



# Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

August-September-October  
2022

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### **Pastor**

Pastor Joel Pancoast

### **Associate Pastor**

Open

### **Pastoral Assistant**

Andrea Kragerud

### **Interim Faith Formation Coordinators**

Ronda Buck—Sunday School

Alyssa Hart—Young Adult Activities

Pam Stevens—Sacred Space / Administration

### **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

### **Childcare**

KB Benstock

Esther Lucero

### **Custodian**

Ronda Buck

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## RE:BOOT

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

This time of year is often a time of renewal, especially for children, faculty, and staff who are returning to schools. Even for those who haven't been in a classroom for many years, the rhythms of life as we transition from summer into fall schedules invite reinvention and renewal, or at least getting into a different routine. As you read through this issue of the *Eye on Zion*, you will see many examples of "new beginnings" and "fresh starts."

The church community is rebooting with new opportunities for children and youth faith formation, thanks to several who have stepped up to contribute. We are rebooting as a community with a new mission, vision, and a ministry action plan that will lead us into the future. We are rebooting with a slightly new relationship with Andrea as Pastoral Assistant rather than Intern Pastor.

I invite you to find a way to reboot your faith life this fall season on a personal level. I have talked with many who have fallen out of faith-forming habits over the last



few years. I have talked with others who did not realize what they were missing until they decided to reboot their faith life. This reboot will look different for each of us, but I encourage you to set some goals for this season that are personal, relational, and spiritual. For example, find a new way to be involved in serving our community. If you haven't made a commitment yet to return to worship in person, try it to see what a

*Continued on page 2.*

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RE:BOOT continued from page 1.

difference it makes to be surrounded in worship by a loving community. Invite a friend, neighbor, or family member who doesn't have a church home. Join a Bible study or fellowship group. Whatever way you choose to reboot, the point is to invite God to renew your life through faith. As you reboot, you will find joy!

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## Fall Worship Themes

Our worship this season invites us to RE:boot by considering practical transformations that happen in the life of a disciple of Jesus. I hope that each week you will find encouragement to reboot your faith life.

September 11	RE:imagine Regret	1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
September 18	RE:frame Prayer	1 Timothy 2:1-7; Amos 8:4-7
September 25	RE:think Happiness	1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31
October 2	RE:kindle Faith	2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10
October 9	RE:main Steadfast	2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19
October 16	RE:consider Justice	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8
October 23	RE:joice!	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Joel 2:23-32
October 30	RE:formation / Reformation Sunday	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Romans 3:19-28
November 6	RE:member / All Saints	Luke 6:20-31; Ephesians 1:11-23

*I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

—1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

# Music RE:boot @ Zion

*Dr. David Dunbar, Director of Music and Worship*

Summer season at Zion is fun. I have truly enjoyed our outdoor worship services: breathing in the fresh air, hearing each week's inspiring message, and of course, making music in the warmth of the morning sun. And before I go any further, I would like to say "Thank you, all!" to the wonderful vocalists and musicians who have helped sing, play, and lead music throughout the summer: You are the heart of Zion's music ministry, and I am honored to be able to work with each and every one of you.

The fall season will soon be upon us, and with it, the **RE:boot** of the music ministry of the church after a well deserved summer rest. The music schedule for the fall season is already set, with the Bell Choir providing musical offerings every month, and the Chancel Choir twice or more times each month. But now is the time for *everyone* to start thinking about being part of the fun, by joining your fellow Zion-ites in one or more of the musical ensembles at the church!

This year, both the Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir will be rehearsing at the church on Wednesday evenings (stay tuned for startup dates and times). And if you have been thinking about joining one of those groups, I encourage you to talk with someone you know who is already in one of those groups (because I would bet that you all know someone who is)! As director of the Chancel Choir, I can absolutely say that even if you don't read a lick of music, you can still come and sing with the choir and have fun.

But before I get too far ahead of myself, we still have another month of summer left, and an exciting musical event coming up!

On **Sunday, August 28, at 3:00 p.m.**, the musicians of Zion, along with a number of guest musicians, will be giving a free concert at the church called **Zion Resounds**. And the musical styles will be all over the map, with everything from classical to jazz, praise, pop, rock, vocal, instrumental, sacred, and secular. So be sure to mark the date and time on your calendars and join us for a wonderful afternoon of music. God bless, and hope to see you all there!



# Children's Music Ministry

*Noelle Bauman-Stucky, Assistant Director of Music*

The Children's Music Ministry (CMM) wrapped up another great year with many new and creative events. With more creativity came a greater need for assistance as I, the CMM volunteers, and Zion staff navigated returning to a "normal" schedule. I am very thankful for the guidance given to me throughout the last few adventures, with the musical combined with Trinity Lutheran and the Summer Art and Music Camp. As you can see, the volunteers worked hard, but also created a warm, inviting, and structured experience with their willingness to demonstrate participation and engagement during the camp. If you attended church on Sunday, July 17, you would have seen the artwork strewn through the church. The works of art were done by our summer camp participants. We had an amazing week creating, experimenting, and learning with every step of the way.



**The volunteers created a warm, inviting, and structured experience with their willingness to demonstrate participation and engagement during the Summer Art and Music Camp.**

This fall and winter the Zion Children's Choir will hold two different opportunities for children to be involved in music. The scheduled rehearsals and program dates are listed below. We will meet Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at Zion. Children in grades 1-8 are welcome. Anyone outside of that range can also be involved by volunteering or assisting in other ways. The Sunday presentation times will be provided at a later date.

## Fall Program Schedule

Wednesday, September 14  
Wednesday, September 21  
Wednesday, September 28  
Wednesday, October 5  
**October 12 — NO REHEARSAL**  
Wednesday, October 19  
Sunday, October 23

Children in our Sunday School can also participate in the Christmas program alongside the Children's Choir. We will hold rehearsals during Sunday School leading up to December 11.

## Christmas Program Schedule

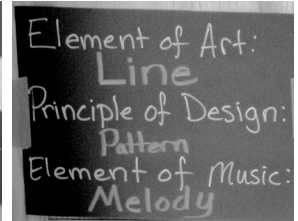
Wednesday, November 9  
Wednesday, November 16  
**November 23 NO REHEARSAL**  
Wednesday, November 30  
Wednesday, December 7  
**Saturday, December 10 TBD**  
**Sunday, December 11**

As always, if you are interested in volunteering or just want to be involved, please let me know. In addition, if you have any requests for musical opportunities for your children, please email me and I will try to accommodate you. As we reboot our programs, fresh ideas can help shape them into what we really need.



# Learning and Creating at the Summer Art and Music Camp

Special thanks to Noelle, David, Bennett, Kathy, Nita, and Pam! Our awesome artists had so much fun learning and creating! We hope you appreciated their art that adorned the walls of Zion.



Participants listened to all kinds of music and created art that aligned to correlating principles.

First  
cookies

•  
•  
•

then beads.



Finding treasures . . .

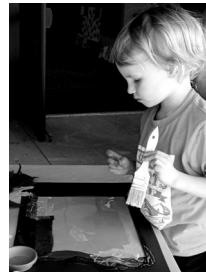
then creating clay  
imprints of them.



Expressing in art what I hear in music . . .



Snacks, too,  
of course!



Photos courtesy of Kathy Pancoast who admits, "I had too much fun and took too many pictures!!"

# Intern Reflections

*Intern Pastor Andrea Kragerud*

*Five hundred twenty-five thousand Six hundred minutes,  
Five hundred twenty-five thousand Moments so dear.*

*Five hundred twenty-five thousand Six hundred minutes  
How do you measure, measure a year?*

*In daylight, in sunsets, in midnights, In cups of  
(Lutheran) coffee*

*In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife.*

*Five hundred twenty-five thousand Six hundred minutes  
How do you measure a year in the life?*

*How about love? Measure in love. Seasons of love.*

(FROM THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL, RENT,  
LYRICS TAKEN FROM "SEASONS OF LOVE")

This song popped into my head a few weeks ago as I was reflecting on the many questions and wonderings from all of you on the “what’s next, I can’t believe it’s been a year, and wow this year has gone by so fast” ...type of conversations. Yes, to all of this, I can’t believe it either, and I guess I blinked.

I, too, am finding it hard to believe how quickly this past year has gone. Many of you have also asked me to tell you about a favorite memory. It’s hard to identify just one. But here are some highlights!

There were, of course, all the seasons of change with staffing and then working through the liturgical calendar with worship planning. Advent and Lent were very special to me. Confirmation was always exciting and energizing. The worship retreat was certainly a highlight with the middle schoolers. Baking communion bread with the First Communion class. There was dealing with melted ice cream while serving up root beer floats on God’s Work. Our Hands. day. The adventures of finding where everything is hidden in the church. Watching Long Range Planning take on the shape and direction it is now heading. Taking a pie in the face for a great cause. And of course, the occasional blooper in worship.

But certainly, Wednesday morning Bible Studies where there is always something fun and meaningful conversation shared (and now the abundance of goodies since we can gather in person). I do love trying to come up with an interesting or fun fact of the day with each study. Most recently getting to plan Day Camp with our L2F2 partners and all the amazing volunteers who made it such a successful week.

Outside of these energy-filled fun moments, there has also been all of the tender and faith-filled moments of providing pastoral care by being with individuals in times of joy and celebration; of loss and grief; over coffee or a meal; visits at hospitals, care centers and homes; or those brief few minute connects between services at church. I’ll cherish these moments with you all. You truly are a congregation that cares well, and I give thanks for all the ways you showed care for me and my family when we were dealing with the sudden loss of my dad.

And now a few Thank Yous!

The year would not have been filled with as much fun and learning without the truly amazing Zion staff. This really is an incredible team and have made this year very memorable. Then there is my internship committee who was with me every step of the way. There was laughter, some tears, and lots of wisdom and experiences shared.

*Continued on page 7.*

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*Intern Reflections continued from page 6.*

And finally, thank you all for welcoming me with open arms, showing me how much you care, and how you really are church together. I have been blessed to be a part of Zion for this past year and look forward to continuing on for just a while longer. You have been an important part of my faith formation and understanding my call. For that I will be forever grateful.

So how do you measure a year? Certainly, based on this year's experience, the measuring stick must be in caring and love. I give thanks for all your care and love. It has been a pleasure and a blessing serving my internship year at Zion.

Thank you to the Internship Committee Members:

Erin Bachman	Joel Brauner	Afton Farasyn	Bailynn Geiss
Roy Geiss	Debbie Joncas	Carol Scultz	Nita Starr.

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## Zion's Updated Mission, Vision, and Ministry Result Areas

*Joel Brauner and Greg Schairer*

For the past two years, the Long Range Planning Committee has been working to update Zion's Mission and Vision. But this hasn't been a solitary process; we've used input from the congregation to shape and mold the new Mission and Vision. Long Range began the process by creating a survey that was given to the congregation. Based on the input that was received, we crafted a new Mission, Vision, and Ministry Result Areas. These items were given to the congregation in focus groups. These groups gave us many ideas for how to live our Mission—concrete ways for us to act on our Mission.

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**Sharing is something that Zion already does well, but now we name sharing as our Mission and challenge ourselves to do even more.**

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The theme of this season is RE:boot but this Mission is asking us to do even more. There are items in our action plan that are rebooting programs that may have fallen off during the pandemic. But this Mission will push to go beyond a reboot and challenge us to do more with God's abundance.

The theme throughout our Mission is sharing. Sharing is something that Zion already does well, but now we name sharing as our Mission and challenge ourselves to do even more. We must share at all times, not just when it's convenient.

### Mission

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

### Vision

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

Following is a summary of the action plan that provides concrete ways for us to live out our Mission. This was presented to Council and during the July 24 semiannual meeting. We have grouped these

*Continued on page 19.*

## Staffing Updates

### *Pastor Joel Pancoast*

As many of you may know, the process to call another pastor to serve at Zion is taking longer than expected. During the interim, I have been grateful that Angie Elder agreed to serve as Pastoral Care Coordinator and Chrissy Wolfe as Faith Formation Coordinator. We had already realized we were going to need more help now that we're moving into a busier season for faith formation, but when Chrissy needed to take a brief break the need became more urgent. At a Personnel Committee meeting in June, a more robust interim plan for faith formation was put together, and in response to prayer and a few phone calls or emails, we have had the following people step into other part-time roles to help with faith formation:

**Ronda Buck** is providing Sunday School coordination, helping recruit teachers and putting together creative and educational curriculum.

**Alyssa Hart** will be coordinating young adult ministry communication and gatherings, helping with the children's program at Nourish, and providing support for high school events as needed.

**Andrea Kragerud** will be serving as Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation Ministry. She will help oversee and coordinate the many things going on with so many different people stepping up to help, plan, and lead milestones ministries (like First Bible instruction and First Communion, and will work with the L2F2 team from Trinity and King of Glory to provide ministry opportunities for all ages. In addition

to faith formation responsibilities, Andrea will also help with other pastoral ministry responsibilities, such as preaching and leading Bible study, pastoral care, and stewardship support.

**Pam Stevens** will be continuing to set up and support Sacred Space in worship, and she will help with administrative tasks for faith formation, especially things that have slowly fallen to Lindsey's desk during the interim time.

I am grateful for each person who has agreed to step into these roles during the interim, and for the work that Angie and Chrissy have already done to ensure these ministries continue to happen. If you see any of them, please thank them for the sacrifice they are making to provide rich ministry at Zion. If you have other ideas for ministries that can be provided and are interested in helping or know someone who might be, please let me know. Since compensation for the second pastor is in the budget, we are able to pay people for their time and passion.

I have always been grateful for the flexibility and creativity that Zion leaders and members have had with staffing ministries. Whenever we have experienced a transition in staffing, the congregation shows patience, support, and creativity as we discern together how God is calling us into the future. Today's situation is no different. Our vision is still to have a second pastor in place, but the timing is God's. In the meantime, ministry does not stop or pause without that second pastor, but is regularly being rebooted as the situation and needs change.

## **Pastoral Call Update**

*Joel Brauner*

The Pastoral Call Committee continues their work finding a pastor for a full-time position. Although it's not moving as quickly as we'd hoped, the committee is working hard. The current pool for ordained pastors looking for a call is small, which has slowed our progress. But we do have a couple potential candidates that we are looking forward to interviewing soon.

The members of the 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  
Nick Weimer  
\* Pastor Deb Abbott  
(represents our L2F2 partnership as a voice, no vote member).

The Call Committee asks for your support. We need continued prayers for wisdom and discernment. We also encourage everyone to talk to pastors in your network about our open position. If they are interested in more information, ask them to call us.

If you have any questions, please talk to any of the Call Committee members listed above. Please understand that we can't give specifics about the people we are interviewing, but we would be happy to hear your input and answer questions about the process.

## **Leadership Nominations**

*Amy Brauner*

The Leadership Committee met last July to begin the process of looking at the leadership needs of Zion's committees. The committee is asking the congregation to begin to pray and discern if serving as a leader on a committee is for them. As of the newsletter deadline, the following positions are open for next year's elections:

Council Treasurer  
Council Member at Large  
Long Range Planning  
Gifts and Endowment  
Personnel Committee  
Synod Assembly  
Local Service Committee.

Starting mid-August and running to mid-September, look for the nomination form in the bulletin to see all the open positions. Prayerfully consider if one of the leadership positions is for you or for another member of the congregation. If you have any questions about the open leadership positions or what a committee does, please don't hesitate to talk to a member of the Leadership Committee.

The committee members are:

Pastor Joel  
Amy Black  
Amy Brauner  
Cindy Kurtz  
Susan Schairer  
Paul Tunesvick.

## Zion's story merits inclusion in the MIF Annul Report

Last March, Helen Wuerl, Vice President of Marketing Communications for the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) of the ELCA, contacted Pastor Joel asking if they could share Zion's story in an upcoming MIF publication. MIF is the lending partner for Zion's remodeling project—the renovation of the outdoor worship area and the addition of the commercial kitchen and space for community groups. As Pastor Joel detailed

the impact Zion has had on its community, the MIF Marketing team felt certain Zion's story merited inclusion in its annual report; Zion's vision embodied their annual report theme: "Forward Thinking, Outward Looking." The article is reprinted below. Photos are courtesy MIF photographer David Joel. The entire MIF 2021 Annual Report, featuring Zion is available at <https://2021annualreport.mif.elca.org/>.

### **"Our congregation didn't need a professional kitchen, but our neighborhood did."**

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, LOVELAND, COLORADO

When Zion Lutheran Church in Loveland, Colorado, completed renovations to their church building and outdoor space in the summer of 2020, the changes faithfully refocused service to their neighborhood in unexpected ways. "Our building is a gift from God, and it's meant to be shared," says the Rev. Joel Pancoast who has been Zion's pastor for 14 years. Research showed serving others was a primary way members felt God's presence in their lives. If these two things—the church building and service—could align, who knew what could happen?

A forward-thinking strategic plan highlighted needed changes to the kitchen, fellowship hall, and outdoor worship area. The kitchen was deteriorating. In planning to renew the space, Zion accepted the challenge to go beyond the merely cosmetic. "Our congregation didn't need a professional kitchen," explains Pastor Pancoast, "but our neighborhood did." Despite the cost, the congregation, without hesitation, said "yes" to revising the design. Now, a new commercial-grade kitchen is available to prepare community meals and



**Zion's new commercial-grade kitchen is available to prepare community meals and host class instruction in healthy food preparation and nutrition.**

host class instruction in healthy food preparation and nutrition.



**The Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra began rehearsals at Zion, where it continues to practice today.**

The new fellowship hall is similarly open for use. Music has always been an essential ministry at Zion, underscoring the congregation's appreciation of the arts. During the pandemic, local school space for orchestra practice became unavailable. Could Zion's new fellowship hall fill the gap? Following CDC guidelines, the newly established Northern

*Continued on page 11.*

*Zion's story merits inclusion in the MIF Annual Report continued from page 10.*

Colorado Youth Orchestra began rehearsals at Zion, where it continues to practice today.

“For Zion,” relates Pastor Pancoast, “it was obvious to choose MIF for a building loan. MIF is part of the church, and using MIF also helps other congregations. The experience was incredibly positive, and we were always impressed with the immediate responses we received to questions—beginning with the initial application to now.”

Improvements happened both inside and outside the church building. Even though the congregation has been holding outdoor services for close to thirty years, circumstances were less than ideal. Now, a new pergola, fireplace, and stone walls wrap around a memorial garden and columbarium, framing the outdoor space. Services originally facing inward now look out—toward Zion’s neighbors—part of the congregation’s witness of worship and welcome. “Our building is about reaching out,” says Pastor Pancoast, “open arms, an invitation, a partnership with our community.”



**A new pergola, fireplace, and stone walls wrap around a memorial garden and columbarium, framing the outdoor space.**

## God's Work. Our Hands.

Block out your afternoon on Sunday, September 11, 2022.

Zion along with our ELCA partners, King of Glory and Trinity, will be joining together with ELCA congregations across the United States for a day of service.

“This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ—every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life—flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace” (ELCA.org).

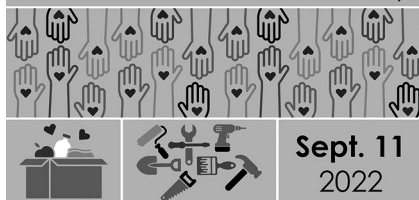
Service projects will include working with organizations such as House of Neighborly Service (HNS), Refugee Advocacy, Lincoln Elementary school, A Little Help, Loveland Community Kitchen, and more. Back by popular demand, Chalk Art! The variety of service projects we will be completing will help to make a positive difference in our own community as we go out and share God’s love.

Sign-ups and details for the various projects will be available in mid-August.

We also have an assortment of sizes of God’s Work. Our Hands. t-shirts available for those who do not already have a shirt and would like one.

Mark your calendars for this day of service as we join together to do God’s work with our hands.

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



## Refugee Update

*Will Reents*

Loveland's Zion, Trinity, and King of Glory ELCA Lutheran churches have teamed as sponsors of an Afghan helicopter pilot named Haseeb who protected US troops for five years while fighting the Taliban. He escaped one year ago, just before the fall of Afghanistan, but his wife and two children were sent to Hungary and then to Germany where they now are living as refugees.

The Zion, Trinity, and King of Glory refugee team helped Haseeb obtain employment and then supplied housing and transportation until we found an apartment which we furnished.

We have also provided other living expenses and the use of a car. Our three-month commitment with the International Rescue Committee (IRC),

his resettlement agency, just ended but we want to continue our relationship and help Haseeb wherever needed.

Two main challenges persist:

1. Obtaining asylum status and permanent residency for him and his family. He and his family run a high risk of being killed by the Taliban if they went back to Afghanistan.
2. Buying a good used car for him.

The core committee and three pastors are discussing how best to accomplish these two tasks. We will update you with our decisions. For any questions contact Rick Searles or Will Reents.

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## Nourish

*Joel Brauner*

How many times have you heard someone say (or said yourself) "I wish I could talk about politics without it starting a fight." Or "Why can't we have a civilized conversation about controversial topics?" Or "I want to have more meaningful conversations." These are the types of comments that drive Nourish. We are creating the change that we want to see in the world.

In the last few months, we've discussed the topics Shinto, Give Yourself a Break, and Baptism. We've discussed questions like "Can you have a religion without a sacred scripture, why do Christians demand perfection from each other, and do you think it is important to God that you are baptized?"

If these are questions that interest you, join us for Nourish in the next few months. We start at 5:30 p.m. with a meal then move into discussions. We have separate programs for kids and adults so bring the whole family. Here's our upcoming schedule.

August 13	Coping with Change and Crisis
September 10	Lord of the Rings
October 8	Ballot Issues



# Faster Pastors to Run 165-Mile Mountain Relay for Wildfire Survivors



Colorado has experienced unprecedented wildfires in the last two years. In Northern

Colorado, we experienced the Cameron Peak Fire in 2020, which is the largest wildfire in Colorado history. In December 2021 and January 2022, the Boulder area suffered the Marshall Fire, which was the most destructive wildfire in Colorado history. In the first six months of 2022 alone, New Mexico has experienced more than 31 fires that were greater than 100 acres, for a total of nearly 900,000 acres burned across the state.

Our congregation belongs to the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA, which is a regional group of churches in mission together. This synod is spread across the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, and the El Paso area of Texas. Since the territory of our synod has been hit so hard by fires in recent years, the Faster Pastors have decided to run for victims and survivors of fires throughout the synod. Funds given for the cause will be received through September 18, and will provide basic needs for

survivors of wildfires, which include food and temporary housing; mental health and trauma resources; and rebuilding, insurance, and material goods replacement.

The Faster Pastors will be running the Flaming Foliage Relay again from Idaho Springs to Buena Vista on September 9-10. The course covers 165+ miles, 30 legs, 3 mountain passes (Guanella, Georgia, and Fremont), including 31 miles of single track trails. The Faster Pastors expect to finish in about 30 hours, running nonstop through the night. Last year, the team exceeded their expectations by completing the relay in 29 hours, 6 minutes, and 40 seconds!

The Flaming Foliage Relay is a difficult run that takes us through the beauty of Colorado mountains, forests, streams, and a few mountain towns. As we

run, we will be thinking about the areas around our synod that have been devastated by wildfires, praying for survivors, and sharing our story of support and recovery with other teams and runners.

If you would like to support the Faster Pastors and wildfire survivors, a special offering will be received in worship in late August and early September. You can also follow their progress during the run on social media, from early morning September 9 to late morning September 10.



**Again the Faster Pastors will be running the Flaming Foliage Relay from Idaho Springs to Buena Vista through the beauty of Colorado mountains, forests, streams, and a few mountain towns. Here Pastor Joel is pictured in 2021 running along the Arkansas River into Buena Vista.**

# What's the buzzzz in Sunday School?

*Ronda Buck*

Happy end of summer and welcome to the start of another exciting Sunday School year!

Beginning our year will certainly be the buzz of Zion.

We are introducing our new season with an intergenerational activity on Sunday, August 28, between services. You are absolutely going to want to be there! We will have a guest speaker (a professional bee keeper) to teach us about everything you have always wanted to know (and maybe some things you don't want to know) about the amazing little creatures and the miracle of how they exist!

Why a lesson on bees, you might be asking? Because this will be our introduction to the fall theme for Sunday School—studying the BEE-ATTITUDES! Keep your eyes out for several hives that will appear around the inside of the church and activities in which you can participate with the Sunday School students (K-12) as they discover the wonders and miracles of Jesus' blessings issued to us during the Sermon on the Mount—the BEE-ATTITUDES!

Things will certainly be buzzing around Zion, and you are going to want to be a part of it!

## **Sunday School Schedule**

August 21—Sunday School Teacher Connect and Watermelon and Lemonade  
end of summer celebration with all ages.

August 28—Sunday School Kickoff: BEE THERE programming for all ages.

September 11—Beginning of regular Sunday School rotations at 9:40 a.m.

## **Sunday School Blessing—September 11**

On the first Sunday of our regular Sunday School rotation, we invite all students, teachers, and helpers to come forward during worship to receive a blessing as we begin this new year of learning together.

## **Blessing of the Backpacks—August 14**

Bring your backpack, bring yourselves! On Sunday, August 14, during both worship services, we will be doing a "Blessing of the Backpacks." Although we don't bless 'things,' we do bless the people. On this Sunday, we will invite students, faculty, staff, and all other school personnel to come forward to receive a blessing that during this school year, may you be curious and kind, gentle and strong, brave and loving. We celebrate together as a community the blessings of this new academic year.

## **Confirmation Recognition—August 21**

On Sunday, August 21, we will be recognizing 6th grade students who are entering into their first year of confirmation. 6th graders who are joining the confirmation kickoff later this day are invited to attend worship that morning to receive a blessing as they have reached this new milestone in their faith journeys.

# Confirmation

*Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud*

## **Confirmation Kickoff—Sunday, August 21, Noon-2:00 p.m.—Zion!**

Whether you are coming back for your second or third year, or you are an incoming 6th grader starting your first year of confirmation with us, we are excited to welcome you to confirmation for this school year!

We have great things planned with our L2F2 partners. Get ready to explore our community through a variety of organizations, retreats, and other service opportunities. We will rotate our meeting locations so check out the schedule closely with locations and topics.

Remember, confirmation isn't about knowing all the right answers, but instead, we get an opportunity to ask questions, learn from one another, and grow in our faith and relationship with God, together. We are excited for this upcoming year and to have you here!

Questions? Please reach out to Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud ([andrea@zionloveland.com](mailto:andrea@zionloveland.com))

## **L2F2 Confirmation Schedule 2022-2023**

Sunday, August 21	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Confirmation Kickoff at <b>Zion</b>
Sunday, August 28	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Learning Experience at <b>Silver Lake Park</b>
Sunday, September 11	12:00-3:00 p.m.	God's Work. Our Hands. at eight locations
Sunday, September 18	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Learning Experience at <b>McKee Hospital</b>
September 23-25		Coyote Howl Retreat at <b>Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp</b>
Sunday, October 9	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Learning Experience at <b>Zion and Loveland Police Department</b>
Sunday, October 23	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Learning Experience at <b>Zion</b>
Sunday, October 30	(during worship)	Confirmation / Reformation Sunday
Sunday, November 6	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Learning Experience at <b>King of Glory</b>
November 11-12		Hunger and Justice Retreat at <b>Trinity</b>
Sunday, November 20	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Thanksgiving Service at <b>King of Glory</b>
Sunday, December 4	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Learning Experience at <b>SummitStone (or King of Glory)</b>
Sunday, December 11	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Christmas Party at <b>Trinity</b> .

## **Coyote Howl Retreat—September 23-25**

Save the Date! We will be heading up to Sky Ranch September 23-25 for Coyote Howl. This will be a fun weekend getaway for us to grow together as a group and spend quality time up in the mountains. The weekend will have a variety of activities for us. Full details on the logistics of the weekend are yet to come. If you are participating in confirmation, please put this on your calendar. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud ([andrea@zionloveland.com](mailto:andrea@zionloveland.com))

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# First Bible Milestone

*Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud*

Attention all 3rd graders and their families. Third grade is another milestone year in the life of our church with the gifting of Bibles. We as parents, family members, and as a congregation make promises at baptism to place the holy scriptures in our children's hands. We invite all 3rd graders and their parents to join in a class on September 18 to learn more about how we fulfil this baptismal promise. The class will be from noon-2:00 p.m. at Zion; lunch will be provided.

On Sunday, October 9, the children will be presented their Bibles during worship. More details will be sent to you as we get closer to the class date. To RSVP or if you have any questions, please reach out to Pastoral Assistant Andrea ([andrea@zionloveland.com](mailto:andrea@zionloveland.com)).

\*Congregation, you will have an opportunity to share your favorite Bible verses and what they mean to you with these children. Look for more information on how to do that in our weekly bulletins and announcements!

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## High School Youth Opportunities this Fall

### WORSHIP PARTY Returns!

Shout out to all high schoolers: After taking its usual break during the summer months, our joint worship party time with King of Glory is back!

Our first worship party will be Sunday, September 11, starting at 9:40 a.m. and meeting at Zion. Our party will include enjoying breakfast treats together while reconnecting. We will sit together in worship at the 10:45 a.m. service.

This will be a monthly, reoccurring event with potential changes in locations for breakfast. I hope you can join in for great food and even better fellowship.

August 14	Pool party at Winona Pool 5:30-8:00 p.m.
September 6	Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin Fort Collins) 6:00-8:30 p.m.
September 11	Gods Work. Our Hands. Day Noon-3:00 p.m.
September 29	High School Game Night at Zion
October 13	Corn Maze (location TBD) 6:00-8:30 PM
October 30	Pumpkin Carving 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Zion
November 11-13	Weekend retreat at Sky Ranch (more info to come!)
November 17	Escape Room (location TBD) 6:30-8:30 p.m.

## Middle School Youth Opportunities this Fall

### GIRL TALK

Girl Talk is a mentoring program where high school girls mentor middle school girls. We meet every Monday night from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at King of Glory (except the fourth Mondays of the month). Girl Talk is a great way for middle school students to get to know their peers and students who are older. Conversations revolve around topics such as friendship, managing stress, and positive body image. There is a new topic each week. It's more than just the conversation; there is also time for games and friendship. If you are a middle school girl or know of a middle school girl who would like to participate, contact Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud ([andrea@zionloveland.com](mailto:andrea@zionloveland.com)).

### MAN CAVE

Are you a middle school boy or know of a middle school boy who is interested in connecting with other middle school aged boys? Do you like to play games and have fun? Join us for Man Cave! Man Cave meets on the second Monday of each month from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at Trinity. This is a mentoring experience for our middle school boys to learn from other adults in our congregations around faith, and it is filled with fun. If you are or know of a middle school aged boy who would like to participate in Man Cave, contact Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud ([andrea@zionloveland.com](mailto:andrea@zionloveland.com)).

### MIDDLE SCHOOL FUN NIGHTS

On the fourth Monday of the month Man Cave, Girl Talk, and any other L2F2 middle school students who want to participate get together for middle school fun night! There is no curriculum; this night is just about having fun together playing games, trying new activities, and hanging out. We meet at Zion from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Come and join us, we would love to see you here! If you have any questions about middle school fun nights, please reach out to Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud ([andrea@zionloveland.com](mailto:andrea@zionloveland.com)).

**GIRL TALK—1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Mondays at King of Glory, 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

August 22  
August 29  
September 5  
(No Girl Talk, Labor Day)  
September 12  
September 19  
October 3  
October 10  
October 17  
October 31 (tentative)  
November 7  
November 14  
December 5

**MAN CAVE—2nd Monday at Trinity, 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

September 12  
October 10  
November 14

**MIDDLE SCHOOL FUN NIGHTS!  
7:00-8 :00 p.m. at Zion**

September 26  
October 24  
November 28  
December 12

## 2022-2023 Scholarships Awarded

Zion has been blessed for many years with several scholarship funds as a part of our Endowment fund. Every year, the Scholarship Committee is able to offer scholarships to students from three different scholarships. This committee remains anonymous in order to minimize influence outside of the student applications.

**The Therp Scholarship** is one \$1,000 scholarship applicable to any college first-year student with a high school GPA between 3.0 and 3.5 and demonstrates financial need.

**The Sprenger Scholarship** is granted to students attending an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) college, university, or seminary. Amounts vary each year depending on the number of students applying and the market.

**The Petersen Scholarship** is granted to full-time students majoring in education at any college or university who graduate from high school with a cumulative GPA in the upper 50% of their class. The amount available each year varies depending on the market.

This year, because of generous anonymous donations, we were able to offer one-time scholarships called **Distinguished Disciple Awards** to three students who have been active members and

leaders at Zion but did not qualify for any of the endowed scholarships.

Congratulations to the following who have earned scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year:



**Maddie Elder** has been awarded \$3,500 from the Petersen Scholarship. Maddie will be attending

Colorado Christian University in Lakewood to study elementary and special education.



**Beilynn Geiss** has been awarded a \$500 Distinguished Disciple Award. Beilynn will be

attending Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, to study physics and play tennis.

**Tyne Klammer** has been awarded \$3,500 from the Sprenger Scholarship.

Tyne is a junior at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, studying political science and sociology.



**Olivia Tate** has been awarded \$3,500 from the Sprenger Scholarship.

Olivia is a junior at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, studying nursing and religion.



**Autumn Vrem** has been awarded a \$500 Distinguished Disciple

Award. Bailey will be attending AIMS Community College to earn an Associate in Applied Science for Paramedic / Fire Science.

**Bailey Vrem** has been awarded a \$500 Distinguished Disciple Award.

Autumn will be attending AIMS Community College to earn an Associate in Applied Science for Paramedic / Surgical Technician.



We are so proud of these young people and the future God has planned for them, and we continue to lift them up in prayer as they live into their hopes and dreams, and face unknown challenges and adversities.

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*Zion's Updated Mission, Vision, and Ministry Result Areas continued from page 7.*

action items into five areas where we can share God's abundance.

1. Sharing Resources
  - Partnerships with community groups through building usage
  - Greater commitment to serving the community through a "Local Service Committee"
2. Sharing Compassion
  - Strengthen Stephen Ministry
  - Provide care ministries
3. Sharing Biblical Justice
  - Sponsoring refugee families
  - Establish Year of Jubilee
  - Purchase homes around Zion
  - Inform, educate, and empower people to engage outside organizations
  - Commitment to environmental justice
4. Sharing Discipleship
  - Continued evolution of Sunday faith formation and second service
  - Support Nourish
  - Increase prayer practices
  - Service recognition and engagement
5. Sharing Hope and Belonging
  - Greater engagement with neighbors
  - Invite people into the Zion community.

All of these ideas won't happen at once. The goal is to be moving forward on all of these action items within the next three years.

If you are excited to help out with any of these items, or if you have questions, please talk to Council or Long Range members. We would love to hear what you're excited about and how you can move our new Mission forward.



***Zion is proud to be a Stephen Ministry congregation.***

## Among Members and Friends

### At Rest in Our Father's House

*Ellen Leenerts who died May 20, 2022.*

*Connie Campbell who died July 19, 2022.*

*Glenda Kirker who died July 25, 2022.*

### Prayers for Those Who Grieve

*Craig Wilson with the death of his cousin Kyle Warren.*

*Ron Christensen with the death of his grandmother Wilma.*

*Donna Snell with the death of her sister Sharan.*

*Deborah Price with the death of her great-nephew Oliver.*

*The West family at the death of their friend Doug.*

*Andrea Kragerud at the death of her father.*

*Pam Stevens at the death of her uncle Ozzie.*

*Charlotte Schmidt at the death of her daughter Amy.*

*Jody R at the death of her dad Pastor Graham R.*

### Joyous Celebrations

*We rejoice with Andy and Courtney Steitz at the birth of their twin sons Levi and Beckett on July 16, 2022.*

*We rejoice with Esther Lucero at the birth of her daughter Cherri Lucero on July 22, 2022.*

*We rejoice with Sandi Tungesvick upon completing her cancer treatments.*

### Address Change

Stan Mohr  
5062 Redmesa Avenue  
Loveland, CO 80538

Stan would love to have visitors. To visit, first please contact Jannine Mohr.

### 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.*

*Ryan, Anna, and I would like to thank all of you for the prayers, phone calls, food, and cards sent when my dad died. It meant so much to be connected with all of you in these ways during such a difficult time. Your prayers were certainly felt as we traveled to be with family and during his service. The kindness and care have meant so very much and will always be remembered.*

*I'd also like to thank Kathy Pancoast for delivering the prayer shawls for my mom and me before leaving for Iowa. They were well used during that week we were together. The prayer shawl ministry is a true blessing to be on both the giving and receiving of them.*



*Intern Pastor Andrea, Ryan, and Anna Kragerud*

**Andrea and her mom are draped in the comfort of Zion's prayer shawls.**



## Among Members and Friends

*Dear Pastor Joel and Zion Community,  
Thank you so very much for the amazing hospitality!  
You were indeed Christ to a group of travelers. We  
were hungry and you gave us food. We needed shelter  
and you gave us a place to stay! Please take this  
small token of our gratitude to continue your  
ministry! Blessings to y'all! (a little Texas for your  
pastor!)*

*Peace,*

*Pastor Ben and the Falun/Salemsborg Youth*

[Pastor Ben and Pastor Joel worked at Sky Ranch together, and he stayed at Zion on their way up to Sky Ranch. They left a gift of \$200.]

*Thank you for opening your doors to the community  
for Day Camp. What a wonderful week we all had—  
kids, youth, and adults! We are blessed to be partners  
with you doing God's work with our hearts and hands  
together.*

*In Christ's Love,*

*Trinity Faith Formation Team*

*Our friends at Zion,*

*Thank you for your recent check to KidsPak. We have  
an aggressive summer program to feed kids. We  
appreciate the support. Hope you enjoy the coffee/tea  
cups. Be safe.*

*Tom Carrigan*

*Thank you so very much for all your prayers during  
my time with COVID and then through and after  
surgery. The power of the Lord through friends is  
amazing!!*

*Carolyn Smela*

*There are no words that can express my gratitude to  
all of you for your prayers, cards, notes of  
encouragement, meals, calls, and texts. They have all  
strengthened me during my journey. I still have a way  
to go, but receiving your acts of kindness and love  
give me the strength I continue to need.*

*Naomi Milbrath*

### Prayer Shawl Ministry Accolades

*I appreciate the prayer shawls so much! As  
soon as I see the family, I will wrap the twins  
in them. That's exactly the kind of care they  
need. I was so pleased with the news of both  
boys together now. It's still a long road, but  
prayers have already been working, and the  
shawls will help us all. Thank you for sharing  
with us.*

*Lois*

*I just want to thank you and Zion Lutheran  
Church for the prayer shawl. It is just  
beautiful! The first procedure was successful.  
They're still running tests, but hopefully this  
time it will only be gallstones. I so appreciate  
this beautiful gift.*

*Sylvia*

*Thank you for the pretty prayer shawl for my  
retirement. What a wonderful ministry that is  
for times of trouble or joy! The shawl has a  
special place on my couch, and I cherish the  
comfort it gives me. Blessings to you.*

*Anita*

### Thank You Letters to Zion

- May 17, 2022—From Lutheran World Relief for an emergency gift of \$6,696 to help the people of Ukraine.
- May 17, 2022—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$550.
- July 1, 2022—From Loveland Habitat for Humanity for a generous donation of \$1,350.
- July 12, 2022—From House of Neighborly Service for donation of \$1,624.67.

## Regarding Zion's Prayer Shawl Ministry

*Linda Tegeder*

Our prayer shawl ministry continues, but we need to distribute the shawls to those we love. All are invited (and encouraged) to take shawls and give them to friends, neighbors, family members along with the prayers offered up while they were being made. These can go to anyone you feel would like to have one.

We have a table set up in the narthex with shawls on it for the taking. More shawls will be added as needed.

Thank you for being God's messenger in spreading these shawls and prayers. If you have questions, please contact Linda Tegeder.

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## Sierra's Race Results

*Kathy Loken*

Laura's Team: winner of the Fastest Team Award!

Congratulations: Jackson Bohm, Jenna Coleman, Linda Gibson, Sonja Pancoast, Don Stonebrink, and Colby Vrem who won their categories.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Laura's Team the largest participating team. Meningitis awareness and free vaccinations happen because of you!!!



Once again, Laura's Team was the largest team participating in Sierra's Race Against Meningitis.



## Tai Chi for Anyone

Bonnie Schowalter will host Tai Chi in the basement of the Thompson Valley Preschool located next to the church.

Mondays—5:30 p.m.

September 12-November 14

A second series will ramp up after the holidays beginning January 9.

You don't need any experience, and all activity levels are welcome. If you have any questions, call Bonnie at 970-344-5766 or call the church office.

## Zion Quilt Ti-ers

*Susan Osborn*

Zion Quilt Ti-ers will meet September 18 to tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

[See article on page 23.]

Please come and help tie knots.

Thank you to those who have donated fabric and batting.

# Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) saves and improves lives in the poorest parts of the world. We will persist until your love reaches every neighbor.—Lutheran World Relief

Until your love reaches every neighbor—a powerful mission. We give thanks for the partnership with Lutheran World Relief and their mission and ministry in the world. We had the privilege of hosting Jamie Lennon, our Congregational Engagement contact, on July 20. Members from Zion, King of Glory, and Trinity were all in attendance to hear Jamie's updates on how our support has positively impacted so many individuals around the world and most recently in the Ukraine.

Jamie gave a special shout out to all the quilting groups who support LWR's work.

Did you know...LWR distributed its first quilts in 1945 to families in war-torn Europe following

the Second World War. Within a decade, the ministry was reaching around the globe to villages far removed from the world's attention. Today, an average of 300,000 quilts are lovingly given worldwide each year.



**Jamie Lennon spoke on how our support of LWR impacts people around the world and most recently in Ukraine.**

*Dear Zion Lutheran Church Family,*

*Thank you for the amazing food*

*donation—583 pounds—for the HNS (House of Neighborly Service) food pantry. What a wonderful blessing!*

*HNS is extremely busy—the need is great in our community. Your partnership is extremely valuable to all of us. May the Lord bless each of you.*

*Cheryl Wong on behalf of the HNS staff*

*A Poem by Art Smith*

*(submitted by Kathy Pancoast)*

***Woke up warm and safe in my bed,  
While someone else heard bombs overhead.  
I jumped into a nice hot shower,  
While someone else lost all power.  
I hugged my family, we were all together,  
While others said goodbye, possibly forever.  
While I fear the money that I will spend,  
Others worry of losing the country they defend.  
In the time it took for me to write this post,  
Many have lost the things they love most.  
So, when I start to complain,  
I will stop and pray for Ukraine.***

# Monroe Elementary School Partnership Starting Up Again This Fall

*Lindsey Walter*

## **Back to School Night Sack Suppers—Thursday, August 25**

Hand Out Snack Bags—4:30– 5:30 p.m.—Monroe Elementary Cafeteria

At back to school night, parents and families are invited to learn more about the opportunities the school offers their students, able to start the year off on a positive note. We are making snack suppers for families so they can come right from work.

## **PIE Night—Date TBD**

For the PIE (Partners in Education) Night, Zion will provide pies for the parents and teachers, and the school will provide pizza pie for dinner.

## **Weekly Classroom Volunteer—Starting in Late September**

This is your opportunity to help out one to two hours a week in the same classroom and experience first hand the joy as you observe the amazing growth that these children have throughout the year. We have opportunities in different grades and different days of the week. Please reach out to the church office if you are interested in helping.

## **Boots, Hats, Scarves, and Gloves—Throughout October**

We will gather boots, hats, scarves, and gloves for the students at Monroe. Specific sizes and genders will be given to us based on the needs of the children at Monroe.

## **Parent Teacher Conference Soup Night—Wednesday, October 19**

The teachers do such an amazing job at Monroe. To offer our gratitude, we feed them the evening they conduct their parent teacher conferences. We will provide soup, bread, veggies, and desserts. Look for a sign-up in the bulletin.

## **Trunk or Treat Night—Thursday, October 13—Early Evening**

Help hand out candy and other prizes to the children at Monroe. Candy and treats are provided by Zion. All you need is a car with a trunk. Look for a sign-up in your bulletin and email blast.

**Yes!**

**It is time  
already  
to think  
about the  
2022-23  
school  
year!**

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 3-5 years  
of age.

Come take a look  
and learn more  
about our  
program.

Contact us at  
970-667-6552

or  
[admin@thompsonvalley  
preschool.org](mailto:admin@thompsonvalleypreschool.org)

or  
[www.thompsonvalley  
preschool.org](http://www.thompsonvalleypreschool.org)

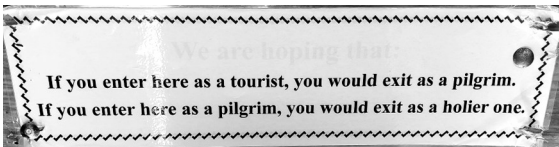
**Zion assembled 50 homework kits for the fourth graders at Monroe. The initial goal was for 30 kits. Kudos to all who supported this Monroe outreach.**

# Announcing the 2023 Holy Land Pilgrimage

## *Pastor Joel Pancoast*

One of my favorite places in the Holy Land is the Church of the Nativity. Under the altar of this church is a passageway that leads to a network of underground caves, widely believed to be the general location of Jesus' birth. From very early on followers of Jesus returned to the location to worship. In fact, these caves are the oldest site in the world continuously used as a place of worship in Christianity.

Immediately next door to the Church of the Nativity is a Roman Catholic Church called the Church of Saint Catherine, which also has a passageway into the caves below. As you enter the sanctuary of this beautiful church, an unassuming sign reads, *"We are hoping that if you enter here as a tourist, you would exit as a pilgrim. If you enter here as a pilgrim, you would exit as a holier one."*



**An unassuming sign delivers a powerful message.**

That sign summarizes my own experiences in the Holy Land. In 2018, Pastor Sonja and I went on a pilgrimage together to the Holy Land and returned home unable to see the stories of the Bible in the same ways we saw them before. It was a complete reboot to our reading and understanding of the biblical stories. In 2019, we shared our experience with 46 members and friends of Zion, and earlier in 2022, I was able to lead a group of pastors. Each time I have learned more, and my eyes have been opened to the biblical stories in new ways.

After several years of being unable to travel due to the pandemic, we were surprised by the number of people asking if we would take another group, so

we have officially announced our next pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and we hope that you will consider joining us.

The pilgrimage is **June 25-July 5, 2023**, with an optional excursion into Jordan **July 5-8** to see Petra, enjoy a traditional bedouin dinner, and visit a modern refugee community and a local church that serves the refugees. The cost of the trip is **\$3,790/person**, and an additional **\$790** for the Jordan excursion. All accommodations are taken care of by our friend Elias Nawawieh, a Palestinian Christian who grew up in Bethlehem. We stay in 4-star hotels, and all meals are provided (and they are incredible!).

If you are interested in exploring the biblical stories firsthand with your eyes, feet, hands, and heart; or you are interested in traveling to an exotic destination where ancient and modern cultures and politics intermingle in ways that will take you years to sort out; or if you are just interested in traveling internationally with friends, we hope you will consider joining us for this 2023 pilgrimage. We promise it will reboot your faith and change you forever. You can find information at [www.eliaستours.com/tours/holyland-pilgrimage-with-rev-joelandsonja-pancoast-zion-lutheran-church](http://www.eliaستours.com/tours/holyland-pilgrimage-with-rev-joelandsonja-pancoast-zion-lutheran-church), or pick up a brochure and registration at the church office.

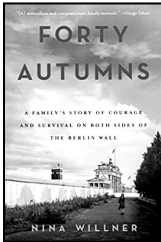


**Part of the 2019 Zion group, Janice Ehlers knelt at the birthplace of Jesus.**

## Zion Evening Book Group Selections

Scott Sprain

SEPTEMBER—*Forty Autumns: A Family's Story of Courage and Survival on Both Sides of the Berlin Wall* by Nina Willner, 2016. 416 pages. Memoir.



Forty Autumns makes visceral the pain and longing of one family forced to live apart in a world divided by two. At twenty, Hanna escaped from East to West Germany. But the price of freedom—leaving behind her parents, eight siblings, and family home—was

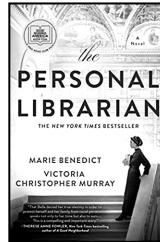
heartbreaking. Uprooted, Hanna eventually moved to America, where she settled down with her husband and had children of her own.

Growing up near Washington, D.C., Hanna's daughter, Nina Willner, became the first female army intelligence officer to lead sensitive intelligence operations in East Berlin at the height of the Cold War. Though only a few miles separated American Nina and her German relatives—grandmother Oma, aunt Heidi, and cousin Cordula, a member of the East German Olympic training team—a bitter political war kept them apart.

In *Forty Autumns*, Nina recounts her family's story—five ordinary lives buffeted by circumstances beyond their control. She takes us deep into the tumultuous and terrifying world of East Germany under Communist rule, revealing both the cruel reality her relatives endured and her own experiences as an intelligence officer, running secret operations behind the Berlin Wall that put her life at risk.

We meet on Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Scott and Ruth Sprain, 5260 Crabapple Court, Loveland, 80538.

OCTOBER—*The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, 2021. 347 pages. Historical Fiction.



A remarkable novel about J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation.

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection.

But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.

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

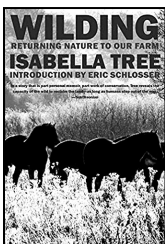
*Continued on page 27.*

***"There are worse crimes than burning books.  
One of them is not reading them."***

**—JOSEPH BRODSKY**

*Zion Evening Book Club Selections continued from page 26.*

NOVEMBER—***Wilding: Returning Nature to Our Farm*** by Isabella Tree and Eric Schlosser, 2019. 385 pages. Fiction.



For years, Charlie Burrell and his wife, Isabella Tree, farmed Knepp Castle Estate and struggled to turn a profit. By 2000, with the farm facing bankruptcy, they decided to try something radical. They would restore Knepp's 3,500 acres to the wild. Using herds of free-roaming animals to mimic the actions of the megafauna of the past, they hoped to bring nature back to their depleted land. But what would the neighbors say, in the manicured countryside of modern England where a blade of grass out of place is considered an affront?

In the face of considerable opposition, the couple persisted with their experiment and soon witnessed an extraordinary change. New life flooded into Knepp, now a breeding hotspot for rare and threatened species like turtle doves, peregrine falcons, and purple emperor butterflies.

The fabled English nightingale sings again. At a time of looming environmental disaster, *Wilding* is an inspiring story of a farm, a couple, and a community transformed. Isabella Tree's wonderful book brings together science, natural history, a fair bit of drama, and—ultimately—hope.

We meet on Thursday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. Location to be determined.



All were invited to submit a prayer request at Zion's community prayer station. The prayers were written on scraps of fabric, attached to a prayer-line (resembling a clothesline), offered up during worship, and then returned to the line as witness for all who are prayerful in our community.

## Powered by Volunteers Can you answer the call?

We are currently seeking volunteers to fill numerous openings! If you have availability for a couple of hours, one day a week, we would be grateful to have you join our volunteer force.

Here are our specific needs:

- Meal Delivery Drivers each day of the week (Monday through Friday)
- Kitchen Assistants on Mondays
- Substitute Drivers and Kitchen Assistants are always welcome!

Help us ensure that our homebound neighbors continue to receive daily nutritious meals and socialization. Every little bit helps! Together, We Can Deliver!



**MEALS on WHEELS**  
**LOVELAND AND BERTHOUD**

## An Update on the Mobile Laundry

Zion was a founding partner and contributor to start the Mobile Laundry service. If you are looking for an incredible way to serve the community, see the letter below from Woody Carlson, cofounder of the Mobile Laundry truck, and consider volunteering! To volunteer, call Woody at 970-460-6451 or email to [laundry@homewardalliance.org](mailto:laundry@homewardalliance.org).

Why laundry? The Loveland community lacks sufficient laundry services for people experiencing homelessness, and not having access to clean clothes is a proven barrier to success. Primary hygiene needs such as laundry are often overlooked but essential for anyone trying to secure employment, compete for affordable housing, and regain their self-sufficiency. If you are able to contribute time to this ministry, you will make a huge difference in the community in a fun and unique way.

*Dear Mobile Laundry Friends,*

*Here is an email that Pat Friehauf (Mobile Laundry cofounder) sent out to volunteers a couple of months ago.*

*"I just compiled the Mobile Laundry monthly stats for Homeward Alliance, and wanted to share it with you. If you've ever wondered how much laundry we do, here's your answer. April was a record month in terms of volunteer hours (287), number of guests served (101), number of loads washed (456), and pounds of laundry (2,647)! During April, we also had our highest number of loads ever in one day at 48!*

*Of course, we couldn't do what we do without our amazing volunteers. I hope you all have experienced the gratefulness of our guests when they pick up their laundry. It means so much to them to have clean, sweet smelling clothes. Some of you are new, some are trying new roles, many are willing to fill in when we are short-handed. You rock! And we are so grateful."*

*Currently, we are working three days a week: two at the Loveland library and one day at Fullana Learning Center in Fort Collins. In addition to the clothes we wash, dry and fold, we provide laundry vouchers to those who can't access our services (24 vouchers last month).*

*With all the increased activity, we are using lots more soap and cleaning products. We also use a lot of gas and propane, and we can always use financial support for these items and repairs to our truck and machines. You can go to the Homeward Alliance website, click on programs, click on Mobile Laundry and you will find directions on how to donate the products we need and how to sign up to volunteer.*

*Thanks for all your support. As Pat said in her email, "We couldn't do it without you and you keep us moving forward. You rock."*

*Woody Carlson  
Cofounder, Mobile Laundry*



**April was a record month for the Mobile Laundry; with their increased activity, they need financial support as well as volunteers.**



## A HUGE thank you to the many people who helped with our June Blue Jean Worship and Work Day

We appreciate all the time and energy EACH AND EVERY person put into the list of projects we had. Thank you to Jim Vosberg, Dave Campbell, and Bill McCann for building the Bell Choir shelves; Don Fenske and Bill McCann for the weed maintenance around the parking lot; Amy Brauner, Johnna West, Sonja Pancoast, and Sharon Yurko for making the sacristy functional and sparkle; the Sprains for painting the sanctuary; Ronda Buck, Gene Elder, Amy Moore, and Elaine Nichols for all the work they did in the sanctuary; Joel Brauner and Matt Moore for assembling the grill; Stig Oresjo, Rich Marquardt, and the Barbers for the cable and sound cleanup; the Patricks for painting the music stands; Chas Farasyn for hanging the molding above the choir loft; and Bill Kurtz and Chris West for the outdoor cleanup. There are so many more volunteers that helped, and we appreciate everyone who was able to contribute!

Zion is beyond blessed. Its premises have now been rebooted!



## DAY CAMP 2022! This Is Our Prayer

*And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight.*—**PHILIPPIANS 1:9**

It was an exciting week hosting the Sky Ranch Day Camp counselors who served as our leaders for the summer Day Camp program! Our focus for the week was on prayer. Sixty-plus kids combined from all three of our L2F2 congregations as well as the community joined in the variety of activities for the week.

Every morning began with worship before the classes broke out and began their rotations through Bible study, arts and crafts, environmental education, and sports and games. Each day there was intentional time for all the age groups to participate in a community prayer station. Our themes focused on praying for our neighbors, the world, for justice, and understanding. We ended each day together with closing worship.

We give thanks to the volunteers who helped in so many ways from decorations, setup, takedown, music leading, to being team leaders, managing the preschool program, and registration. A huge shout out to all our youth who served all morning every day leading our children and then had lunch (thank you to everyone who donated meals and snacks!) with the Sky Ranch staff and spent the afternoon in leadership development, games, pool time, bowling, and service. We give thanks for all the hands that made this work possible.

In gratitude from the planning team,

Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud, Zion  
Pastor Deb Abbott, King of Glory  
Jeff Stinson, Trinity





Joyful Energy





**Spirited and Spiritual**





# Tri-Church Picnic—Food! Fun! Fellowship!!



## Christian Camaraderie



## High School River Heroes

The high school summer trip was an amazing time to reboot. On a personal level, we were all able to experience the beauty of God's creation, challenge ourselves and each other to work hard to grow through our accomplishments, and grow together in community without the distractions of technology and other outside noise. Part of the reboot was also about numbers. Though we had a smaller group than in previous years, we had the same amount of fun and growth, and at the end of the trip, most of the participants said this was their favorite trip they've participated in, providing some good energy for future trip participants.

We had seven youth and two adults on the canoe trip, and two more adults helping drive. A special thanks to Stig and Gunnel Oresjo, our additional drivers who stepped up to drive with less than 24 hours notice. Unfortunately, Pastor Joel returned from his previous trip in Iceland with a positive COVID diagnosis, and was unable to travel with the group. When we started asking around, Stig and Gunnel were an almost immediate and enthusiastic "yes!" We are so grateful for their willingness to help and their positive influence on this group of youth. Fortunately, Pastor Joel moved beyond the contagious period so was able to follow the group and meet them a few days later.



**The group worked hard and grew in community without the distractions of technology and other outside noises.**



**Zion's river heroes was a group of seven youth—a group fewer in number than usual but had the same amount of fun and growth, commenting this trip was a favorite.**

over the fire, wash dishes, and set up their hammocks. Everyone in the group except Pastor Joel and one of the guides slept each night in hammocks with bug nets and rain flies! When the work was done, every afternoon or evening there was plenty of time to swim in the river, play games, take naps, read, or have great conversations. At the end of the canoe trip, the group spent the evening on the beach of Lake Superior to watch the sunset and worship together.

The canoe trip was amazing, thanks to our guides Sam and Hallie. We navigated the beautiful Namekagon River, a national scenic riverway, and along the way we collected trash that people left in the campsites, shorelines, and even in the river. Joey Klammer dove into the river to retrieve a tire! At the end of each canoe day, the group worked together to bring the canoes in, collect firewood, cook meals



**The canoe trip was amazing, thanks to guides Sam and Hallie.**

Thank you for your support of Zion's youth. These opportunities provide a lifetime of memories, as well as experiences that build faith, community, and self-esteem.



**Gathering firewood, cooking over an open fire, making sure no food goes to waste, and washing dishes.**

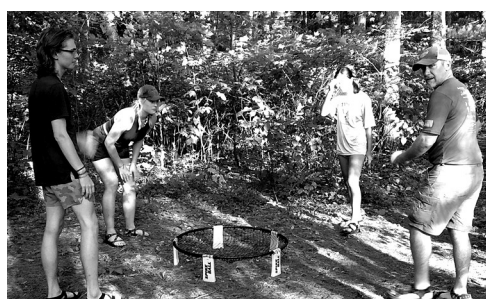


**Collecting trash left in campsites, shorelines, and even in the river.**

**Navigating the beautiful Namekagon River, a national scenic riverway.**



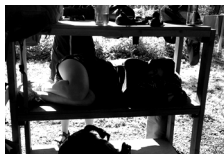
**Swimming in the river; remembering a baptism.**



**Playing games in camp.**



**Conversing with camp mates.**



**Resting.**



**Reading in solitude.**



**Reflecting at the shore of Lake Superior.**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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

Phone: 970-667-1836  
Fax: 970-667-1468  
Email: [info@zionloveland.com](mailto:info@zionloveland.com)  
Web: [www.zionloveland.com](http://www.zionloveland.com)  
Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church-Loveland  
Instagram: [zionlutheranloveland](https://www.instagram.com/zionlutheranloveland)  
YouTube: [Zion Lutheran Church Loveland](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv33333333333333333333)

## Join Us in Worship

**Fall hours begin September 11.**

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship  
In Person or Zoom

10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
In Person or Zoom

## *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**

Issue 8/22

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

August 14	Blessing of the Backpacks
August 21	Sunday School Teacher Connect and Watermelon and Lemonade; Confirmation Recognition and Kickoff
August 25	Monroe Back to School Night Sack Suppers
August 28	Zion Resounds Musical Event
September 11	Sunday School Blessing; High School Worship Party; God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
September 18	Zion Quilt Ti-ers; Deadline to Donate to Faster Pastors
September 23-25	Confirmation Coyote Howl Retreat at Sky Ranch

## **Schedules of Recurring Activities**

Children's Music Ministry Program Rehearsals	Page 4
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Middle School Fun Night	Page 17
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