



May-June-July 2021

<u>Staff</u> Pastors Pastor Joel Pancoast Pastor Sonia Pancoast Faith Formation Coordinator Open Director of Worship and Music David Dunbar Assistant Director of Music Noelle Bauman-Stucky Bell and Chimes Director Thomas Chen Accompanist/Collaborative Artist Ryan Marvel Office Manager Lindsev Walter Worship Technology Coordinator Stig Oresjo Bookkeeper Terri Sloan Childcare KB Benstock Rae Bowker Brooke Loftus Custodian Ronda Buck

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Return, Rebuild, Renew Pastor Sonja Pancoast

It has been over a year since our lives were turned upside down overnight with the coronavirus pandemic. In many ways the last year has been a time of exile for many of us. We have been separated from our loved ones, our routines, our patterns, our regular lives. We were snatched away from the old life, thrown into a new one, and now are going back but know that we cannot go back to the way it was.

As we begin to return to gathering with others and rebuilding our lives, we also look to scripture as the foundation that can lead and guide us. Two books, Ezra and Nehemiah, are interesting historical accounts of the Israelites coming back from exile and suddenly speak to us in new ways as we return from a time of separation and exile. For their return and ours, we are returning but not back to the way that it was before. We question what the foundations are that we want to keep and on which to build a new future.

We will begin the summer looking at how we *Return, Rebuild,* and *Renew* and build our future on the foundational lessons learned in Ezra and Nehemiah. We will reflect on how we keep a sense of continuity with the past but seek to reform and renew in ways that are different from before. What is our identity that we want to retain? To what is God calling us in the future?

Additionally, the long range planning team is working with Evan Moilan, of GSB Consulting, as we are "Living into a Culture of Mission and Action." We give thanks for the over 160 people in our congregation who shared their thoughts and insights in the congregational survey taken at the end of March and early April. In the coming months, we will learn more about the survey results and the amazing insights shared by each of you as to where you see God calling us in the future.

Finally, as many are aware as we return, our staffing has changed.

Continued on page 2.

Return, Rebuild, Renew continued from page 1.

We welcome a new director of worship and music, DAVID DUNBAR, and also a new accompanist and collaborative artist, RYAN MARVEL.

MADELINE FAIRFAX is leaving ministry at Zion to live into her new calling as mother of her new baby, Calvin. We are beginning the process of seeing what the future holds for our faith formation ministry.

We do not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future. We give thanks to God for guiding us each day and pray for God's continued guidance as we return, rebuild, and renew.

Summer Worship at Zion

Return, Rebuild, Renew: Lessons from Ezra and Nehemiah

June 6	Return	Ezra 1:1–5	
June 13	Rebuild the temple	Ezra 1:5; 3:1-2, 8-13; 6:13-16, 22	
June 20	Rebuild the community	Ezra 7:9–15, 25	
June 27	Rebuild the walls	Nehemiah 2:17-18; 3:1-32	
July 4	Renew the Covenant	Nehemiah 12:27-43July	
July 11	Re-Member: A Service of Healing and Re-Gathering		

Psalms: Songs to Live By—Starting July 18

Music and poetry speak to our soul in ways that often are too deep for words. The book of Psalms is the song book of the people of God. While we do not have the melodies anymore, we have the poetic words that have touched generations of God's people.

Together we will hear the psalms that have impacted the people of Zion through their lives and give us all songs to live by. Members of Zion are invited to share their favorite psalm(s), and we will use as many of these as possible as the basis for worship each week.

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Zion's Music Ministry—New Beginnings

David Dunbar



David Dunbar, Doctor of Musical Arts, is Zion's new Director of Worship and Music.

Greetings Zion Lutheran Church – Loveland! Despite the recent snowfalls, you can feel that spring is in the air, and with it, the promise of new life and new beginnings. My name is David Dunbar, and starting on May 1, I will be your new director of music ministries. (Hurray!) I am excited to start on this new journey with you, making music in instrument and song and doing so in the glory of God and in the celebration of God's risen Son, Jesus Christ.

Even though electrons are cheap (a reference to digital technology), and I could ramble on forever, I thought I would tell you briefly about myself and background. I am a very proud German American, born in Heidelberg, Germany, to a German mother and an American G.I. father (a common story, I know). I grew up in Sierra Vista, Arizona, which is right next to Fort Huachuca army base where my father was stationed. (By the way, the army base is pronounced wah-CHU-kah, which to a little kid always sounded like a sneeze when you said it, so we started calling it Fort Gesundheit.) My formal music education has taken me to four universities (I won't bore you listing them) but my last being the University of Arizona in Tucson where I received my Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree in conducting.

In addition to being a conductor, I am an avid composer of both instrumental and choral music. Last year I received commissions to compose two choral works for my previous church, First United Methodist Church in Loveland, and just this past week received an additional commission from them for one more work. Yesterday (April 19) was the World (digital) Premiere of one of these pieces, titled "The Fount of Tears." If you would like to see/ hear it, I encourage you to visit my website at

www.DunbarArts.com where you can find a link to the video as well as see/hear some of my other artistic endeavors.



I suppose that's enough for right now. If there is one final thing I would say about myself is that I have a very healthy sense of humor (which you may have already picked up on reading this article). I find that in a field of work such as music, where people can tend to be overly serious, a good sense of humor really goes a long way. I'm looking forward to laughing and making music with you soon! God bless!

Welcome Ryan Marvel Accompanist/Collaborative Artist

Ryan Marvel will begin ministry at Zion on May 1 as accompanist/collaborative artist. In this role, he will primarily play the piano for the choir at rehearsals and in worship, but he will also occasionally support the praise band on piano or keyboard. You may recognize Ryan from worship over the last few months. Our first introduction was when he played Holden Evening Prayer beautifully in midweek Lenten worship. Since then, he has played frequently in worship. We are grateful for the music he shares as he joins us in ministry.

Ryan Marvel is a pianist, composer, and arranger from Fort Collins, Colorado. He maintains a full private piano studio in his home, is the pianist for the Colorado Women of Song, and works as an independent composer and arranger. He served as Director of Music and Choirs at Foothills Unitarian Church 2006-2017. Prior to moving to the Front Range, he worked as the collaborative pianist and arranger in Chandler, Arizona, at Valley Unitarian Universalist Church from 1999-2005.

Ryan has recorded and released six solo piano albums. He recently published and recorded a set of cello and piano miniatures for Off the Hook Arts' Winterfest in Fort Collins. He has scored for three documentary projects, most recently The Outlaw Ocean Music Project, a collaborative pairing of journalism and music with New York Times investigative reporter Ian Urbina. He holds the goal to one day compose



Ryan Marvel, pianist, composer, and arranger, joins Zion's music ministry as accompanist / collaborative artist.

for feature films. He frequently concertizes in homes and churches, locally and nationally, and is in demand as a guest pianist and conductor.

Ryan believes in the transcendent power of music, and is known for bringing great emotion and personal touch to each performance, connecting with his audiences through vulnerability and storytelling.

In his spare time, he loves to be outdoors at the ocean or in the mountains biking, skiing, and camping. Passions include family, wolves, nature, red wine, really good coffee, and sleeping until 11:00. Ryan's light and inspiration is daughter Elena Rose, now 15, affectionately called "Lanie."

Children's Music Ministry

Noelle Bauman-Stucky

As children and families end a school year that has been like no other, I would like to invite them all for a sing-a-long community gathering to celebrate the successes by singing camp songs and playing yard games.

There will be activities for grades 1-8, but people of any age are free to join in the festivities. Parents can bring lawn chairs and enjoy observing the buzzing energy, or drop the kids off and find something else to do.

Please watch for a sign-up in Sunday announcements and email as we want to be sure to have enough materials for all who plan to participate.

WHAT: Yard Party and Sing-A-Long

WHEN: May 16, 2021, from 12:00-1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Zion Lutheran Church

Faith Formation Coordinator Search

We were saddened to hear of Madeline's resignation as Zion's Faith Formation Coordinator, but we also support her decision to be home more for her newborn son Calvin. Madeline has been with us for almost four years, and she has made an impact on many, from youngest to oldest. She is incredibly gifted for teaching, coordinating ministry, and sharing faith with children, youth, and adults of all ages. She has remarkable creativity and an ability to talk about God in ways that have meaning for the lives of each of us, no matter what our age is or where we are in our relationship with God. She has become a part of our community, our staff, and our families, and she will be greatly missed.

Because of our partnership with King of Glory, PASTOR DEB, PASTOR JOEL, and PASTOR SONJA will pick up many of the pieces to continue the work of faith formation in this interim time. We have exciting middle school and high school activities planned, camp at Sky Ranch for elementary and middle school youth, Vacation Bible School, and many other opportunities. JOEL BRAUNER will continue Nourish, which is an exciting ministry for all ages. If you have an idea for any ministry, please let us know.

While this work continues, we are living in a time to "Return, Rebuild, Renew."

We are currently forming a search team, and along with the Personnel Committee, they will look at our current and future needs for this ministry. If you have any feedback for this process or for the ministry position, please let Pastor Joel know. Most importantly, pray for the search team and for the candidates who might apply to share in ministry with us.

Message of Farewell from Madeline Fairfax

As I try to write a farewell message to you all, I keep coming back to the same two words: thank you.

To the children, youth, families, and adults who have participated in faith formation events and activities—Thank you for being willing participants, inviting friends, and showing up! Your presence in worship and activities is the heartbeat of our community.

To the youth and adult volunteers who help to make events possible—Thank you for the hours served and the multitude of ways you share your gifts with others. Behind the scenes and in the spotlight, you share the light of Christ in each of your volunteer commitments.

To everyone who has made a donation to youth programming, attended a fundraiser, donated supplies for a program, or sponsored a scholarship—Thank you for your generosity; it extends throughout and beyond the Zion community. These gifts enable kids to go to camp, and also enable our neighbors to be fed. With the building expansion, you've created space for even more exciting ministry to happen as you regather.

To the faith formation team—Thank you for the ways that you represent the Zion community and shape the vision for ministry; it was a pleasure to work alongside you.

To ministry leaders, small group leaders, and event hosts—Thank you for leading programs and events with contagious enthusiasm and extending hospitality to all who participate. Thank you for your fresh ideas to keep this community growing and learning.

To our L2F2 partners—Thank you for allowing me to join you on this collaborative adventure; I'm excited to see where it goes next!

To Zion Staff, Council, and Committees—It's been a joy to work with each of you, and I'm grateful for your leadership and guidance.

To the entire Zion community—Thank you for your generosity and kindness as you welcomed Cal into your midst and blessed and sent me along to this crazy journey of motherhood. I will think of you all this summer as Cal and I are hiking with the help of the baby carrier backpack you gifted us with! Zion has such a rich history of multi-generational involvement and strong relationships. I will cherish the connections made, laughter shared, and faith deepened in our time together. No matter what faith formation staffing at Zion looks like in the past, present, or future, I know that you will stay true to your mission of building and nurturing a welcoming faith community for all generations.



On Sunday, April 25, we said "farewell" to Madeline in worship and shared a blessing of sending on her last Sunday with us. Pastor Sonja presented her with gifts on behalf of Zion: a backpack baby carrier to take Calvin wherever they go (especially around Sky Ranch), a spa gift card for some pampering, and a picture book that includes pictorial memories from the last 3 1/2 years with us.

Zion Technology

Stig Oresjo

Many things have happened with technology, sound, and video since COVID-19. It started with our stream catcher losing support and not working an hour before Sunday worship, and then the next two weeks our camera stopped working. Luckily, we could patch worship together with an iPad, and we had a backup camera that we could use, so no interruption in our Zoom broadcast.

The congregation's stewardship support and 2021 budget approval has helped with upgrades for technology and other new opportunities. We purchased a powerful new computer with video broadcast software (vMix). This allows us to have

the projection screen video going directly to the Zoom broadcast, instead of using the camera to capture the screen image in the sanctuary. Lindsey and I spent 14 hours on training over seven weeks, Zoom meetings, to learn the new software. This software has many capabilities, some that you have seen, "picture in sound issue for you using Zoom at home. In the sanctuary, the sound was just fine. For a couple of weeks, we were not even aware of the problem. We are thankful to those of you who pointed it out for us. We then could monitor it on a visual display and after some technical support, also adjust it in realtime on vMix. It was not easy, but we tried our best possible. Little over a week ago, we realized that it was a setting in Zoom, that automatically adjusted the sound volume, that impacted vMix. Basically, a negative feedback loop between Zoom and our new software vMix, that was not that obvious to see.



Tech team Stig and Lindsey share a lofty office on Sunday mornings at Zion.

picture" overall better picture quality, and others that we have not used yet. In February we bought a new camera, that has better picture quality and is easier to control in the vMix software. It is also easier to move around; we intend to use it outdoors, so we can continue to "Zoom" from outside during our summer worship. When we gather in person again, we can capture the choir!!

We think, hope, and pray that we have solved the

I would also like to acknowledge that it is LINDSEY WALTER and I who run the technology on Sundays after the pandemic restrictions allowed only staff at church. Lindsey is a fantastic help! She runs the sound mixer board, the cameras, and the new software. From my point of view (an old guy), it is great to have a young talented brain, young eyes, and young ears to help with this. So please give extra thanks to Lindsey, for her contribution to a nice worship experience.

Celebrating Teachers and Staff at Monroe

Teacher Appreciation Week May 3-7

This year we have not been able to volunteer and support the staff in the usual ways that we have in the past. The teachers and staff have had to step up in creative and new ways. We want to give thanks to the teachers and staff at Monroe Elementary and Monroe Early Childhood for all their hard work and dedication over this last year. They truly are some of the unsung heroes of this time. We will gather on Thursday, May 6, to put together



thank you gifts for the teachers at Monroe. If you would like to help with this effort, please contact PASTOR SONJA. We give thanks to Thrivent Financial for supporting a portion of this project.



Zion will be giving each of the teachers a "teacher strong" vinyl sticker for a water bottle, computer, or window.

The sticker was created by Pastor Joel's cousin, Denee Hanna Watson.

NOURISH—Feed the Body, Feed the Mind, Feed the Soul

Second Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.—May 8, June 12, July 10

Nourish meets on the second Saturday of each month, providing opportunity for conversation, community building, and prayer. If you have a topic around faith that you would be interested in talking about with others, no matter how big, small, or challenging, let JOEL BRAUNER know. We have had conversations around topics such as human suffering, saints, and fasting. We have prayed with each other and for each other. And, we have spent important time in fellowship just catching up—sharing our joys, our sorrows, and our lives.

All are invited to Nourish. Some have asked if this is an activity specific for younger families, or for people with children, and the answer is "No!" Activities are provided for children and youth, but all are invited! Whoever you are, consider coming to receive and provide nourishment for your life.

Nourish is a ministry that was planned before the pandemic and since its start during the pandemic it has indeed nourished many people in unexpected ways in fellowship with God and others. However,

the one piece missing from the tagline is "feeding the body." Our hope is that once everyone is comfortable with the possible risks of removing masks to eat, we will be able to add that final component of nourishment.



In April, Zion's Nourish participants gathered under the pergola for conversation, prayer, and fellowship.

Regathering Update

Both the state and county health departments have issued new public health orders placing fewer restrictions on gathering with increased capacity. While many in the Zion community have either received the COVID-19 vaccine, some are not as concerned, and still others are very concerned. Overall, the Regathering Team's main concern before increasing the capacity of worship has been toward the staff who are required to lead worship. Since their job requires them to be in worship, they don't have the freedom to choose to be at worship in person or not.

As of mid-May, we will have reached the first step toward RETURN. By that time, all of Zion's staff who are necessary to lead worship will have their full vaccinations and the recommended two-week period after to be considered fully vaccinated.

On Sundays, May 16, 23, and 30, our worship capacity will increase to 50 participants. We are still asking worshipers to sign up through the website or by calling the church office. However, if you decide to come to worship and haven't signed up, please come. We want to REBUILD the community, and if you are comfortable being in the sanctuary, your presence is important. During worship, the sanctuary remains well ventilated, with the windows and doors opened.

If you are not comfortable joining worship in the sanctuary, starting June 6 throughout the summer we will have two services (8:30 and 10:30 a.m.) in the outdoor worship area. No sign-

up is required; just come to worship to RENEW your connection to God and community.

If you are not comfortable or unable to come for in-person worship, Zion will continue to livestream worship every Sunday by Zoom. Our commitment is to worship God together in community, whether in person or across the distances by Zoom.





Under the pergola with the glowing fireplace, gurgling fountain, and growing garden, Zion provides a peaceful place for outdoor worship as shown in these photos taken on Easter Sunday at sunrise.

Labor Day Weekend at Sky Ranch! September 3-6

It's hard to already be thinking about Labor Day weekend, but Sky Ranch has gotten approval from the county and state to open their campground, and this popular weekend for the Zion community and friends is going to fill up fast!

This is a huge weekend with adults and children of all ages gathering for relaxation, worship, campfires and singing, yard games, crafts, hiking, high ropes (on the new course), and much, much more! It is a wonderful weekend to find your own appropriate combination of community and alone-with-God time, all in a beautiful mountain setting at 9,200 feet of elevation. Though the Cameron Peak fire burned completely around Sky Ranch, the main property of the camp was spared, so this year provides a unique opportunity to be in an oasis while exploring a recent wildfire burn.

Sky Ranch is not only for "die hard" campers. You can reserve a spot now to fit your own needs and expectations and stay in a lodge room, a cabin, or a campground spot (with electric for campers or without electric for tents). Also, if you can't come the entire weekend, come as you are able, for one, two, or three nights, or even for the day if you don't mind the drive up and down the mountain roads on the same day.

Campfire smores: can it get any better than that?

Registration is first come, first serve, so make your reservation now!

You can pick up a registration form at Zion, get it by email from Lindsey (<u>office@zionloveland.com</u>) or Pastor Joel (<u>pastorjoel@zionloveland.com</u>), or download it from the Faith Formation page of our website.

This year, your reservation will be complete when Sky Ranch has received your completed form along with full payment.



Angle and Courtney compete at yard games.

Middle School Summer Gatherings

Girl Talk and Man Cave are gatherings for middle school girls and boys from King of Glory, Trinity, and Zion. In the first few months of 2021, participation in both programs has been amazing. Boys and girls from all three congregations, as well as their friends, have found supportive conversations and fun in community together. Read what one parent wrote:

I would like to thank everyone involved in Girl Talk. We moved to Loveland last summer and my daughter, Kam, has been the new kid during COVID. Girl Talk has been such a supportive group that she has looked forward to each week, and I truly appreciate everyone's commitment to keeping this program thriving throughout the craziness of the virus. Always know what a difference you make in creating positive community experiences.—KRISTIN OTTESON

If you have a middle school youth who hasn't been able to participate, we hope you will encourage them to give it a try! Though the final Girl Talk gathering for the school year is Tuesday, May 11, we will combine the girls and boys programs throughout the summer for a monthly gathering on the second Sunday of each month: June 13, July 11, and August 8 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

In April, Man Cave met for "leveled up" Easter games, including an egg roll all the way around the inside of Trinity's building and a race balancing boiled eggs around the outside of the building, raw egg tosses, and an Easter egg hunt with water balloons instead of eggs! Look for these kinds of activities, as well as group-building conversations and devotions, during the summer!



Egg Toss

Water Balloon Hunt







_

an egg not caught



Tower of Egg and TP Roll

EDITOR'S NOTE: While lacking an in-focus degree of clarity, these photos clearly portray our youth in action at the Easter games.

Zion to Host Another Intern Pastor

In March, we received news that there is a candidate for ordained ministry in our area who has been looking for an internship site. Since Zion had hosted Courtney Steitz as an intern pastor in 2018-2019, the synod candidacy committee and Luther Seminary contacted Pastor Joel about the possibility. Thanks to the generosity and vision of many in the congregation to continue the intern program as soon and as regularly as possible, the Zion council was able to approve an internship to start as early as August 2021!

Pastor Joel has met with Zion's upcoming intern pastor, ANDREA KRAGERUD. Andrea is a member at Bethlehem Lutheran in Longmont, where her active ministry leadership led her down a path of discernment toward pastoral ministry. She has worked at the University of Colorado Boulder for more than a decade as the Assistant Director of Conference Services, and before that served in several other academic settings in Iowa. Living in Longmont with her husband and daughter, Andrea will be able to commute easily to Loveland while maintaining her family's school and work schedules.

As August approaches and more details are worked out for the pastoral internship, you will hear more about Andrea as she introduces herself to the Zion community. The council and pastors are excited about this surprise opportunity, to be able to help in the formation of another candidate for ministry in the church, but also for us all to be inspired and nurtured by Andrea's own incredible faith and gifts for ministry. If you are interested in serving on the intern committee that will meet with Andrea on a regular basis from August 2021-August 2022, please let Pastor Joel know as soon as possible.

L2F2 End-of-the-Year "We Survived" Party

High school youth, join us for games, music, and fellowship to celebrate finishing school this week!

Bring friends.

DATE: May 22, Saturday TIME: 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. PLACE: Zion Lutheran Church

Call the church office to let us know if you can join us, or sign up at:

https://www.signupgenius.com/ go/10C0D49ABAD2EA3F9C43-l2f21

Sunday School Celebration

Join us as we celebrate a year of unique Sunday School. Children in preschool through 5th grade, their parents, Sunday School teachers, and small group leaders will come together for fun and fellowship.

Each Sunday since September, children have gathered on Zoom from 9:45-10:15 a.m. for a Sunday School lesson. Lessons were led by JENNA COLEMAN, MADELINE FAIRFAX, JESSICA KUHNS, and LYNSEY WYMER. Small group leaders for the year were SOPHIA PANCOAST and ROBERT SAMELSON. We rejoice that we can be in person and give thanks for the hard work of these teachers and small group leaders over the last year.

WHEN: Sunday, May 23—9:45-10:15 a.m. WHERE: In person at Zion

Blessing of the Grads

We will celebrate this milestone in person during worship as we surround our high school and college graduates with support and prayer.

WHEN: Sunday, May 23—8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (during both worship services) WHERE: In person at Zion

Zion's Graduates

Zach Blundell

Loveland High School

Zach plans to attend the University of Wyoming and study engineering.









Maddie Elder

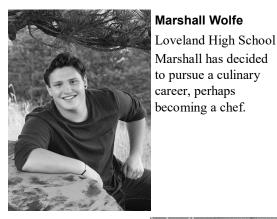
Loveland High School Maddie will be attending Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to double major in elementary education and special education.

Josh Samuels

Loveland High School Josh will be attending California Lutheran University to study business administration with an emphasis on finance.

Rebecca Smith

Loveland High School Rebecca will be attending Dakota State University in Madison, South Dakota, to study cyber security.



Danae Burseth

Colorado School of Mines, December 2020 Bachelors Degree Major in chemical engineering; minor in biomedical engineering. Currently employed by RMC Pharmaceutical Solutions in Longmont, Colorado, as a project specialist.

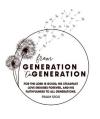




Emilee Christensen

Colorado Mesa University Degree in cellular, molecular, and developmental biology with minors in chemistry, criminal justice, and forensic science. Emilee plans to attend graduate school for forensic science in August 2022.

Generation to Generation Vacation Bible School June 7-11



As we anticipate summer, we are in full swing getting ready for Vacation Bible School the week of June 7-11. The theme is *Generation to Generation*.

> Preschool through 5th Grade Youth 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. King of Glory

Children ages 3 through completed 5th grade will gather at King of Glory for Bible story telling, crafts, music, service, and more. To ensure that we are able to keep groups smaller for safety protocols, we have only a limited number of spots for this VBS option. If you are interested, sign up ASAP to reserve your spot.

The cost is \$10 per child or \$20 per family.

To register, go to <u>https://vbspro.events/p/events/</u> kogzion2021

Wednesday Night Live

June 9, 23, July 7, 21, August 7, 18 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Front Lawn at Zion

Join us every other Wednesday evening throughout the summer as we gather around faith, fellowship, and fun. We will begin with songs around the campfire and then move into our activity for the night. We will alternate each time between an activity to build faith in our lives and an activity to serve others in our community.

All ages are invited.

For questions, contact Pastor Sonja at pastorsonja@zionloveland.com

"Jamming in June"

an Exciting Exploration Summer Camp at Thompson Valley Preschool (located next door to Zion)

June 7-25

Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Bring a sack lunch.

We offer 3 weeks with a different theme each week. You can sign up for all 3 weeks or pick and choose what works with your summer plans.

June 7-11—It's a Zoo Out There June 14-18—Digging for Dinosaurs June 21-25—Fun on the Farm

> \$100.00 per week For children ages 31/2 to 6 years

Your child must be $3\frac{1}{2}$ and potty trained by June 1. For more information, contact us at <u>admin@thompsonvalleypreschool.org</u> or call970-667-6552.

Thompson Valley Preschool is now enrolling for the 2021-2022 school year.

We provide an opportunity for all children to attend an affordable, quality preschool program so they enter kindergarten ready to learn. Our classes are as follows:

Preschool (3-4 years old) Tuesday and Thursday 8:45-11:15 a.m. **or** 12:45-3:15 p.m.

Prekindergarten (4-5 years old) Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:45-11:15 a.m. **or** 12:45-3:15 p.m.

Sierra's Race 2021 Virtual 5K Walk / Run for Meningitis Awareness June 12-20

To join Laura's Team, register through Zion's website. Celebration of Laura's Team will be in worship on Sunday, June 20.



We are excited for the opportunity to participate in Sierra's Race virtually between June 12-20 AND to offer every person a \$15 discount off the cost of race registration for adults, children, and youth who register through Zion under Laura's Team. This reduced registration is enabled by the generous support from the Laura Loken Memorial fund.

To receive this discount, you must register through Zion's website and follow the link to register for Sierra's Race. Registration and payment must be made by May 16. Registration checks are to be made out to Sierra's Race and mailed to Zion Lutheran Church, 815 E. 16th St. Loveland, CO 80538.

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

Kids Fun Run FREE (normally \$10)

Teens and adults \$15 (normally \$30)

Tech shirt for teens and adults \$22 (normally \$37).

Send us a photo of you wearing your shirt and completing your fun run or 5K run/walk and wear your shirt to worship on Sunday, June 20, to celebrate Laura's Team.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sonja at pastorsonja@zionloveland.com.

We give thanks to the Laura Loken Memorial fund for this generous gift to support meningitis awareness in our community.

LuMin Pie Fest Results

March 14 is often considered National Pie Day. It's a "punny" play on Pi being 3.14, and March being 3/14. What better way to

celebrate National Pie Day than with a Pie Fest? This year, LuMin (Lutheran Campus Ministry) at CSU held an online Pie Fest, auctioning off pies contributed by students and members from congregations across Northern Colorado.

Unfortunately, the Pie Fest and Auction had to be postponed one week because of the massive spring snowstorm, but one week later it was still fun for all who participated and a huge success for campus ministry, raising over \$1,800! Thanks to ELAINE NICHOLS and SOPHIA PANCOAST for contributing pies. Elaine's peanut butter cream pie went on a silent auction for \$100. Sophia's oreo strawberry cream pie went on the live auction, winning its round for \$50 against a pie from Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Fort Collins. In the end, everyone won thanks to the support and generosity of LuMin.



Among Members and Friends

Prayers For Those Who Grieve

Chris and Eunice Holthusen at the death of their brother-in-law Joe.

Beilynn Geiss at the death of her 16-year-old tennis friend Henry, who died in a head-on car accident.

Doris Fabrizius and Al Hinrichsen at the death of their sister Gloria.

John Pickett at the death of his dad Jack.

Pastor Deb Abbott at the death of her father Gary Koch.

Prayers of Celebration

For the birth of *Eleanor Francis Irene Ayala -Lucero*, who was born to Esther Lucero on March 7.

For the marriage of Joshua Schairer and Juliette Angoulvant on March 20.

Prayers of Healing

Zion offers up prayers for those in need—for members, for friends, for community, four country and for the world. Dear Committee of Shawl Ministry,

Your prayers and shawl were so appreciated by my granddaughter who is fighting leukemia. She said it's like a hug when she puts it around her shoulders. Thank you so much for your kindness.

> Diane Hansen (Ellory's Grandma)

To Zion: the amazing people who helped my family through Christmas and New Years! Wow! The kindness that was given to my family. I am the day custodian at Monroe, and I really can't express the gratefulness my family has for you all. Thank you for all the presents and gift cards. My family put all those to great use, and we all say thank you!

> With love and deepest sincerity, Tina, Madison, Hailey, and Shane The Magrums

Pastor Joel, Pastor Sonja, All the Church Family, I would like to thank all of you for your assistance that has been given to me and my family since the death of my father, Vernon Tyson Meeks. It has been a comfort to know that so many of your prayers have really touched our hearts.

> Blessings to All, Linda and Bill Hitchcock

Dear Zion Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you everyone for the sympathy cards I received when my son Randy passed. Also thank you for your thoughts and prayers. God Bless. Mary Drain

ANN WATSON recently moved to The Courtyard of Loveland. Her new address is 605 N. California Avenue, Loveland, CO 80537.

DORTHYANN MARCH moved to Illinois to be with her brother and niece. Her new address is 907 E. N. Street, Pontiac, IL 61764.

Among Members and Friends

The family of Don Stucky thanks you for supporting the Dr. Don E. Stucky Memorial Scholarship Fund. Your contribution will assist a full-time medical student at the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine at Cherokee Nation. We appreciate your generous gift.

We find great joy anticipating young medical students following in Don's footsteps. Thanks for being part of it!

Janet Stucky

Pastor Sonja and Pastor Joel, Thank you so much for your donations to KidsPak. Our full year 2020 numbers for 48 weeks:

> 165,069 meals 27,509 food bags 132,612 pounds of food.

We are so grateful for your parishioners for making a difference.

KidsPak Tom and Corinne



Thank you to Zion's Stephen Ministry for remembering those we've lost this past year with cards of condolence on the occasions of Christmas and Easter.

Thank You Letters to Zion

- February 19, 2021—From Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences for a generous gift in memory of Dr. Don E. Stucky.
- February 25, 2021—From House of Neighborly Service for a donation of \$241.67.
- March 10, 2021—From House of Neighborly Service for a donation of \$1,100.

Zion's Prayer Shawl Ministry is a Blessing to Many

Submitted with joy, love, and thanksgiving by Kathy Pancoast

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. —Isaiah 55:11

A group of ladies at Zion, all of whom I cannot even name, have heard God's Word to pray and then put that prayer into action with a prayer shawl. Their prayers do not return empty but go out with a reminder of God's Word of love for every time and occasion, joyful or sorrowful.

I have had the honor and delight to deliver these prayers and shawls to many people. I feel like Santa's helper or the littlest angel to see the joy on the faces of those who receive these gifts. I have wept with recipients at their loss and pain. I have celebrated anniversaries and new babies. I want these ladies to know what a blessing they have been as their prayers and shawls REBUILD and RENEW faith, hope, and love in so many lives. I don't have their talents, but I can share their prayers and shawls.

I think this note that I received says it best. It is from a grandmother who helps to care for her granddaughter during leukemia treatments.

Thank you for placing my granddaughter's name with the shawl ministry. Yesterday when I gave her the shawl and paper that went with it, she wrapped herself in the shawl to read the note. She said, "It's like a hug."

Sky Ranch is a magical place . . .

Sky Ranch is a magical place where God's Spirit moves in the mountains, the wind, the waters, and especially the mountains. It is a place where such incredible relationships happen, so we encourage children and youth of all ages to register for a week of summer camp. If you have been once, you will want to RETURN. If your faith is wavering, Sky Ranch provides a time to REBUILD. If you love God, Sky Ranch gives an experience to RENEW your relationship.



Sky Ranch is a magical place to encounter Christ in the mountaintops, where God's Spirit moves in the wind and the waters and especially in the mountains.

We have many children and youth registered for summer camp already, but if you know a child who would benefit from camp, share this experience with them! This year, Zion is participating in the following summer programs:

- Confirmation Intensive (6th-8th grades) June 20-25—We live into a Bible story, role playing as characters in the story and experiencing God's love firsthand.
- Homesteaders (3rd-5th grades) August 1-6—Ready for a full week of camp? Homesteaders participate in a sleepout, go on day hikes, and try out the archery range! Campers learn, grow, and have fun through worship, Bible study, and community building.
- Round Up! (1st-3rd grades) August 1-3—Come to camp for a two-day introduction to Sky Ranch! Make new friends, do arts and crafts, worship, and more. Round Up! campers spend time in community and explore all Sky Ranch has to offer. This program is perfect for young campers who haven't been to camp before or who aren't ready for a full week.
- Youth Go! (High School) June 13-25—Gather and grow in this two-week leadership program. Volunteer at Harvest Farm, go backpacking, and learn about what it means to be a leader in your church and community.

If you haven't registered yet, contact the Zion office or one of the pastors. Zion provides \$50 for the registration for all children and youth who register with our group, and we also have generous donors who have provided scholarship funds if the price of camp is more than you are able to afford.

Zion's own joins Sky Ranch staff

My name is MADDIE ELDER, and I am a senior at Loveland High School. I have been a member of Zion since my birth and am blessed to know and love many people at Zion like family. I was recently selected to be on the staff at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp this coming summer. It would be an extreme understatement to say I have DREAMED of this since I first experienced camp as a small child.

I have many memories of our family camping trips to Sky Ranch, attending camp as an elementary school student, confirmation student, and most recently as a high schooler.

Without Sky Ranch, I wouldn't be the person I am today. I am extremely thankful for how my faith has grown, the wonderful relationships I have created, and the many special memories I will forever cherish. Because of the incredible impact they had on me, I have kept in contact with some of the counselors and staff from my years as a

camper, and I hope I can make an impact on the campers I will encounter this summer.

I will be serving as a Resource Staff member where I will be helping keep camp safe and clean, helping prep meals, leading worship and Bible studies, and obviously hanging out with the best kiddos in the whole wide world.

I appreciate all your love and support and I hope to see some familiar faces at camp this summer!



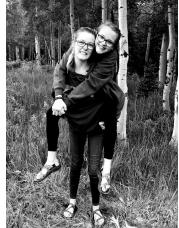
2009—Maddie and her sister Layne pose at the Sky Ranch welcome sign.



2009—The little Zion friends go running through the camp.



2015—The Elder family attended the Advent Festival Retreat.



2018—Like the song (sort of): "She ain't heavy; she's my sister."

Rebuilding at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp: An Update from Brad Abbott, Executive Director

Dear friend of Sky Ranch,

Thank you for your incredible support last year! With the COVID-19 pandemic during the spring/summer and the Cameron Peak Fire throughout the fall, we experienced many new challenges in *"facilitating an encounter with Christ on the mountaintop"* at Sky Ranch last year! Through these adversities, I was humbled by the outpouring of assistance for the ministry of Sky Ranch. Alumni staff, campers, congregations, donors, and other ministry partners have all stepped forward to support this ministry.

While our main buildings survived the fire, we did lose several outlying structures and worship areas. This spring we will have a great deal to repair, rebuild, and restore. Because of your incredible support, we began working last fall with insurance, loggers, high ropes, and restoration companies to ensure that camp will be ready for the 2021 summer season.

Financially, over 60% of our income comes from fees collected from our programs. Last year we lost \$400,000 in revenue from cancelled summer programs and fall retreats. But <u>you</u> stepped up to ensure the financial stability of this ministry with your extraordinary financial support. We raised over \$265,000 from the *November Special Appeal* and the *Run4Camp 5K*. That amount was matched (all \$265,000) by an anonymous donor. In addition, we received two designated gifts toward construction of new structures at camp.

Where are your gifts going?

We endeavor to be good stewards of the resources with which God has blessed this ministry, and your gifts will help us restore and rebuild camp property and facilities. I want to let you know where your contributions will be used and what our timeline is for restorations.

Winter/Spring:

- **Repair water system.** The evacuation last August did not allow us time to drain the water throughout camp. When we were allowed back to the property in late October, there had been several snows and hard freezes, resulting in broken water lines and pipes. As soon as we can access camp this spring, we will start up the water system and repair pipes/valves as needed. *Estimated cost* \$3,000 - \$5,000.
- Logging of hazard trees and reforesting site. Fire directly affected about 2/3 of the camp property. Starting with common areas, we are contracting with loggers this winter to remove hazard trees and treat the burned areas. Logs will be sorted and used for fencing, firewood, chipping, or milled with our sawmill into benches and dimensional lumber for use at camp. We will seed, then mulch burn areas with chip (from logging) to reduce soil erosion and sediment load in Beaver Creek. Seedlings have also been ordered for planting in late spring/early summer. *Estimated cost \$40,000 - \$50,000*.

Continued on page 21.

Rebuilding at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp continued from page 20.

- **Rebuild the high ropes course.** Destroyed by the fire, replacing our existing course would cost over \$85,000. We are working with ABEE Inc. of Wisconsin to build a new high ropes course in late April with two levels, expanded elements and dismounts, and all new equipment for various program demands. *Estimated cost \$140,000.*
- Smoke mitigation and ash removal from buildings. We are working with a restoration company to treat buildings for smoke damage and cleanup of ash particulates starting in mid-April. *Estimated cost \$140,000; insurance should help some.*
- Construction of new maintenance building. Over the past two years, Sky Ranch has received <u>designated funds</u> for the construction of a new maintenance building. This 50x64x16 pole barn with a concrete slab was supposed to be built last fall, but the fire altered plans. The building will provide sufficient space to store all our tools, equipment, and even a few vehicles, all in one place. It will be located on the eastern edge of the property, next to our sawmill. *Estimated cost* \$180,000 from designated gifts already received.

Summer

During the summer months, summer campers and various volunteer groups will help restore, repair, and replace several areas/facilities at camp.

Replace Beaver Flats platform tent cabins and worship area. Rebuild the wooden platforms for the Beaver Flats tent cabins and the accompanying benches for the worship and cooking areas. Planting trees and reseeding the area and securing the banks at Beaver Creek. *Estimated* cost \$8,000 - \$10,000.

- **Reconstruct Sondance worship area.** Rebuild benches, altar, cross, and path to Sondance. Establish erosion mitigation methods on hillside adjacent to worship area to reduce runoff and hold soil. *Estimated cost* \$4,000 - \$6,000.
- **Restore nature and prayer trails.** Remove the hazard trees from along camp trails for safety. Rebuild path and foot bridges. *Estimated cost* \$1,000 - \$2,000.
- Low ropes course. Repair and rebuild as required. *Estimated cost \$2,000 \$3,000.*
- General cleanup of downed trees and debris. Grind hazard stumps, haul, and sort downed timber. Chip, seed, and replant. Rental of stump grinder and chipper. *Estimated cost \$15,000 \$20,000.*
- Fence line. Build new fence line on boundary of property. *Estimated cost* \$2,000.
- Rebuild sauna. Estimated cost \$5,000.

Fall

• Sky Ranch received a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (valued at \$397,000) from Susan Levine who gifted the trust outright to camp. She designated the monies be used for a new 2,600 sq. ft. covered pavilion in the center of camp.

Continued on page 22.

Rebuilding at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp continued from page 21.

This wonderful gift will allow us to serve the campers and retreat guests in several new and exciting ways. Much more on this later.

Because of you, we say good-bye to 2020 with feelings of gratefulness and joy. Your amazing support has been a blessing to so many this year: the staff that were still hired, trained, and empowered to share the gospel in new ways; the campers who were unable to gather on the mountain top but still were touched by this ministry; and all the campers and families that will be able to join us during 2021 because you provided resources for us to repair and rebuild.

Your gifts acknowledge that Sky Ranch is built on firm foundations: sound biblical teachings; a gospeloriented staff; a dedicated board and management; and wise stewardship of funds, land, and buildings.

Through your support and God's grace, Sky Ranch will still be here impacting lives for generations to come.

People of Zion Lutheran: Thank you for your faithful mission support

Dear Pastor Sonja, Pastor Joel, and Council leaders,

On behalf of the entire Rocky Mountain Synod Council, we wish to express our profound thanks for the faithful mission support provided by the people of Zion Lutheran Church during 2020. Your generous investment of \$48,000 not only fueled our shared ministry and witness as a synod during a year of unprecedented challenge, it tangibly demonstrates the value you place on our life as **Christ's Church Better Together**.

We believe that our calling to proclaim and embody God's unconditional love for all people matters more than ever for the life of our world. We celebrate the many ways that Zion carries out that mission every day on our behalf.

Please extend our deepest gratitude to the entire Zion community, and be assured of our commitment to continued partnership and accompaniment in the year to come.

Yours in Faith, Bishop Jim Gonia Vice President Earline Bohling

Rocky Mountain Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 7375 Samuel Drive, Denver, CO 80221 303-777-6700 + 1-800-525-0462

Together we proclaim and embody God's unconditional love for the sake of the world

Christ's Church, Better Together

Your 40 items of food in 40 days collectively yielded over a ton of food for House of Neighborly Service

A Story to Tell: Reading through the Gospel of Mark + 40 Days of Giving: An At-Home Food Drive							
2/17	2/18	2/19	2/20	2/21			
Read: Mark 1:1-3	Read: Mark 1:4-8	Read: Mark 1:9-11	Read Mark 1:12-15	Read Mark 1:16-28			
Collect	Collect	Collect	Collect	Collect			
1 pasta item	1 canned meat	1 peanut butter	1 can beans	1 can tuna			
2/22	2/23	2/24	2/25	2/26			
Read, Mark 1:21-45	Read: Mark 2:1-5	Read: Mark 2:6-8	Read Mark 2:9-12	Read Mark 2:13-28			
Collect:	Collect	Collect	Collect	Collect:			
1 box cereal	1 pasta item	1 canned meat	1 can chili	1 jar applesauce			
2/27	2/28	3/1	3/2	3/3			
Read: Mark 3:1-35	Read: Mark 4:1-29	Read: Mark 4:30-41	Read: Mark Sct-24	Read Mark 5:25-34			
Collect:	Collect	Collect:	Collect	Collect:			
1 can vegetables	1 rice item	1 can fruit	1 jar pasta sauce	1 muffin mix			
3/4	3/5	3/6	3/7	3/8			
Read: Mark 5:35-43	Read: Mark 6:1-29	Read: Mark 6:30.56	Read: Mark 7.1-37	Read Mark 8:1-26			
Collect	Collect	Collect:	Collect	Collect:			
1 can fruit	1 tomato sauce	1 pancake mix	1 canned meat	1 can soup			
3/9	3/10	3/11	3/12	3/13			
Read: Mark 8:27-30	Read: Mark 8:31-33	Read Mark 8:34-9:1	Read: Mark 9:2-6	Read Mark 9/7-8			
Collect:	Collect	Collect:	Collect:	Collect			
1 can vegetables	1 can tuna	1 pasta item	1 bax cereal	1 canned meat			
3/14	3/15	3/16	3/17	3/18			
Read Mark 9:9-50	Read: Mark 10:1-16	Read Mark 10:17-20	Read Mark 19:21-31	Read Mark 18:32-5			
Collect	Collect:	Collect	Collect:	Collect			
1 peanut butter	1 can soup	1 rice item	1 can fruit	1 can beams			
3/19	3/20	3/21	3/22	3/23			
Read: Mark 11:1-14	Read Mark 11:15-33	Read: Mark 12:1-34	Read: Mark 12:35-44	feat Mark 13:1-545			
Coffect:	Collect	Collect:	Collect:	Collect:			
1 box cereal	1 can vegetables	1 peanut butter	1 muffin mix	1 tomato sauce			
3/24	3/25	3/26	3/27	3/28			
Read: Mark 14:3-9	Irad: Mark 14:10-11	Read Mark 14:12-2	Read: Mark 14:22-3*	Read Mark 1632.5			
Collect:	Collect:	Collect:	Collect:	Return food			
1 can soup	1 pancake mix	1 Ganned meat	1 can fruit	departients to Time			

A 40-day calendar indicated a food item to be collected for each day.



During the 40-day season of Lent, Zion members and friends were invited to help those in need by collecting one item of food for each day of Lent. When you think about 40 items of food collected over more than a month, it may not sound like a lot of food. For most of us, those 40 items fit into one or two grocery bags. But together, we literally collected more than a TON of food! On Palm/Passion Sunday, it took three trucks to haul all of the donations from Zion to House of Neighborly Service! Zion donated 2,055 pounds of food, and together with King of Glory we collected over 2,500 pounds of food! Then, four days later on Maundy Thursday, another truckload was loaded up and delivered with donations that came in after the first delivery! We didn't get a weight on that delivery, but our guess it was at least another 300-400 pounds.

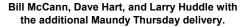
This is a truly astounding miracle of generosity. Thank you for your contributions. Thank you to BILL MCCANN and ELLIOTT PANCOAST for delivering in their trucks. And thank you to RONDA BUCK, MADDIE ELDER, DAVE HART, LARRY HUDDLE, TRACEY KLAMMER, KATHY PANCOAST, and ANNA SCHLAGEL for helping load and unload food bags!

The gifts were collected around the altar at Zion.

Kathy Pancoast and Anna Schlagel load up a car with food bags for delivery.



Bill McCann's truck is loaded for the first delivery on Palm/ Passion Sunday.









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

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

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Instagram:	www.zionloveland.com Zion Lutheran Church-Loveland zionlutheranloveland Zion Lutheran Church Loveland	

Join Us in Worship

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship In Person Outdoor or Zoom (starting June 6)

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship In Person Outdoor or

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 4/21



Change of Service Requested

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

May 6 Assemble Gifts for Monroe Teachers and Staff May 8 Nourish May 11 Girl Talk May 16 Yard Party and Sing-A-Long May 16 Deadline to Register for Sierra's Race May 22 High School Youth End-of-the-Year "We Survived" Party May 23 Sunday School Celebration May 23 Blessing of the Graduates June 6 Outdoor Worship at Zion Begins (8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.) June 7-11 Vacation Bible School June 7-25 Summer Camp at Thompson Valley Preschool June 9 and 23 Wednesday Night Live June 12 Nourish June 12-20 Sierra's Race (Virtual) June 13 Girl Talk / Man Cave Combined Gathering June 13-25 Youth Go! at Sky Ranch June 20 Celebration of Laura's Team June 20-25 Confirmation Intensive at Sky Ranch July 7 and 21 Wednesday Night Live July 10 Nourish July 11 Girl Talk / Man Cave Combined Gathering August 1-3 Round Up! at Sky Ranch August 1-6 Homesteaders at Sky Ranch August 7 and 18 Wednesday Night Live August 8 Girl Talk / Man Cave Combined Gathering September 3-6 Labor Day Weekend at Sky Ranch