



Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

May-June-July
2022

STAFF

Pastor

Pastor Joel Pancoast

Intern Pastor

Andrea Kragerud

Interim Faith Formation Coordinator

Chrissy Wolfe

Interim Connecting Hearts Coordinator

Angie Elder

Director of Music and Worship

Dr. David Dunbar

Assistant Director of Music

Noelle Bauman-Stucky

Bell and Chimes Director

Thomas Chen

Accompanist/Collaborative Artist

Ryan Marvel

Office Manager

Lindsey Walter

Worship Technology Coordinator

Stig Oresjo

Bookkeeper

Terri Sloan

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Surprise

Pastor Joel Pancoast

I can only imagine being with the women coming to Jesus' tomb, finding the stone that had sealed it shut rolled away and the tomb empty. I can only imagine being in a locked room, and suddenly Jesus (who they all saw crucified) is standing there with them, inviting them to touch him. I can only imagine walking along the road, mourning Jesus' death with an unknown traveler and inviting him to stay with them, only to realize their guest is Jesus himself. I can only imagine eating breakfast at early dawn with this same risen Jesus. Could there be anything more surprising, more unexpected, than seeing someone you saw die, talking with them, touching them, eating with them?

From the beginning, God has done unimaginable things, so why should resurrection surprise us? Except, it is unlike anything any of us have experienced. It is unnatural. It defies everything we know about life. It turns our expectations upside down. So maybe we are not surprised enough by the story of resurrection and our Easter celebration each year. Maybe we

have allowed the story to become too mundane and we are no longer surprised by resurrection because we have relegated it to an event of the past rather than a reality of our present-day lives.

The early Christians whose stories are told in the book called The Acts of the Apostles were confronted with that reality of resurrection in their lives, and they experienced no shortage of surprises. The resurrection of Jesus set off a host of unexpected events and changes for Jesus' followers, including changes within themselves. Worship in the Easter season this year focuses on those stories from Acts that change peoples' lives forever.

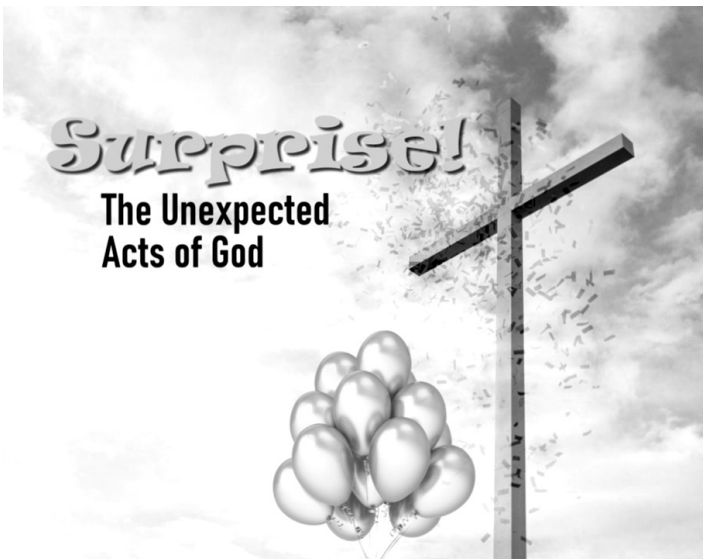
- The resurrection emboldened Peter and the other apostles to obey God over any human authority that was trying to prevent them from teaching in Jesus' name (ACTS 5:27-32).
- The resurrection opened Saul's eyes to proclaim Jesus' love rather than persecuting Christians who did not follow

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Surprise continued from page 1.

God's law as he understood it (ACTS 9:1-20).

- The resurrection helped followers of Jesus make distinctions in the way they understood God's law, knowing that if it did not include others in God's embrace, they just might not be understanding it as God intended (ACTS 11:1-18).
- The resurrection helped followers to see that there are no coincidences for those who follow the Holy Spirit because God is always guiding our lives. (ACTS 16:9-15).
- The resurrection freed people who were enslaved, whether literally bound in chains or by others' expectations (ACTS 16:16-34).
- The resurrection enabled followers of Jesus to do incredible acts, healing, teaching, forgiving, and even raising others to life (ACTS 9:36-43)!



If our own spiritual lives have come to seem humdrum and everyday, our hope is that these stories from Acts will awaken in us a new desire for God's work in the lives of unsuspecting, ordinary people like ourselves. As we explore the journey of surprises in these sacred texts, we learn the spiritual habits of welcoming an unpredictable God and coming to expect the unexpected.

For some of you, these are anxious times. Life feels very unsettled. We have struggled so much in the last few years in many ways, with pandemic and disease, political tension, environmental concerns, and so much more that has led to isolation, disagreement, and fear. In spite of this, I think this is an exciting time in the life of the church. I know not everyone shares this feeling, but it is exactly these kinds of unpredictable, high-anxiety times when God surprises us. Resurrection life opens our eyes to the ways God is working in our lives, and inviting us to be a part of it all. As you read through this newsletter, I invite you to look for surprises for how God is at work in our community and church.

How has God surprised you? When have you experienced a change of heart, a turn of events, or a complete reversal in what was expected? I hope, for you, that the resurrection of Jesus is not one event in history, but an ongoing series of surprises that breathe life into your own. Expect surprises!

Music Ministry

David Dunbar

May 1 marks my first full year at Zion, and I am happy to say it's been a wonderful experience so far! Besides being welcomed so warmly by the entire congregation, I have been blessed this past year to also work with a group of very talented musicians at Zion who volunteer their time and talents to the music program of the church.

In a few weeks, the summer season will be upon us, and the Chancel Choir will be on hiatus until late August. But that does not mean that the music program at Zion will wind down—no, not at all! The Praise Team will be busy leading the music for our outdoor worship services each Sunday, and other musical events and opportunities will also be in the works. (And speaking of our upcoming outdoor worship, there is always a need for song leaders, so if you are interested, please let me know!)

One of those events will take the form of a mid-summer concert, where anyone (singers or instrumentalists) who is interested in sharing

their musical talent will have an opportunity to perform. The exact date and time are yet to be determined, but keep it in mind, all you musicians of the flock!

At some point we will also be doing a “pick-up” choir, where basically, you show up on a Sunday morning and we create a choir on the spot with one piece of music and sing it that same morning in the church service (no prep except that morning; come what may)! It's a fun time for singing and fellowship, and everyone is invited; no music-reading ability required. So stay tuned for more info on that in the next month or so.

Once again, it's been a great year, and I am so blessed to have found Zion, and to have been welcomed into this wonderful church community. God bless, and always remember that a song from the heart is a prayer unto God. So let's sing, play, and pray on!

Dear Everyone,

I don't dare try to name you all because I give thanks for all the details and hours of preparation that it takes to bring meaningful expressions of God's love. There is no doubt that Joel, Andrea, Lindsey, David, and Noelle were energetic and tireless leaders at the forefront. “Filled to the Brim” made me recall my blessings while “Ragged” gave me ways to recall: I needed that!

Your attention to detail enhanced the messages. The settings were beautiful. How fun to watch the changes, especially red ribbons to white! I hope to hear the hymns again and the continued leadership of the voices. David, your choir anthem was so beautiful—no ordinary night—no ordinary musician. Noelle, you must know you have my heart; so amazing to “help” you.

So, of course, I couldn't say thank you in a few words! But just one more blessing: the continuity and progression of Holy Week! So good to unite our churches.

*With love and thanks,
Kathy Pancoast*

Children's Music Ministry

Noelle Bauman-Stucky

I am so grateful to be writing this entry after a full year of musical activities with kids, and excitement about what the summer holds. Before we jump into what is upcoming, let us celebrate the most recent endeavor with Marcia Green and the children's choir at Trinity Lutheran Church, the "M&Ms." We had a wonderful time preparing the musical together. It is always surprising how much more you can offer when you combine forces. Working with Marcia, her accompanist Carolyn Kibler, and our most amazing volunteers PAM STEVENS and KATHY PANCOAST, I felt incredibly supported and I know the actors did as well. Sharing in worship with both churches was incredibly joyful. In all, we have thirteen participants in the full production, plus the help of the Sunday School kids who presented one song from the musical. Thanks to all who encouraged and supported the kids through this endeavor.



Children from Trinity and Zion Lutheran churches presented "Called"—a musical that affirms that God has placed something beautiful in everyone and is calling us to share it with the world.

Upcoming Opportunities

Sing-A-Long and S'mores

May 22, 2022

9:45-10:30 a.m.

All youth and children are invited to attend an end-of-the-season gathering where we will have yard games, music, S'mores, and snacks outside during the Sunday School time. We had a blast meeting one another outside last year when it was our only option. Now we can freely gather there, and also step foot into the church for snacks.

The Walls of Zion Summer Music and Art Camp

July 11-14, 2022

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

All ages are welcome to join in creating art and experiencing music. The elements of music and the principles of visual art share many similarities. Participants will be listening to all types of music and creating works of art that align with texture, form, dynamics, timbre, and their principles of art counterparts. Participants will also have the opportunity, if they choose, to create multiple textures using music they write themselves, record the sounds, and leave with an mp3 of their creations. The art will adorn the walls of Zion Lutheran Church for Sunday, July 17, after which participants may take all their art home or gift it to others. With the many inhibitions that may have been accumulated the past few years, it can be helpful for children, youth, and adults to learn new ways to express themselves. It is always surprising what we can process through music and art.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at CMM@zionloveland.com.

INSIGHTS BY THE INTERN

Intern Pastor Andrea Kragerud

I was struck by this quote, written by the Sanctified Art Creative Team for the Lenten journey we experienced together: “We can’t prepare for the surprising grace of Easter, but perhaps during this season, we can try to unearth the areas of unworthiness and scarcity in our lives. Perhaps we can practice receiving and extending God’s grace. Perhaps we can strive for a life that is full—full of hope, courage, joy, honesty, and grace. Isn’t that what the resurrection is really about anyway?”

There is that word, “SURPRISE.” And it is showing up again as we experience this Easter season. We journeyed through Lent and now we find ourselves on the other side where we experience the resurrection, the continuation of the story. Surprised? We have this pattern every year in our liturgical season. Each time though, I find there to be surprising new things or discoveries as I journey. I think this year the main surprise was getting to experience Lent and Easter with all of you. I valued the familiarity and the newness of being a part of the Zion community in yet another season.

Some highlights for me were working with the individuals who shared their stories during the

mid-week worship, the small group connections on Wednesday nights via Zoom and in person, and helping lead the first communion class.

Baking communion bread with lots of eager hands is pure joy. I think their final product was probably the best communion bread I have had. Maybe it was their love and excitement going into the baking as they learned about how Jesus gave us this special meal and how much God cares for them. Sharing this first communion with these four young children will be an experience I cherish for a long time.

It is truly a blessing to be able to experience something known in a new place. I hope you all experienced something new for you too this Lenten season and into Easter. I think it is also important to mention what a privilege to share our worship experience with our partners at King of Glory and Trinity. What a beautiful way to add to our shared community experience as we walked through Holy Week together. I hope that during this season of Easter you continued to be filled with hope, courage, joy, honesty, and grace—truly experiencing the surprises the resurrection brings to all of us as we continue on this journey together.

Thank You Seasonal Worship Planning Team!

Worship is full of surprises. It should be! God shows up and breaks our hearts open to the good news, changing our lives forever!

Have you ever noticed the beauty created each season in the sanctuary? Fabric banners and silk ribbons match the color of the season. Paintings help tell the stories from the sacred scriptures. Altar displays evoke thoughts into the theme for the season, such as the pitchers tipped on their sides during Lent with blue fabric pouring out to call to attention the theme “Full to the Brim” and how God’s grace is poured out in worship. In addition to pastors and staff, we are grateful for several volunteers who serve on the seasonal worship planning team. Together with the worship and music staff, CATHERINE GLASER, JESSICA KUHN, and PAM STEVENS read through the scriptures for a season, think about what themes might rise out to speak to worshipers, and each adds creativity, beauty, and thought to our worship.

Catherine and Jessica always have an eye out for how the space in the sanctuary invites us into worship. They are always thinking in colors, adding fabric, paint, and many other materials around the sanctuary. Pam thinks so creatively to make sense of our far-out ideas for sacred space, or hones in on a way that people can engage the gospel beyond just hearing, by writing, touching, seeing, or experiencing the good news.

Please help us offer our thanks to Catherine, Jessica, and Pam. And if you are interested in joining us, call the church office to find out when the next meeting is. No experience is necessary!

Lenten Thank Yous

Intern Pastor Andrea Kragerud

Planning for Lent was fun and certainly a good challenge. Pastor Joel and I began in January and by March things had changed numerous times taking us beyond our plan A, B, and even C. But what a journey we had.

The mid-week services and small groups focused on pieces from author Gretchen Ronnevik’s book, **Ragged: Spiritual Disciplines for the Spiritually Exhausted**. Creating the small group guides and structure for the mid-week practices was the key part of my internship project. Overall, we explored a different spiritual discipline each week in our worship and small group time. A separate guide was also created for the confirmation students and their mentors to use for their weekly connections.

Perhaps some weeks resonated with you more than others, and the focus for some weeks may have helped you develop a new spiritual practice and discipline that has continued beyond Lent. I would love to hear about your experience! And the best part, spiritual disciplines and practices don’t have to end now that Lent has. For those interested in continuing to connect with others in a small group fashion, I’d like to invite you to consider joining in on further conversations. There will be announcements coming out about opportunities to try some new things throughout the summer.

And a HUGE Thank You to all who participated in our Lent mid-week services. Whether you were a mentor for one of our confirmation youth, joined on Zoom for small group time or worship, came for the soup and joined in on a small group conversation, or attended worship in person, thank you. It was so good to be in food and fellowship with one another again!

Lenten Thank Yous continued from page 6.

I'd also like to send a special shout out to those who shared their own personal journeys during the worship time on each of the themes for each week: PASTOR JOEL on Prayer, PASTOR JOEL on Rest (so that I could have some rest), JENNIFER BARELA on Lament; JOANN STERKE on Word, and RONDA BUCK on Generosity. It was a joy to work with each of you preparing for each week and a privilege beyond measure to hear the stories of your lives that you shared.



Many, many thanks to Phyllis Zimmerman

For the last decade, Phyllis has passionately led L.I.F.T.—Ladies In Fellowship Together, lifting each other up, but

now has deemed it necessary to step down from that position. Phyllis's passion was to contact each of the ladies and encourage them to attend the next L.I.F.T. get-together or she would just take time then to visit with them for a while. At each get-together, at least 40 or 50 ladies attend for lunch and fellowship. To begin each L.I.F.T. meeting, Phyllis would provide ways to celebrate birthdays and seasonal events with poems and meaningful articles, and occasionally she would provide special music that added to the enjoyment of all. For all the ladies, L.I.F.T. provides the opportunity to visit and connect with their Zion friends and to meet new friends. Thank you, Phyllis, for bringing such joy to this group of ladies over the years. You have been a blessing to them all.

You are loved!!

Farewell and Godspeed Intern Pastor Andrea

On Sunday, July 31, we will be saying “Farewell and Godspeed” to Intern Pastor Andrea. Between the services we will hold a special celebration in her honor, with refreshments and a time to share affirmations, blessings, and gifts. If you have gifts or words you would like to share with Andrea during this time to bless her on her journey toward ordination and a call to serve a congregation as their pastor, you are welcome to bring them to share at that time.

It is hard to believe Andrea has only been with us for a year, but during that time she has engaged in incredible ministry with us. We have experienced many surprises together. When she started here at Zion, we were uncertain what life would look like in the church. We were still meeting mostly outdoors, with caution and concern for each other's health. We also had four regular preachers on the pulpit rotation. Then Pastor Sonja resigned to step into another ministry, and Pastor Courtney took another call to Minnesota. Through every surprise, Andrea provided a consistent presence. She has been with us as a learner, engaging in the full range of ministry as a pastor. But we have also been learners with her, as she has preached the gospel, taught with different age groups and educational opportunities, and led us in many areas of ministry at Zion.

We are grateful for this experience and time with Andrea. Many have already been asking why she can't stay at Zion, but proper farewells are a commitment that we make when we begin as an internship site. Andrea still has more formation before being approved for ordination, but also the wisdom of the church is that it is difficult for an intern pastor and a congregation to make a healthy transition of roles from intern to pastor. We will continue to hear from Andrea and follow her ministry that will no doubt be full of many more surprises. Until then, please mark your calendars to come on July 31 to bless her and give thanks to God for her presence with us.

Pastoral Call Committee Formed

Joel Brauner

The Pastoral Call Committee has been created and is actively working to call a pastor to join Zion's staff. We are working to hire another full-time pastor who will lead our Faith Formation ministries as well as share in many general pastoral responsibilities. This will be a similar model to how Pastor Courtney served at Zion after Pastor Sonja took her new job. Moving forward, Zion will have two full-time called pastors.

The members of the Pastoral Call Committee represent Zion's belief that Faith Formation is for all ages. The committee members are JEN BARELA, JOEL BRAUNER, RONDA BUCK, KAM OTTESON, HANNAH PANCOAST, PASTOR JOEL PANCOAST, WILL REENTS, SUSAN SAMUELS, LYNSEY WEIMER, and NICK WEIMER.

Already, a Ministry Site Profile has been submitted to the Synod and the Synod has provided a couple of potential candidates. The Ministry Site Profile is essentially a resume of Zion Lutheran Church. We answer questions and describe our congregation and the local community. Candidates can review

Zion's Ministry Site Profile to understand who we are and what we value.

The Pastoral Call Committee will be conducting initial interviews with candidates in May. Depending on how the interviews go, the committee will decide to conduct more interviews with these candidates or ask the Synod for new candidates. Please feel free to reach out to any committee member if you have questions about the process or where we are at. Understand that we may not be able to give names or details about who the candidates are. It is possible that we will have candidates who are called to other congregations, and we need to respect their privacy.

The committee asks for your support. As we embark on the process on calling a new pastor, we need your prayers for wisdom and discernment. Please continue to pray for the Pastoral Call Committee, for the candidates, and for Zion's future and mission.

New Surprises in the Twin Cities

Pastor Courtney Steitz

I have always known that God is a God of surprises. God never seems to fit in the boxes I create and design. From my initial call to be a pastor, to becoming Lutheran, to my internship at Zion, and even coming back to Zion, I could not have charted or mapped out the path that God was calling and leading me down. All the twists and turns have God's fingerprints, and even when they are not the twists I would have chosen, God continues to demonstrate God's faithfulness over and over again.

Our call to leave Zion and accept a call in Minnesota was another one of God's surprises. The transition has been a good one. We are grateful to be closer to family and have felt God's confirmation of call at our new church—even though we miss all of you. It comes as no surprise that I've been using so much of what I've learned at Zion in my new ministry. As always, I am humbled and blessed by

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Refugee Resettlement Committee

Will Reents

Members of the three ELCA churches in Loveland who are interested in helping refugees met twice in April. At this time, our focus is on helping an Afghan family through a resettlement agency.

Pastor Behrens from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (OSLC) in Fort Collins has led their church in resettling a family and has been very helpful in guiding us. As the process is too complicated to explain in this newsletter, we will be offering two orientation meetings via Zoom over the next month.

We may get a family soon or it could be a few months. When we do get a family, we will need to find housing, help them get a job, help with transportation, teach them English, and take them shopping just to name a few of our duties for at least six months. We also have resources to help financially.

In addition, we will be exploring possible ways to help refugees through Lutheran Family Services in Greeley, such as being a cultural mentor for refugees who are already here and settled. The LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugees Services) website has many other ways to help refugees that we will explore. Ukrainian refugee settlement hasn't happened yet in the United States but will soon which provides another option for us.

If you are interested in helping, give Lindsey or me your email address and telephone number, and we will add you to our group email list to keep you better informed. You don't need to commit to anything.

We want our whole congregation to get involved.

Look for more updates.

New Surprises in the Twin Cities continued from page 8.

what you all have given me as I continue to do ministry.

Andy is applying for teaching jobs here in Minnesota, and we are looking forward to having him with us in just a few weeks. And in one of the biggest surprises to date, Junia is going to be a big sister to twin brothers in July!

Through all of the surprises that God has in store for our family and for each of you, I am so grateful for the ministry that we have done together and how it has shaped me for my current call. We continue to pray for and think of each of you often.

God's peace and blessings to all of you!

Pastor Courtney, Andy, Junia, and the twins



Pastor Courtney, Andy, and Junia enjoy a winter hike.

Home Communion Ministers

Angie Elder

Many people at Zion have returned to in-person worship, however, we have many home-centered members who are unable to attend worship in person. The first Sunday of each month, home communion ministers are sent out from worship with the gifts of Holy Communion, prayer, and fellowship to share with those at home. I want to say THANK YOU to those who serve faithfully each month to provide home communion: CINDY BRUSKO, HARRIET COLTON, NORM and JAN EINERTSON, MARY HARRIS, CINDY KURTZ, JANIE LICHTFUSS, ELLIOTT PANCOAST, DON and ARLENE RONEY, JOANNE STERKEL, and PHYLLIS ZIMMERMAN.

Currently, we are in need of **additional** home communion ministers who are willing to experience the blessing of bringing Christ's presence to others. A short training is provided and if you are interested, please contact Angie Elder at angie@zionloveland.com.

Stephen Ministry

Angie Elder

INFORMATIONAL GATHERING—MAY 15—BETWEEN SERVICES

Do you have gifts for caring and listening to those who are hurting?

Do you desire to minister to those in our congregation who are experiencing a difficult time?

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential, one-on-one, Christ-centered care to those experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic/terminal illness, or other difficult times. Stephen Ministers do not have all the answers but do offer care through listening, caring, praying, encouraging, and providing spiritual support.

We invite you to join us for an informational gathering on Sunday, May 15, between the worship services to learn more about this amazing ministry, hear from current Stephen Ministers, and learn how you can become a part of the team. A training class for future Stephen Ministers will begin in the fall and information regarding the training will also be available.

If you have questions or are interested in learning more, please contact one of Zion's Stephen Leaders: LAURA DIMMITT, ANGIE ELDER, and GINGER KLEIN.



Zion is proud to be a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Nourish

Joel Brauner

Energy and excitement continue to build at Nourish. The Nourish Ministry is fully utilizing the new fellowship hall and kitchen for our evenings, and we welcome everyone to come try it out. We start at 5:30 p.m. with a meal on the second Saturday of every month.

Nourish can be summed up in three values.

The first value is space, and no, I'm not talking about physical distancing. Our lives are so busy that it's difficult to find time to think, reflect, and build relationships. The meal is provided at Nourish (you can bring your own drink) so that we aren't rushed and can take time for conversations around a meal. And for families, there are separate kid and adult programs because it can be hard to focus on anything when we are preoccupied with our children.

The second value is inclusion, especially when it comes to ideas and opinions. Each month we have a unique presentation topic. The topic is not presented in a manner that tells you what to believe, but the topic forces participants to ask questions of themselves and of what they believe. After the presentation, we divide into small groups to share opinions and most importantly, listen to other people's opinions. These discussions should be inclusive and value all opinions, not force everyone to agree.

The third value is connection which is built during the whole evening. From sharing a meal with others to listening and valuing everyone's opinion, we build connections with others. But this is more than just connection with people, it's also about connection between everyday life and faith. We use the motto "Life is today, Faith is today." The evening topic tries to connect these two, like taking a TV show and asking deeper questions about themes that run through it.

The group has continued to grow due to the work of many people. First, I would like to thank everyone who has joined us for a Nourish evening. The ministry fails if no one shows up. I would also like to thank those who have put in extra work to make the evenings run so smoothly. Thank you to LAURA DIMMITT and AMY MOORE for creating presentation topics. Thank you to SUZANNE and ROD BRAMAN and SARAH and SOREN GALL for making meals. Thank you to JENNY and JOHN PICKETT for set up and tear down help. And thank you to JENNA COLEMAN, MADDIE ELDER, and CHRISSY WOLFE for helping with the kid's program.

The next Nourish dates are May 14, June 11, and July 9.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Joel Brauner at joeldbrauner@gmail.com or 719-640-8190.

Meet Zion's New Members

The following new members joined Zion on April 3 and were received and welcomed during worship on May 1.

Jennifer and Amadeo Barela

Jen and Mutt have been part of Zion for many years. They moved to Minnesota and now are back with family in Loveland. They both work in manufacturing and are happy to rejoin the Zion community and share their gifts by teaching Sunday School and helping with outreach.

Noel and Linda Breen

Noel is a retired hotel manager, and Linda is a retired engineer and business owner. They relocated from California. Linda enjoys dog walking, reading, and volunteering. They look forward to sharing their gifts in this community working with social justice, world hunger, and visiting the elderly and those in nursing homes.

Don Miller

Don relocated from upstate New York. He enjoys biking, reading, sports, and movies. He moved here to be closer to his granddaughter. He appreciates how genuine Zion is and its compassion.

Rick and Karin Searles

Rick is a retired development engineer with Hewlett Packard. He enjoys researching genealogy in his down time. Both Karin and Rick enjoy four-wheeling and sailing. They have lived in Loveland for 30 years and have found Zion to be an open and caring community. They are interested in helping with community volunteer work.

Sharon Yurko

Sharon is retired and enjoys reading, puzzles, and spending time with her family. Her son-in-law and daughter joined Zion, and she loves spending time with her grandson, Zachary. She lives in Greeley and moved there from Pennsylvania.

Chris, Johnna, and Zachary West

The West family relocated from Pennsylvania. Chris and Johnna are both teachers. Zach is in kindergarten. They love exploring all Colorado has to offer. They appreciate Zion's welcoming mission statement. They are excited about sharing their gifts with Zion and its community and enjoying the Colorado sunshine.

Meet Zion's New Communicants

The following received their first Holy Communion at Zion on Maundy Thursday:

Nolan Brauner

Roxie Davis

Elle Farasyn

Khaleesi Lucero-Rivera.



The occasion was celebrated with a reception in fellowship hall attended by the communicants and their families.

Celebrating Zion's 2022 Graduates

Emma Blundell

University of Wyoming
Bachelor's degree in
microbiology
Plans to continue her education
in public health.



Fischer Peach

Roosevelt High School
Colorado Mesa University to
study business and finance.



Beilynn Geiss

Loveland High School
Skidmore Collège in Saratoga
Springs, NY, to study physics
and continue to play tennis.

Anna Schlagel

Berthoud High School
Community Connections in
Loveland.



Preston Green

Texas Christian University
Double major: communication
studies; film, television, and
digital media

Attending University of Colorado
Boulder for master of science degree in
organizational leadership.



Hannah Tate

Pacific Lutheran University

Leilani McKee

Thompson Valley High School



Lily Patrick

Colorado Mesa University
Bachelor's degree in early
childhood special education
Applying for teaching jobs in
Colorado.

Autumn Vrem

Mountain View High School
Aims Community College
where she is completing her
emergency medical technician
certification. Plans to pursue
additional medical courses.



Bailey Vrem

Mountain View High School
Aims Community College
where she is completing her
emergency medical technician
certification. Also considering
the fire fighting field.



*Pastor Joel and Pastor Andrea,
Thank you for making Elle's First Communion
so special! All of the activities leading up to the
day were so helpful for us and her. She truly felt
embraced and part of the church community. We
recognize the time it can take to plan, so thank
you. —Blessings, Chas and Afton*

Faith Formation

A HUGE shout out to Zion's Sunday School Teachers and Staff

When Pastor Courtney transitioned to her new church, she left our kids and young adults in good hands. We want to thank RONDA BUCK and JENNA COLEMAN for taking care of our elementary Sunday School and JESSICA KUHNS and JEN BARELA for our middle schoolers during this time of transition. At the beginning of this year, everyone had to be creative, and we didn't know what to expect with the changing COVID guidelines. We truly cannot thank our Sunday School teachers and staff enough! We are grateful for their creativity and love—from the slime making to the whale spit and all the other fun activities like the Noah's ark that is on display in the narthex. Thank you for guiding our kids and young adults to learn about God and faith in these fun and meaningful ways!

L2F2 Sky Ranch Labor Day Weekend Retreat September 2-5

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

Celebrate an amazing weekend in the mountains with friends and family from King of Glory, Trinity, and Zion. Programming for all ages will take place throughout the weekend—worship, campfires, singing, yard games, crafts, hiking, high ropes, and more! Laugh, relax, and leave refreshed.

Bring your tent or camper or stay in a cabin or lodge room.

Reservations are available for 1, 2, or 3 nights.

Reservation Details:

Tent site—\$35 per night

Electric campsite—\$45 per night

Cabin for up to 10 people—\$55 per night

Lodge room for up to 4 people—\$65 per night.

Note: RV sites are limited.

You can pick up a registration form at Zion, get it by email from Lindsey office@zionloveland.com or Pastor Joel pastorjoel@zionloveland.com.

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



Encountering Christ on the Mountaintops

Faith Formation

Sky Ranch Summer Camp Programs

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 summer, Zion is participating in the following programs:

Confirmation Intensive (6th-8th grades)—June 19-24

We live into a Bible story, role playing as characters in the story and experiencing God's love firsthand.

Upper Elementary (3rd-5th grades)—July 31-August 5

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.

Lower Elementary (1st-3rd grades)—July 31-August 2

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 12-24

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 yet registered, 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.

Sky Ranch Work Weekend May 27-30 (Friday-Monday)

Many of us love Sky Ranch. It is a place of beauty and a place where God's Spirit is alive and active in the people and ministry. Sky Ranch is preparing for another amazing summer, and you are invited to help get the camp ready. Projects include opening and deep cleaning buildings, log splitting, path/trail clearing and reconstruction, picnic table construction, preparing the garden and greenhouse, and much more! You can go on your own, with a group of friends, or with your family. Consider this as a great time to get into the mountains, have time away, and have the reward of working with others for a great cause.

If you are interested, you will need to register on your own by calling Sky Ranch (970-493-5258) or going to www.skyranchcolorado.org/work-weekends.

Faith Formation

L2F2 Vacation Bible School Summer Day Camp 2022!

June 27-July 1—at Zion

We are excited to have Sky Ranch counselors joining us here in Loveland to lead our summer day camp! In partnership with King of Glory and Trinity, the half-day camp will be hosted at Zion. Our overall theme for this day camp will be ***This Is Our Prayer***, based on PHILIPPIANS 1:9—“*And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight.*”

The planning pieces are all coming together, and we want to share the variety of volunteer opportunities available for adults and youth. Check out the link to sign up for day camp as a camper or for a volunteer opportunity that is exciting to you! Go to www.zionloveland.com, Faith Formation, Register for Events Here, and scroll down to VBS day camp.

Here is a schedule overview for the week of day camp.

Sunday		Thursday	Luke 10: 25-37 (Good Samaritan)
3:00-6:00 p.m.	Volunteer orientation and meet and greet with the Sky Ranch counselors (dinner is included)	<i>LONGING FOR JUSTICE</i>	
		8:00-8:30 a.m.	Volunteers report for duty
		8:45-9:00 a.m.	Kids arrive
		Noon	Kids are picked up
		Noon-3:00 p.m.	Lunch and afternoon gathering for the volunteers with Sky Ranch counselors
Monday	John 1: 35-42 and Acts 2: 41-47	Thursday Evening	
<i>LONGING TO BE INVITED AND FOR COMMUNITY</i>		5:30-7:00 p.m.	All congregational picnic, hosted outside at Zion. Come join us for food and fellowship. The kids will be displaying their artwork and projects from the week as well as sharing a short program planned with the Sky Ranch counselors.
8:00 a.m.	Volunteers report for duty		
8:45-9:00 a.m.	Kids arrive for the first day of fun!		
Noon	Kids are picked up		
Noon-3:00 p.m.	Lunch and afternoon gathering for the volunteers with Sky Ranch counselors		
Tuesday	Jonah 4— <i>LONGING FOR UNDERSTANDING</i>	Friday	1 Corinthians 12: 12-27—
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Volunteers report for duty	<i>LONGING TO CONNECT</i>	
8:45-9:00 a.m.	Kids arrive	8:00-8:30 a.m.	Volunteers report for duty
Noon	Kids are picked up	8:45-9:00 a.m.	Kids arrive
Noon-3:00 p.m.	Lunch and afternoon gathering for the volunteers with Sky Ranch counselors	Noon	Kids are picked up
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:1–5, 28–31; Luke 5:12–16—	Noon–1:00 p.m.	Wrap up and sending lunch for volunteers and Sky Ranch counselors
<i>LONGING FOR RENEWAL</i>		Friday Afternoon	Sky Ranch staff will head back up the Mountain; no afternoon gathering for the youth volunteers.
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Volunteers report for duty		
8:45-9:00 a.m.	Kids arrive		
Noon	Kids are picked up		
Noon-3:00 p.m.	Lunch and afternoon gathering for the volunteers with Sky Ranch counselors		

If you have any additional questions or need help signing up, please reach out to Intern Pastor Andrea Kragerud by email andrea@zionloveland.com or by calling the church office 970-667-1826.

Faith Formation

Confirmation Worship Retreat and Lock-In

Confirmation youth from King of Glory, Trinity, and Zion came together for an overnight experience of learning about worship and fellowship. They made delicious pizzas, played lots of games, and we can't forget the delicious cinnamon rolls they created for their breakfast! Notice sleep isn't in this list of things they accomplished. But mixed in with all the fun, a primary focus was for the youth to learn all about worship. As part of their confirmation experience, the youth immersed themselves into the worship planning experience, answering the question, "Why do we do what we do?" They broke out the four key areas of worship: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. They then took different pieces from each area and wrote their own pieces to incorporate into Sunday morning worship. They each took an active part leading worship, too. Shout out to our fearless leaders: PASTOR DEB ABBOTT, PASTOR CHRIS DAVIS, INTERN PASTOR ANDREA KRAGERUD along with ERIN BACHMAN and CHRISSY WOLFE. The youth did an amazing job planning and leading worship and had a lot of fun in the process. Rumor has it... naps were had by all that Sunday afternoon.



Confirmation youth immersed themselves in the worship planning and preaching experience. And pizza, too, was part of the process.





The Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra

Miranda Deblauwe

for Daniel Smith, Founder and Artistic Director

The Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra has had an incredibly fulfilling and exciting start to 2022! We were honored to have our Chamber Orchestra place third at the National Orchestra Festival in March and at the end of April we had our final concert of the season. Looking toward the summer, we are already receiving applications and auditions for our 2022-2023 season! In May our staff and students will be focusing on finishing up their own school semesters. In June and July we'll be plenty busy preparing for next season. This summer is going to be a great time for us to reflect and appreciate all of the surprises, challenges, and joy we've been given so far this year. As always, we are so grateful to Zion and its community for welcoming us and supporting our endeavors. Thank you!



The Northern Colorado Youth Chamber Orchestra won third place in March 2022 at the American String Teachers Association's National Orchestra Festival in Atlanta, Georgia.

Thompson Valley Preschool (TVP) is now enrolling for the 2022-23 school year

Our affordable program provides a high-quality, early-childhood educational program for children 3 to 5 years of age. Come take a look and learn more about our program.

Email us at admin@thompsonvalleypreschool.org or www.thompsonvalleypreschool.org or call us at 970-667-6552.

Instant Church Directory Photo Booth

Lindsey Walter

We would love to have new photos of you for our instant church directory.

We have a photo booth set up outside the coffee bar area for you to take a picture on your phone and email it to the office.

If your email address is currently NOT in the directory, please email your address, picture, and family information to me, and I will upload the email address, picture, and information. When that upload is complete, you will be able to access the directory. Email office@zionloveland.com or call Lindsey at the church office 970-667-1836.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD THE DIRECTORY ON YOUR DEVICE

- 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-InclnstantDirectory/dp/B00D76604E/ref=sr_1_1s=mobileapps&ie=UTF8&qid=1371671565

Other:

A copy of the directory can be printed from the app if people want one.

The directory can also be put on a computer. Go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>.

Summer Outdoor Worship begins May 29

Both worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. will be held outdoors on our wonderful patio under the pergola with the memorial garden in bloom and the waterfall cascading. You can attend in person or via Zoom. Note the change in start times for the summer season.

Help Wanted. Help Needed.

We love making our outdoor worship enjoyable for everyone, but it is a lot of work setting up and putting away the chairs plus cleaning up. With that, we need more summer worship volunteers. Can you help? If so, please sign up on the Serving in Worship forms that will be available the second week of May. We are thankful for our beautiful outdoor space and especially thankful for the volunteers who arrive bright and early to get it ready for a meaningful worship experience.

Blue Jean Worship and Work Day—Sunday, June 5

Wear your jeans and bring your tools, and let's spruce up Zion.

Working in groups, we will tackle projects of all sizes.

And, at the end of the day, we will celebrate with a picnic on our lawn.

Everyone is welcome. Look for more details to follow.

June is Zion's month to help House of Neighborly Service

The House of Neighborly Service (HNS) serves individuals and families who are challenged by the effects of poverty or situational crises by meeting their basic needs and providing services. Many people who come to HNS for help feel like they are “going over the edge” because of difficult life crises. HNS may not be able to rescue them from difficult life events, but they can come alongside them with a “Rope of Hope,” providing the tools that enable them to come through life with dignity and hope.

Please support HNS by bringing nonperishable items to Zion throughout the month of June.

Essential Canned or Dry Food Items:

vegetables, beans, fruit, soup, tuna/salmon, peanut butter, rice, pasta, cereal, mac & cheese, and ramen/instant soup.

Baby items such as:

diapers (especially larger sizes), pull-ups/training pants, wipes, food, formula (especially milk-based such as Enfamil), and baby shampoo.

Toiletries:

shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants, soap, tissues, razors, feminine products, denture products, and Band-Aids.

Sierra's Race

Kathy Loken

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

—HEBREWS 12:1

March 21, 1988, Meningococcal Meningitis, words we had never heard, blindsided our family and friends. In 18 hours, our daughter Laura had died. May 3, 2004, Angela Gall, Sonja Pancoast's sister-in-law, and April 10, 2007, Sierra Krizman lost their battles with Meningococcal Meningitis. Someone you know may have been a victim of Meningococcal Meningitis.

As of 2019, more than 75 percent of 17-year-olds in the United States had not received any meningitis B vaccines. **Sierra's Race** is changing that number. Over the past 14 years, Sierra's Race has raised over \$720,000 and has been able to provide 6,922 free vaccinations. This translates into 6,922 families that are protected from the heartbreaking loss of a loved one taken from them. So, while the race has been a fun, healthy, and competitive vehicle to accomplish our goals, the purpose has always been to raise awareness, and **provide free vaccinations to anyone and everyone.** Every sponsorship, donor, and registration is very important, and allows us to accomplish that together. Over 500 people participated in the virtual race last year and raised over \$43,000 to use toward free vaccinations.

You can make a difference in 2022.

**The 15th Annual 5K Sierra's Race
will be on June 18, 2022, at Foundations Church at 8:00 a.m.**

Participants can run or walk the course together. The Laura Loken Memorial will partially fund registrations. Kids age 10 and under are free. Youth over 10 and adults are \$15.00.

Visit the Zion website at www.zionloveland.com. Click on Faith Formation and select Register for Events Here for the link to complete the registration and order your shirt. Registration and payment must be made by Monday, May 23.

Thank you for your support as a donor, volunteer, or participation.



Blessed by Moms and Women's Precious Contributions

George E. Stevens

Back in March, I sat in a Zion church pew one day realizing it was National Women's Month. I thought about the many important contributions women make and the critical jobs they hold: farmers, scientists, astronauts, engineers, teachers, executive directors, university presidents, chief executive officers, generals, admirals, pastors, United States vice president, but most importantly, **mothers**. Being a mother, in my estimation, is their greatest role!

I share with many people just how blessed my life has been in that so many people refused to let me go astray. I think of coaches, recreation center people, teachers, professors, and so many others. I think of two significant incidents that changed my life—incidents that made me realize that to achieve what I have, I had to stand on the shoulders of giants.

One day my mother came home looking very sad. Her being sad had never happened before. I was between eight and nine years old. She told me she was going away to a sanatorium in Hamburg, Pennsylvania. She had contracted tuberculosis. She was gone for nearly three years. I lived with different relatives: an aunt and cousin, my grandfather and grandmother, and an uncle and aunt and four older boy cousins. The aunt and uncle worked all day leaving the five boys to fend for themselves. I joined a gang. At one elementary school, two junior high schools, and at the high school, I would have a fight. It was a ritual for me to keep my lunch money, clothing, sneakers, and to have folks think I was crazy.

Incident One: My mom came home to find this wild, out-of-control kid. I thought I was home free, but the next morning, she waited until I had



Dr. George Stevens was blessed by having a mother, Marstella (Stevens) Harvey, who would not let him go astray.

eaten breakfast then said, "Come with me!" She took me to the YMCA, the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church (scoutmaster/pastor), the Western Community Center, and the Marian Anderson Recreation Center. At each stop, she said the same thing: "Do something with him!" They did. She had no money, and they didn't ask for any. She knew I'd be too tired to get into trouble!

Incident Two: I stood beside my mother one hot summer day. I was 21. My sister, who was 14 years younger, rode up on her bike and asked mom for money to get an ice cream cone. Mom took a \$1 bill out of her black change purse. As my sister rode happily away, I looked in mom's purse and realized it was empty. I said, "You did that for me too. She just hunched her shoulders a bit as if to say, "That's what mothers do." I learned very quickly after that the broadest and first set of shoulders I stood on were my mothers. After having my own children, I came home to see my mom one day. I looked her in the eye and said, "The older I get, the smarter you get." She laughed so hard tears were streaming down her face.

Posted on a wall on the first floor of the Loveland Public Library is the poem that had me thinking of women's contributions and how special moms are. That poem is included in this newsletter on page 26.

SURPRISE! The Unexpected Acts of God

by Angie Elder

with permission from Naomi and her daughter Tyann to include this article and picture in the newsletter

As many of you know, Zion has been fervently praying for Naomi Milbrath, a long-time member of Zion, who has been dealing with incredible health challenges the past six months. However, God has SURPRISED many and is providing healing for Naomi every day.

Naomi's journey began in December when she was hospitalized with pneumonia and was treated in the Intensive Care Unit. After a couple weeks of antibiotics and supplemental oxygen, Naomi was placed on a ventilator and sedated to allow her body to rest and heal. Naomi's children, Tyann and Trent, were at her bedside everyday and keeping friends and family updated on Naomi's status and requesting prayers for her healing.

After a total of 35 days on the ventilator, Tyann and Trent decided to bring Naomi home, have her extubated, placed on hospice, and trust God with whatever the future would hold. SURPRISINGLY, Naomi came off the ventilator and was holding her own! Because Naomi had been in bed for weeks at the hospital, she was unable to communicate or move on her own. Challenges surrounded them all, but they were ready for the challenge. Naomi showed slow and steady improvements: eating by mouth, speaking quietly, and beginning to move her hands and arms.

At the beginning of March, Tyann, Trent, and Naomi decided Naomi would enter the hospice facility for a short respite time for her family who had so diligently cared for her at home. The staff at the facility were SURPRISED at Naomi's progress after only being off of the ventilator for three weeks. The hospice suggested Naomi be transferred to the rehabilitation side of the facility and participate in therapy to allow her to return to her



Naomi finds strength in the scriptures and appreciates prayers and support on her behalf.

previous level of independent function. From this point on, the progress has only continued.

Naomi has a new lease on life! She has good use of her arms, is feeding herself, doing some writing, and is even walking! She participates in physical therapy, occupational therapy, and

speech therapy each day for 30 minutes each, six days a week. She has been delighted to have visitors as well as receiving texts, calls, and emails encouraging her to keep up the good work! Unfortunately, Naomi recently had a double ear infection that has affected her ability to hear. Doctors are working to remedy this problem as soon as possible, and we know Naomi is anxious to have her hearing back.

Naomi's family and friends have been SURPRISED, to say the least, with her will to live and her incredible progress in rehab. They have found strength in the scriptures (see page 26 of this newsletter), witnessed the unexpected acts of God, and are grateful for the prayers offered by those around them. THANK YOU for praying for Naomi, visiting her, and encouraging her on this journey of SURPRISE—an unexpected act of healing by our good and gracious God!

Naomi asks that we continue to keep her in our prayers as her journey toward healing continues. She appreciates and feels the prayers and support!

Among Members and Friends

At Rest in Our Father's House

John Wachsmann who died March 4 and whose funeral was March 11 at Zion Lutheran Church.

Laverne Galbraith who died April 20 and whose funeral was April 29 in Lakewood, Colorado. She was the mother of Zion's Susan Schairer.

Marilyn Andres who died April 22 and whose funeral was April 29 in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Harry McCabe who died May 1 and whose funeral was May 19 at Zion Lutheran Church.

Prayers for Those Who Grieve

Mike Sloan with the death of his father, Marvin.

Friends and family of Cheryl Gillpatrick with her death.

Catherine Glaser with the death of her father, Ralph.

The Barela family with the death of Aunt Barbara.

Don Miller and family with the death of his mother.

Joyous Celebrations

We rejoice with Cameron and McKenzie Cale at the baptism of their daughter Murphie Rae Cale on April 24 at Zion.

We Keep in Prayer

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

Testimonials to Zion's Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank you so much for your kindness and thoughtful gift. The prayer shawl is beautiful, and I love the colors. None of us want to bury an adult grandson, but it is such a comfort when so many reach out to support one another.—Kay and Don

Prayer Shawl Ministry: I am feeling much better. Thank you for praying for me. The prayer shawl is a treasure, a gift to be used. Blessings and love.—Maxine

It was nice to come home from the hospital and have the comfort that George had. Thank you for my shawl.—Joan

*Thank you so very much for the beautiful prayer shawl and your kind thoughts. I love it and the prayers and verses. Vic and I appreciate your kindness at this time. We knew Mother's days were short, but we are so blessed to have her go while we were moving in and have so many new friends to support us.
—Vic and Jo*

Among Members and Friends

We would like to thank everyone who sent us cards for our 60th anniversary. It is so nice to have “family” remember us as we quietly celebrated. We reminisced about our elopement night and all the things that happened that night. We truly appreciated all the cards and enjoyed reading each and every one. You are all special to us. Again, thanks be to God for our church family.

Mike and Linda Tegeder

We deeply appreciate your kind expression of sympathy. It will always be remembered.

The Marvin Sloan Family

Thank you to our Zion family for the prayers, calls, and cards of sympathy and love we received from you at the death of our father, Ralph Gatton. They brought peace and healing to our grief. Thank you.

Scott Gatton and Catherine Glaser

Thank you Zion staff and friends for your prayers and concerns expressed relative to my recent surgery. They are very much appreciated. The surgery is over; recovery is ongoing. I will see what the future treatment will be in the next few weeks.

Sandi Tunesvick

Thank you so much for letting us use your building for our monthly meetings!

*Stein Fjell Lodge
Seven Lakes HOA*

Thank you for the use of the church for our fundraiser. We raised almost \$1,000 for Alternatives to Violence.

*Lisa Weeks
Gamma Chi Chapter of ESA
[Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority]*

Thank you for the generous donation to KidsPak. Together, we are “feeding the future.” Through the end of March 2022, KidsPak has sent nearly 16,000 bags and 97,000 meals to Thompson students. We plan a robust summer to help kids during the summer.

*Bless you,
Tom Carrigan*

Thank you for your faithful giving to House of Neighborly Service. We are grateful for all Zion Lutheran Church does in the community!

*God bless and thank you,
Cherri Houle, Executive Director*

Thank you so much for hosting our student, Katie, for LCM [Lutheran Campus Ministry] Sunday! We all had a great time going out to preach to the local congregations. It is so valuable to us to be a part of the community and the leadership that comes with that. LCM is one of the awesome ways that we want to continue to keep the relationships with the congregations that support us. We hope you enjoyed the time as well, and we look forward to more events with you in the future.

*Blessings
LuMin staff and students*

Thank You Letters to Zion

- March 21, 2022—From Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service for Zion’s generosity throughout the year of 2021.
- March 31, 2022—From Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry in Greeley for a gift of \$150 and for continued support of its students and university community.
- April 15, 2022—From House of Neighborly Service for a donation of \$300.

Zion Ladies Bunco Group

Join the ladies of Zion for fun and fellowship playing bunco at the home of ANGIE ELDER one Friday night each month, June through December.



No need to know how to play! We will teach you!
All ladies are welcome!

Sign up on the link provided:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4BADA62AA6FB6-zion>.

Contact Angie Elder, elder5225@gmail.com, if you have questions.

Posted on a wall in the Loveland Public Library is this poem that inspired George Stevens to write the article on page 22 of this newsletter about moms and women's precious contributions.

"The Raincoat" by Ada Limón from a book entitled The Carrying

*I was driving myself home from yet another spine appointment,
Singing to some maudlin but solid song on the radio,
And I saw a mom take her raincoat off and give it to
Her young daughter when a storm took over the afternoon.
My God, I thought, my whole life I've been under her raincoat
Thinking it was somehow a marvel that I never got wet!*

Throughout the journey toward healing, Naomi Milbrath has found strength in praying the following Bible verses.

Jesus said to him, "If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes."

—MARK 9:23

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

—PSALM 27:1

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

—1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

She's surprised; are you?

Are you surprised that this is the fortieth issue of the *Eye on Zion* in its current format? With this issue, the newsletter is a decade old—and its editor, as well, a decade older. Frankly, she finds that amazingly surprising; where did the time go?

The Pancoast home phone number is no longer in service

The Pancoast former home phone number (970-461-8111) will no longer be in service after May 1. People can reach Pastor Joel through the church office. Sonja's phone number is listed in the church directory.

Free for the taking: first come, first served

Elaine Nichols has a green and white picnic table to give away. Give her a call at 970-481-1066.



Per Elaine, the table is in good condition; it just needs a bit of touch-up paint.

**Tai Chi with Bonnie Schowalter
Mondays in June
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Zion fellowship hall
Bring a water bottle
Wear comfy clothes**

Sign up on the Zion website or the Sunday connections sheet. Contact Bonnie 909-262-3138 or the church office with questions.

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

Phyllis Zimmerman



Phyllis, we love you and thank you.

Thank you, Phyllis, for your energetic and inspirational leadership for Zion's ladies in fellowship together.

In Phyllis' words, "How good it was to see how happy everyone was to be back together again."

For our first get-together after the 2-year shutdown due to COVID, L.I.F.T. is finally off to a great restart. On Tuesday, April 26, we came to the Golden Corral for fellowship and lunch as we celebrated our yearly birthday party. For this event, I planned a special program.

When I asked if anyone would be interested in taking over L.I.F.T., I was excited at your response. Five friends offered to keep this wonderful group going. L.I.F.T. will continue on. Thank you to GWEN BOSWELL, EILEEN HUDDLE, ELAINE NICHOLS, LINDA TEGEDER, and CAROL WARD.



Thank you to our Intern Pastor Andrea who told a little about her work at Zion. She will surely be missed when her internship is up on August 1.

Already the next L.I.F.T. gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, again at the Golden Corral. Ladies, mark your calendars!

Let's be thankful for our many blessings and that we can LIFT up each other's spirits. God bless you everyday!!—Love, Phyllis

My former neighbors, Steve and Rhonda Desmond, performed a great musical program of southern gospel music that was so enjoyable.



Before we sang one of our favorite songs, "The More We Get Together, the Happier We'll Be," the group graciously thanked me for my 10 years of being in charge of our L.I.F.T. gatherings. Thank you. I just love all of you and have enjoyed planning our get-togethers at different restaurants for these many years.



How many shoes does it take to fill those of Phyllis Zimmerman? Five pair!! And this comes as no surprise!! Thanks to L.I.F.T.'s next leaders: Carol, Eileen, Elaine, and Gwen. (Not pictured: Linda)

L2F2 Women's Retreat 2022

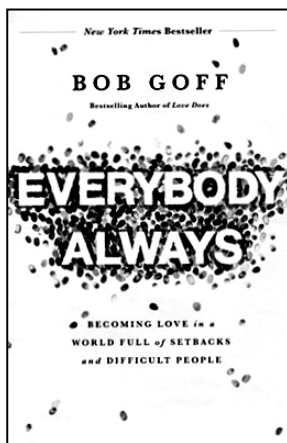
Angie Elder

**October 14—16
Friday—Sunday
YMCA of the Rockies
Estes Park, Colorado**

What happens when we simply love everyone?

At this retreat, we will learn from the video-based Bible study with best-selling author Bob Goff as he shares some of the stories from his life that have helped him understand what it truly means to love *everybody* the way Jesus loved them—without fear, insecurity, or restriction.

Following Christ means more than just putting a toe in the water when it comes to loving others; it means grabbing your



knees and doing a cannonball!

And, as Jesus revealed, it means loving the difficult ones—the ones we may not like or do not understand.

Everybody, Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People will provide practical steps to help you take that journey.

Come join in the learning, fellowship, and fun of the L2F2 Women's Retreat 2022!

Cost for the retreat is \$180 for a double room and \$290 for a single room. Cost includes all retreat materials and meals for the weekend. Scholarships are available. Registration forms and scholarship forms are available in the church office and online at www.zionloveland.com.

We have a limited number of rooms, and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

SOUP-er Bowl Sunday

A little friendly competition is always fun and even more so when it goes for a great cause. Thanks to all who contributed to Zion's SOUP-er Bowl of Caring in February! The LA Rams won the real Super Bowl, but the Cincinnati Bengals won Zion's SOUP-er Bowl. All food and monetary donations during this event went to benefit the Larimer County Food Bank. Each year, the Larimer County Food Bank provides food to an estimated 37,500 people in need through community partnerships and hunger-relief programs. Thank you for supporting an important cause, in a fun way, for our local community.



**Zion's SOUP-er Bowl of Caring delivered
215 pounds of canned food and 17 pounds of
nonperishables to the Larimer County Food Bank.**

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University Open House and Pie Auction

Pastor Paul Judson

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Open House Pie Auction and help us celebrate our newly renovated building! It was an amazing turnout and we are so grateful for our supportive community with whom we were able to share the day. Together we raised a total of \$1,145 for the ministry!! Thank you so much to everyone who bid on a pie or made a donation. If you were unable to attend the Open House and would like to see the building and renovations, contact Pastor Paul at pastor@lcmcsu.org or 970-482-2160 to get a personal tour!



Zion thanks RONDA BUCK, INTERN PASTOR ANDREA KRAGERUD, and ELAINE NICHOLS for providing desserts to help support LuMin with their pie auction.

Monroe Multicultural Family Fun Night and Pozole Meal

After a 2-year hiatus, Monroe and Zion gathered for their pozole multicultural event. Over 300 participants joined in the festivities, savoring the tamales, pozole, churros, rice, and beans prepared by the families and volunteers from Monroe. The preparations started in Zion's new kitchen on Thursday and ended Friday evening with only a couple of Ziploc bags left of food. Local police and firemen were on-site to visit with the children and allow them to look inside their vehicles. Other activities included , face painting in the classrooms, bingo in the conference room, and a special performance by the Truscott Folkloric Dance Troupe garbed in colorful swirling skirts and sombreros.

Zion is grateful for their partnership with Monroe, and we look forward to hosting this event again in 2023.



Fiesta!

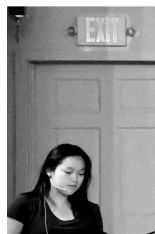
Tamales—Pozole—Face Painting—Folk Dancing

All in celebration of cultural diversity with Zion and its Monroe community!

Palm/Passion Sunday



Palm Processional



Interpretive Reading of Scripture / Draping of the Cross



Sunday School kids and the children's choir sang "God Calls Us All" featuring soloists

Palms for Kids in Christ

A long-standing tradition has returned—Palm Sunday breakfast! In the past, this tradition was a youth fundraiser. This year, we wanted to be able to celebrate being back together after a 2-year hiatus. Although not a fundraiser, many youth and their families jumped in to support the cooking and serving.

A huge shout out to all those who donated food items; the Sunday School kids who created the table decorations; and the many setup, prep, and cleanup volunteers; and to those who completed "all other tasks as assigned" behind the scenes to make this its huge success. **THANK YOU.**

It was good to be in food and fellowship with one another.



Photos courtesy Greg Schairer

Great Gift Away

Great Gift Away is an opportunity through Zion's Endowment Fund to both share God's abundance and invest for future opportunities. In anticipation of a birthday or anniversary, you may have received letters from the Endowment Committee giving thanks for this milestone in your life and inviting you to give thanks to God for each year of your life by contributing \$1 (plus or minus) to the Great Gift Away Ministry for each year being celebrated.

Each year, the Endowment Committee invests half of these contributions in the Endowment Fund, ensuring that we can embrace a healthy, long-term, mission-oriented identity for many years to come. Of the other half of these funds contributed each year, it is the goal of the Endowment Committee to invest in ministries within both the congregation and the broader community. In previous years, we have supported agencies such as Alternatives to Violence, Habitat for Humanity, Project Self-Sufficiency, Prison Ministry, KidsPak, and more.

At the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022, we asked for congregational feedback on how we could bless our community by sharing these funds. The Endowment Committee had many organizations and ministries to choose from, and it proved a difficult choice indeed. After much discussion and deliberation, the choice was made to support local agencies this year that have not been awarded by Great Gift Away.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to give

\$1,400 to Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra (NoCoYO) and \$1,000 to the Philo Dine Out With Heart Program.

Zion is proud to be the host location for NoCoYO. Being formed during the worst of the pandemic, the goal and mission was to keep the arts alive in schools and our community. When students were not allowed to gather in schools and create music with others, NoCoYO was founded by Daniel Smith, orchestra conductor and teacher at Erwin Middle School and Loveland High School. In order to support the conductors and the time they give, as well as provide necessary supplies to staff an orchestra, students pay a fee to join NoCoYO. However, scholarships ensure that any child who wants to learn and create music has an opportunity.

Dine Out With Heart is a fundraiser established by Philo. The mission of the fundraiser is to reduce hunger and food insecurity in our community with a focus on our most vulnerable, especially children. Patrons of participating restaurants and other establishments are asked to donate to the cause. Most recently, contributing businesses only collected an average of \$3,513 in donations due to effects of the pandemic, compared to previous years' average of \$11,300.

Thank you for sharing your generosity through Great Gift Away. Through your gifts, we are able to share with others and more deeply embrace our mission to *share God's abundance to transform lives through the love of Jesus.*

An Invitation to the Holy Land

Prepare to Be Surprised

Pastor Joel Pancoast

On the first day after Easter, I boarded a plane for the journey to the Holy Land of Israel and Palestine. This came as a surprise to many of you. Since this was the fifth time the pilgrimage had been scheduled due to limitations of travel during the pandemic, I wasn't entirely convinced I was actually going to be able to make the journey until it actually happened. Since Pastor Sonja and I had led a group of 46 pilgrims from Zion in 2019, I had been invited to lead a group of pastors to prepare them to do the same.

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land surprises me every time. This was my third trip, and every time I have learned something new and seen something different as I walked in the footsteps of Jesus. Every time, everything I thought I knew and understood about the stories from the Bible has been brought to life in new and surprising ways. This time, I was struck by the proximity of the sites around the Sea of Galilee, such as the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus pronounces blessings to his followers (MATTHEW 5); Capernaum, where Jesus lived after he left his hometown of Nazareth (MATTHEW 4:13); the place where Jesus multiplied loaves and fishes to

feed a large crowd (MATTHEW 14:13-21); not to mention the vast majority of Jesus' parables and miracles.

Likewise, as I stood at the house of Caiaphas in Jerusalem, where Jesus was put on trial as a perversion of justice, I looked across the Kidron Valley to see the Garden of Gethsemane and Mount of Olives, barely one mile away. I knew that the place where Jesus shared his last supper with his disciples was just over a half mile from there, and the location of Golgotha and the tomb was less than a mile. I always imagined a much greater distance traveled in the final three days of Jesus' life, but everything could be seen from one location, and if the noise of crowds and traffic weren't so loud you could probably hear the rooster crow from Caiaphas' house in any of those locations.

Of course, aside from those little details, my western mind and cultural upbringing is surprised every time by a land and culture so different from mine. The stories are changed forever when you see with your own eyes the wilderness that Jesus talked about in the Good Samaritan story, or stand

An Invitation to the Holy Land—Prepare to be Surprised continued from page 32.

in a location of an abandoned quarry where a tomb would have been borrowed to lay a dead body. The stories change when you experience Palestinian hospitality and eat Mediterranean food.

So here is the invitation: Pastor Sonja and I will be leading another pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2023, starting on June 25.

I will admit, the middle of the summer is not the best time of the year to go to the Middle East, but this time allows for all ages to participate. Children and youth in school are invited, and it has been our experience that a pilgrimage is more meaningful and lively when all generations are present.

The pilgrimage involves a lot of walking. I did not go a day with fewer than 10,000 steps. But it is rewarding, and a joy to walk in the footsteps of Jesus with others.

Details are still coming together, but let me know if you are interested, and we will share details as they are available.

I hope you will consider joining us!



Sunrise over the Sea of Galilee



The synagogue in Capernaum where Jesus taught



Touching the spot believed to be the birthplace of Christ



The Garden of Gethsemane



The wilderness of the Good Samaritan story



Welcome Executive Director Lori Bode!



Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp is excited to announce Lori Bode as our next Executive Director.

Lori comes from Lutheridge, an ELCA Lutheran camp in North Carolina, where she served the past 7 years as a program director. Lori has many years of experience in human resources and accounting. We welcome Lori's passion for outdoor ministry, experience managing and supporting staff development, and knowledge of multiple aspects of camp ministry. Sky Ranch is excited to welcome Lori and her family to Colorado and support her during this next chapter in the ministry of Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp.

Lori shares: "I am really excited to be the next Executive Director for Sky Ranch! Outdoor ministry has been an important part of most of my life. From being a camper, counselor, area director, and program director, what I love about camp is the impact it makes on one's faith journey and the life skills one gains from being in an intentional Christian community. My husband, Bo, and I met as camp counselors. We have two beautiful children. Our daughter, Madison, is a junior at East Carolina University majoring in Musical Theatre. Our son, Arden, is a junior in high school, and also has a love for choral performance. Our family, along with our dog Raven (and Madison's two cats), are all excited for our move from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Rocky Mountains. I look forward to joining the family of Sky Ranch and continuing to tell the story of how camp changes lives.



Call us: 970-493-5258
info@skyranchcolorado.org
805 S. Shields St., Fort Collins, CO 80521

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America observes 35th anniversary

CHICAGO—The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) observed its 35th anniversary on April 30. On this date in 1987, the ELCA constitution was adopted during the opening session of the Constituting Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

The ELCA was formed from a merger of three Lutheran churches—the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America. To symbolize the formation of the new denomination, the bishops from the three predecessor church bodies poured water from separate containers into one baptismal font.

The Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom was elected first bishop of the ELCA during the Constituting Convention. He was former bishop of the Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

As the church commemorates its history, it also is looking toward the future. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton spoke of the importance of the “Future Church” priority being rooted in tradition while also being relevant to people who may not know the gospel message of freedom.

“In 1522, early in the Lutheran movement, Martin Luther took hold of the new technology of the printing press and modernized communication by translating the Bible into German, the language of the people,” she said. “Now, 500 years later, we need to find new ways to speak into the cultural vernacular.

“It’s not our intent to water down or minimize the gospel word, but to share the good news to make it rooted in tradition and radically relevant. We believe that the gospel changes lives. The gospel not only is a word of grace but it’s also a word of liberation.”

Additional “Future Church” priorities include starting new ministries and engaging with new, young, and diverse people.

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8137>

About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with more than 3.7 million members in more than 9,300 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of “God’s work. Our hands,” the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA’s roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.



For information contact:

Candice Hill Buchbinder

Public Relations Manager

773-380-2877

Candice.HillBuchbinder@ELCA.org.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Issue 5/22

Change of Service Requested

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

Phone: 970-667-1836
Fax: 970-667-1468
Email: info@zionloveland.com
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

Summer hours begin May 29

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
In Person or Zoom
Outdoors

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
In Person or Zoom
Outdoors

Our Mission:

Together we share God's
abundance to transform lives
through the love of Jesus.

Our Vision:

Living in God's boundless
love, in Christ we envision a
future where church and
community are one.

**Celebrate Your Faith—
Renew Your Spirit—
Love One Another**

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

May 14	Nourish
May 15	Stephen Ministry Informational Gathering
May 22	Sing-A-Long and S'mores
May 23	Registration and Payment Deadline for Sierra's Race
May 24	L.I.F.T.
May 27-30	Sky Ranch Work Weekend
May 29	Summer Worship Schedule Begins
June 5	Blue Jean Worship and Work Day
June 6,13,20,27	Tai Chi with Bonnie Showalter
June 11	Nourish
June 12-14	Youth Go! at Sky Ranch
June 18	Sierra's Race
June 19-24	Confirmation Intensive at Sky Ranch
June 27-July 1	L2F2 Vacation Bible School Summer Day Camp
July 9	Nourish
July 11-14	The Walls of Zion Summer Music and Art Camp
July 17	Summer Music and Art Camp Art Exhibit at Zion
July 31	Farewell and Godspeed to Intern Pastor Andrea Kragerud
July 31-August 2	Lower Elementary (Round UP! Campers) at Sky Ranch
July 31-August 5	Upper Elementary (Homesteaders) at Sky Ranch
September 2-5	L2F2 Labor Day Weekend Retreat at Sky Ranch
October 14-16	L2F2 Women's Retreat