



# Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

November-December-January  
2020-2021

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## Those Who Dream

Pastor Joel Pancoast

*When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like  
those who dream.—PSALM 126:1*

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” Unfortunately, there are experiences in life when dreaming seems impossible and hope is difficult to summon. In those moments, it is difficult to imagine any future or anything beyond the present struggles of life. Yet, life without dreams is contrary to life. Langston Hughes, the great African American writer of the early 20th century associated with the literary movement known as the Harlem Renaissance, wrote a beautiful poem about the importance of dreaming, especially in the most difficult of circumstances:

*“Hold fast to dreams,  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.  
Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.”*

Psalm 126 was probably written in response to the Israelites returning home after a long exile in Babylon. For seventy years they were in exile in Babylon, forced to leave their homes and land and everything they held dear, everything that gave them comfort and security.

After seventy years of any struggle, it can feel as if there is no hope, no dream of something better. Yet, when they finally were allowed to return home they “were like those who dream.” After seventy years they had lost their hope and their capacity to dream of something better, but in this psalm we are given a reminder that hope is outside of our present circumstances.

One beautiful thing about Psalm 126 is that its original language of Hebrew is not clear about whether it was written in the past or future tense. Scholars are divided about

*Continued on page 2.*

*Those Who Dream continued from page 1.*

whether the intent was to focus on God’s restoration after they had returned from exile, or to give hope during the exile that God would restore them. But maybe that doesn’t matter. What if the point of this psalm is to keep people of faith focused on God instead of hopelessness? What if the point is to teach people of faith how to dream when our dreams have been taken away? Just as people who live in desert climates know that the dry waterbeds will become torrential streams in due season (verse 4), people of faith know that God does not leave us even in the most difficult times, and that kind of promise is what allows us to dream in those times.

Psalm 126 is one of the assigned scriptures for the third Sunday of Advent, and it is a beautiful summary of what the Advent season is about. Generally, Advent is a season of longing and hope that is fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ, who is the incarnation of God. More specifically, our theme for Advent and Christmas worship this year draws from Psalm 126 as we focus on “Those who dream.”



This Advent, the scriptures will help us imagine what it looks like to live as those who dream, especially during difficult times. The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God’s dreams for the world.

This Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God’s dreams and pray they shape our reality, a reality that feels like one long

season of Advent, a season where it may be difficult to imagine a future of hope. Yet God came into the world in flesh to give us that hope, and a promise that we are never alone. That promise opens our hearts and minds to dream again!

November 29	First Sunday in Advent	<b>Those Who Dream—Keep Awake (Hope)</b>	Mark 13:24-37
December 6	Second Sunday in Advent	<b>Those Who Dream—Prepare the Way (Peace)</b>	Mark 1:1-8
December 13	Third Sunday in Advent	<b>Those Who Dream—Sow Joy (Joy)</b>	Luke 1:46-55
December 20	Fourth Sunday in Advent	<b>Those Who Dream—Are Not Alone (Love)</b>	Luke 1:26-45
December 24	Christmas Eve	<b>This Night, We Are Those Who Dream</b>	Luke 2:1-20
December 27	First Sunday after Christmas	<b>Those Who Dream—Will Not Keep Silent</b>	Luke 2:22-40
January 3	Epiphany	<b>Those Who Dream—Persevere</b>	Matthew 2:1-12

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## Music Ministry

Keenan Boswell

One of the most challenging and significant years in recent memory is coming to an end and as it does, we at Zion reflect on being “like those who dream.” The theme of “dreaming” is one that has occupied myriad spaces within our modern lexicon: the American Dream, “dream big,” “whatever you dream, you can achieve,” etc. The irony is that we now find ourselves at the end of an epoch in which people often benefited greatly from building societal successes on “dreaming” only to find many of these successes quickly challenged or even destroyed by the transitional nature of this year.

We find ourselves wondering and often arguing amongst one another: whose dreams are “right” and whose dreams are “wrong.” We find ourselves manipulating the word “dream” to suit our own personal agenda so that we don’t have to face the inevitable loss of control over our perception of this life and our purpose in it. Indeed, we have come face to face with the consequences of idolizing the material things of this world, of worshipping man rather than God, and of shoving God into our fear-based boxes of distrust and resentment.

All this because we have believed the lie that God’s dreams for us somehow *don’t* go beyond even our wildest dreams. We fear God’s dreams for us will turn out like those who promised us much and hurt us by failing to keep those promises. We project these experiences onto God and try to force others to have the same view of Him as we do based on our own individual experiences. We forget who God is and who He made us to be. We forget what it means for God to love us.

We have turned from God’s dream for us and dreamed our own dreams without Him.

Out of this fearful separation, we respond to anything that makes us *feel* good as “love” and anything that makes us *feel* bad as “hate,” when really what we mean by good and bad is comfortable and uncomfortable. We forget that God loving us means God allows us “free choice” to do with life what we choose. I put “free choice” in quotes because Pastor Joel drew for me an enlightening delineation between “free choice” and the fallacy of “free will” that *blew my mind and heart open* the other week, a discussion I am deeply grateful for as it helped inspire my writing here. This free choice allows us to walk as far away from truth and love as we want and yet, God remains God and His truth remains...true.

So what does this have to do with dreaming? With this upcoming Advent season? With our music department?

Lots. Stay with me. Advent season is the time of the year in which the institutionalized church has chosen to specifically focus on God’s people “awaiting our Savior.” We are able to dream *because* of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I love the juxtaposition of this theme “those who dream” during Advent as it forces into our awareness this truth: we dream because of Jesus. We no longer dream of His coming. He came. He died. He rose again, so that whosoever believes in Him and what He did for us *already* may do things just as great if not greater! (John 14:12) This means we get to dream and dream *big*. How big? Jesus risen from the dead and that same resurrection power is within us BIG.

*Continued on page 7.*

## Thanksgiving Reflections Thanksgiving Worship

Each year we join together with Trinity and King of Glory for a joint Thanksgiving worship. This year, we are putting together a brief prerecorded devotional worship that can be watched and shared on Thanksgiving as part of your Thanksgiving celebration. This service will include prayers, music, scripture, and a compilation of gratitude.

We are inviting individuals and households to share a picture of what you are grateful for as a part of the worship. These pictures can be emailed to [office@zionloveland.com](mailto:office@zionloveland.com).

The video will be shared on our weekly e-on Zion email and the Zion website for you to access and make it a part of your Thanksgiving celebration this year.

## Longest Night Blue Christmas Worship

**Sunday, December 20, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**

We join together on this longest night of the year when the darkness feels that it may overcome the light. We join to lament our losses, share our grief, give voice to our shattered dreams. It is a time to come together for prayers and laments, to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to let tears flow for the hurting place in our lives, as well as our country and world. This is a safe and sacred space to share anguish, to plead with God to remember us, to pray for justice, and hope against hope, through our doubts and tears and fears that God will set all things right. We come together on the longest night of the year and lift all our concerns, worries, grief, and loss and find that the light shines in the darkness.

Zion, King of Glory, and Trinity will come together on Sunday, December 20, at 7:00 p.m. for a Longest Night Blue Christmas worship. The worship will be in person or on Zoom. We invite you to enter the darkness and find hope in Jesus who is the light of the world.

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## Worship Update

We have returned to two Sunday worship services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. both of which are accessible via Zoom. The Zoom code had to be updated in mid September. To join each week, you can find the link on Zion's website [www.zionloveland.com](http://www.zionloveland.com) or in the weekly e-On Zion email. The link is the same for both services.

We currently have in-person worship for twenty people or fewer at each service. To attend in person, you can sign up on the Sign Up Genius or call the church office. This will continue as long as the regathering team and council feel that it is safe for our staff to have others in worship. Good ventilation is important where people are gathered, so for everyone's safety, the windows on the south wall of the sanctuary and the movable wall on the north side will remain open during worship so that fresh air can be introduced. If you come to in-person worship, you will want to dress accordingly. The heat in the building is operating at full capacity, but colder air is coming in from the outside.



**Wearing masks and maintaining safe distancing, twenty people or fewer attend in-person worship.**

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## **Dreaming of a White Christmas—Christmas Eve in a New Way**

As we look toward Christmas, our dreams of gathering in the sanctuary and singing *Silent Night* as we pass the candlelight from person to person and watch the light increase are rapidly fading. We do not know what life will be like in a couple months but are anticipating that this year is the year of creativity and making all things new.

While all may not be gathered in the sanctuary, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus, who is Immanuel, God with us. In a variety of ways, we will celebrate the season and the joy of the birth of the Christ Child.

**Wednesday, December 23, 7:00 p.m.**

### **Little Christmas Eve Worship at the Markham's Shop in Berthoud**

Little Christmas Eve is a Scandinavian tradition on the eve of Christmas Eve where the family gathers to decorate the tree and enjoy the holiday spirit. We will embrace new traditions as we have our first Little Christmas Eve worship as we gather at the Markham's shop and decorate the tree, sing carols, and hear the story of the good news of Jesus' birth. Sign up ahead of time through the Sign Up Genius or by calling the church office.

**Thursday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.**

### **Drive-In Worship**

Gather in Zion's parking lot for a service of songs, scripture, sermon, and candlelight all from the warmth of your own vehicle. For those who desire, the service will conclude with singing *Silent Night*, lighting candles, and placing an ornament on the large evergreen tree to the west on the front lawn.

**Thursday, December 24, 6:00 p.m.**

### **Zoom Worship Broadcast from the Sanctuary**

Children and adults will share the Christmas story through the recorded Christmas program. Watch this worship from the warmth of your home, hear your favorite Christmas carols, and celebrate the birth of Jesus with your loved ones just as the first birth was celebrated by Mary and Joseph.

**Thursday, December 24, 7:30 p.m.**

### **Carols and Candles**

A brief devotional time of gathering outside singing carols, lighting the candles, decorating the evergreen on the west side of the building, and hearing the good news of Christ's birth as proclaimed in the Gospel of Luke. We will be like the shepherds who gathered in the fields and first heard the good news.

As always, these plans are subject to change based on the county and state guidance and the directives of the regathering team.

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## Following God's Dream for Zion in 2021

### Community and Connection—Commitment Sunday—November 15, 2020

As we look to the coming year, it is clear that God is leading us to find deeper ways to connect and care for each other. We seek to make deeper connections with those in our congregation, in our community, and to those throughout the world. The church council, in creating a vision for where God is leading us in 2021, identified key areas to help deepen our connection and community.

#### Building Community

Our building project is complete, and in 2021 we will continue to make regular mortgage payments. These payments support more than a building. They support a place for people in our congregation to connect and people in our community to connect. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Depression and Bipolar Support Group, and other community groups meet regularly in our space. We have become the home to a budding youth orchestra with more than fifty kids in three orchestras [see article on page 18 of this newsletter]. New ministries have emerged including Nourish, a monthly gathering for all ages for faith-filled conversation and connection. We know that God has more in store.

#### Virtual Connection

The pandemic has thrust us to find creative ways to reach out via technology. Our Zoom worship, Bible study, and small groups connect those of us who regularly gather, but the technology has also allowed new connections with the homebound and those across the miles. We seek to continue to grow this ministry to continue to keep us connected in new ways.

#### Community Care

As we see the need in our community grow, we seek to give more to support those who are struggling in these times.

#### Ministry Excellence

Crisis can bring out the best or the worst in people. Truly we have seen how this has brought out the best in Zion staff. We seek to support our staff to continue their amazing work.

More information about each of these ministry areas will be coming to you in weekly flyers, letters, and mission moments. A brochure highlighting *Community and Connection* along with a *Statement of Intent* will come the week of November 8. We ask that you thoughtfully read this information and prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give in 2021. God has given us a mission we can fulfill as we pull together and give generously in support of this work.

We will observe **Community and Connection Commitment Sunday on November 15, 2020**, when we will invite you to present your Statement of Intent. This can be done online during worship or following each worship we will have a drive-through Community and Connection Celebration where you can bring your Statement of Intent. You are also welcome to mail your Statement of Intent to the church office or bring it to the office the week before November 15.

Thank you to each one of you for the part you play in this

faithful and exciting congregation. We invite you to pray for our common work together as we continue to reach out to share the good news in word and deed and deepen our connection and community.

The logo for "Community and Connection" is displayed within a dark rectangular box. The words "community" and "Connection" are in a white, elegant script font, with "AND" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font centered between them.

community  
AND  
Connection

*Music Ministry continued from page 3.*

It has been vital to hold space as a church for all the fear and grief that has risen to the surface with the unsettling events of this year. After all, it is written Jesus weeps with us and is there for us in every moment of our lives. Because of this, it is *even more vital* to hold fast to the *promise of risen life* through Him, the Savior who came for us, the one whom the Israelites and prophets dreamt of way back when.

Our world once again waits for Jesus. But what are we waiting for exactly? “The Return of Jesus,” many faithful believers say. Did we forget about John 14:12? It’s easy to forget when we still struggle to accept that all this messiness we call life is the same messiness God calls “love” and “the working out of our salvation.” The Risen Jesus’ Holy Spirit is within us, without us and moving all around us at all times. The very fact that this Holy Spirit resides with us amongst all this messiness means that God has not given up on us and He never will. He already did what He needed to do: He sent Jesus in our place to bear the weight of this messiness, to carry the cross of futile dreams and wounded hearts. He came to free us from the burden of shame and guilt. So what of all this mistreatment of one another during hard times? What do we make of so many at this time choosing to shame one another and project self-hatred onto one another? This is the *beautiful work* of the Risen Christ in us. This is His Holy Spirit allowing us to see simultaneously the futility of our separation from God (fear, hatred, shame) and the abundance of His grace and love which manages to still hold space for our mess.

This same grace and love is the resurrecting power of Jesus that allows our beautiful team of music volunteers at Zion to make it through the messiness of extreme fire growth one day and a foot of snow the next in order to still gather and

serve with voices and instruments. This is the Risen Christ alive in each loyal soul of our church. This is the Jesus living in us who managed to take on the worst attacks humankind could throw at Him and still rise. So He works through us in our music department to continue rolling with the punches this year throws at us and will throw at us going forward.

In our separation from God, each of these punches feels like an attack meant to deplete us of all hope, faith, and life. When we choose (free choice) to remain in that separation mindset, we see its results. (Hint: you can see the results literally everywhere around you in society right now.) When we choose, however, to take on our new wineskins, to live in the promise of the resurrected body of Jesus Christ, none of these punches can stop us from dreaming. But here’s the kicker: we’re not only able to dream but, when we truly make space to follow His Spirit’s leading, we are called to build His Kingdom here. *His* Kingdom. Not the Kingdom that comforts my ego or your ego. Not the Kingdom that feels familiar. Not the Kingdom that reminds you of church growing up. Not the Kingdom of rainbows and butterflies. God’s everlasting Kingdom. The Kingdom that allows all life experience to exist without the need to place idols on the altars or convert others to our favorite causes before converting them to Christ. We are clearly being made to see how these things of separation limit who God created us to be; therefore, dreaming dreams of these things without putting God first naturally leads to very short life cycles for the manifestation of those dreams.

As we have prayed for His Spirit’s guiding to lead us in our music ministry at Zion, God has worked through us to dream up new ways of

*Continued on page 8.*

*Music Ministry continued from page 7.*

performing choir anthems while physically distanced, a new concert series that allows members to exhale at the beginning of each month, new songs to write and sing together in our praise band and new ways of having brass at Christmas time. God's dream of Jesus alive in us is surely manifesting here at Zion!

Now...His Holy Spirit has led me to share what has long been known within my spirit. It is time. These coming months bring us to our greatest challenge yet: to watch the veil of deception over our world fall down while the *true* Spirit of Jesus Christ shows His justice and righteousness to us in the midst of this fall. This is the challenge to fully *receive* "the overwhelming, never-ending reckless love of God" manifesting before our very eyes. The love of God is allowing us to fully experience the consequences of our dreaming dreams that were based in separation from His truth of resurrected life, dreams that were based in fear and deception.

When the angel came to deliver the message of Jesus' coming to Joseph, He said "Do not be afraid." When we place our trust in the things of this world, fear inevitably overwhelms us when these things fall because we chose to put our trust in things we can see and be "right" about. When we place our trust in the promised coming of God's Eternal Kingdom (the kingdom of which He has made us co-creators, FYI), we can feel the fear as an experience and simultaneously choose to put our faith in the *truth* of His resurrected life *IN US!* The evil in our world, in us, can do everything in its power

to deceive, burn things down and destroy, but all of these actions inevitably lead to *new life* and *new hope*.

This is our time to dream big like "those who dream" throughout the Bible. But, we don't need to live within the limitations of our past traumas and associated dreams. We are no longer slaves to any power or principality of this world as it *has* been. Each of us is individually and fully made *sovereign* and *free* in Jesus Christ's resurrected life. When we remember this and make the choice to accept this truth, we rise from the ashes of our own crushed dreams and live again, humbled by His grace and renewed by His Spirit. This is our time to manifest Heaven on Earth through His Holy Spirit.

We are leaving an epoch of "dreaming to escape reality" and entering an epoch of manifesting the dream come true of Jesus risen and alive in us.

PS—Triggers are loving signs from your body (which God designed in His image) to become more aware of your state of being than you were before. They are not something to run from. They are ways that God loves us by allowing us to grow through them, like "growing pains." If you have the inclination to dismiss the boldness of my writing here because you were "triggered," I highly encourage you to lean into those triggers. Ask the tough questions. Go to God in prayer. What dreams and visions has He given you to share? It no longer works for us to dismiss and run from whatever makes us uncomfortable. It's time to recognize that power of the Risen Christ in us and to lean into these times rather than run from them.

***Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.***

—JOHN 14:12



## Children's Music Ministry

*Noelle Bauman-Stucky*



**In warmer weather, the Orff ensemble practiced outside.**

This last September marked the first time I was able to teach children music in person since March 13. Part of this experience felt normal as we were able to quickly get into the instruction/rehearsal mindset. What felt odd was not including the volunteers the children love and miss, explaining I could not give them all hugs even though that was what I wanted the most, and reminding them to mind their space and stay six feet apart. The need for this reminder never waned, but the kids were quick to pick up on safety and cleaning procedures. Looking past the fears, the stresses, and the unknowns, the children were able to interact with their friends and make music together to be shared in worship. Their resiliency gives me hope for our future.

Even though your bodies do not fill our building, the church feels full of love and support. We continue to offer a safe space for all types of people in all walks of life. Our community is incredibly generous with their prayers, emotional support, and donations of time and money. A donation in memory of TRUDIE HUTH could not have come at a better time. We were able to purchase tables that allow the children to play Orff instruments at the correct height. The entire experience was a more than acceptable alternative to children's choir, and I know Trudie would have loved seeing the kids' smiles as they prepared their music for worship. Looking ahead to December, we will be joining forces for a Christmas program. In January 2021, be watching for the opportunity to sign your kids up for another Orff ensemble.

In the meantime, take care of one another. In the words of my father-in-law, wash your hands, wear a mask, keep your distance, and stay in touch.

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## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

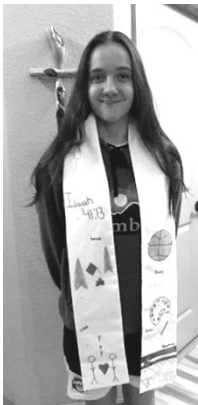
### Confirmation 2020

On Sunday, October 25, we celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism of three of our young people. PAYTON, ALEX, and ANNA have completed three years of instruction, service learning, mentoring, and immersion retreats to fulfill their commitment to Zion's Confirmation ministry. These confirmands were surrounded by family and loved ones in an outdoor drive-in style service. Each confirmand chose a Bible verse to commemorate their Confirmation and will complete a ministry project in the months to come. We are grateful for the gifts these three young people bring to our congregation and the ways they will continue to grow in faith in the years ahead.



Payton, Alex, and Anna completed three years of learning to fulfill their commitment to Zion's Confirmation ministry.

ISAIAH 41:10—*Do not fear for I am with you. Do not be afraid for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.*



Confirmand  
Payton

PSALM 23:4 (NIV)—*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff they comfort me.*



Confirmand  
Alex

ECCLESIASTES 3:1—*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*



Confirmand  
Anna

## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

### First Communion

At Zion, the age of first communion is discerned by parents and pastors. On November 1, Zion celebrated First Communion for six children on All Saints Sunday. These children participated in classes and at-home learning to prepare for this sacrament and we welcome them to the Table just as they are, a vital part of our community.

Cassey



Cooper



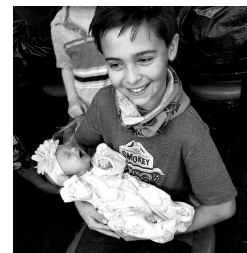
Jacob



Shyla



Aison



Ariston



### God's Work. Our Hands.

#### Project spreads positivity and raises funds for Habitat for Humanity

On Sunday, September 13, members from Zion, King of Glory, and Trinity Lutheran churches joined together to serve as a part of the ELCA's God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday. Participants chalked messages of positivity and encouragement on the sidewalks and driveways of nominees around town. Each recipient was nominated by a donor at one of the three congregations in exchange for a donation to Loveland's Habitat for Humanity program. A total of \$2,000 was donated to Habitat on behalf of the three congregations.

**The Roup family spread joy in the community with their chalk art.**



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## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

### Zion's Nourish Ministry Provides Community and Connection

Zion's new Nourish ministry, brought to life by JOEL BRAUNER, is underway!

The goal of Nourish is to feed the body, mind, and soul. While some temporary changes have had to take place to the original plans, mostly in terms of gathering for a meal, we're excited to see this ministry take root.

At a time where many feel isolated and overwhelmed by prayer needs, it is our hope that Nourish provides a place to learn, to grow in faith, and to share the burdens of prayer needs in the presence of community. Nourish meets monthly on the second Saturday of each month.

We gather for prayer and then adults meet in a large group for learning before breaking into small groups for discussion and prayer. Meanwhile, children of all ages meet in their own small groups for faith formation and hands-on activities.

This ministry is a great fit for parents of young children, young adults, and parents of high school youth or young adults. Topics so far have included prayer and coronavirus and the church.

The Nourish ministry follows regathering team guidelines for masks and social distancing.

If you would like to attend a future Nourish gathering, or if you have a topic you would like to share or discuss at future events, please let Joel Brauner or Madeline know.

The next Nourish gatherings will be:

- Saturday, November 14
- Saturday, December 12
- Saturday, January 9.

All events are at 6:30 p.m. at Zion.



**With a fire aglow in the fireplace, the Nourish ministry cozily meets under the pergola—cozy yet spacey enough to allow for protective safe distancing.**

## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

### High School Dance Under the Stars was a Success!



Our high school youth planned a Homecoming Dance under the new Zion pergola in October. It was a fun night of socially distanced games and dancing in a year of canceled rituals and new traditions.

We're grateful for the creativity of our youth and for the new spaces we have in which to gather, made possible by the Building Community project and donors.

**Save the Date**

**High School Christmas Gathering**

**Friday, December 11**

**7:00—8:30 p.m.**

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## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

### Advent Boxes to Celebrate the Season at Home

All families with preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade children will receive an Advent box to help celebrate the season as we await for Jesus' birth.

Each box contains a set of cards with a daily reading and prayer or activity. This can be used during Faith5 time each day. The cards can be displayed on the included miniature wall hanging, which can serve as a centerpiece for your family's daily devotion. Boxes will also contain a Christmas Eve worship bulletin and nativity stickers, to use at the Christmas Eve service of your choice. If you do not have a preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade child, but you would still like to receive an Advent box, please contact Madeline at [faithformation@zionloveland.com](mailto:faithformation@zionloveland.com).

Advent boxes will be available for pickup or delivery in mid-November.

Advent begins Sunday, November 29.



**Zion provides Advent boxes to help celebrate the season at home.**

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### Do Not Be Afraid—a Virtual Christmas Program



This year, our Christmas program will be recorded remotely and compiled for presentation at Christmas Eve worship at 6:00 p.m. on December 24, via Zoom.

Children, parents, families, youth, and adults are invited to participate!

If you would like to volunteer for a role, please contact Madeline. Scenes will be recorded in early and mid-November from participants' homes, at a time that is convenient for you. Costumes, props, and tech support will be provided.

We are so excited to share the good news of Jesus' birth in a new way! This funny program reminds us that God is with us (and the characters) throughout the story of Jesus' birth.

## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

### Those Who Dream—Adorn your Advent wreath with weekly ribbons and reflection questions

#### A Personal Perspective from Madeline

Advent has always been one of my favorite seasons in the church, in addition to Lent. This year, as an expectant mother, I feel a special connection to Mary, awaiting the birth of Jesus. Although our due dates are 6 weeks apart and I'm probably twice as old as Mary was, I can identify with her sense of anticipation, anxiety, gratitude, fear, and wonder. With each baby kick, I feel stronger and stronger. I can imagine Mary preparing for the birth of her child and dreaming what impact Jesus might have on the world. I'm glad I'm not the one responsible for bringing the Savior into the world, and I admire young Mary's strength and faith in God. I love our Advent worship theme of Those Who Dream, because more than ever before, I, too, dream of a world that looks more like the Kingdom of God. I dream of bringing a child into a world that reflects the love God has for us, a world that reminds us to reach out to our neighbor, and a world where we extend grace to everyone whom we encounter.

#### Reflecting on Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

This year, we are providing ribbons that match our worship theme for you to use each week of Advent as you light the candles on your own Advent wreath, reflecting on hope, peace, joy, and love.

Each colored ribbon includes a tag with a question. As we light the Advent wreath candles on the altar in worship, you are invited to answer the week's question by writing your response on the back of the tag and lighting your own candle at home.

I look forward to dreaming with all of you in Advent worship as we anticipate the arrival of Jesus with hearts full of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Ribbons will be available for pickup and delivery in mid-November.



**Advent wreath weekly ribbons match the Advent worship theme.**

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## Faith Formation

*Madeline Fairfax*

### Thank You for Providing Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanks to your generosity, we will still be able to provide Thanksgiving food baskets to families at Monroe Elementary and Thompson Valley Preschool. Many of you have already used the sign-up genius form included in the weekly e-on Zion to sign up to provide food items.

Please return all items to the Zion office by Thursday, November 12, so that we can assemble and deliver the baskets prior to Thanksgiving break.

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### Girl Talk and Man Cave Begin for Middle School Girls and Boys



Girl Talk is a mentoring and leadership program led by high school girl leaders. Weekly topics are relevant to teens and pre-teens, and activities include service projects and laid-back discussions.

We will be resuming weekly Girl Talk for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls from Zion and King of Glory on Tuesday, November 10, from 7:00 -8:00 p.m. We will be meeting at King of Glory this year.

#### Upcoming Girl Talk Schedule

- Tuesday, November 10
- Tuesday, November 17
- Tuesday, December 1
- Tuesday, December 8
- Tuesday, December 15.



Zion's girls are enthusiastic for Girl Talk.

Man Cave is supervised by adult leaders from both



congregations. Each month will feature a hands-on activity for boys to bond and grow in faith.

Man Cave will begin as a monthly opportunity for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys from Zion and King of Glory. Boys are invited to meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at King of Glory.

#### Upcoming Man Cave Schedule

- Tuesday, November 17—Nerf Challenge Night  
Bring a Nerf device and one to share if you have one, darts and socially distanced challenges provided.
- Tuesday, December 15— Christmas Fun.



## **All Saints Sunday—November 1, 2020**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.*

—HEBREWS 12:1-2A

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. This day calls us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete, as well as those who have begun their journey of faith through the waters of baptism since All Saints Sunday last year. At the Lord's Table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

The bell tolls the joy of Jesus' triumph over death, and a candle is lit as a reminder that Christ's light has shone through the lives of these saints at Zion:

*Don Barnes  
Robin Barrett  
Elaine Devenney  
Gary Flack  
Melvin Haack  
Kathleen Hopkins  
Ann Knobloch  
Bob Majeski  
Tucker Ochs  
Jennifer Schlagel  
Glenn Sterkel*

We rejoice in the lives of those who have been called saints of God through the waters of baptism:

*Brielle Goetsch  
Rhett Kanzler  
Flynn Wacholz  
Nash Wacholz*

Zion celebrates, remembers, and gives glory to God for the following saints who have gone before us in faith with the following projects completed in the last year in their honor and memory:

Stone Bench in the Memorial Garden and Orff Tables for Children's Music Ministry:

*Trudie Huth*

## Dreaming New Dreams in 2020—NoCoYo

*Pastor Sonja Pancoast*

At the beginning of August, I received a quick text from Hannah's orchestra teacher at Lucile Erwin, Daniel Smith (who also happens to be her string bass instructor): *"Having a tough day with the news that the kids can't come together for school in the fall. I had an idea. Can you give me a call?"*

I gave him a call, and he shared about how distraught he was that middle school and high school students that he teaches at Lucile Erwin Middle School and Loveland High School were not going to be able to come together to make music again in the fall. He said he had been dreaming of ways kids could get together to make music and wanted to brainstorm together. As we talked together, a new dream emerged.

What if we put together a community youth orchestra at Zion so that kids could make music together? Orchestra is the perfect pandemic opportunity. Kids wear masks all the time; they are 6 feet apart; no one talks except the conductor; and they are playing stringed instruments so there is no blowing. We began to envision how this could take shape. I shared that Zion had just built a new fellowship hall as part of our Building Community by Sharing God's Light building project.

This vision—this dream—had to be more than just a Mr. Smith and Pastor Sonja dream. The dream was presented to Zion's regathering team and church council and began to emerge into a reality. We applied for variances, created a website, and developed promotional materials. The dream evolved into more than an orchestra of kids from the schools where Mr. Smith teaches. This would be a community-wide youth orchestra. NoCoYo was born with the vision "Inspiring Harmony for Tomorrow."

The dream started with 24 youth and a conductor who could meet weekly. As the dream was shared, many others wanted to join. As of this writing, 60 kids have auditioned for three different youth orchestras—a beginner orchestra, an intermediate, and an advanced orchestra.

The launch date is Monday, November 2. The empty chairs that you see will be filled with youth who are finding connection in safe ways in these times.



**Zion's fellowship hall is configured to accommodate the newly established northern Colorado youth orchestra, adhering to pandemic safety guidelines.**

Truly the Spirit was leading the orchestra teacher to reach out to me that August morning.

Truly Zion's vision of Building Community by Sharing God's Light is now more than a dream. With NoCoYo, the dream is a reality for the young people who will gather at Zion.



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## Making Holiday Dreams Come True for Monroe Children

This year we will continue to support families at Monroe with our two holiday appeals.

### Thanksgiving

For Thanksgiving, we will again provide Thanksgiving baskets for families who are in need of a special holiday meal. We will be sending out a Thanksgiving Baskets Sign Up Genius with the items needed to make 30 baskets—items such as stuffing, pie filling, sweet potatoes, and green beans. We are also asking for King Sooper gift cards in the amount of \$10 for the families to buy their Thanksgiving turkey. If you would like to donate, you can follow the link that will come in the weekly e-on Zion email or call the church office.

### Christmas

Our Christmas Giving Tree for clothes and toys for children at Monroe will also be a Sign Up Genius that Monroe staff will put together and share with us. When we have that information, we will provide it to you in the weekly e-on Zion email and in announcements. You can also call the church office for information about the ages, gender, sizes, and gift requests for children at Monroe.

Thank you for your generosity which makes holiday dreams come true.

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## Warmth: Kids Dream; Zion Provides

### Zion provides boots and jackets for the children of Monroe

On a snowy October Sunday morning, the winter jackets and boots donated by Zion for the needy children of Monroe Elementary were prayed over that they may bring protective warmth for the children against the winter cold and snow.

These pandemic times are challenging for families in many ways. In the way of providing adequate winter clothing for children, Zion has stepped up. Our donated jackets and boots will provide much needed warmth to the children at Monroe. Surely the children will feel that a dream has come true when they slip their arms into the sleeves of a down-filled jacket and their feet into fleece-lined boots.

Throughout the year, teachers and staff will distribute the jackets and boots as they see the need—and the need is great.

Zion had an initial goal to collect jackets and boots for twenty children. Once again, a goal was exceeded. Together we collected 30 jackets, 7 pairs of boots, 5 pairs of gloves, and 4 hats.

Kudos to everyone who opened their hearts and wallets to purchase jackets and boots for the children of Monroe that they might survive the Colorado winter cold and snow in style and warmth.



**Winter jackets and boots were blessed before going to Monroe where they will be distributed to children in need.**

## Among Members and Friends

### At Rest in Our Father's House

*We pray for the family and friends of **Mel Haack** who died on September 9 and whose inurnment was on September 26 in the Zion Memorial Garden. A future service to celebrate Mel's life will be had when we can gather together safely again. We keep in prayers Mel's family and especially his wife of over 70 years, Mary Jo.*

*We pray for the family and friends of **Ann Knobloch**, who died on October 6 and whose funeral was on October 9 at Resthaven. We keep in prayer her dear husband, Cliff.*

*We pray for the family and friends of **Elaine Devenney** who died on October 9 and whose inurnment was at Resthaven on October 22. We keep in prayers her two surviving children, Barb and Carol, who have lost both their parents and three siblings.*

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

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*Thanks to everyone who sent such beautiful and inspiring messages following Mel's death.  
You will never know how much they meant to me and my family.*

*God's blessings to you.  
Mary Jo Haack*

*Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers for my family at the loss of my father.  
It was much appreciated.*

*Sincerely,  
Marla and Tim Heydt*

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## Among Members and Friends

*Dear Zion Lutheran Congregation,*

*We wanted to thank you for your support of Sky Ranch. It has certainly been a challenging couple of months, and your support means the world to us. We truly cannot thank you enough!! Even though campers weren't able to come up, we hope you can use the virtual resources we created, because those resources would not be able to exist without your support! We will continue to keep all of you in our prayers. And we are looking forward to seeing you next year at camp!!*

*Thank you,  
Sky Ranch Staff*

### Thank You to Many

*Zion Staff,*

*Thank you for the kalanchoe plant that is our reminder of the sympathy you extended to us when Linda's mother died.*

*Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group,*

*While over 1,000 miles apart, you were with us. Thank you for the elegant peace lily that graced the sanctuary during Linda's mother's funeral. We felt your presence and were comforted. The plant is now at home with us.*

*Zion Prayer Shawl Ministry,*

*In May 2019, Linda presented a shawl to her mother that she wrapped around her shoulders and felt its warmth and comfort. Linda now has the shawl.*

*Zion Family,*

*Thank you for the many cards of sympathy. We are grateful for the comfort they provided to us.*

*Linda and John Sterner*

*Dear Zion,*

*Due to the pandemic and Miriam's health issues, we have not been able to attend services.*

*We can't express enough how glad we are to be able to attend the services by the media.*

*At first, we were only getting the service by audio, but now with Zoom, we are able to get both visual and audio. How wonderful!*

*Although it is our prayer that we will be able to attend services again, we also pray that the services will remain available by the media.*

*Thank you all for what you do!*

*God bless and keep!*

*Stan and Miriam Mohr*

### Thank You Letters to Zion

- August 7, 2020—From House of Neighborly Service for a generous monthly gift.
- August 12, 2020—From Think Humanity, Inc. for a gift of \$1,220 that helped to feed 32 families in Uganda.
- August 20, 2020—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$1,000.  
[Because of the tremendous value of camp, Zion includes \$1,000 in its budget every year to support children and youth and encourage their participation. Even though we were unable to go to camp last summer, the Zion council voted to send these funds to Sky Ranch after a very difficult summer.]
- October 1, 2020—From Alternatives to Violence for a gift of \$150.
- October 7, 2020—From Loveland's Community Kitchen for a gift of \$575.
- October 8, 2020—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$550.
- October 15, 2020—From Loveland Habitat for Humanity for a gift of \$735.
- October 27, 2020—From Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry for a gift of \$150.

## With Gratitude

We give thanks to SCOTT and RUTH SPRAIN who donated the pictures in the men's and women's restrooms.



**The beautiful watercolors and photography are all originals by Ruth.**

We give thanks to the Creative Arts Worship Team of CATHERINE GLASER, JESSICA KUHN, and PAM STEVENS whose creativity and dedication help make our worship beautiful.

Thank you to JIM VOSBERG and ELLIOTT PANCOAST for all of the maintenance and repairs at Zion. We now have LED lights in the downstairs bathroom and working toilets. Zion appreciates the hard work they do to help everything function properly.



**The Jim and Elliott team hung pictures and clocks, fixed outlets, and moved storage cabinets.**

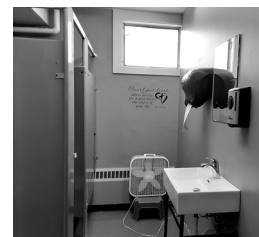
Thank you RONDA BUCK for helping with all the new regulations that COVID-19 presented to Zion. Ronda went above and beyond to help with outdoor and indoor worship, with setup, and contact tracing. We appreciate all her time and efforts and the care she shows for Zion.

Thank you DEBBIE JONCAS, SUSAN OSBORN, and RUTH SPRAIN for the wonderful masks you made for Zion. The staff and members at Zion recognize your sewing skills and appreciate the time you put into making the masks all of which receive many compliments. We thank you for keeping us safe during these times.



**Pastor Joel, Stig, and Madeline model the latest fashion provided by Debbie, Susan, and Ruth.**

Thank you CHAS FARASYN, RON CHRISTENSEN, and BILL KURTZ for your work in the downstairs bathrooms. The fresh paint looks amazing and the facelift that the bathrooms received was certainly needed.



**Kudos to Chas, Ron, and Bill for a badly needed facelift to the downstairs bathrooms.**

Thank you SUSAN OSBORN for making our new confirmation and All Saints flags. We now can display the flags on both the north and south sides of the sanctuary. Your behind-the-scenes kindness is appreciated, and we are grateful for you.



**Zion has new red flags courtesy of Susan.**

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

*Phyllis Zimmerman*

My loving thoughts and prayers have been with all of our Zion ladies and friends who usually attend our L.I.F.T. luncheons that we've had most every month until COVID-19 changed our way of life last March. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we have not been able to meet since our last lunch together in February. But, we can all be thankful as it seems we have all stayed pretty well, which is a real blessing at this unusual time!!

I called and canceled all the restaurants at which I had made reservations. None of the restaurants are taking large groups of twenty to thirty at this time, and some of the restaurants had to close permanently due to these unusual circumstances!!

### **In memory of Elaine Devenney**

Most of you have probably heard that our dear L.I.F.T. friend, Elaine Devenney, passed away on Friday, October 9. I attended her memorial service on Thursday, October 22, at Resthaven, officiated by Pastor Sonja. I took a religious sympathy card for Elaine's family signed from all of her L.I.F.T. friends! I also included a group picture of all of us from one of our special Christmas parties when we celebrated Jesus' birthday together with our birthday year also.

Elaine was blessed with the talent to write wonderful poetry, so I am enclosing a poem that Elaine gave to me for my birthday in December 2013. The poem is perfect for all of us this year in loving memory of our friend, Elaine.

*Friendship is a precious gift  
A beauty all its own  
It's not unlike a lovely rose  
You nurture 'til full grown.  
  
Your friendship means a lot to me  
It fills a void for sure  
I've had some losses, so have you  
We've both known love so pure.  
  
But life goes on we've lots of friends  
And music fills the air  
There's laughter, food, and always prayers  
It's nice to know you're there.  
  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!  
Friends Always,  
Elaine*

I'll keep all of you in my prayers and will let you know when it's possible for us to meet again!! I wish all of you a blessed holiday season and am thinking of one of the songs we had fun singing together most any month: "The More We Get Together, The Happier We'll Be!"

## When You Dream, What Do You Dream About?

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

When I was anticipating the birth of my children, I had one song by a band sometimes known as BNL on repeat that still quite often goes through my head. Part of the song goes as follows:

*When you dream  
What do you dream about?  
When you dream  
What do you dream about?  
Do you dream about music or mathematics  
Or planets too far for the eye?  
Do you dream about Jesus or quantum mechanics  
Or angels who sing lullabies?*

Today, MADELINE and JEFF FAIRFAX are probably asking similar questions, dreaming about an unknown future filled with hope and joy and many surprises. They are expecting their first child on February 16! We share in their joy and excitement, and look forward to when their dreams become reality.

We have decided against a public celebration with them for everyone's health and safety. However, if you would like to support them as they look forward to this new stage of life, Madeline and Jeff have gift registries at Target and Amazon. Online, you should be able to search both sites with one or both of their names, but if you are having a hard time with the search, contact the Zion office and we will be happy to help you out. God bless Jeff and Madeline, and "little baby Fairfax!"

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## Personnel Committee

*Janie Lichtfuss*

The personnel committee has been quite busy this year. While the committee needed to meet with each staff member in an annual review, this year was more intense because of the effects of the coronavirus. Several staff were left without programs but then stepped up to fill in where they were needed. This was very helpful! This meant that some previous goals had to end and new goals added. Several staff positions never had written job descriptions so that was done, and the committee made recommendations for salary increases.



## CARS

Between generous givers at Zion and a generous grant from the Rotary Foundation, Zion partnered with House of Neighborly Service (HNS) to begin a new program at HNS called CARS (Christian Auto Repair Service). Many people who are transitioning out of crisis and into self-reliance are often one event away from falling back into poverty or crisis, and an expensive car repair can be that one event. The CARS program allows those for whom car repairs become an obstacle to continue to dream of greater possibilities. Recently, we received two stories of those who have benefited from this generous program.

The first involved a single mom who was in the Family Promise (formerly IHN) program. She had been driving her car with tires with treads so worn they had become dangerous. So a case manager at HNS worked with her to determine how much she could afford, and the CARS program paid the balance to get new tires. With the new tires, she will be safe for the upcoming winter weather and continue to transport her children safely to daycare and then get to work safely. She cried and was so very grateful for the “miracle” help!

The second story involved an older, single male, who called HNS requesting assistance to repair the clutch on his vehicle. The case manager worked with this client to determine how much he could afford, then made arrangements with Fred’s Automotive to pay the balance for the repair. The client is disabled with an old back injury, and his car is a critical link to his independence. Having to walk or ride the bus system would be virtually impossible for him. He showed a deeply grateful appreciation for all the help he received.

## Faster Pastors Outrunning Hunger

The Faster Pastors were at it again this year, this time running the Flaming Foliage Relay virtually. The team was comprised of 10 pastors and laypeople who each ran three legs ranging from 3.2 to 12.6 miles each leg, running for a total of 163.4 miles. Eight congregations were represented from Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. Zion had three participants on the team including PASTOR JOEL, PASTOR SONJA and newcomer MATT MOORE joining the team. Matt was a great addition and ran a total of 17 miles combined for his three legs.

Zion raised a total of \$2,895 for ELCA World Hunger. AMAZING! You all are a part of the team as together we are outrunning hunger!



**Zion's faster pastors were joined by newcomer Matt Moore in raising \$2,895 for ELCA World Hunger.**



**Matt and Pastor Joel flaunt their finisher medals.**

## **Sky Ranch Fire Update by Brad Abbott, Executive Director (Posted on Facebook—October 24)**

A short update as we were allowed access to Sky Ranch for a few hours today before the sirens of the sheriff announced the fire was getting more active and we had to leave. The fire is still burning in the Pingree area, and there are still active flames and smoke on the camp property. As of today, all buildings are ok. We were able to verify the loss of some outlying structures, including the high ropes course, Sondance worship area, sauna, Beaver Meadows platform tents, and parts of the Wilderness worship area. The fire did burn near the Outdoor

Chapel, but flames stopped at the base of the cross, sparing the worship area.

There are still a lot of unburned areas in and around camp, so

structure protection teams are actively patrolling our site and tending to spot fires.

I am impressed with the incredible work that the fire crews have done to preserve and protect buildings at Sky Ranch and throughout this fire.

Thank you for their heroic efforts! Thank you for all your support and prayers as well. Please continue to pray for all those impacted by this and other fires throughout Colorado.



**Flames stopped at the base of the cross, sparing the worship area.**



**As of October 24, all buildings at Sky Ranch were okay; here is the lodge after the burn.**



**Beaver Creek**



**Marshy/Willoy Area at South End of Camp**



**Baptismal Font at the Outdoor Chapel**

## Pastels on 5th

### This from artist Jessica Kuhns

Pastels was different this year due to COVID, but it was great that the event still went on. Usually artists are lined up right next to each other down



**Jessica was grateful for a square in the shade.**

5th Street. This year, artist squares were spaced out 6 feet apart, and we located on different streets and throughout the parking area. I was fortunate to be assigned a square in the shade as it was a beautiful day. I have learned that using lots of vibrant colors makes the pastel last longer, also lots of color is fun. I did a northern scene with an orca and the northern lights; to embrace Loveland, I included a little girl in a canoe reaching toward the whale as if to hug him and both of them surrounded by a circle of hearts. I titled the piece “inspiring love,” and I hope to inspire love and kindness. The entire event inspires love and kindness as artists of all sorts come together to support people in need in our community. It was a

pleasure to represent Zion again this year. Next year, I hope the festival part of the event will return as one of the delights is interacting with the crowd as I draw.

### This from Pastor Joel

We are grateful for JESSICA KUHNS, who created a beautiful piece of art for Pastels on 5th in September. Pastels on 5th is a sidewalk chalk art festival that pairs local artists with sponsoring organizations to raise funds for Alternatives to Violence (ATV). Alternatives to Violence provides shelter, advocacy, education, and resources for people impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Zion has been proud to sponsor Jessica as our artist, and to support the important work of ATV that reclaims dreams that have been lost.



**On his Faster Pastor run through downtown, Pastor Joel stopped for a selfie with Jessica's chalk art.**

## Blessing of the Animals

A favorite service for some is always the Blessing of the Animals that we share with King of Glory and Trinity Lutheran churches. Traditionally, we observe this blessing on the first Sunday of October, the closest Sunday to the commemoration of Francis of Assisi that falls on October 4.

Francis lived in the 13th century and gave up his wealthy inheritance to serve the poor and preach the gospel “using words if necessary.” Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God’s creation, and is often pictured surrounded by animals great and small. He is considered the founder of nativity scenes or creches.



**The 2020 Blessing of the Animals predominantly featured dogs—both short and tall.**

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## Book Selections for 2020/2021—Zion Evening Book Group

### *Scott Sprain*

NOVEMBER—*Calypso*, by David Sedaris, 2018, 273 pages. Nonfiction.

When he buys a beach house on the Carolina coast, Sedaris envisions long, relaxing vacations spent playing board games and lounging in the sun with those he loves most. And life at the Sea Section, as he names the vacation home, is exactly as idyllic as he imagined, except for one tiny, vexing realization: it's impossible to take a vacation from yourself.

With *Calypso*, Sedaris sets his formidable powers of observation toward middle age and mortality. Make no mistake: these stories are very, very funny--it's a book that can make you laugh 'til you snort, the way only family can. Sedaris's powers of observation have never been sharper, and his ability to shock readers into laughter unparalleled. But much of the comedy here is born out of that vertiginous moment when your own body betrays you and you realize that the story of your life is made up of more past than future. *Calypso* is simultaneously Sedaris's darkest and warmest book yet—and it just might be his very best.

We meet on Thursday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

JANUARY—*Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, by Yuval Noah Harari, 2015, 469 pages. Nonfiction.

From a renowned historian comes a groundbreaking narrative of humanity's creation and evolution—a #1 international bestseller—that explores the ways in which biology and history have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be “human.”

One hundred thousand years ago, at least six different species of humans inhabited Earth. Yet today there is only one—homo sapiens. What happened to the others? And what may happen to us?

Most books about the history of humanity pursue either a historical or a biological approach, but Dr. Yuval Noah Harari breaks the mold with this highly original book that begins about 70,000 years ago with the appearance of modern cognition. From examining the role evolving humans have played in the global ecosystem to charting the rise of empires, *Sapiens* integrates history and science to reconsider accepted narratives, connect past developments with contemporary concerns, and examine specific events within the context of larger ideas. A Summer Reading Pick for President Barack Obama, Bill Gates, and Mark Zuckerberg.

We meet on January 21 at 7:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

FEBRUARY—*Breakfast with Buddha*, by Roland Merullo, 2008, 254 pages. Fiction.

When his sister tricks him into taking her guru on a trip to their childhood home, Otto Ringling, a confirmed skeptic, is not amused. Six days on the road with an enigmatic holy man who answers every question with a riddle is not what he'd planned. But in an effort to westernize his passenger—and amuse himself—he decides to show the monk some “American fun” along the way. From a chocolate factory in Hershey to a bowling alley in South Bend, from a Cubs game at Wrigley field to his family farm near

*Continued on page 29.*

*Book Selections for 2020-2021—Zion Evening Book Group continued from page 28.*

Bismarck, Otto is given the remarkable opportunity to see his world—and more important, his life—through someone else’s eyes. Gradually, skepticism yields to amazement as he realizes that his companion might just be the real thing.

In Roland Merullo’s masterful hands, Otto tells his story with all the wonder, bemusement, and wry humor of a man who unwittingly finds what he’s missing in the most unexpected place.

We meet on February 18 at 7:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

MARCH—*A Woman of No Importance*, by Sonia Purnell, 2019, 368 pages. Nonfiction.

In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: “She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her.”

The target in their sights was Virginia Hall, a Baltimore socialite who talked her way into Special Operations Executive, the spy organization dubbed Winston Churchill’s “Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare.” She became the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines and—despite her prosthetic leg—helped to light the flame of the French Resistance, revolutionizing secret warfare as we know it.

Based on new and extensive research, Sonia Purnell has for the first time uncovered the full secret life of Virginia Hall—an astounding and inspiring story of heroism, spycraft, resistance, and personal triumph over shocking adversity. *A Woman of No Importance* is the breathtaking story of how one woman’s fierce persistence helped win the war.

We meet on March 18, at 7:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

APRIL—*Lilac Girls*, by Martha Hall Kelly, 2016, 497 pages. Fiction.

New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline’s world is forever changed when Hitler’s army invades Poland in September 1939—and then sets its sights on France.

An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences.

For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power.

The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents—from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland—as Caroline and Kasia strive to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten.

We meet on Thursday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

**“There are no faster or firmer friendships  
than those formed between people  
who love the same books.”  
—Irving Stone**

*Continued on page 30.*

Book Selections for 2020-2021—Zion Evening Book Group continued from page 29.

MAY—*The World According to Fannie Davis*, by Bridgett Davis. 2019, 337 pages. Nonfiction.

In 1958, the very same year that an unknown songwriter named Berry Gordy borrowed \$800 to found Motown Records, a pretty young mother from Nashville, Tennessee, borrowed \$100 from her brother to run a numbers racket out of her home. That woman was Fannie Davis, Bridgett M. Davis's mother.

Part bookie, part banker, mother, wife, and granddaughter of slaves, Fannie ran her numbers business for thirty-four years, doing what it took to survive in a legitimate business that just happened to be illegal. She created a loving, joyful home, sent her children to the best schools, bought them the best clothes, mothered them to the highest standard, and when the tragedy of urban life struck, soldiered on with her stated belief: "Dying is easy. Living takes guts."

A daughter's moving homage to an extraordinary parent, *The World According to Fannie Davis* is also the suspenseful, unforgettable story about the lengths to which a mother will go to "make a way out of no way" and provide a prosperous life for her family—and how those sacrifices resonate over time.

We meet on Thursday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m. Location to be determined.



### BOOKWORM HERE

Oh my! It has been a very long time since I have seen any of you in the library. Things seem to be getting a little better slowly, so perhaps I will see you soon.

It is still possible to use the library. If you go there and you find a book you would like to take out, just be sure to sign the card that is in the book and leave the card in the little basket on the bookshelf.

It is such fun to have books to read, especially since we must be apart so much of the time. Please remember I am here and encourage you to come see me and find wonderful books to read!

Happy reading!

### Boy Scout Troop 314



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Congratulations to Will Pakenham, Troop 314's latest Eagle scout! Will identified an important need in the Loveland community for his Eagle project.

Partnering with House of Neighborly Services, his project assembled and delivered 100 care packages containing cloth masks and handwritten notes with positive messages.

Troop 314 recently adopted the Sunset Vista natural area near Taft and 57<sup>th</sup> Street. Scouts are excited to serve the community and keep this area clean for people recreating on the trail!

Finally, the troop assembled and delivered first aid kits for United Way of Larimer County for the homeless and those displaced by the wildfires

## Revised 2020 Treasurer's Report

### September Year-to-Date

	2020 <u>Budget</u>	2020 <u>Actual</u>	Over/(Under) <u>Budget</u>
Unified Income			
Member Giving	410,150	405,362	(4,788)
Other Income	600	350	(250)
Total Unified Income	410,750	405,713	(5,037)
Expenses	410,750	398,929	(11,821)
Surplus/(Deficit)	0	6,784	6,784

### Comments:

**Income—** Member giving during August continued to decline but is still higher than the year-to-date budgeted as well as where we were in August 2019.

**Expenses—** The freeze on expenses continues to be reflected in the expenses saving.  
We have received a PPP (paycheck protection program) loan in the amount of \$49,200. The above numbers do not include this loan until we receive notice that this loan has been forgiven.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
815 East 16th Street  
Loveland, CO 80538

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Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church-Loveland  
Instagram: [zionlutheranloveland](https://www.instagram.com/zionlutheranloveland)  
YouTube: Zion Lutheran Church: Loveland

## Join Us in Worship

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
by Zoom

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
by Zoom

## ***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 11/20

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Loveland, CO  
80538  
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Change of Service Requested

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

November 1	All Saints Sunday; First Communion
November 10	Girl Talk
November 12	Items due for Thanksgiving Baskets
November 14	Nourish
November 15	Commitment Sunday
November 17	Girl Talk
November 17	Man Cave
November 19	Evening Book Group
November 29	Start of Advent Season
December 1	Girl Talk
December 8	Girl Talk
December 11	High School Christmas Gathering
December 12	Nourish
December 15	Girl Talk
December 15	Man Cave
December 20	Longest Night Blue Christmas Worship
December 23	Little Christmas Eve
December 24	Drive-In Worship
December 24	Christmas Program via Zoom
December 24	Carols and Candles
January 9	Nourish
January 21	Evening Book Group