



Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

February-March-April
2021

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Pastor Sonja Pancoast

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Madeline Fairfax

Director of Music Ministry

Open

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Bell and Chimes Director

Thomas Chen

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KB Benstock

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Rooted—Grounded—Growing in 2021

Pastor Sonja Pancoast

As we begin a new year, we look with hope for what this coming year will bring. For much of 2020, we all have been staying close to home and many times in our homes to keep us and others safe in the midst of the pandemic. As we look to 2021 and the rollout of the vaccine, we look toward beginning to move beyond our walls.

It is not quite time yet; the vaccines have just begun, and so we live in an in-between time. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we are still in the tunnel. In the spring and summer, we see plants bursting forth and know that new life has come. What we do not see is all the work that is going on underground all through the winter months so that plants can grow and bloom. The roots are growing deep in the ground to give the plant an ability to gain nourishment. They give the plant that firm foundation so that when the winds come, the plant will not blow away.

During these next few months at Zion, as we prepare to hopefully

move outside of the walls of our homes and back into more regular human interaction, we will use this time to grow strong roots of faith and ground ourselves in God so that when we do grow and bloom, we will have that firm foundation.

In January, we began reading through the Gospel of Mark. We started by taking time to really dive into Mark and understand more about who this Jesus is as we focused on Mark chapter 1 all the way until Lent. Once we arrive in the season of Lent, our pace will pick up. During the 40 days of Lent, we will read all 16 chapters of Mark from start to finish. Mark is the shortest Gospel, so it is a manageable task. To support you as you read, we are providing a daily devotional titled, "A Story to Tell" to guide your reading and reflections. We will root ourselves in the story of Jesus Christ, which is the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mark 1:1).

Continued on page 2.

Rooted—Grounded—Growing in 2021 continued from page 1.

During our Lenten midweek services, we will explore scriptures connected to planting, gardening, and growing to see how they root us in growing in the spiritual practices of faith, thankfulness, love, generosity, and serving. We will gather in person (20 people maximum) at 1:30-2:15 p.m. for simple worship and small group conversation. We will gather via Zoom from 6:30-7:30 p.m. each Wednesday of Lent for Holden Evening Prayer worship and small group conversations. We will sing the beginning of the Holden Evening Prayer, read the scripture, and hear a reflection on the scripture. Then we will organize into small groups (also on Zoom) for a short time to reflect on how this spiritual practice is at work in our lives; following that, we will regather for prayer and the conclusion of the Holden Evening Prayer. We hope you will join us for this important time as we continue to find ways to connect with each other.

We look forward to eventually being able to again gather in person for worship and fellowship. In the meantime, let us use this time to be rooted and grounded in order to grow deeper in love with God and in serving our neighbor.



MIDWEEK LENT 2021

Wednesdays—February 24-March 24

1:30 p.m.—Simple Worship and Small

Group Conversation—in person

(limit 20 people) Link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080844AEAF2FA6FB6-midweek>

6:30 p.m.—Holden Evening Prayer
and Small Group Conversation—Zoom

February 24—Faith

Matthew 17:20 and 1 Peter 1:22 -25

March 3—Thankfulness

Colossians 2:6-7 and Colossians 3:14-17

March 10—Love

Ephesians 3:16-19 and Hosea 10:12

March 17—Generosity

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

March 24—Serving

John 12:23-26

LENTEN SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP—“A STORY TO TELL”

The Gospel of Mark has a story to tell about the “good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (1:1). This story is told quickly and urgently, as if there’s no time to spare. Yet the most reliable manuscripts for Mark’s Gospel end with the women running in fear from the empty tomb, telling no one what they have seen and heard (16:8).

May this Lenten journey through Mark’s Gospel strengthen and inspire you to tell the story of Jesus Christ through all you do and say.

February 21—Jesus Calls Sinners—Mark 2:13-17

February 28—The Sower Sows the Word—Mark 4:1-20

March 7—Jesus Opens Ears, Mouths, and Minds—Mark 7:31-37

March 14—The Least Are Welcomed—Mark 9:33-37

March 21—Jesus' Commandment to Love—Mark 12:28-34

March 28—The Beginning of the Passion—Mark 14:32-46

April 4—Easter The Beginning of Good News—Mark 16:1-8

Ashes to Go and Lent in a Bag

Sunday, February 14—after each worship service

Come to Zion on Sunday, February 14, after each worship service (9:30-10:30 or 11:30-12:30) to pick up ashes for Ash Wednesday, the Lenten daily devotional, and a bookmark with information about scriptures for midweek and Sunday worship.

If you are unable to come on Sunday, contact the church office to arrange to come to Zion during the week to pick up your ashes.

If you are unable to get out, let the office know and we will bring the ashes to you.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17

For Ash Wednesday, we will gather at noon for in-person worship at King of Glory. We will have Zoom livestream worship at 7:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m.—Joint ELCA Drive-in Worship at King of Glory with Pastor Sonja preaching

7:00 p.m.—Zoom Worship with Communion in Our Homes

Holy Week Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday—March 28

Maundy Thursday—April 1

12:00 p.m.—Joint ELCA Drive-in Worship at Zion, with Pastor Chris Davis Preaching

7:00 p.m.—Worship by Zoom

Good Friday—April 2

12:00 p.m.—Joint ELCA Drive-in Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church, with a King of Glory Pastor Preaching

7:00 pm—Worship by Zoom

Easter Vigil—April 3

Stay tuned as details progress, but King of Glory, Trinity, and Zion are planning a joint service together that will be both fun and meaningful as we tell stories of faith by the campfire!

Easter—April 4

6:30 a.m.—Sunrise Service

As the sun rises this morning at 6:38 a.m., join us for a brief celebration of the Son Rising from the dead! We will gather under the pergola, at the memorial garden and the columbarium. We gather at a place where the beloved dead are interred, to remember Christ's victory over the grave and hear the promise that in the resurrection death is not final.

8:30 a.m.—Traditional Worship on Zoom (no in-person worship).

10:30 a.m.—Contemporary Worship on Zoom (no in-person worship).

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Rocky Mountain Synod Lenten Conversations

About the Lenten Discussion Series

This discussion series is intended to create an experience for each of us to think about our personal stories of race and faith. This discussion includes a guided timeline experience and individual journal prompts. Participants are encouraged to engage in as much of the materials as they are able.

How to Participate

You can participate with the Rocky Mountain Synod (RMS) group or as an individual.

With the RMS group

Join either Sunday or Wednesday evenings throughout Lent to view the timeline with folks from around the synod. This can be as an individual or congregational group.

As an Individual

While the journal prompts are meant to be done individually, you may also view the timeline on your own as well. If you select this option, it is strongly encouraged you find a conversation partner with whom to process your learnings.



Gatherings

Wednesday, February 17, 4:00 p.m.

Opening Conversation with Bishop Gonia, Rev. Ron Roschke, and Assembly Keynote Speaker Dr. Edward Antonio.

Session 1: Sunday, February 21, 6:00 p.m. OR
Wednesday, February 24, 3:00 p.m.

Session 2: Sunday, February 28, 6:00 p.m. OR
Wednesday, March 3, 3:00 p.m.

Session 3: Sunday, March 7, 6:00 p.m. OR
Wednesday, March 10, 3:00 p.m.

Session 4: Sunday, March 14, 6:00 p.m. OR
Wednesday, March 17, 3:00 p.m.

Session 5: Sunday, March 21, 6:00 p.m. OR
Wednesday, February 24, 3:00 p.m.

For more information and how to register for these conversations go to:

<https://www.rmselfca.org/struggling-our-stories-race>

Flowers for Easter

Are you Interested in helping to decorate the sanctuary for Easter?

If yes, please sign up on the Signup Genius or call the Zion office by February 28 to purchase flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one. This year, we are offering, Easter lilies at \$15 each.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080844AEAF2FA6FB6-easter>

We only have a limited number ordered, so reserve your flowers today.

Please make your checks out to Zion Lutheran Church and write "Flowers" on the check.

Children's Music Ministry

Noelle Bauman-Stucky

We had some marvelous children's music gatherings last year with the summer music camp and the Orff ensemble. Even though there will be limited opportunities for the beginning of 2021, come March we will celebrate the five-year anniversary of the children's choir with an open

**Thankfully,
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God has given.**

invitation for former members and new members to participate in a pre-recorded musical event.

The difficulties brought by COVID-19 have stretched farther than any of us could have imagined. Last March the children's choir shared their last rehearsal before the children left for spring break. Since then, we have missed the unity that is the result of

singing for a common goal, serving one another as volunteers, and supporting one another in times of sadness or joy.

We have sacrificed this time in hopes we can keep one another safe. Thankfully, technology has provided us a temporary solution that will allow us to continue to share the voices God has given. Following are details for a virtual children's choir with an open invitation to all former members and any new members.

Beginning March 1, 2021, children can sign up to be part of a six-week virtual choir where they can study the music and rehearsal videos each week to learn the song. The first video will be released March 30, 2021. Additional videos will be released April 6, 13, 20, and 27. Videos will be emailed to participants so children can access the videos whenever it is convenient for them. The first week of May will be reserved for children to come into the church to make an audio/video recording. Once all recordings are finished, I can compile a virtual presentation of their work.

If you or someone you know are interested in participating, please watch for an announcement the beginning of March 2021. Children of any age can join, including anyone feeling child-like. If you have any questions before registration in March, please contact noelle@zionloveland.com.

2021 Synod Assembly—April 29-May 1

An excerpt from a letter by Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop Gonia:
Beloved in Christ,

Our 2021 Assembly—and the time leading up to it—will invite us to engage together in this particular aspect of church becoming by framing our conversations around racial justice with a specific set of questions: What stories do we tell? About ourselves? Our nation? Our history? Our church? God? The stories we tell matter. They shape our understanding of reality and determine how we engage the world around us. As church becoming, the time is right to examine the stories we tell, trusting that God's Spirit will continue to write the story that ultimately matters, including the part we can yet play as members of Christ's Body.



Music Search Team

Pastor Joel Pancoast

Everything we do as a congregation grows from our worship, which is rooted and grounded in God's presence and promise to all people. For this reason, we were saddened to say farewell at the beginning of the year to Dr. Keenan Boswell as Zion's director of worship and music, organist, choir director, and band leader. Keenan was only with us for about 13 months, but in the short time he was with us, he blessed us with incredible gifts, sharing both his own extraordinary talents but also his ability to inspire others to lift their voices (and instruments) for worship. He even helped the band write their own music for worship. During the pandemic, he continued to gather musical ensembles, sometimes in spite of the fact that they may not be practicing for worship, but simply so that they could be together (even if it was virtually) to join in singing.

Since it had been such a short time since our last search process, we were prepared to move forward. We immediately put together a transition plan and organized substitute musicians, and we have posted the job opening(s)

in multiple locations. The search team feels confident about our possibilities, and as of the beginning of February, we already had received a good number of resumes, and we still have several weeks before we reach the deadline for submissions. We will continue to update the congregation as we move forward, and hope to have the next member(s) of Zion's music staff in place within a few months. Please pray for clarity in that process, and for the person whom God has already chosen to serve Zion's worship and music ministries.

We give thanks to NOELLE BAUMAN-STUCKY, who has done an incredible job in the interim to schedule substitute musicians, as well as coordinate the search process and communicate with candidates. With Noelle, the rest of the search team includes ERIN BACHMAN, MADDIE ELDER, EILEEN HUDDLE, CINDY KURTZ, JANIE LICHTFUSS, TOM ROBINSON, RUTH SPRAIN, and PASTOR JOEL. We are thankful for their time and wisdom, and pray for them as well.

ReGathering Team Update

Small Groups Begin to Gather

Indoor Worship Remains Unchanged Until Staff Are Vaccinated

The ReGathering Team continues to meet on a regular basis to reflect on how we can safely gather at Zion. With the movement from Red to Orange (and now Yellow) in the Larimer County Dashboard, the team has begun to allow small groups of fewer than ten people who are following all safety protocols to begin to meet in the building. Each group is permitted to gather on a case-by-case basis. If you would like to have your small group begin to gather at Zion, please reach out to Pastor Joel so that the request can be brought to the team.

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Rooted, Grounded, and Growing with The Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra

Daniel Smith, Conductor



The day began on March 12, 2020, like many others. That evening the Loveland High School theatre department would be opening *Les Misérables* for what we thought would be a six-show run. That day, however, we opened and closed as the pandemic shuttered schools, businesses, and arts organizations across the planet. We assumed that we'd be back in school two weeks later and planned additional performance dates that as the weeks passed, never would come to be.

After the academic year came to an end, it became clear that young musicians would not have the opportunity to create music together for what could be up to a two-year period. After many conversations with families and close friends, the idea of a youth orchestra began to **take root**. Thanks to the encouragement and generosity of Pastor Sonja and Pastor Joel, Zion Lutheran Church became the place for The Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra to begin its journey.

This organization has kept countless young musicians, families, and music educators

grounded during this deafening silence and has served a flagship of perseverance throughout this trying time. Over the course of their short existence, the orchestras have continued **growing** both in size, but also in excitement and enthusiasm as our first performance draws closer. There are many gifts in our world, but few are as priceless as the feelings of hope and of the possibilities that lay ahead. This would not have been possible without the Zion community, and for that, we are eternally grateful.



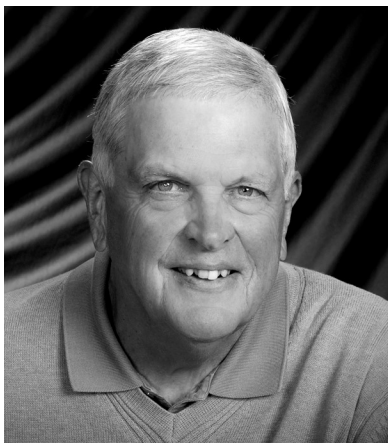
Zion's fellowship hall provides a safe environment for The Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra to rehearse.

ReGathering Team Update continued from page 6.

Now that vaccinations have begun, we are aware that people are beginning to be more comfortable with moving around a bit more freely. We are thankful for the vaccines which protect those who have received them at a much higher level from contracting COVID-19. Unfortunately, vaccinated individuals are still able to be carriers of the virus to others. In order to protect the health and safety of our staff, the ReGathering Team has determined that we will continue at our present indoor worship capacity until all of the staff members who assist with Sunday worship have had the ability to be vaccinated. If you are interested in attending worship in person, please call the church office. While the 8:30 a.m. service has recently been reaching capacity, there have typically been only two to three participants at the 10:30 a.m. service.

We give thanks for the thoughtful work of the ReGathering Team who truly seeks to balance the needs of all in our community.

Honoring John Sterner, an honorable man



After four years as Zion's treasurer and four more years as Zion's bookkeeper, John Sterner is retiring.

Zion has been blessed to have JOHN STERNER share his financial savvy, attention to detail, and ability to see the bigger picture over these last 8 years. His gifts will be truly missed. TERRI SLOAN will be taking over as bookkeeper. We celebrated John's ministry in worship on Sunday, February 7. We share with you some reflections of the staff and other members of Zion who worked closely with John.

Time is a funny thing that does tricks on the memory, so I may be mistaken, but John and Linda Sterner had not been members very long before the Leadership Development Committee had been led through prayer to ask John to prayerfully consider serving as Zion's treasurer. At

least, it did not feel like a very long time considering he was being asked to step into his first leadership role at Zion as a member of the executive committee. I remember calling him to ask him to pray about it and talk to Linda about it, and I heard Linda yelling in the background, "YES!" [NOTE: Pastor Joel has that right. From another room, I did yell to John to say yes as I had an idea Pastor was asking him to be Zion's treasurer, and I knew John was well suited for the job. And now all of you know it too.—LINDA STERNER] With Linda's support and God's guidance, John served as treasurer between 2013-2017, and was always looking for ways to keep Zion's budget and finances reflecting God's own generosity and faithfulness. After serving as treasurer, he slipped into the bookkeeper role efficiently, always keeping a watchful eye on funds that were serving the community and congregation. I am grateful for John's stewardship of finances for four years as treasurer, and these last four years as bookkeeper, as he has shared his own generosity of time, talent, and treasure, and his quiet, humble, fun-loving spirit. Thank you John!

—PASTOR JOEL

For more years than I can recall

(yep, I am getting old here), John Sterner has been my high. John is a quiet individual who prefers to work behind the scenes. Many do not know the countless hours that John has put in as treasurer of Zion and then as Zion's bookkeeper. John's attention to detail, his dedication to his work, and his love of God and others comes through in all he does. The amazing thing is that John has shared his gifts not only with us at Zion but also with Lutheran Campus Ministry. When John retired as treasurer of Zion, he began to serve as treasurer of the CSU Lutheran Campus Ministry for a number of years. John is faithful and steadfast and truly has been a gift to Zion and the broader community for these last many years. John may be retiring as our bookkeeper, but he will still be my high for years to come.

—PASTOR SONJA

It has been an honor to work with John! He is patient, knowledgeable, kind, and his dry sense of humor is one of a kind. When John took on our bookkeeping

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Honoring John Sterner, an honorable man continued from page 8.

responsibilities, I had worked at Zion for a year. I was still learning many aspects of my job and the Zion community, so the transition from Jessica to John was a bit scary, since I had just become acquainted with Jessica.

I was intimidated by John. He was very quiet and very business-oriented. I couldn't quite read him or his humor. Little did I know, I would grow to admire him as a coworker and person.

John is one of my favorite people, and he and Linda have a special place in my heart. They are two of the most amazing people I have the privilege to know. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with John. I have learned a lot and have enjoyed his jokes, that after a year, I now understand.

I am happy that the Sterners are members of Zion, so I will still be able to keep in touch with them, instead of a coworker leaving to another job opportunity. John has always had Zion's best interests at heart and has spent endless hours with bank reconciliations. He has jumped on board with all our technology changes and has complained very little.

I am truly grateful to have worked with someone of John's character and am so happy that he (and Linda) will be able to enjoy retirement.

Thank you, John, for your time, commitment, and care you have given Zion!
—LINDSEY WALTER

God's Work.

John's Hands.

What a blessing: Zion has been a better place because of John Sterner, for the nine years we have been faithfully served by a skilled, competent, and efficient treasurer and bookkeeper. More importantly, he spread kindness, humor, and wisdom beyond just handling "the numbers." Most importantly, he found many of my mistakes and gently helped me correct them. Sure, we will carry on, somehow. But without John behind the scenes, Zion won't be the same.

—SCOTT SPRAIN

John Sterner has done a fabulous job as Zion's treasurer and later as bookkeeper. We appreciate how he kept Zion's funds balanced and kept the financial secretaries on the right track. Many thanks, John, for your persistence to perfection!

—EILEEN HUDDLE

John was so helpful during his transition from treasurer when I took over four years ago and now during his transition from his bookkeeper role he's being just as generous with his time. He's such a wealth of knowledge and always helpful when questions come up or when financial information is needed. Although he will now have time for other things, I always know that he's there when needed.

—TERRI SLOAN

As a member of the Audit Committee, I want to thank John for all his help with the various internal audit testing procedures that the committee performed during the last couple of years. John explained in detail all the monthly procedures that he was responsible for, which greatly helped us in setting up appropriate audit procedures. John has done a great job in his role as Zion's accountant/bookkeeper over the years. Thanks for all your hard work!

—RANDY DAVIS

John was a pleasure to work with. He is super easy to be around and an all-around nice guy.
—JESSICA MADDEN
(previous bookkeeper)

Madeline's Parental Leave

We will soon be able to rejoice with MADELINE and JEFF FAIRFAX as they await the birth of “Baby Fairfax.” Madeline is due February 16. Until the baby is born, she is working from home but is available by phone or email. After the baby is born, Madeline will be away for a 10-week parental leave. While Zion is Madeline's place of employment, it is also her faith community. With that in mind, during her leave, you are encouraged to offer congratulatory calls, texts, emails, and cards; however, please understand that she may not respond right away, and please respect her leave by not bringing work and ministry concerns to her. As soon as we have information to share, we will communicate with the congregation.

During Madeline's leave, we will be following a comprehensive plan that involves volunteers, staff, and pastors to make sure that the work of faith formation continues. One very special gift you could provide for Madeline is by taking photos any time you are participating in a Zion faith formation activity and sending them to faithformation@zionloveland.com. Whether you are using Zion materials at home or in worship, we would love for you to share photos of your using the Lent-in-a-Bag supplies, or participating in Kids in Christ, Nourish, confirmation, or any other activities.

On behalf of the congregation, the Zion staff gave them a humidifier, wrist rattles, and a toy piano (because new parents always love noisy toys!), but if you would like to bless Madeline and Jeff and Baby Fairfax, they have baby gift registries at Target and Amazon. In the meantime, as the Fairfax family uses this time to focus on their own lives that are rooted—grounded—and growing in numbers and in faith, we offer our prayers and blessing, and our gratitude for their presence in our community.

Madeline Writes

Thank you so much to the entire Zion community for your love and excitement as Jeff and I prepare to welcome Baby Fairfax to our family. Even if we haven't had the opportunity to see each other in person these past few months, I have felt your support and prayers in so many ways: in the Zoom chat, via text messages, calls, sweet notes, and gifts. I'm so grateful to be part of such a supportive faith family.

We will be thinking of you during our time at home in these next few weeks of parental leave—reading children's Bible stories, singing favorite hymns at bedtime, or introducing our little one to Easter worship via Zoom. I love the Lenten theme of rooted, grounded, and growing, as it reminds me that we are



**And Baby makes three.
Rooted, grounded, and growing in
numbers, Madeline and Jeff expect
Baby Fairfax on February 16.**

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Nourish Ministry Continues to Grow!

Join with other adults of all ages to engage in conversation, community building, and active prayer practice. Each month, participants share their personal experiences and perspectives in an interactive online format. Frequent participants include parents of young children, young couples, and parents of teens or young adults. Interest in this ministry continues to grow, and Zoom is a great way to try it out for the first time. Each gathering time ends with intentional prayer for whatever the Holy Spirit is placing on your heart at the moment. Participants are also encouraged to create a personal list of other people they would like to hold in prayer for the month ahead.

Saturday, February 13—8:30-9:30 p.m. on Zoom

Sign up to attend this Zoom event and receive a delivery of goodies to your front porch, homemade by another participant family! The sign-up and Zoom links are also available in the e-on Zion update, emailed weekly.

- Sign up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4EAFAB29A7F94-spring>
- Sign up deadline to receive treat delivery: Wednesday, February 10
- Zoom Link for gathering: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85387276646>
- Meeting ID: 853 8727 6646.

Future Nourish topics will include Saints and Fasting. You can use the sign-up link above to sign up for March and April participation as well.

Saturday, March 13—6:30-8:00 p.m. in person at Zion

(pending ReGathering Team approval, please see worship announcement for up-to-date information)

Saturday, April 10—6:30-8:00 p.m. in person at Zion

(pending ReGathering Team approval, please see worship announcement for up-to-date information)

Madeline Writes continued from page 10.

all children of God, and just like seeds planted in the ground, we take root in God's word at the very beginning of our lives. Surrounded by prayer, the mutual support of community, and opportunities to learn, we stay grounded in love and begin to grow as people of faith, taking our first baby steps along the way. It is an exciting journey and one that stretches over our entire lifetime. Baby Fairfax is already so blessed to be born into a faith community that is rooted, grounded, and growing in love, generosity, and service to others.

Once the baby is born, we'll be sure to send updates!

Thank you for your prayers, advice, and warm wishes over the past months.

We look forward to jumping back into community life at Zion in April!

Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

First Communion Milestone Opportunity for Spring 2021

First Communion instruction is always an option for anyone of any age at Zion. There is not a set age that we require or recommend for First Communion instruction. Some children are preschoolers when they first receive communion; others are in 6th grade, and every age in between or beyond is possible, too. At Zion, the decision of timing for First Communion is yours to make and every child is different!

We typically offer a Parent Discernment Class for parents and family members to sit down with the pastors, learn, and decide if this is a good year for their child to start First Communion. If you are interested in a discernment conversation, please contact PASTOR JOEL at pastorjoel@zionloveland.com

If you already know that you would like your child to participate in classes this year, or if after the discernment conversation, you decide that First Communion is a good fit for your child at this time, additional parent/child classes will be held in March.

First Communion is celebrated on Maundy Thursday right before Easter. Save the date for worship on the evening of Thursday, April 1.

If you would like to RSVP for the Discernment Class or you are ready to sign your child up for classes in March, please let Pastor Joel know as soon as possible at pastorjoel@zionloveland.com or by calling the church office at 970-667-1836.

Easter Vigil—a campfire gathering with good news for all

If you have never had the opportunity to experience an Easter Vigil, this is the year to check it out! When I first joined the staff at Zion, I had never been to an Easter Vigil before. As Pastor Joel explained the ancient worship concept, I struggled to see how Confirmation youth in somewhat silly costumes, a campfire, and Old Testament stories all related to the hours between Good Friday and Easter morning. However, over the years I've come to love this tradition. This worship service is an opportunity to lean into the void between the solemnity of Jesus' death on the cross and the surprise of the empty tomb. Easter Vigil is an opportunity to gather in the darkness, focused on the glow of the light of Christ. It's an opportunity to hear time-honored stories from our biblical ancestors told through the perspective of today's teens. Easter Vigil is an opportunity to herald in the good news of the resurrection, in the hours before Easter sunrise. No matter what format this worship service takes in the midst of the pandemic, please consider joining in the celebration of this holy time. Whether in person or via livestream and video recordings, the good news is both powerful and full of joy. And when the message is shared alongside our brothers and sisters at King of Glory and Trinity, we are reminded of the larger Christian community around the world with whom we get to share the incredible story of the three days between the cross and the empty tomb. Come! Gather around the light of Christ to hear the greatest story ever told.

Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

Thank You Girl Talk Leaders

We have four amazing high school leaders for our weekly Girl Talk program! Each of these leaders from Zion and King of Glory takes turns mentoring our group of middle school girls in weekly topics relevant to today's pre-teens and teens. Girl Talk meets weekly on Tuesday nights throughout the school year. Even via Zoom, this program continues to meet each week, and there is always a great balance of laughter and space for questions and advice. If you have a 6th-8th grade girl in your family who is interested in joining Girl Talk, please email office@zionloveland.com for the Zoom link. If you are a high school girl interested in being a Girl Talk leader in the future, please email faithformation@zionloveland.com.

We asked each of our Zion Girl Talk leaders three questions.

What do you love most about being a Girl Talk leader?

My favorite part of being a Girl Talk leader is being able to connect with some amazing girls, and to pass on some knowledge and experience that would have benefitted me when I was that age!—BEILYNN

There is so much to love about being a Girl Talk leader. I think my favorite thing though is the connections I make. As a middle schooler, I looked up to the high schoolers so much, and I am honored I get to be that high schooler for these middle schoolers now!—MADDIE

I love getting to build the confidence of younger girls and to make a safe space for them—REBECCA



Beilynn



Maddie



Rebecca

What advice would you give your middle school self?

I would tell myself not to worry about other people that want to bring you down; focus on what makes you great and the people that help you throughout your life. And make sure you do what you love and love what you do regardless of what others may think.—BEILYNN

If I were to give my middle school self some advice, I would say to not be shy to get into activities and clubs. As a high schooler now, some of my closest friends are the ones I met through theater and student council, and I cherish those relationships I have created through those clubs I joined.—MADDIE

To be kind to myself and let myself grow as a person—REBECCA

What are you most looking forward to in the future?

I look forward to seeing all of the middle school girls grow into incredible young women and see them make a difference in the world.—BEILYNN

I am most looking forward to graduating and heading to South Dakota for college!!—MADDIE
Starting my new journey as an adult!—REBECCA

Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

A Story to Tell: Lent-in-a-Bag Kits

This year, we have Lent-in-a-Bag kits available for pick-up on Sunday, February 14, prior to Ash Wednesday on February 17. The contents of the Lent-in-a-Bag kit will help you actively join in Ash Wednesday worship from home, as well as provide materials for faith formation throughout the Lenten season.

Each kit contains the following:

- Ashes for the imposition of ashes in Zoom worship on Ash Wednesday
- A “Story to Tell” devotional book with daily readings to follow our Lenten Sunday worship themes
- A bookmark with weekly worship themes and readings from the Gospel of Mark
- A reusable grocery bag and Lenten calendar with daily readings and instructions for an at-home food drive service project that will take place over the 40 days of Lent.

For families with preschool through 5th grade children, your Lent-in-a-Bag kit will include a supplement kit that contains family resources for Lent and Holy Week, as well as at-home Sunday School materials for use on Zoom Sunday School for the remainder of Spring 2021.

Family supplement kits contain the following:

- A Story to Tell mini campfire Faith 5 centerpiece-making supplies and instructions
- Bread-making recipe and activity
- Daily family activity cards for the 40 days of Lent
- Holy Week coloring book
- Sunday School activity, coloring, and family pages for each lesson from February 21 to May 16.

More information about the Lenten At-Home Food Drive

At Zion and King of Glory, we will be collecting food donations for House of Neighborly Service’s food pantry throughout Lent. You can use your purple reusable grocery bag to gather items for each of the 40 days of Lent. Use the calendar included in your Lent-in-a-Bag kit to see which item to collect each day. Once you’ve collected all of the food items you would like to donate, you can bring your grocery bag (or a box is great, too!) filled with food back to Zion on Palm Sunday, March 28. Food donations can be dropped off between 9:30-10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. High school youth and families will help collect the food from your car to donate to House of Neighborly Service. Thank you for your generosity as we join together to feed our neighbors this spring!

Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

Man Cave News

Man Cave is an opportunity for 5th through 8th grade boys to gather for hands-on fun and community building, outside of Confirmation classes. Man Cave is an L2F2 monthly event with boys from Zion, Trinity, and King of Glory Lutheran churches. Monthly reminder emails are sent to all middle school families with the monthly activity announcement. Past events have included Nerf Challenge Night and Among Us Tournament. Man Cave is currently led by Pastor Chris Davis from Trinity Lutheran Church, and is held in the fellowship hall at King of Glory on the first Tuesday night of each month, from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Upcoming Man Cave Dates:

Tuesday, March 2—7:00-8:00 p.m. at King of Glory
 Tuesday, April 6—7:00-8:00 p.m. at King of Glory
 Tuesday, May 4—7:00-8:00 p.m. at King of Glory

High School Spring 2021

Sunday, March 7—7:00-8:00 p.m. on Zoom
 (see email link in mid-February)

High School Summer Service Trip Informational Meeting for current 8th-12th graders and parents
 Idaho Servant Adventures (trip dates July 16-24)

Sunday, March 28

Service Opportunity—Lenten Food Drive Collection
 Sign up at this link to help collect food from donors' cars at the drive-through food drive event on Palm Sunday! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4EAFAB29A7F94-palm2>

Sunday, April 18

7:00-8:00 p.m.
 Game Night at King of Glory
 Board and card games inside or classic playground games outside, depending on the weather! Monopoly, tag, or kickball, join together for some of your childhood favorites.

Spring Sunday School Update

Sunday School classes for all preschool through 5th graders take place on Zoom between worship services from 9:45-10:15 a.m. on Sundays. Take home materials for each lesson are printed in the Sunday School folder that is included in Lent-in-a Bag kits available for pick-up on February 14 or by calling the church office.

Each class follows the Faith 5 format with a main lesson and then breakout room small groups for sharing highs and lows with our awesome small group leaders Robert and Sophia. Many thanks to our Sunday School teachers for volunteering their time this semester—JENNA COLEMAN, JESSICA KUHN, and LYNSEY WEIMER.

The Zoom link for Sunday School can be found on the website main page: zionloveland.com

Spring 2021 Zion Zoom Sunday School Schedule

February 14	Love One Another
February 21	Teaching and Healing
February 28	The Sower
March 7	The Disciples
March 14	No Sunday School
March 21	No Sunday School
March 28	Holy Week
April 4	No Sunday School
April 11	The Empty Tomb
April 18	The Ascension
April 25	Lydia
May 2	Matthias the Apostle
May 9	Paul and Silas
May 16	Paul's Letters
(Last Day of Class for Spring 2021)	

Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

Vacation Bible School 2021

From Generation to Generation

Monday through Friday—June 7-June 11

**Morning drop-off session: 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.
at King of Glory Lutheran Church**

Registration for the morning session will open on Monday, March 1.
Registration spots are limited and first-come, first-served, and all
registration will take place online. There will not be paper registration or day-of registration.

The registration link for participants is as follows: vbspro.events/p/kogzion2021

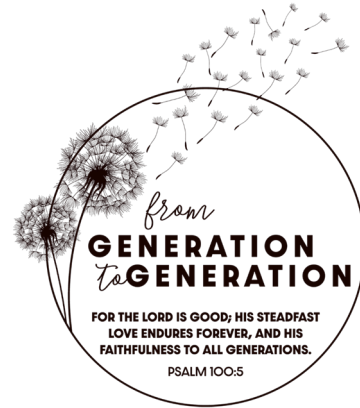
The cost for the morning program will be \$10 per child, or maximum \$20 per family. Payment
instructions will be sent after online registration takes place. Please do not send payment to Zion prior
to receiving payment instructions and registration confirmation.

This year, we will also offer a family-based and cross-generational Vacation Bible School (VBS)
session at Zion each evening from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. This portion of programming is not a drop-
off event for children. The evening portion will include short outdoor worship around the fireplace and
family-friendly activity stations. Participation in the evening session can be a stand-alone event or
morning session families are welcome to come back to share in the evening program together.

Sign up now to volunteer during Vacation Bible School!

Vacation Bible School is made possible by the amazing
volunteers that lead programming each year! If you are
interested in supporting VBS programming in any way,
please sign up now! We need volunteers to assist
leading crews of elementary children, leading group
sessions, set-up and clean-up, preschool leadership and
support, technology and publicity, and outdoor playtime
leadership. If you have questions about VBS
volunteering, please contact PASTOR DEB at
debabbottkog@gmail.com or register at the link below.

If you are interested in registering as a VBS Volunteer,
please visit this link to sign up:
vbspro.events/p/kogzion2021



Maskless, lacking social distancing, this photo reflects Vacation Bible School of another era—one to which we hope to return and again see the smiling faces as beaming from these kids.

Faith Formation

Madeline Fairfax

L2F2 Summer 2021

Save the dates for these upcoming programs. Want more information?

Email Pastor Deb at deb@aplacetogrow.org or Madeline at faithformation@zionloveland.com

Vacation Bible School

Monday June 7th-
Friday June 11th

Registration for children
age 3 through 5th grade
opens March 1

Volunteer positions available

Confirmation Intensive at Sky Ranch

Sunday June 20th-
Friday June 25th

Registration for youth who
have completed 6th grade
through 8th grade coming
soon!

2 HS youth leader opportunities

High School Summer Service Trip to Idaho

Friday July 16th-
Saturday July 24th

Registration for youth who
have completed 8th grade
through 2021 HS grads
coming soon!

All Ages Camp Week at Sky Ranch

Sunday August 1st-
Friday August 6th

Registration for youth who
have completed 1st grade
through 5th grade coming
soon!

CSU LuMin Spring Fundraiser



Love Campus Ministry?

Love Pie?

Love Both?

**Mark your calendars for the
LuMin Spring "Friend-Raiser"!
March 14th at 4 - 5pm**

**Pie Bakers – bring us your beautiful homemade pies.
All pies are welcome! Most will be auctioned
via silent bid throughout the evening.**

**Eight favorite pies (one from each LuMin Representative
Congregation) will be entered into the live auction.
It will be a friendly "3.14 Battle Royale March Madness Pie Fest"
to see which pie and congregation reign supreme!**

Celebrating 30 Years
LuMin
All are welcome!

Zoom link to participate: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/703843108>

Meeting ID: 703 843 108

Pie auction participants are welcome to remain on the Zoom link for LuMin worship with the campus ministry students.

Zion Mission Committee

Will Reents, Chairman

Some of you still remember Dr. Shahondra from Madagascar who visited Zion on Valentine's Day, 2005. She is now the medical director of SALFA which is the Malagasy Lutheran Health Agency which operates many Lutheran hospitals and clinics. It also aids in times of famine and cyclones both of which are common there.

I have reconnected with Dr. Shahondra who has told me there is a famine in southern Madagascar presently. There was also one when Kathy and I were there in 2001, and Kathy and I will never forget the faces of the Malagasy begging for food as all they had to eat were cacti due to drought.

Therefore the Zion Global Mission Committee has voted to send \$3,500 of its funds to SALFA.

We will follow Dr. Shahondra's suggestion that we do this through GHM, Global Health Ministries, out of the Twin Cities. Pastor Cox from GHM spoke at Zion in the past, and we paid for a well in Madagascar through GHM. Hopefully we can continue our relationship with SALFA and provide further assistance to the people of this poverty-stricken country.

Other members of the Global Mission Committee are KATHY REENTS, MEG SCHREIBER, EILEEN HUDDLE, VICKI JOHNSON, MARY JO HAACK, SCOTT SPRAIN, PASTOR SONJA, DIANA ABRAHAM and JACOB KUHN.

All of us can be contacted for any further questions.

Rooted, Grounded, Growing in the Midst of Grief

Losing loved ones is always difficult. During this time of the pandemic, the typical rituals and practices we have to celebrate the life of loved ones are unavailable to us. We cannot have funerals as we usually do. We are to stay physically distant from others, unable to give comfort through hugs or other physical touch. This has intensified the grief for many.

We want to support those who find themselves grieving in these unusual times. For many years our congregation has mailed out Grief Guides, put together by Stephen Ministries, through the first year after the death of a loved one. We have found in the last year that this ministry has grown and expanded so that we are now sending Grief Guides all over the country to family and friends of members of our congregation who are grieving. Truly this ministry is touching lives and making a deep, positive, lasting impact. Thank you to KATHY LOKEN for spearheading this ministry.

We also have begun to offer an 11-week grief support group on Zoom as we work through the book **Understanding Your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart** by Alan Wolfelt. This group consists of 15 people who gather weekly to support each other and mourn their loss as they integrate their grief into their lives. This difficult grief work truly allows those who have lost loved ones to grow the deep roots of love and connection that will continue to ground them as they begin to grow in new ways.

We give thanks for the new and unique ways that we can support each other in these times. If you are in need of someone to give you support, our Stephen Ministry program offers one-on-one Christian caregiving. Our Stephen Ministers are trained to listen and support you. If you would like to know more about having the support of a Stephen Minister, please reach out to PASTOR SONJA.



Last year, ROYCE SCHULTZ, a Zion member, was invited to serve as a founding board member of a new ministry of the Rocky Mountain Synod called Veteran Servant Corps Project (VSCP), and on May 1, 2020, the Synod Council approved Veteran Servant Corps with the mission *to partner with ELCA faith communities to recognize and support veterans.*

Currently, VSCP provides the following support:

- Partnership with agencies that help homeless veterans
- No-cost retreats at ELCA camps for veterans and their families
- Training for ELCA clergy and pastoral care support staff to understand veteran issues
- Ideas and materials for veteran awareness and celebrations in ELCA communities.

Veteran Servant Corps Project is such an innovative strategy that it will forever change the lives of veterans and their families. If you know a veteran who would benefit from the work of VSCP or if you want to know more, reach out to Royce Schultz, or go to the website at <https://www.rmselca.org/veteran-servant-corps-project>

Thank you, Royce, for your military service, and for this service through the church to serve other veterans in their needs!

Did you know?

- More than 780,000 veterans are in the Rocky Mountain Synod, the 5-state region of the ELCA of which Zion is a part.
- Only about half of these veterans ever access any type of Veterans Affairs (VA) service.
- Twenty veterans complete suicide daily in our country.
- Veterans 65 and older are at the most risk of completing suicide.

ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission cancels volunteer placement for 2021-'22

2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

CHICAGO—As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause uncertainty within the United States and across the globe, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has decided to cancel sending Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) volunteers for its 2021-22 program year. The pandemic earlier forced the ELCA to cancel volunteer placement for the 2020-21 program year. Cancellation two years in a row has never before happened in the 20-year history of the program.

Young Adults in Global Mission is an international mission opportunity for young people from the ages of 21 to 29 in which volunteers live and serve with ELCA companion churches and partner organizations around the world.

Rooted—Grounded—Growing

Remembering Dr. Don Stucky, an avid gardener and story teller

Janet Stucky

[NOTE: Dr. Stucky was father-in-law to NOELLE BAUMAN-STUCKY, Zion's assistant director of music.]

Don Stucky was an avid gardener with houseplants too many to count, attractive landscaping with all plants labeled, and beautiful roses, which he generously shared with many friends. Don was always propagating Angel Wing Begonias, each from rooting a leaf, and later sharing the full-grown plant. The house was remodeled a few years ago, and every workman left with an Angel Wing.

Don Emmett Stucky, M.D., 71, died October 17, 2020, of COVID-19 despite the excellent professional care of the medical team at the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Medical Center ICU South in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was born January 4, 1949, the son of Glenn and Dorothy Stucky (Bailey) in Sidney, Montana. Don and Janet Louise Maxwell were married April 1, 1973, in the Westminster Presbyterian Church Chapel in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dr. Stucky was preceded in death by his parents Glenn Stucky (Bozeman, Montana) and Dorothy Stucky (Lincoln, Nebraska). He leaves behind his wife, Janet Maxwell Stucky (Tahlequah, Oklahoma), two sons, Bennett Stucky and wife, Noelle Bauman-Stucky (Ft. Collins, Colorado), and William Stucky (San Diego, California), one brother, Craig Stucky and wife Mary (Kehr), and one sister, Virginia Stucky (all of Spokane, Washington). Extended family and numerous friends are left to cherish his memory.

While attending Lincoln Southeast High School in Lincoln, Don participated in the 10-member male singing group, the Noblemen. He lettered in



Dr. Don Stucky was full of wit, humor, and genuine love for his fellow man. For over forty-one years, he served the Cherokee people, providing excellent health care for Native Americans. He will be remembered for the twinkle in his eyes, the big grin on his face, and his tender and compassionate heart. This photo was taken August 19, 2017, while visiting Bennett and Noelle.

wrestling at weight class 138 and was in the top of his 1967 graduating class. Don earned a four-year National Merit Scholarship sponsored by World Book Encyclopedia that paved his way to Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. At Stanford, he was selected to sing with the Mendicants, Stanford's first all-male a cappella

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Remembering Don Stucky, an avid gardener and story teller continued from page 20.

group, which performed a variety of music on campus and in the San Francisco Bay area. Don's solo was "Rubber Duckie." He graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and then attended the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine where he received his Doctor of Medicine in 1975.

After Dr. Stucky completed his residency in Family Practice in 1978 at the University of Nebraska Medical College, he and his wife, Janet, moved to Tahlequah, Oklahoma, to begin his two-year commitment to the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) at W.W. Hastings Indian Hospital. This obligation was due to a USPHS scholarship which he received to attend two years of medical school. The Stuckys found Tahlequah to be the perfect niche and stayed to raise a family.

Captain Stucky served the Cherokee people as a Family Practitioner in the USPHS. After retirement as a commissioned officer, Dr. Stucky continued his practice as a Cherokee Nation employee, making a total of 41.5 years of commitment to his patients and colleagues. Dr. Stucky received awards in appreciation of his outstanding cooperation and dedication to excellent health care for Native Americans. He took a 10-week Cherokee Language course, and he could often be seen

practicing the Cherokee Syllabary during occasional breaks or leisure time.

Don was an active member of the Tahlequah United Methodist Church where he served on numerous committees and sang in the chancel choir for 34 years. His beautiful tenor voice blended well, and he was often asked to sing in trios and quartets.

Don was devoted to his family; nothing was more important to him. He was a complete enthusiast for every activity Bennett and Will pursued from Suzuki Stage Days (violin recitals) and Little League baseball games to high school soccer, choir, and the Northeastern Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra (NEOSO). He adored his wife and proudly supported Janet's work for the Arts Council of Tahlequah and Tahlequah Feed My Sheep. Don's 47 years of marriage to his soulmate were unparalleled. Together, Don and Janet were big endorsers of the Tahlequah community. They were members and devotees of the Tahlequah Community Playhouse where Don acted in "The Importance of Being Earnest" (March 1981), "Scapino" (November 1981), and "Belle Starr—the Bandit Queen" (April 1983). The

Stuckys supported the NEOSO, Northeastern State University (NSU) Allied Arts, and the NSU Music Department. They were also patrons of the Tulsa Opera and Tulsa Ballet, for which they held season tickets for 42 years.

Don volunteered for the Indian Nation Soccer League (aka Tahlequah Soccer Club) where he was on the board of directors serving as president and referee coordinator. He also coached both of his sons' teams. After Bennett and Will left the nest, Don returned to coaching Under-8 soccer and focused on the joy of playing a team sport. "What are the first three letters of fundamentals?" he would ask. "F-U-N. Fun!!!" came the reply from his enthusiastic young team.

Don was as passionate about the environment as he was about baseball. Recycling and composting were routine; he led by example and urged others to be equally concerned about their carbon footprints. As for baseball, Don owned nearly every ball cap from Major League Baseball teams. As a boy in Bozeman, Montana, Don played baseball as often as he

Continued on page 25.

Among Members and Friends

At Rest in Our Father's House

*Prayers for Alison Stone at the death of her husband, **Dan Stone**. Dan died on December 1, and his funeral was at Zion on January 3.*

*Prayers for the family and friends of **Mitzi Blore**, long-time member of Zion who died on December 12, and whose funeral was on December 21.*

Joyous Celebrations of the Gift of Baptism

*We rejoice with Melyssa Christensen and Max Ferdon at the baptism of their daughter, **Jade**, who was baptized November 29. This was Zion's first baptism during the pandemic and was unique as Pastor Sonja spoke God's words of promise in baptism as Emilee Christensen, Jade's godmother, poured the water as a sign of that promise.*



Jade's godmother, Emilee Christensen, poured the baptismal water as Pastor Sonja spoke God's words.

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

Prayer of Farewell and Godspeed

*Prayers for **Don Mai** who is moving to Morris, Illinois, to be with Resa, who moved last June to take a position as executive director at the public library. We rejoice that they can now be together and know that they will continue to join us in worship through Zoom.*

Prayers of Thanksgiving

*We rejoice with Janice Ehlers at the birth of her granddaughter, **Kensington (Kenzie) Jaymes Smith**.*

Among Members and Friends

*Dear Zion Lutheran Church Members,
On behalf of the staff and board members at
Thompson Valley Preschool, I would like to thank
you for your generous donation of six
Thanksgiving baskets for our families. The last
one was picked up by a dad, a single parent, who
was so appreciative knowing he could do
something for his children this year. We
appreciate your continued support of our program
and the families in the community.*

Best regards,

Gail Yant, Executive Director

Zion Lutheran,

*Thank you so much for the unmeasurably valuable
work you have done for our Family Promise
families! We have not thanked you enough and
want to let you know that your dedication is
essential to the work that we do. We cannot do it
without you. We would not want to do it without
you. You bring encouragement, prayers, and a
beautiful intensity to the families we serve.*

Family Promise of Larimer

County, House of Neighborly Service

Pastor Sonja and Pastor Joel,

*Blessings to all in the congregation. Thank you for
the ongoing donations. KidsPak sent home over
16,000 meals in October. We are now distributing
350 holiday dinners to Thompson families and
community groups.*

Stay safe,

Tom Carrigan

Dear Zion Church and Pastor Joel,

*Thank you for all you do in the community and for
your partnering with HNS in 2020! We pray the
Lord richly blesses your congregation in 2021!*

Sincerely,

HNS Staff

*Thank you to everyone for the wonderful cards
and all the prayers following my heart attack. I
am doing better each day, and I thank you for
your continued prayers. God is with us.*

Meg Schreiber

*Thank you to everyone for all the prayers, cards,
and phone calls. Also, for all the delicious meals
that were prepared and delivered following my
hip replacement surgery. The meals were a
blessing and very helpful and greatly
appreciated. Many thanks for everything.*

Sincerely,

Shirley and Susan Carlisle

*A thank you to all the people who participated
in the Longest Night service. It was one of the
most meaningful services I have ever
experienced. Thanks you! —p.s. I will miss
Keenan so very much! I'm glad we at least had
his talents for a year.*

Judie Wass

*As we approach Thanksgiving this year and we
reflect on the past year, our hearts are full. A
year ago we were facing a cancer diagnosis for
Dave and were uncertain about what the next
year held for us. We want to thank you and the
members of Zion Lutheran for all of your
support and prayers that held us in your
thoughts and God's love. Even in the light of
this pandemic the words cancer-free over shine
all and remind us that God is good and always
with us. May the next year bring peace and
healing to all. Thank you again Pastors and our
Zion family.*

God's peace,

Dave and Gail Herrmann

Among Members and Friends

*Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Thank you for the words of encouragement and prayers, along with the cards I received before my surgery and during my recovery. A special thank you to Rhonda McCaughey for the beautiful handmade cards. I will treasure them for years to come. I feel very blessed to have you all in my life.*

Mary Harris

Thank you for the more than 20 cards I have received. And special thanks for the sermons that get mailed to me each week, as I have no computer.

Polly Hansen

Lutheran Campus Ministry is not only a group of young adults, but a larger community that we are happy to be a part of with your congregation. Thank you for all the love, support, and prayers. Through the challenges of COVID, you have supported us tremendously, and we thank you.

With love and peace,

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Katie Nieuwlandt,

Congregational Ambassador

Dear Pastors Joel and Sonja and all of Zion Lutheran's Staff Members,

Thank you for making this year so meaningful for all of us in so many different ways! God bless all of you and your families.

With my love and thanks,

Phyllis Zimmerman

and (Ron "in Spirit")

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

—EPHESIANS 3:16-17

Pastor Joel and Pastor Sonja and the rest of the staff and volunteers,

We want to express our thanks for all you have done to keep Zion active during this pandemic. There are so many ways you have done God's work especially the opportunity to partake in taking communion monthly. God's blessings for all of you.

Sincerely,

Ken and Ruth Vick

Thank You Letters to Zion

- August 31, 2020—From KidsPak for donations totaling \$958.68.
- November 2, 2020—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$100 to the Run4Camp 5K.
- November 23, 2020—From House of Neighborly Service for a donation of \$747.46.
- November 25, 2020—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$550.
- November 30, 2020—From Community Kitchen for donations totaling \$1,080.
- December 22, 2020—From House of Neighborly Service for a donation of \$896.79.
- December 28, 2020—From Community Kitchen for a donation of \$250.
- December 29, 2020—From ELCA World Hunger for a gift of \$2,995.
- December 31, 2020—From KidsPak for donations totaling \$843.33.

Remembering Don Stucky, an avid gardener and story teller continued from page 21.

could. As an adult, he attended several home ballgames including the Dodgers, Rangers, Royals, Cardinals, and Yankees. He enjoyed following the stats and watching games on TV, especially the World Series. Of course, Don also liked football and basketball; he followed the OKC Thunder but never had the opportunity to go to a game.

Don learned to play the clarinet in junior high school. In Tahlequah, he took lessons from the late Joe Davis. Later, he thoroughly enjoyed playing in the NSU Communiversity Band where he was appointed first chair. Don was also a voracious reader; he preferred holding books and magazines in his hands as opposed to electronic readers.

The Stuckys loved to travel; a stop at each National Park was on their bucket list. They enjoyed road trips to visit their sons, extended family and friends, and recently they were able to get to Italy nearly every year to be with friends who live on a hill outside Domodossola.

Don had regularly scheduled monthly pedicures. He enjoyed flashing his brightly colored toenails

to anyone who would care to look. Don was a dedicated participant in the Help in Crisis, Inc., Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event, putting his ankle on the line for nine of the ten years. The one year he missed followed two back surgeries when it was not possible for him to walk. Likewise, Don (and Janet) supported the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life; he was a 12-year survivor of renal cell carcinoma.

Dr. Stucky was engaging; he loved conversation and he never met a stranger. He was brilliant, funny, droll, and insightful. Don enjoyed telling jokes and puns, many of which were classic "groaners;" Janet would beg him not to tell the "Troover" story again. He would correct grammar, spelling, and sentence structure—even on Facebook, where he was "Mr. Social" and delighted in keeping up with his many contacts.

Don was full of wit, humor, and genuine love for his fellow man. He will be remembered for the twinkle in his eyes, the big grin on his face, his tender and compassionate heart, and his recent closing statement, "Wash your hands, wear your mask, keep your distance, and stay in touch."

We give thanks for the gifts of Noelle and her entire extended family

On December 27, the Sunday after Christmas, NOELLE BAUMAN-STUCKY, Zion's children's music ministry director and assistant music director, led our worship of lessons and carols, but she was not alone. In gratitude for the prayers and support during her father-in-law's illness from COVID-19 and his subsequent death, Noelle was joined by her husband Bennett, his mother Janet, and his brother Will. The service was absolutely beautiful, and if you have not had a chance to see and hear it, you can find a recording on Zion's webpage or our YouTube channel. Janet, Bennett and Noelle, and Will were not alone as they sang. God's Spirit was with them, and Don's presence was with them. One could feel their **rootedness** in faith, their **groundedness** as a family, and their **growth** together as they have navigated difficult times.

In gratitude for their musical contributions to Zion's worship, Zion contributed \$500 to the Don E. Stucky Memorial Scholarship at Oklahoma State University. If you would like to contribute to this scholarship to benefit a medical student at the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation, call the church office for instructions.

Meet the Candidates

We inquired of our candidates as follows:

1. *Tell us about your family.*
2. *How long have you been a member of Zion?*
3. *Tell us an interesting fact about yourself that others may not know.*
4. *What are you excited about in Zion's ministry?*
5. *What are you hoping to bring to your elected position?*

And this is what they answered.

ERIN BACHMAN (Vice-President)

I live in Loveland with my daughter, Annaliese, who is 10 and in fifth grade. We have two cats, Violet and Delilah. We've been attending Zion for almost 12 years. An interesting fact about me (although most people know this) is I am a huge fan of the Colorado Rockies and love a good baseball conversation. I'm really excited about Zion's continued mission for cross-generational ministry, as well as our role in the greater Loveland community. I am really looking forward to serving in church leadership, and especially as part of the personnel committee, and hope that I can use my experiences in a way that will be of benefit and service to Zion.

AMY BRAUNER (Secretary)

I have been a member of Zion since 2010. I've been married to Joel for 13 years, and we have two sons, Eli and Nolan. Along with crochet, I enjoy attending musicals with my mom, and I have a joy for all things Jane Austen, Star Wars, and Lord of the Rings. I'm excited to serve Zion as council secretary. The pandemic has helped us to connect with people in creative and new methods without being in person. I look forward to helping to continue our keeping Zion connected and serving our community as best we can.

JOEL BRAUNER (Leadership Development)

My wife Amy and I have been at Zion for 10 years. We have two sons, Eli and Nolan. Eli is in fourth grade and Nolan is in first grade. Something

people may not know about me is that I enjoyed collecting baseball cards and have a collection of about 10,000 cards. I'm most excited about the new possibilities that will open up for our church. Our world has been in a period of huge change. It will continue to change as vaccines are distributed, and we emerge from the pandemic. Change always brings new opportunities, and I'm excited that I can help envision how Zion can serve the world and spread the love of Jesus.

AMY BLACK (Leadership Development)

I live in Fort Collins with my wonderful husband of 21+ years, Todd, and our son Ryan, who is a sophomore at Fossil Ridge High School. Our daughter Ellie started her first year of college at University of Portland in January 2021. I have been a member of Zion for almost my whole life. My parents, John and Debbie Boose, joined Zion when I was 2 years old. Todd and I became members when we moved back to Colorado from California in 2000. An interesting fact about me is that I met Governor Polis and President Obama at the White House in 2016 when the Broncos were honored for winning Super Bowl 50. Since I've been a member of Zion for so many years, it's exciting for me to see the growth and changes in our congregation. I love seeing new, young families joining us. I hope that I can bring an open mind and good ideas to the Leadership Development committee to help Zion continue on a forward path.

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Meet the Candidates continued from page 26.

STEVE COURTS (Member at Large)

I've been married to Stephanie for 38 years. We have no children and two cats. Steph and I have moved six times since we've been married, most recently to Johnstown, Colorado, three years ago. My parents have both passed away. I have a brother (who passed away in 2018), a step-sister, and two half sisters; we are a very happy blend and love each other very much. Steph and I joined Zion in the spring of 2018. An interesting fact about me is, my picture appeared in TIME Magazine in 2006 (I have it if nobody believes me). I'm excited about our outreach ministry and bringing our church outside our church walls. We are a congregation that wants to make a difference in not just ourselves but our community. I really like that! While I have a history of serving on boards and committees, including a stint on a different church council, I think my best assets are a youthful enthusiasm to serve and a sense of humor. Laughter and having fun go hand in hand with hard work. I enjoy being around other people and feed off of their positive energy...and I hope I'll create positive energy that others can feed off of as well.

ALEXIS SMITH (Treasurer)

My family and I have been members of Zion for about 20 years. I've lived in Loveland since 1997. Previously I served on Zion's finance committee and just finished a term on the council as member at large. I also previously enjoyed helping with the movie room along with my mother, Dawn Arzuolaitis, during Sunday School rotations. I feel that my previous work experience with the county and department budgets will be an asset in the treasurer position.

BEILYNN GEISS (Youth Representative)

I have a very close, loving family! My mom, Judy, is a math teacher at Ferguson High School, and my dad, Roy, is a research scientist at CSU. I am blessed to be able to spend a lot time with my

grandparents also! They support me in everything that I do, and I am lucky to have them. I have been a member of Zion my whole life, and it feels like home. One interesting fact about me is that I have a black belt in Tae Kwon Do! I am excited about the expansion of L2F2 (Loveland Lutheran Faith Formation)! I love the idea of bringing both churches and multiple generations together in fellowship! I hope to bring a unique perspective to my elected position as a young person in the church today. It is important for youth to be active and involved in the direction of the church.

**PAM AND GEORGE STEVENS
(Synod Assembly Voting Members)**

Our family includes me, my wife Pam, and two adult sons, Charlie and Kwanza. Kwanza lives in Denver and Charlie lives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, with his wife Megan and our granddaughter, Maddie. Pam and I have moved about the country given my life as a professor and business school dean. We lived in Kent, Ohio, until 2013 where I taught at Kent State. Upon our retirement that year, we moved to Loveland, searched for a church home but kept coming back to Zion. Happily, we have been at Zion from 2013 on. I have been involved with Scouting—BSA a long time as an Eagle Scout, Distinguished Eagle Scout, and member of Longs Peak Council Board of Directors. Pam worked as a programmer/analyst writing code for COBOL back in the day when computers were big and located in very cold rooms. I am pleased to be a part of this church given its commitment to serving others, the willingness to work together to accomplish good things for others, our strong congregation, and the leadership we receive from our pastors and staff. Pam serves on the worship planning team, plays handbells, and helps with the children's choir. It is our hope to look, listen, learn, and share. This is a first-time experience in this setting for me and Pam is excited too.

Continued on page 28.

Meet the Candidates continued from page 27.

The following people were nominated and elected during the annual meeting on January 31.

ANGIE ELDER (LONG RANGE PLANNING)

My family consists of my husband Gene, our daughters Maddie (17) and Layne (16), our dog Sadie, and me. We have been members of Zion since 2002. An interesting fact about me is I am a seminary student pursuing my Master of Divinity with an emphasis in chaplaincy. I am passionate about Zion's ministry within our community. I hope to bring this passion for outreach and mission to the Long Range Planning Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

JODY (AUDIT COMMITTEE)

Jody is a new member at Zion. You can read about her in the article introducing Jody and other members new to Zion's faith family on page 29 of this newsletter.

PAUL TUNGESVICK (LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT)

I was born in Iowa, into a farming family. I graduated with a BS in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University. I was a Quality and Reliability engineer for Delco Remy in Anderson, Indiana. After working 32 years at General Motors in Indiana, Sandi and I decided to move to Loveland, Colorado, for our retirement years. We have been married for 60 years. We left our youngest son, Kevin, in our Indiana home. Our oldest son, Jeff, lives and works in Denver. Our daughter, Joni, lives in Parker with her husband Ed. Our two grandsons have graduated from CU, Boulder. Our oldest grandson, Matt, lives and works in Denver. Brian lives and works in Colorado Springs. An interesting fact about me is I had never skied until I watched my grandkids learning. Then I skied for 8 years before retiring my skis. Sandi and I were active in St. Johns Lutheran Church in Anderson. I served in several positions on the church council. We also taught Sunday School to middle school students. We have really enjoyed seeing all the improvements made to the facilities, music program, and to community outreach at Zion. During this time of the shutdown of our facilities, we appreciate the staff's use of upgraded technology to keep us worshipping together. We have enjoyed our 25 years of fellowship with our Zion friends, the office staff, and our pastors. I look forward to assisting the Leadership Development Committee.

Run4Camp

Raising money for Sky Ranch

2020 was a difficult year for many, but it was nearly tragic for Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp. Sky Ranch is a place where people go to be rooted, grounded, and to grow in faith in the beauty of creation, high in the Rocky Mountains. Unfortunately, the pandemic prevented campers from participating in camp programs in the summer, and even after the summer season, the campground was only open for four days before wildfires forced closure even to individuals and family groups wanting to camp on their own. This all resulted in a huge loss in revenue to the camp.



Pastor Joel and Pastor Sonja along their Run4Camp 5k last November.

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Run4Camp continued from page 28.

Those who love Sky Ranch would not be deterred. A special appeal to individuals and churches raised \$220,133.83 for the camp, and a second event called Run4Camp raised another \$45,271.25. In addition to these two appeals, an anonymous donor matched both efforts to give an additional \$265,405.08! Incredible generosity for a remarkable place.

On November 1, PASTOR JOEL and PASTOR SONJA joined 115 others virtually for the Run4Camp 5k. The pastors raised \$2,800 of the total of just over \$45,000 for Sky Ranch, and together ran 6.2 miles of the 363.5 total miles run by Sky Ranch supporters!

Camp Cleanup Work Weekends

We hope and pray that Sky Ranch will be open to campers this spring, summer, and fall.

To help with cleanup after the fires, assuming it will be safe to be there with others, two work weekends are being planned for April 30-May 2 and May 7-9. Put those weekends on your calendar, and consider joining us to help Sky Ranch with your hands and feet.

Come see and support this place and the people that make it such a Spirit-filled, God-centered place to grow in faith.

Introducing Zion's newest members

KATHY HUME

Kathy enjoys coming to Zion's indoor worship. She enjoys being outdoors in Colorado and has felt welcomed at Zion.

BRUCE, JANINE, TEAGAN, and SHEYDA JOHNSON

Bruce is Vice President and Site Director of Cambrex, a pharmaceutical research organization in Longmont. Janine's background is in communications. Teagan is a sophomore at Carleton College in Minnesota, and Sheyda is a second grader at Carrie Martin Elementary. Bruce loves to fish, Janine loves planning family activities, Teagan likes hiking, and Sheyda loves new adventures. Bruce is from Iowa, and Janine is from Minnesota.

JOHN, JENNY, MATT, and WILL PICKETT

The Pickett family appreciates how welcoming Zion has been and Zion's community focus. Jenny had a friend who grew up at Zion and spoke very highly of the church community. Zion has been wonderful for the kids' Confirmation classes.

JODY

I recently moved to Loveland to be closer to lots of family that already live in the area. I am a PK (preacher's kid) and have been a lifelong Lutheran, with a faith that has me still wrestling to understand it all! I find joy in providing accounting services to churches and nonprofits and have been busier than ever in this pandemic year. In my free time I LOVE playing with my great nieces and nephews, and like to read, hike, bike, play piano, make cards, paint, and do artistic things! And oh yeah, cats make my heart grow! Pastor Joel invited me to Zion Lutheran a few years ago in a conversation, before I even moved here. And it is Zion's theology of love and grace, alive and growing spirituality, and caring hearts that drew me in. I have so much to look forward to learning and getting to know about Zion. So far I have really appreciated my conversations with both pastors, and Lindsey's welcoming assistance with connection and logistics. And I have enjoyed the people I have met, from Catherine's outreach to me in my very first visit at Zion, to the people I have met Christmas caroling, and in the women's book group. I look forward to serving with the Audit Committee in the coming year and hope to find some ways to serve that will engage me creatively. I look forward to getting to know you better!

Zion Evening Book Group—An Update

Scott Sprain

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 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. via Zoom.

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. via Zoom.

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

Continued on page 31.

Zion Evening Book Group—An Update continued from page 30.

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. via Zoom.

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. via Zoom.

**"When I have a little money, I buy books; and if I have any left, I buy food and clothes."
—Erasmus**

CUB SCOUT PACK 298

Ice fishing adventures!
The last Saturday in
January had the scouts
out ice fishing at Lon
Hagler Reservoir. We had a Wildlife Conservation Officer come share information with us and he brought with him a mountain lion and bear fur.



The Cub Scouts had a big turnout for their ice fishing adventures in January.

We are always welcoming new scouts! Kindergarten -5th Grade. We are meeting in person every other week with a few virtual meetings in-between. For more information, see beascout.org or contact Jeff Schaefer at 909-645-1652 or Jeff.schaefer@mac.com

Technical Support—Apps and Info

Lindsey Walter

If you have any questions regarding these procedures, contact Zion Office Manager Lindsey Walter at office@zionloveland.com or 970-667-1836.

Instant Church Directory Member App

Visit your play store app on your phone for a free download of the Instant Church Directory Member App for your phone.



Members must download the Instant Church Directory Member App first. Once downloaded, enter the email address that is listed for you in your church's directory. This will generate an email that is sent to you with your password.

Enter this password on Step 2 of the app. This will start the first download of the directory.

To download the app to your Apple device:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/instant-church-directory/id589542221?ls=1&mt=8>

To download the app to your Android device:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instantchurchdirectory.members>

To download the app to your Kindle Fire:

http://www.amazon.com/Communication-Resources-IncInstantDirectory/dp/B00D76604E/ref=sr_1_1s=mobileapps&ie=UTF8&qid=1371671565

King Soopers Rewards Program

Last spring, King Soopers changed their rewards program. Forty-four Zion households are enrolled in the new program, and we are receiving about the same amount of money. This money funds ELCA World Hunger and KidsPak in Loveland.

Register your card or telephone number online, one time.

1. Visit the King Soopers website www.kingsoopers.com or just Google King Soopers. Each person in your family with a card must register each card.
2. On the Home Page, find the "Savings & Rewards" drop menu.
3. Click on "King Soopers Community Rewards."
4. Click on the blue "Enroll Now."
5. Click on the "create an account"
(If you already have a digital account with King Soopers, skip to step 7.)
6. You will need an email address, password, your name, and your Soopers Card number (on the back) or your telephone number (Alt. ID).
7. Then, select your organization: Zion Lutheran or use code RJ303.

(BEWARE: There are several "Zion Lutherans." Find Zion in Loveland.)

More Tech Support Apps and Info

Online Giving

To enroll you can:

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

Automatic and Online Giving is intended to be a convenient tool, and we strongly support Automatic and Online Giving for contributions to the church. Online Giving is the electronic way to participate in tithing. If you have any questions, contact the church office.

1. Go to your play or app store.
2. Search for Online Giving (Our Sunday Visitor Inc.).
3. Install the app. After the app has downloaded, open it.
4. Click Register.
5. Enter your organization ID (4726).
6. Select search and click on Zion Lutheran Church.

Complete all the required fields. (This is your account, so you will need to select a username and password that you can remember.)

Email office@zionloveland.com or call the church office at 970-667-1836 if you have any questions.

Ask for Lindsey.



Online Giving

Contributions from King Soopers and Thrivent support Zion's ministries

Zion receives contributions from King Soopers and Thrivent that support mission opportunities beyond our operating budget. Every year, the council designates the direction of these funds, and we encourage everyone to help make a difference through activities in which you already participate.

We currently have 44 families who have linked their King Soopers loyalty card to Zion, which means Zion receives a portion every time they shop for groceries or gas. If you are a King Soopers customer and have not linked your card to an organization, considering doing so by going online to <https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards> or visiting customer service at your grocery store. Once you link your card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at King Soopers and swipe your Soopers Card. In the last quarter of 2020 alone, we received almost \$650! We usually have designated these funds for hunger programs, so for 2021, all King Soopers dollars received by Zion will be sent equally to ELCA World Hunger and KidsPak.

If you have Thrivent Financial products, you may be eligible to direct Thrivent Choice dollars to many different organizations. Each year, Zion receives anywhere between \$2,000-4,500. This year, Thrivent Choice dollars will be used to enhance our worship technology, as we have experienced this as both a great need and a blessing to keeping us connected in worship and many other ways. You can designate your Thrivent Choice dollars by going online to <http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice> or by contacting your Thrivent financial representative.

Thank you for considering these two options to support ministries of benevolence and worship beyond our regular budget, to keep us as a community of faith rooted—grounded—growing.

Car Repair Program

Read the stories of the people who have benefited from your generosity.

With a generous matching gift from the Rotary Foundation, last year Zion was able to start a new car program through House of Neighborly Service (HNS) for those in need, for whom vehicle problems are a stumbling block to living well.

A husband and wife with six children were living in a minivan with a trash bag taped over a broken window.

At the annual meeting in January, the congregation voted to forward a portion of the surplus from the 2020 budget to continue to fund the program, and it is just in time, as these funds were starting to be depleted.

We rejoice in the following stories of families who benefited from your generosity!

A single mother of two children was recently laid off as a result of COVID-19. She was living paycheck to paycheck before the pandemic, but hanging on. After her job loss, a vehicle repair left her stuck and unable to move forward. HNS was able to help her repair her van. She stated,

“For my kids, I normally drop them at school and pick them up. I am also having to find rides to the stores as I cannot afford to get Ubers or Lyft. I pay a lot of bills as a single parent and just haven’t had the extra cash to afford to fix the van.”

A husband and wife with six children were living in a minivan with a trash bag taped over a broken window. The husband, a very good dad and a very hard worker, lost his job several months ago. They are in the Family Promise program for homeless families where they are no longer (temporarily) homeless while they work on finding work again. He said, “Without a vehicle I really can’t commute to my job so I’ve recently fallen behind on bills.” This program has allowed him to get back to his work and pay his bills again.

A single mom of three children moved to Colorado this past year after she experienced a divorce and needed to find new hope somewhere else. She had borrowed a car to get her here, and the car she bought

immediately required unforeseen repairs in order to run. With a perpetual smile and effervescent personality in spite of hardship, she connected with Family Navigators through the HNS Berthoud location. Trying ever so hard and stretching in so many different ways, this mom was so very grateful for the assistance on her car repairs. With the husband not upholding his court-ordered child support responsibilities, our helping with the necessary car repairs lifted a huge weight that continues to give this mom hope and determination to continue to press through her many challenges.

A single mom of two is a nurse, and back in college to advance her career. She is working hard to right her family and home from a tragic divorce. In an effort of creating a pleasant Christmas for her children, they took a road trip back home to be with family and friends over the holidays, but her car broke down. “I ended up having to fly my kids and me to Colorado,” she said, adding

Continued on page 35.

Car Repair Program continued from page 34.

that “This repair will deplete my emergency funds.” The vehicle had just gotten beyond its warranty and the transmission went completely out, and she was left without being able to get her kids to daycare and get herself to work. Being a person of strength and honor, she was able to gather more than half of the cost of the repair from friends and other resources, and HNS was able to cover the remaining costs to get her car repaired. In the meantime, HNS found a blessing in the service manager at the dealership, who bent a number of rules to help this mom after hearing her story, acknowledging he was blessed to be a blessing.

Literally, one day a single mom with one son were a happy family with the son doing well in school and excelling in all things. The next day tragedy struck and their world had fallen apart. The mom began to work two jobs, started in the Family Promise program, and began to look for their own home again. As a result of losing her vehicle, she was paying half of her monthly income on transportation to get around with Uber, Lyft, coworkers, and public transportation. Because her first job was a midnight shift, sometimes, depending on her transportation, she had to show up two hours ahead of her shift just to make sure she got to work on time. Through Realities for Children, HNS was able to acquire a car for this family, but it needed a little attention and repair before she could take it. The day she was presented her “new” car, she laughed and cried with joy. This contribution to this mom and son is so huge! She can now catch up on bills and begin saving, along with looking for a career instead of two full-time jobs. There is so much relief of stress off the mom now!

What an amazing experience to be able to hear these stories and know that together, we are making such a huge difference in peoples’ lives.

**“Jamming in June”
an Exciting Exploration
Summer Camp
at
Thompson Valley Preschool
June 7—24**

**Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Bring a sack lunch.**

Come join us for a fun-filled week of exploration. We offer three weeks with a different theme each week.

You can sign up for all three weeks or pick and choose what works with your summer plans.

\$90.00 per week

Sign up for one week or multiple weeks.

For children ages 3½ to 6 years

Your child must be 3½ and potty trained by June 1.

Please contact Thompson Valley Preschool for further information.

**Thompson Valley Preschool
803 East 16th Street
Loveland, CO 80538
970-667-6552**

admin@thompsonvalleypreschool.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Zion Lutheran Church
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Phone: 970-667-1836
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Web: www.zionloveland.com
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 2/21

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Change of Service Requested

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

February 16, 23	Girl Talk
February 13	Nourish
February 14	Pick Up Ashes to Go and Lent-in-a-Bag Kits
February 17	Ash Wednesday; RMS Lenten Opening Conversation
February 18	Evening Book Group
February 28	Deadline to Purchase Easter Flowers
March 1	Children Sign Up for Six-Week Virtual Choir
March 2	Man Cave
March 2,9,16,23,30	Girl Talk
March 7	Informational Meeting for High School Summer Service Trip
March 13	Nourish
March 14	LuMin Spring Fundraiser
March 18	Evening Book Group
March 28	Palm/Passion Sunday; Deliver Lenten Food Drive Items
April 1	Maundy Thursday; First Communion
April 2	Good Friday
April 3	Easter Vigil
April 4	Easter
April 5, 12, 19, 26	Girl Talk
April 6	Man Cave
April 10	Nourish
April 15	Evening Book Group
April 18	High School Game Night
April 29-May 1	Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly
April 30-May 2	Sky Ranch Cleanup