normally \$30).

If you receive a meningitis vaccine at the race, you are eligible to enter a special Laura's Team prize raffle! Send Madeline verification of your vaccine post-race at faithformation@zionloveland.com.

If Sierra's race is canceled in 2020, any registration payment will be held and put toward the 2021 race.

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

Phyllis Zimmerman

My thoughts and prayers have been with all of you at this time of the unknown with COVID-19 on the news every day!! I hope and pray that you and your families and friends are all staying well and thinking of positive things to do during this time of quarantine.

We are blessed to have such wonderful pastors and staff who have been keeping us together through Zoom. I know we are all looking forward to life getting back to "normal"—whatever that normal is.

It was so nice to have our fellowship and lunch time together in February with over 30 ladies. And little did we know that day that we wouldn't be getting together in March or April and possibly longer.

I will definitely give everyone a call from my calling list when it's possible for us to meet again. We may have a different schedule at that time than I originally gave to you. Please call me if you have any questions or if you didn't receive your call for the next month. This makes me think of the beautiful song, "God Be with You Till We Meet Again."

*With my love and caring,
Phyllis 667-3861*

Living Hope through the Care Connection Team

The Care Connection Team is one of the ways that we are bringing life to each other in these times of isolation. The team has two parts: a calling part and an errands part. The callers consist of 18 people who each call about 15 households each week or two. What we have found is that many people are having their basic needs met at this time but what they truly enjoy are the conversations and the connection to the church community. The blessings are twofold; those who make the calls are just as blessed as those who receive the calls.

Since many people are finding other ways to have their errands taken care of, we thankfully have not needed to enlist the errands part of our team.



Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the calling team, including:

ERIN BACHMAN, SANDY BILSTAD, CINDY BRUSKO, RONDA BUCK, EMILEE CHRISTENSEN, HARRIET COLTON, FLORENCE DOKSANSKY, JANICE EHLERS, ANGIE ELDER, BEILYNN GEISS, JUDY GUSTAFSON, CHELSEA and TY HIRCHERT, LINDA JUERGENSEN, TRACEY and TYNE KLAMMER, JANIE LICHTFUSS, KATHY LOKEN, MATT MOORE, ELAINE NICHOLS, KEVIN and LORA PATRICK, MEG SCHREIBER, LINDA TEGEDER, JEAN VOSBERG, and CINDY WARREN.

Thank you to everyone who offered to run errands. We still have you on the list.

Thank you to everyone who is not on the official calling list but who takes the time to reach out and connect with each other in these times. Truly you are bringing Living Hope to each other.

JOY

Finding—Giving—Sharing *Theresa McCarthy*

Finding Joy

These are challenging times. People seem to worry and complain about everything from paper products to politics. It is times like these when it becomes important to find joy by embracing and celebrating the little things. Life continues as we navigate this “new normal,” so look around and find some sort of inner peace and contentment. The honest truth is, what matters most is right under our nose!

Giving Joy

Offering a compliment to a stranger and simply passing along your smile are great ways to give joy and positive energy to others. Brightening someone’s day by offering a sincere compliment about their shirt, hat, hairstyle, or shoes takes just a few seconds, but could positively impact their entire day. *“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light;”* (Matthew 6:22). Our eyes say a lot about us, so even behind our “cloth masks” we can pass positive energy to others.

Sharing Joy

Sharing our joy, increases our joy. There is always an opportunity to be happy. Regardless of what is going on around us, we can find joy, give joy, and share joy each day. Let’s be grateful for the little things, appreciate these simple moments, and live the joyful life we all deserve!!

“Happiness is the only thing that multiplies when you share it.”

—ALBERT SCHWEITZER

Inspirational words that speak to Living Hope

Submitted by Angie Elder

*When you go out and see the empty streets, the empty stadiums, the empty train platforms,
don't say to yourself, "It looks like the end of the world."*

What you're seeing is love in action.

*What you're seeing, in that negative space, is how much we do care for each other,
for our grandparents, for our immune-compromised brothers and sisters,
for people we will never meet.*

People will lose jobs over this. Some will lose their businesses.

And some will lose their lives.

*All the more reason to take a moment, when you're out on your walk,
or on your way to the store, or just watching the news,
to look into the emptiness and marvel at all that love.*

Let it fill you and sustain you.

It isn't the end of the world.

It is the most remarkable act of global solidarity we may ever witness.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

A story of celebration during this time of isolation

Angie Elder

My sister, Becky Holmes Rybak, used to work at an assisted-living home in Kimball, South Dakota, and developed a special relationship with a resident named Margaret. The boys loved to go to Margaret's room to play with her "toys" she kept in the closet for when they came to see her. April 5 was Margaret's 103rd birthday and Becky, my dad, and the boys went to Margaret's window to sing and celebrate her birthday. They couldn't let this special day go by unnoticed! God bless you, Margaret, and HAPPY 103rd BIRTHDAY!



**Becky and her boys visit
with Margaret through the
window.**



**Becky's boys show Margaret
the pictures they had drawn
for her.**



**Becky and Nicholas visited
Margaret in 2017 on her
100th birthday.**

Among Members and Friends

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

With Gratitude

Thank you to JANICE EHLERS for making the birthday cards that have gone out to the members of our congregation who have had birthdays in April and May. These beautiful handmade cards have brought joy to those who cannot gather with loved ones to celebrate their birthdays.

Thank you to the amazing staff at Zion for all their hard work and dedication in putting together worship on Sundays and Wednesdays. It is truly a team effort and we are so blessed to have the talents of PASTOR JOEL, PASTOR SONJA, KEENAN, NOELLE, MADELINE, STIG, and LINDSEY coming together so that we can all worship the Lord and find hope in God's Word.

Thank you to JESSICA KUHNS for putting together the Wilderness Walks during Lent and for continuing the Grace Walks in this Easter season. These beautiful reflections help keep us grounded in God's Word as we get out in the beauty of creation. Watch for the Grace Walks each Friday in the "e-on Zion."

Dear Pastors Sonja and Joel and the Zion Congregation,

I want to thank everyone who comforted me and my family at the shocking death of my beautiful daughter Robin. Pastor Sonja performed a beautiful service for all and many of you visited the funeral. Also, some contributed to local domestic violence agencies and that too is especially appreciated. You all are a wonderful, loving, and special group. I am so fortunate to be a part of such a special congregation.

Lovingly,

Brenda Barrett and all my amazing family members

Among Members and Friends

Just a little thank you for everything!

Thank you for Scout Sunday.

Troop 314 and Pack 298

Dear Zion Family,

Thank you to everyone for sending me cards and thinking of me in this time. Your cards brighten my day. Words cannot express how special it is that you are thinking of me in these times.

My Love,

Polly Hansen

Prayer Shawl Ministry,

The splendid shawl, now around my neck, warms my body as it warms my heart. Thank you for the prayers and love that accompanies your work.

Will Graham

Thank you to everyone from Zion who has been so kind to send cards and letters to me. Thank you to the pastors who told me how to listen to the services on my phone. I have invited others to my apartment to listen with me. This means so much to me.

Irma Geidel

Pastor Joel, Pastor Sonja, and all others who have been involved in putting our regular and Lenten services on Zoom,

Everything was done so well and very meaningful for the Lenten and regular services and especially Easter. Thank you so much. You filled a time with so much and that filled an otherwise blank time.

Thanks,

Carolyn Smela

HOPE! Hope springs eternal. Isn't that what we say? Yes, we do hope to be able to come into a "new normal" soon but these weeks have made me realize something very vividly: "We have a terrific church staff!"

Thank you cannot be said too often to our PASTORS, KEENAN, NOELLE, MADELINE, STIG, LINDSEY, and OTHERS who have made sure we have worship services. The services have been wonderful, the messages personal and meaningful, the music outstanding. It must be quite an experience to conduct worship services to an empty church; however, that was done and truly made us feel like we were there.

I say "thank you" again for all that has been done and continues each week!

Janie Lichtfuss

Thank You Letters to Zion

- January 27, 2020—From Homeward Alliance for a donation of \$85 in support of its Mobile Laundry program.
- January 29, 2020—From KidsPak for donations received in 2019 totaling \$1,728.11.
- January 30, 2020—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$500.
- February 26, 2020—From House of Neighborly Service for a donation of \$300.
- March 3, 2020—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$525.
- March 10, 2020—From Pathways for a gift of \$285 in memory of Robert [Bob] Majeski.

Among Members and Friends

Dear Zion,

Thank you for the faithful prayers to heal my cousin Tracy! She is finally home and expected to fully recover! Praise God, glory be his name. What a generous congregation! Thank you for the many private prayers, phone calls, emails and messages. My cousin and our family felt your strength and love!! She spent over 70 days in the hospital, many of which were in ICU, and most separated from her children, ages 16 and 18. Obviously she needed to be quarantined due to her fragility and the pandemic arriving during her time of healing. She and I are two days apart in age, and our kids were each born the same years. We have always been close at heart, she in North Dakota and I in Colorado. She survived brain cancer for the second time, the first when she was 18! For her celebration, she chose to visit my parents, her Godparents, and me because she loved them as well as the mountains! She is planning a trip to visit when she and her children are safe to do so. For now, we celebrate her victory apart, but together in our hearts! Thank you again for your selfless prayers!

Love,

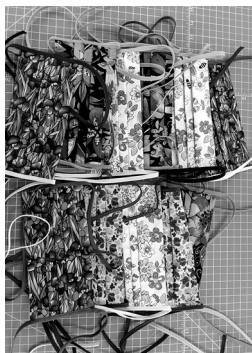
Chrissy Wolfe and family

A HUGE thank you to DEBBIE JONCAS who made masks for MANY people during this time of protecting ourselves and others from the COVID-19 virus. Debbie, thank you for sharing your gift of creativity and sewing to keep us safe.

We love you!

The Elder family

**Kudos to Zion's Mask Makers,
and read about the heroes who
wear them on page 23.**



**Masks made by
Maggie Harmon.**



**Masks made by
Kristin Blundell.**



A pile of masks made by Debbie Joncas.



**Looking chic in their masks, the Elders are grateful
to Debbie Joncas who sewed them.**

Masked Heroes

Pastor Joel Pancoast

Most superheroes wear masks, right? Yes, especially if you consider healthcare workers. Wearing masks is not new to them, but since the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended that everyone who goes out should wear a mask, the supply of medical grade N-95 masks necessary for the medical community has been threatened. Fortunately, heroes in their homes have stepped up to make as many masks as possible to share with healthcare workers, care providers, and other friends and family members who need to get out into the community to work and care for others. Heroes don't just wear masks; they make them!

KRISTIN BLUNDELL, MAGGIE HARMON, DEBBIE JONCAS, SUSAN OSBORN, CHERIE ROBERTON, and RUTH SPRAIN are some of Zion's heroes who have been making masks from home. I am certain there are others I have missed, and if so, please let us know and send some photos. However, just among these six, our best guess is that they have made over

1,000 masks that have been shared all around the country! They have used their skills, compassion, and this time to provide tangible hope through these handmade masks.

Medical centers, hospitals, and healthcare providers throughout northern Colorado, as well as Texas, New Mexico, California, Wyoming, and Montana have received masks. Primrose Place, an adult living facility run by Megan and Casey Hart, have received masks for their staff to use. The Zion staff all have masks. Even a Franciscan house in Albuquerque and a pastor in Germany have received masks. Mosaic, a nonprofit agency that provides services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, behavioral health and autism, and senior services, received masks. The list goes on, but they have all come from these six crafters alone!



St. Johns United Care Facility in Billings.



Friars in Albuquerque.



Platte River Power Operations Center.



ER in Cheyenne.



Nurse from Life Center in Longmont.

And MORE Among Members and Friends

Dear Zion Endowment Committee and Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Endowment Committee at Zion for granting me \$950 to pay the fee associated with my entrance application into the candidacy process of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod. The Endowment Committee, through the Mission Outreach Fund, has granted me these funds to offset the cost of candidacy and to further Zion's mission of growing new leaders for the church from within our midst. I am humble and grateful to have the support of Zion as I pursue my Master of Divinity and look forward to seeing what God has in store for my ministry as well as our shared ministry in the ELCA in the future.

Thank you for being a part of that future—financially and with your love and support.

*In Christ's love,
Angie Elder*

Hope Handed Out at House of Neighborly Service

On a brisk weekday morning, there could be one car waiting—or several. Each car that pulls through (or bike that rolls in) represents a household in need of food assistance. The HNS staff and volunteers are ready to make sure that no one goes hungry, that because of food received the rent can be paid, and fear can be replaced with HOPE.

In April, HNS saw an 81 percent increase in the number of individuals served. Hearing the beautiful stories and meeting new people has truly been a blessing. Clients coming through are happy to be out talking to someone. They are lonely and bored, fearful and concerned about how long this will go on, and how will they keep paying their bills. They leave with a car full of food, a smile on their faces, and a lightness in their hearts!

Thank you to the many donors, volunteers, and others who spread the word to those in crisis. Together, we are creating a kinder, more neighborly community!

*Glorie Magrum
Executive Director*



I've been keeping busy with various projects around my house that I've been procrastinating on for the past ten years or so: organizing my craft room, putting the many pictures of my kids in archival safe photo albums, writing in memory bookies for my granddaughters, and sorting out recipes. And I have been connecting with others in this time of physical isolation by sending handmade cards letting them know that I am thinking about them. Sometimes I think I'm trying to tackle too much; but at least I'm further ahead on my "to do list" now than I was in February.

One way that I have to say thank you to those running errands for me is with a jar of homemade sugar scrub.



Janice Ehlers


Imagine the gratitude of Monroe fourth graders now for the homework kits as they are at home going to school. These notes were written when they received the kits.

Thank you, Zion church yay!
for my flower homework
bins I really like that
you care about us!
THANK YOU!!!
Chloe

Thank you Zion church
for all the Homework bins
for 4th grade we are
so grateful for your
kindness.
Thank you
from Adlene

Dear: Zion
thank you for
the homework bins
Thank you for
erretting you
bot us to repax
you I am going
to do my very
best and I
will not give up!
to Zion p.pel
from Suligh/bq/nai


Thank you
Zion Church
for the
homework bins.
Sincerely
Jizelle




Thank you
Zion church - Thank you for
school supils - Thank you
much
From Kahlia



Thank you Zion
church for giving
us these homework
holders now these
holders can help
us. Love Dallas
Dallas



Thank you Zion church
from giving the pouch with
the supplies from Summit



Dear Zion church
thank you for
the homework
bins sincerely,
Robert criss

Dear Zion church
Thank you for the
homework bins I like the
Stue Love Emilio
Love Emilio



thank you Zion for the homework bins and that was very
kind of you given them I don't like homework
Sincerely michael
Thank you

Thank you Zion
church for getting us
bins and Thank you
for getting us different
desines. I like the
flower desines
Love Natalie U

Eben Ezer faces a shortage and needs help

Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center in Brush, Colorado, is a faith-based benevolent, charitable, nonprofit organization that provides assisted living, nursing care, and in-home service that was founded over 100 years ago. The vision of Eben Ezer has moved their emphasis away from a traditional institutional nursing home to a more homelike atmosphere that encourages companionship, meaningful activity, variety, and spontaneity among residents—critical components of life that lead to a heightened sense of dignity, self-determination and joy. [SOURCE: WWW.EBENEZER-CARES.ORG]

The community at Eben Ezer has been hit hard. Recently, six residents were confirmed with COVID-19. Those with the illness have been quarantined in the facility's cluster neighborhood. The healthcare providers and facility staff who are providing care are under much stress, with more than three dozen needing to leave for personal medical care. To help provide care and benefits to the staff, Zion and the ELCA congregations of northern Colorado have awarded a grant of almost \$1,000 for the Employee Assistance Program.

Additionally, Eben Ezer is facing a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE). To meet the need for PPE, northern Colorado volunteers are sewing gowns and caps using donated sheets and other fabrics. Sheets that are a blend (not just 100 percent cotton) provide a better barrier than all-cotton sheets. Here is how you can help:

- Donate bed sheets, preferably those made of a poly-blend fabric—all sizes!
- Donate your sewing ability to sew gowns or caps!
- Donate your time to pick up / deliver materials and finished pieces!

Contact Tina to make a donation, join our team, or get more information.

Tina Kvitek, Regional Gift Planner—Rocky Mountain Synod
Cell: 720-238-3763 / Office: 773-380-2795
Tina.Kvitek@elca.org



**What happens
when our world
falls apart?**



Summer Worship Theme— “Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart”

Since mid-March when the government declared stay-at-home orders, our lives have become unraveled. Many plans have been canceled; dreams shattered; hopes lost. Even before all this, we didn’t have to dig deep to think of moments when our lives hadn’t gone as planned.

What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when the path we’re on comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be—what if God does something beautiful when the vision we had for our lives tears apart?

In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope—with a new

beginning we couldn’t have imagined. Sometimes unraveling becomes an opportunity to untangle ourselves from broken patterns, or to become unwound from a path or identity that no longer serves us. Sometimes we are unraveled, but God uses the unraveling to change us in unexpected, beautiful ways.

Throughout the summer, our worship will focus on stories and characters throughout the Bible whose plans fall apart, stories of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. The promise we will hear over and over is that these are stories where God meets us, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new.

June 7	GENESIS 18: 1-15; 21:1-7—Sarah Laughs <i>(Unexpected Joy and Surprise)</i>
June 14	MATTHEW 14: 22-33—Peter Sinks in the Water <i>(Unraveled by Uncertainty)</i>
June 21	2 SAMUEL 3:7; 21:1-14—Rizpah Mourns Her Sons <i>(Public Grief That Inspires Action)</i>
June 28	LUKE 19: 1-10—Zacchaeus the Wealthy Tax Collector <i>(Radical Unraveling of Vocation)</i>
July 5	EXODUS 7: 8-23—Pharaoh Hardens His Heart to Moses’ Requests <i>(When Humans Unravel God’s Plans for Justice)</i>
July 12	ACTS 9: 1-20—The Conversion of Saul to Paul <i>(Discovering a New Path)</i>
July 19	JEREMIAH 29:1-7—Encouraging the Israelites in Exile to Plant Gardens and Build Houses <i>(When Dreams Unravel)</i>
July 26	JOHN 4:1-29—The Samaritan Woman at the Well <i>(Unraveled Shame)</i>
August 2	JOHN 20:19-29—Doubting Thomas <i>(When the Unimaginable Has Happened)</i>
August 9	EXODUS 1:22, 2:1-10—Moses’ Mother Gives Moses Up So He Can Live <i>(When Our Plans for Our Children Unravel)</i>
August 16	JOB 28:12-28—Job’s Lament and Loss <i>(Seeking Understanding When Everything Has Fallen Apart)</i>
August 23	MARK 5:1-20—Jesus Heals Legion, a Man Possessed by Demons <i>(The Unraveling of the Mind)</i>

Excerpts from a letter from Bishop Gonia addressing when and how we might gather in person as church



Rocky Mountain Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

24 April 2020

Beloved in Christ,

As we journey through this Easter season, it's time to address the question of when and how we might gather in person as church in light of changing restrictions about stay-at-home policies in the five states of our synod.

While there is a great desire on everyone's part to return to something "normal," the simple fact is that the reopening of our country, states, and communities will include a progression of steps leading to a new life rhythm for us all. Many of the protocols implemented during the stay-at-home orders—including remaining home unless necessary, social distancing, and the wearing of masks in public—will need to remain in effect in most places for the foreseeable future. It's important for us to recognize that the only reason the rate of infections has begun to plateau or even lessen is because we have adhered to these protocols for the sake of our life together and out of consideration for our most vulnerable neighbors. Now is NOT the time for us to lessen our caution, lest there be a second wave of infection, perhaps worse than the first.

For this reason and based on the information available to us at this time, we—your bishop and Synod Council—strongly recommend that no in-person gatherings be held by congregations or ministries in our synod through at least the end of May. Toward the end of next month, we will assess the situation and update this recommendation; it is very likely that there will continue to be restrictions on our ability to gather through much of the summer, if not into the fall. As always, we encourage you to pay close attention to advice from the CDC and local public health officials.

In the meantime we have before us a choice as Christ's Church. We can endure the next month and beyond, only lamenting what we have lost in our life as church. Or, as we give attention to our grief, we can also live into the invitation to be a Church Becoming.

Yours in Faith,

Bishop Jim Gonia

Zion forms a task force to answer questions before we can think about opening the building and allowing people to gather

To answer questions about our building, worship, and other gatherings before we can think about opening the building and allowing people to gather, Zion's task force will use the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod recommended document which raises questions that should be answered before people return. Here is a representative list of many things we should be thinking about right now.

1. What if your worship gathering is initially limited to no more than 100 people?
2. What adjustments will you make to the Lord's Supper, baptisms, and your choir ministry?
3. How will you go forward with Vacation Bible School?
4. Is a physical "pass the plate" offering a thing of the past?
5. What are you doing now to sanitize and sterilize your church building?
6. Are you going to continue offering children's church?
7. Are you going to continue hosting special events?
8. Are you continuing to provide coffee stations?
9. Will you continue offering virtual online worship?
10. What is your plan when volunteers step down?
11. What's your strategy to clean and sanitize your church in real time?
12. Do door greeters do their jobs differently, or at all?
13. Is this the time to suspend or end your church's "meet and greet" time?
14. Because people may return very slowly to church, how will you count attendance and effectiveness?
15. Should you add and/or shorten worship services to allow for social distancing?
16. What are you going to do about larger Sunday School groups?
17. What's your plan for Sunday School curriculum?
18. Will you reopen the doors of your church with a "worship only" strategy?
19. Do you have a plan for reducing expenses if your church's offerings don't rebound?
20. How will you deal with the rise of COVID-19 related addictions?
21. Are you going to decrease the fellowship time between worship services?
22. Are you going to postpone mid-week Wednesday night services, meals, and Bible studies?
23. Should you be investing in new digital equipment right now?
24. Will a new staff or volunteer position emerge from COVID-19?

Building Community by Sharing God's Light An update on the addition and remodel

Pastor Joel Pancoast

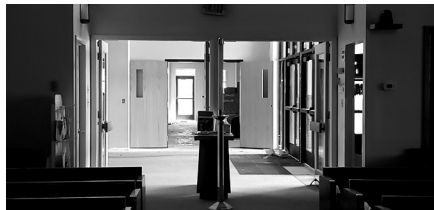
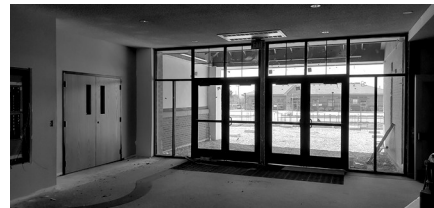
Most of us have been unable to see the progress of the construction going on at Zion, but it is in fact progressing well. Before the stay-at-home order, the construction crew dedicated at least one hour at the end of every day to cleaning the site, and even more than that before the weekend. Without that dedicated cleaning time, the project is actually ahead of schedule!

As of April 26, the bathrooms are almost completed and look beautiful! There is plenty of space and light for even some of our most crowded events. The walls throughout the space have been painted, and the ceiling grid has been hung. The base layer of the stucco has been applied to the exterior and it matches beautifully with the stone face of the main part of the new addition. In the next week or two, we should start to see carpeting, many of the kitchen appliances and fixtures, and a lot of other internal finishes that will make everything come together.

If you are able to contribute to the capital campaign and have not done so, please consider sending in a contribution clearly marked for "capital campaign." Funds have not come in as expected, which comes as no surprise, both because many have not been able to see the progress and because finances for many are uncertain. To stay updated with the progress, you can see pictures and videos each Friday in the *e-On Zion* email update that goes out each Friday. If you are not receiving that email, call or email the church office and we will add you to the subscription. You can also see occasional video walkthroughs on either Zion's Facebook page or YouTube channel.

Whenever we are able to gather again, and when we are able to share the gift and resource of our building with the community, there will be many celebrations as we learn to live into this space. We cannot wait to gather for outdoor worship surrounded by the memorial garden and fireplace, or gather to break bread and celebrate in our new fellowship hall, or just visit around the coffee bar and kitchen. Thank you for your generosity and prayer for this project as we offer our space to the community.

Captions are intentionally omitted to encourage you to use your imagination and try to figure out what's what and where.



News from Lutheran Campus Ministry

Kyra Jensen, Colorado State University

The CSU LuMin center is closed, yet some college students “gather” in community.

March started out as a busy month and continued that way with LuMin kicking off our online Zoom worship sessions. We continue to gather for virtual worship during the week as well as for Bible study, prayer, and community. I think I speak for all of the students when I say we are grateful to have such a flexible leader in Pastor Paul and for the ability to continue to gather even as we are apart.

On Easter Sunday, we held a special sunrise Zoom worship at 6:00 a.m. mountain time and were joined by our friend Nielsen and his family in Madagascar.

On May 10, we will celebrate the graduation of nine LuMin students. Please join us in prayer and celebration as these nine graduates begin new adventures.

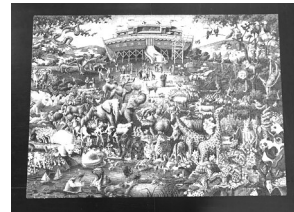
We thank you for your continued support during this time. Operations at the CSU LuMin center will resume in the fall.



Did you know? Can you guess who?

During the stay-at-home restrictions, a Zion member has been a bit of a puzzle maniac (her words). She says that it is a blessing to be able to slow down, sit quietly, and work on a puzzle from beginning to end. It reminds her that God continues to work on each of us every day—molding and shaping us as His creation.

Here is a mere sampling of eleven puzzles completed (by now, maybe there are even more).





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

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YouTube: Zion Lutheran Church: Loveland

Until the restrictions due to the
COVID-19 pandemic
are rescinded . . .

Join Us in Worship via ZOOM

Sunday—9:30 a.m.
<https://zoom.us/j/824765395>

Wednesday—6:30 p.m.
<https://zoom.us/j/506879137>

Our Mission:

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

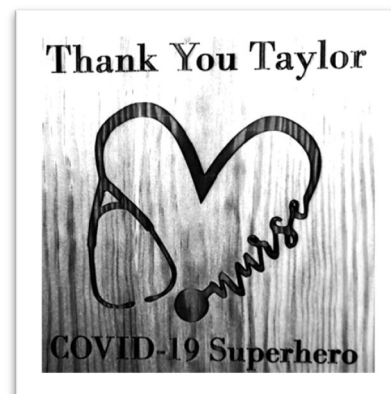
Our Vision:

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

Issue 5/20

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**Nurse Taylor Buck was recognized
with a handmade wooden plaque for
her being on duty during the
COVID-19 pandemic.**

Celebrate Your Faith—Renew Your Spirit—Love One Another