



# Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

November-December-January  
2022-2023

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Pastor Joel Pancoast

### **Associate Pastor**

Open

### **Pastoral Assistant**

Andrea Kragerud

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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**

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## A Geography of Christmas

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

I have always loved maps. As a kid I would stare at two-dimensional maps and imagine myself exploring new worlds. When I was older I learned to use a map and compass together to find my way through wilderness lands, and as a young adult I used those skills to lead groups through the Rocky Mountains for adventures. Even today, I could scroll around Google Maps on my phone endlessly, finding new lands to explore or remembering the amazing places I've been and people I've seen. I have been lucky enough to see many lands and people in my lifetime, and maps both remind me of these adventures and give me a sense of awe and wonder for the places I have yet to see. Map pins, labels, landmarks, and map keys are glimpses into other worlds, some colorful and bright and others hard and rugged.

The theme for worship in the seasons of Advent and Christmas this year are particularly exciting to me. Throughout these seasons, the prophet Isaiah draws a map for us as we visit sacred places that help

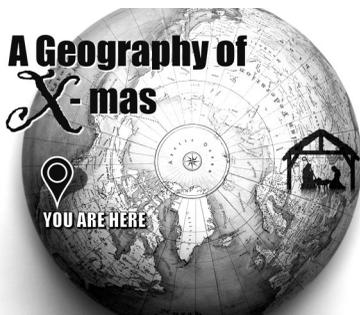
us prepare for the birth of Jesus. These are hard places, holy places, and pathways in between on the journey toward Bethlehem and our journey toward our celebration of Christmas. Above all, wherever we find ourselves, these are places where God promises to meet us. Together, they show us a map of the heights and depths where God will go to bring us home. We will visit colorful and bright places, and we will visit hard and rugged places, but in all of them we will find signs of God's promise to be with us.

Whenever we gather for worship, we may be all in the same location on a map (with the exception of those joining on Zoom), but each of us stands in vastly different geographies of life. You may be standing alone in strange, scary lands with rough terrain that is difficult to navigate. You may be with those you love in a more comfortable place, inviting you to stay a while and rest. Or you may be somewhere in between.

Whatever the geography looks

*Continued on page 2.*

A *Geography of Christmas* continued from page 1.



like around you, as this Advent season approaches, consider what this Christmas will look like for you this year. How will you prepare? Whatever it looks like, wherever you are, know that God promises to be with you.

**A Geography of Christmas** - What will each of these signs on the map mean for you as you prepare for Christmas?

## Advent

November 27	You Are Here	Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44
December 4	A Stump in the Wilderness	Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12
December 11	A Desert in Bloom	Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11
December 18	A Sign	Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

## Christmas

**December 24 / Christmas Eve**                      **Follow the Star**                      **Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20**

*This Christmas Eve, we will go back to our traditional pattern of worship.  
Each service will have candlelight and Holy Communion.*

- 4:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship with a participatory message for children and youth
- 6:00 p.m. Traditional Worship
- 10:30 p.m. Eventide with special, reflective music

**December 25 / Christmas Day**                      **X-mas Marks the Spot**                      **Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14**

*Since Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, we will gather for one worship time, complete with breakfast and informal worship together around the fire and the Christmas tree in the "living room" (fellowship hall) of the church.*

*Come as you are, even if you roll out of bed and come in your pajamas!  
Kids are invited to bring a favorite gift to talk about.*

**January 1 / New Year's Day**                      **Journeying Onward**                      **Numbers 6:22-27; Matthew 2:13-23**

*On New Year's Day, come to worship to receive a special blessing for the year as we imagine what this year will hold for us and set goals for our lives as disciples and followers of Jesus.*

**January 8 / Epiphany Sunday**                      **Recalculating**                      **Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12**

*Epiphany is actually January 6, the twelfth day of Christmas, but it is such a special celebration that we move it to the following Sunday. Come to worship to join the wisemen along their path to see what God has in store for us, even when we lose our way.*

# Christmas Comes Early to Zion!

*David Dunbar*

Greetings, fellow Zion-eers! Christmas has come early for us this year in the church's music ministry; I am very excited to share with you that the church sanctuary will soon be getting a "new" grand piano! (I am typing the word "new" in quotes because the piano we will be getting is used, but obviously new to us.)

The quest to find a replacement piano for the sanctuary began in September when I noticed a distinct buzzing sound coming from our current piano when played. Clearly worried, I asked our piano tech, Hank, to come in and diagnose the issue. The news was not good. Our current piano has a 6-inch+ crack in the soundboard, a stripped bolt in the frame, and a number of other problems, any of which could be causing the buzzing. (Apparently, the crack has been in the soundboard for a while and attempts to mitigate the buzzing sound were made many years ago, but those modifications turned out to be only a temporary fix.) Looking into the possibility of having it repaired again, we were advised that the cost would be steep and the end result would again not guarantee a fix of the issues.

Presented with all this information, the Church Council approved for me to begin the search for a new piano. After visiting four different dealerships in multiple cities, and checking out dozens of pianos (which I will admit we thoroughly enjoyed), Ryan Marvel and I found a wonderful 1993 Yamaha C3 at a piano dealership in Englewood. And although the piano is nearly 30 years old, when our technician, Hank, checked it out, he said that it is in such excellent condition that he would have guessed it to be only five years old! It is a gorgeous instrument that has a beautiful, full tone that will fill the sanctuary.

With the quick work and support of Pastor Joel,

and the wonderful generosity of The Horst Family (Virginia Horst, Kevin and Wendy Horst, and Krystal and Scott Reese), we were able to purchase the piano and are now in the process of having it delivered to Zion! (Thank you, Horst Family, for the early Christmas gift!) Our old piano, which still has its distinctive buzz but is nonetheless playable, will move downstairs into the choir room to make space for Mountain Blade (that's what Yamaha means in Japanese). Hmm, I think "Blade" makes a great nickname, don't you?



**Thank you, Horst Family, for the early Christmas gift—the wonderful Yamaha C3 piano.**

Incidentally, the Baldwin piano (in the sanctuary) and Chickering piano (in the choir room) have been faithful instruments for many years, and we would like to honor those who were instrumental (pun intended) in providing those for the church. If you have any information on the history of those two pianos, please let me or another staff member know.

Thank you all for your steadfast support of Zion's music ministry. The speed at which this all happened is a testament to the wonderful staff and volunteers I work with every day at the church, and I am blessed to be a part of it.

# Children's Music Ministry (CMM)

*Noelle Bauman-Stucky*

The fall season has been full of music, community development, and lots of smiles. The Children's Choir overcame some nervous anxiety and presented beautiful music in October. The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir started the season with a full rehearsal schedule, and all the musicians in our communities have been bustling to share their gifts of singing, dancing, marching, storytelling, and playing instruments. It is a busy time, but a necessary step on our path through the year. After much focus on completing this season to the best of our abilities, our Advent season of waiting is just around the corner. Yet again, a necessary step. I enjoy how the texts and tonalities change in our music, and how we change the approach to sharing this music as we reflect on the past year and look toward Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birth.

The next CMM series will include music for Advent and Christmas. Two groups will prepare for separate services: Children's Choir (grades 1-8) will prepare an Advent anthem to present on December 11 at the first service, and Sunday School will work with me, Ronda, and the volunteers to present a Christmas program on December 18 at the second service.

## Children's Choir Schedule

November 9	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Zion Lutheran Church
November 16	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Zion Lutheran Church
November 23	NO REHEARSAL	Zion Lutheran Church
November 30	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Zion Lutheran Church
December 7	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Zion Lutheran Church
Saturday, December 10	Tentative rehearsal TBD	
Sunday, December 11	7:45-9:30 a.m.	Zion Lutheran Church

\*The Sunday call time is subject to change depending on which part of service the children sing.

## Sunday School Schedule

November 20	9:40-10:30 a.m.	Zion Lutheran Church
November 27	9:40-10:30 a.m.	Zion Lutheran Church
December 4	9:40-10:30 a.m.	Zion Lutheran Church
December 11	9:40-10:30 a.m.	Zion Lutheran Church
December 18 (Presentation)	9:40-11:45 a.m.	Zion Lutheran Church

*Children's Music Ministry continued from page 4.*

This fall I was fortunate to work with Loveland Opera Theater on their fall production. We planned to start rehearsals for *Brigadoon* in August 2020. After completing some Scottish dialect coaching via Zoom, we made the disappointing, but necessary decision to postpone the production. Our next opera, *Cinderella* by Pauline Viardot, was smaller scale and meticulously planned to account for any cast members who could contract or spread COVID-19. We did our best and were very fortunate to have two weekends of shows just as the Larimer County mask mandate lifted in October 2021. It was an emotional show for the company and a steppingstone on an unknown path for the world of opera and musical theater. Fast forward to August 2020, we asked the original *Brigadoon* cast to return, and most did. We started in-person dialect coaching in August, embarked on the long-awaited journey, and what a ride! In our rehearsals we had so much laughter, tears, beautiful moments between former strangers, and all this was created in the fellowship hall at Trinity Lutheran Church. I have never witnessed a cast grow as close as this group of people. Our community of churches provides a home (sometimes temporary) to so many organizations that are building relationships just like Loveland Opera. These groups cultivate community and aim to enhance the lives of attendees so they can impact the lives of our greater community. Thank you all for always welcoming outside organizations and for supporting them.

Thank you all for the continued love and support.



**Worship on October 23 was enhanced by very special music performed by the Zion Children's Choir.**



# Ways to be Connected to Pastoral Care at Zion

*Angie Elder*

The mission statement of Zion is “together we share God’s abundance to transform lives through the love of Jesus,” and I see the love of Jesus transforming lives in this community everyday. Throughout this past year, I have been serving as the Interim Connecting Hearts Coordinator and assisting Pastor Joel and Pastor Andrea by overseeing the care ministries at Zion. These ministries include Stephen Ministry, Home Communion Ministers, Care Connection Callers, Meals to Heal, Prayer Shawl Ministry, as well as visiting members who are in local hospitals or care facilities.

The Zion community is deeply gifted at caring for each other in so many ways, and we want to ensure you are able to contact the pastoral staff anytime, for any needs, to be connected with the love and care of our faith community. However, many of you know Pastor Joel has been stretched thin since Pastor Sonja’s resignation and Pastor Andrea will be leaving in December to complete her last requirement before her ordination. As we enter a new church year with the start of Advent, I will be taking on a little more direct role in pastoral care at Zion. This will allow Pastor Joel to focus on the ministry areas of teaching, preaching, strategic planning, administration, supervising staff, and other pastoral responsibilities while allowing me to share my gifts of compassion, prayer, and presence which I have been studying in seminary these past three years. Just as Pastor Joel’s church and family schedule is busy, I am a seminary student and have a busy family life; therefore we want to be explicit regarding the variety of ways to be connected with pastoral care at Zion.

First, if you have a non-emergent concern during business hours (prayer request, health update, or a church-related question), please call the church

office directly at (970) 667-1836. Pastor Joel and I may not be able to respond in a timely manner, but Lindsey, our incredible office manager, can assist you or will forward your concern to me or Pastor Joel and we will connect with you as soon as we are able. Calling the office directly ensures your concern will be addressed in the most timely manner because Lindsey is more likely to know which of us is available. Lindsey is also able to schedule appointments for us if you want to meet with either of us personally.

Second, if you have an emergent concern after business hours (hospitalization, urgent visit, or prayer request), please call or text me, Angie, directly at (970) 290-4787. Many times Pastor Joel is in meetings in the evenings and by calling me, you will likely receive a faster response. However, if it is the middle of the night and you have an emergency, we want you to know that it is appropriate to call either of us at any hour so that we can provide the best care possible.

Finally, we ask that you reserve calling or texting Pastor Joel’s cell phone for emergencies or crisis situations only (medical emergency or death). Pastor Joel desires to answer every call personally; however, we want to consider all of his responsibilities and help him manage his time accordingly.

As a community of faith, we are all called to “rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep” (Romans 5:12). As a pastoral staff, we care deeply about what is happening in your lives and desire to walk with you providing the care that you need in the most effective and efficient manner. Please rest assured of our daily prayers for each of you and we ask that you continue to pray for the pastoral care staff.

# A Second Time

*Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud*

How does one say farewell a second time? An unknown author was once quoted saying that good friends never say goodbye, they simply say ‘see you soon.’ Having the opportunity to say see you soon for a second time has been a gift. These last few months have continued to be filled with relationship and connection, laughter, tears, and blessings.

And these months have gone fast! In life with every goodbye, we are welcomed with new hellos. I imagine many new hellos will be found at St. Anthony North this spring as I finish up my clinical pastoral work. I will be saying “HELLO GRADUATION” on May 21 as I walk that stage at Luther Seminary, finally. I’ll say goodbye to course work officially and hello to the next new hello of first call.

I like this thought from Mahatma Gandhi best, ‘There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in my heart.’ Know you will continue to travel with me. Thank you again, for a second time, for being such an important part of my journey.

See you soon,  
Andrea



**Pastor Andrea served Zion as intern pastor and then pastoral assistant. We will miss her.**

# Stephen Ministry

*Angie Elder*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!

Stephen Ministry is a long-standing and important care ministry at Zion of “Christ caring for people through people.” The Stephen Leader Team from Zion and King of Glory are working together to offer a training class to train new Stephen Ministers for both congregations. This process has taken longer than expected and we appreciate your patience as we work to put this together. Please watch for upcoming announcements and further information.



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

## Sky Ranch is Hiring 2023 Summer Staff

- Counselors
- Guides
- Ropes Facilitator
- Leadership Staff
- Summer Cooks
- Maintenance Staff

Apply at:  
[skyranchcolorado.org/  
employment](https://www.skyranchcolorado.org/employment)

## 2023 Stewardship

Zion's 2023 stewardship theme is "Daily and Abundantly," which comes from Martin Luther's explanation of the first article of the creed. Luther wrote,

*I believe that God created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul.... In addition, God **daily and abundantly** provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life.... This is most certainly true.*

Our grateful response to God's generosity is to share God's gifts daily and abundantly to the world and the needs around us. This is the geography of our faith.

On October 23, we celebrated "Daily and Abundantly Generosity Sunday" by bringing forward our statements of intent for our financial support of our shared mission and ministry for 2023. If you have not brought or sent a statement of intent to the church office, please contact us and we will provide you with one. On our Generosity Sunday, the Financial Stewardship Committee expressed their gratitude to the congregation with a pancake breakfast, complete with a topping bar to build your own pancakes.

The geography of our lives in the last two years has been rocky, filled with disruption and challenge. Yet God's promise to be with us and lead us has been true, as we have been able to witness God's love to the community in so many ways.

Our ministry will continue in 2023 with incredible opportunities to live into our new mission: *sharing God's abundance to transform lives through the love of Jesus*. If we reach our goal to increase our



budget by \$42,500, which is about a 7.5 percent increase, we will be able to focus on the following three ministry priorities.

**Greater Community Engagement** through more service opportunities led by Zion's new Local Service Committee; strengthening Nourish as a program where body, mind, and soul are fed; and building neighborhood connections through National Night Out, Monroe's annual pozole meal, and other local initiatives.

**Care for Our Facility** by continuing to provide safe, comfortable, and beautiful space for community organizations, while caring for older areas of the building that need extra attention and focus.

**Ministry Excellence through Staffing** happens by honoring and supporting our current professional and gifted staff through appropriate, competitive compensation. This includes being fully prepared financially for the new staff person for whom our call committee is diligently searching, as well as being nimble enough to keep any of the staff on board who started during the interim period.

Though we continue to face many challenges in our lives and in the world, this is our time to shine God's light in the community with our exciting mission action plan, mission, and vision. Thank you for sharing in our mission together and for sharing God's abundance!

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**On our Generosity Sunday, the Financial Stewardship Committee expressed their gratitude to the congregation with a pancake breakfast.**



Mutt and Steve cooked the cakes; Eileen and Jen of the Finance Stewardship Committee expressed smiley gratitude; and fellowship hall was filled with the people who abundantly support Zion's mission and ministry.

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## 2023 Holy Land Pilgrimage

*Exploring the actual geography where Jesus walked*

**Dates:** June 25 - July 5 (with an optional excursion into Jordan July 5-8)

**Cost:** \$3,790 + \$890 for the Jordan excursion  
(This price includes airfare, hotel, buses, guides, and meals!)

As we enter Advent and Christmas with worship centered on "A Geography of Christmas," we invite you to consider joining us to explore the actual geography where Jesus walked.



Don and Arlene Roney with their children enjoyed a cruise on the Sea of Galilee when a previous group from Zion toured the Holy Land in 2019.

A group from Zion is being formed, and if you haven't registered yet, we would love to share this experience with you.

You can pick up a brochure at Zion, or go to <https://www.eliastours.com/tours/holyland-pilgrimage-with-rev-joelandsonja-pancoast-zion-lutheran-church>.

If you have any questions, contact Pastors Joel and Sonja Pancoast.

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## Refugee Support Update

### *Will Reents*

As you know, the three ELCA churches in Loveland are having a fund drive for an Afghan refugee pilot, named Hassib. Our initial goal was \$15,300 which will pay \$7,000 of legal expenses to get asylum status for Hassib and his family and pay for a good used car costing \$8,300.

We are excited to tell you that we have raised over \$19,000!! Thanks so much for your support and contributions. The core support team will be meeting soon to discuss where best to use any extra funds. Hassib and his family may need more support financially. If not, possibly we can use the extra money to help another refugee.

Hassib has his interview to get asylum status in early November, but he may not hear anything about his application for a few months. For questions, talk to me or Rick Searles.

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## Running Across a Geography of Care

### *Pastor Joel Pancoast*

On September 9 and 10, the Faster Pastors ran for the eleventh year, with Pastor Joel from Zion and Pastor Daniel Smith from Atonement Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs leading as team captains.



**The 2022 Faster Pastors Team raised nearly \$10,000 for wildfire victims and survivors in the Rocky Mountain Synod territory.**

We ran to raise awareness and financial support for victims and survivors of wildfires throughout the Rocky Mountain Synod territory, which includes Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and El Paso, Texas. The Faster Pastors started at 5:30 Friday morning and ran in relay format until they reached the finish in Buena Vista around 11:30 Saturday morning. As we ran through the beautiful geography of the Rockies that included mountains, forests, and high meadows, we thought about how many of these gifts have been burned and how many people have lost so much in fires in recent years.



**Karin from Ascension Lutheran in Colorado Springs ran up the switchbacks from Georgetown.**



Thanks to the generous support of so many friends and members of Zion, Pastor Joel raised \$2,375, and the team as a whole raised nearly \$10,000.

**Pastor Joel and Pastor Will exchange on the Colorado Trail near Jefferson Lake.**

# Update on the well in Madagascar

*Pastor Douglas Cox, Executive Director, Global Health Ministries*

*Dear partners at Zion Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you so much for your support to bring water and health to southern Madagascar! We just visited the project earlier this month and are thrilled to see the work beginning in earnest. We praise God for this partnership!*

In southern Madagascar, the water has begun to flow in the midst of the worst drought in forty years. Thanks to support from partners like Zion, Global Health Ministries (GHM) has located and drilled three pilot wells in this parched region.

The first water was quickly received by children eager for a drink. Soon women gathered to wash clothes as the initial pumping of water from a well in Angodobo gushed out.

The water was tested for purity and volume, and it became clear that this first well was a success—clean enough to drink, by standards set by the World Health Organization, and enough volume that thousands of liters a day should be available twelve months a year.

A small (1,000 liter) reservoir was mounted near this well with a pump and solar panels to bring water for this community. Within a week, 17 farmers from surrounding communities were lined up to get water to bring to their lands.

It quickly became clear that the reservoir and pump need to be increased to adequately serve the many people surrounding this remote location. The goal before Christmas is to raise the water tower, increase its size to 5,000 liters, and place a larger pump in the well. Meanwhile, community members are learning drip irrigation techniques as others are trained as community health workers to address many aspects of long-term malnutrition faced by so many.

Even as we visited in October, one community health worker, named Tsiazomiteny, pulled out her new Bible to share thanksgiving to God and to all those who shared to make this possible in her community. We join her in praising God for your partnership at Zion!



**The first water was quickly received by children eager for a drink.**



**Women gathered to wash clothes as the water gushed out from a well.**



**Within a week, farmers were lined up to get water to bring to their lands.**

## Call Committee Update

Many things in life would be made so much easier if we had a clear map that pointed out the start to finish, along with every turn and every obstacle along the way. Unfortunately, most things in life don't work that way, including a call process.

At the beginning of the year, we started the search to call a second pastor with a great call committee that included three young people. We completed paperwork that would share Zion's exciting mission, vision, and ministry action plan with potential candidates. We were ready to go!

In consultation with the office of the bishop, we outlined what the interview process would look like. Each candidate would start with an initial online interview. This interview would be brief, serving as a first opportunity for us to get to know each other and decide if we would want to continue the process together. If so, we would have a second, lengthier online interview with deeper questions around theology and ministry practice. After that second interview, if both the call committee and candidate decided to move forward, a third interview would include an invitation for an in-person interview, which would involve a select group of Zion members with whom the candidate would be working closely should they be called. If that interview went well, the call committee would forward a recommendation to the council, who would then call a congregational meeting to vote on the candidate.

Unfortunately, from the start we have not received the names of many candidates. We don't know if the issue is a lack of ministry candidates

overall, their hesitancy to relocate and take a new call during tumultuous economic times, or somewhere in between, but we have gotten very few names that matched Zion's mission profile.

However, at the time of this writing on November 1, we finally have two candidates who seem to be a great fit with the character and mission of Zion. The call committee has been excited by their interviews and are praying that our mutual discernment between us and the candidates allows us to continue to move forward. We feel strongly about both of them and have every reason to believe that God is leading one of them to partner in ministry with us, in which case we will be able to announce a congregational meeting near the beginning of 2023. However, if that does not happen, we will need to start over again, hoping and praying there will be a new set of candidates looking for an incredible congregation seeking to transform lives through the love of Jesus.

Thank you for your prayers throughout this process. Please continue to pray for the call committee and candidates, that we would all be able to discern God's will and call for each of us.

From your faithful call committee:

Jennifer Barela  
Joel Brauner  
Ronda Buck  
Kam Otteson  
Hannah Pancoast  
Pastor Joel Pancoast  
Will Reents  
Susan Samuels  
Lynsey Weimer  
Nick Weimer.

# Living our Mission Building Neighborhood Connections—Monroe

## PIE (Parent in Education) Night

Thank you to the Zion people who provided pies for the back-to-school PIE night.

## Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat was a hit—60 trunks for Monroe’s 60 years! Thank you to all for your donations and trunks that made this last Halloween Trunk or Treat event at Monroe a blast.



## Thanksgiving Baskets

Zion will again provide Thanksgiving food baskets for families in need of a special holiday meal. Our goal is to assemble 45 baskets that will include grocery store gift cards in the amount of \$15 for the families to buy their Thanksgiving turkey. Thank you for your abundant generosity.

## Christmas Gifts for our Monroe Kids

The Monroe staff has created a wish list of toys and clothing to be purchased for the children of Monroe. Watch for the tree outside the Zion sanctuary with tags identifying the clothes or toys wished for by the boys and girls. Wrap the gifts, attach the appropriate tag, and deliver them to the church office by December 15. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lindsey in the office. Your generosity makes holiday dreams come true for these kids. Thank you.

## Zion’s remodeled building suits the LIFT ladies

For years, Zion’s LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) group held their monthly gatherings at various Loveland restaurants. But now they find Zion’s remodeled kitchen and fellowship hall suit them perfectly. Truly they are a gift as well as our remodeled building.



The October LIFT group celebrated Halloween with prizes for the best costumes.

## Team Building

Zion staff successfully completed an escape room team-building activity. We have an amazing staff who do great ministry together. Thank you, Zion staff!



'twas all smiles after the escape.

# *Everybody Always* *Becoming love in a world full of setbacks and difficult people*

## **Reflections on the 2022 Women's Retreat**

*Linda Juergensen*

I will always think of this year's retreat as one filled with love, compassion, hope, humility, and fun while surrounded by wonderful women!

The setting was the YMCA camp, located above Estes Park, with deer and elk on the premises, and a cozy lodge with a big fireplace always burning. The weather was beautiful, as well as the changing leaves outside.

The retreat leaders were Angie Elder, Pastor Andrea, Pastor Deb, and Rachel Davis.

Bob Goff, our speaker by video, delivered a meaningful message. We had a great time watching and listening to his wisdom, great stories, and his laughter which was contagious.

The breaks were many where we could just stay and talk, do a craft, drive up to Rocky Mountain National Park, go into Estes Park, walk around the camp premises, or just sit out on the porch and enjoy the beauty of nature.

Our leaders made and served us a fantastic dinner Saturday evening for which we were incredibly grateful. They also led our own worship service the next morning, with their own special touches.

All and all, I left feeling renewed in my faith, spiritually awakened, and filled with so much love for all of the women with whom I spent the retreat weekend.



**Elk were on the premises.**



**STANDING IN BACK (L to R):** Tracey Klammer, Lisa Teesdale, Sarah Christensen, Nita Starr, Florence Doksansky, Marcia Green, Anne Bates, Jami Juergensen, Linda Juergensen, Pamela Phifer, Rachel Davis, Pam Maddox, Eileen Huddle, Linda Breen, Kristin Otteson.

**SEATED IN MIDDLE (L to R):** Jessica Kuhns, Catherine Glaser, Peggy Klammer, Vicki Johnson, Sue Langhoff, Desi Boyce, Gwen Boswell, Carolyn Boyum, Kathy Nelson, Jan Einertson, Carleen Blake, Sandy Dorcey, Kathy Pancoast, Kathy Reents.

**SEATED IN THE FRONT (L to R):** Andrea Kragerud, Deb Abbott, Sarah Gall, Erin Bachman, Maddie Elder, Angie Elder.

## Among Members and Friends

### At Rest in Our Father's House

*Mike Tegeder who died August 26, 2022.*

*Stan Mohr who died September 22, 2022.*

*Judy Guerrero who died September 30, 2022.*

*Gerry Sanders who died October 11, 2022.*

*Deane Steine who died November 6, 2022.*

### Joyous Celebrations of the Gift of Baptism

*Payton Magnatta.*

*Daphne Lias.*

### 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.*

*To everyone at Zion,*

*Thank you so very much for all of your prayers, thoughts, visits, and food to help me through the shock of losing my daughter Amy. My Zion community has been wonderful in helping me cope.*

*God's grace and peace to you all,  
Charlotte*

*Dear Friends at Zion Lutheran,*

*Thank you for your recent gift of \$175 to Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry (LECM). As we prepare for students to return to campus later this month, we are grateful for your ongoing support. We've had a busy summer working on projects at the LECM house, including remodeling both kitchens! Our student residents are thrilled about the new dishwasher! These renewed spaces will better support our residents and weekly gatherings. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry.*

*In Christ,  
Pastor Monica Butler*

*Thank you SO much for the yummy dinner. We are so blessed with your amazing support and love. The dinner and desserts helped to refuel my strength.*

*Jennifer Fodness  
Kindergarten Teacher at Monroe*

*We would like to thank everyone who prayed for our mother. Special thanks to Angie, who visited her at the hospital. Pastor Joel, thank you for the time you spent with our mother and the family. You made a stressful time easier on all of us! Our Heavenly Father has her in his care now.*

*The family of Gerry Bentley Sanders*

### Thank You Letters to Zion

- July 28, 2022—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$2,375.
- August 8, 2022—From Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp for a gift of \$450.
- August 30, 2022—From Loveland's Community Kitchen for a donation of \$175.
- September 13, 2022—From House of Neighborly Service for a donation of \$430.

# A Bible Milestone Celebration

*Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud*

At our baptisms, one of the promises made by our parents, guardians, sponsors, and all those who were there was to place the Word into our children's hands as a way to support them in their faith journeys.

On Sunday, October 9, we celebrated as a congregation with Nolan Brauner, Hiatt Coleman, Roxie Davis, and Elle Farasyn with this special Bible Milestone. We heard the words that the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, placed in their hands, were to nurture their lives in faith and in prayer, encouraging them to share with others the message of Christ through word and deed; to care for others and all that God has made; and to work for the mercy, justice, and peace of God wherever they are. The Bibles presented to these youth were gifts from the congregation to read, use, and mark up!

Thank you to everyone who contributed their favorite verses. They were put together in a booklet and given to these youth. It was a blessing to celebrate with these four youth on this important milestone of receiving their Bibles. Copies of the booklet of compiled Bible verses can be picked up in the office.

## **A prayer for receiving a Bible**

*Gracious God,*

*Your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Bless these Bibles, those who give them, and the children who receive them. Speak your word to them, so that they may know the promise of your love, trust the goodness of your grace, follow the way that leads from darkness into light, and live as your children, now and forever.*

*Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## **A dice game to practice your Bible knowledge**

In preparation for receiving their Bibles, we held an afternoon 'class' where we dove in and learned the different parts of the Bible, how to find things in our Bibles, looked at Bibles written in different languages, and shared some of our favorite verses. A great, fun game that is easy for a variety of ages is this dice game. Try it at home!

### The Dice Game

Roll one die. Answer and score according to the number you roll.

- 1 = Name a man from the Bible
- 2 = Name a woman from the Bible
- 3 = Name a place in the Bible
- 4 = Name an object from the Bible
- 5 = Name a book of the Bible
- 6 = Say a Bible memory verse

Play to a designated score or for a set amount of time. As you get better, require a little more information, such as who Ruth is or what book Adam is in. Vary the game. For example, play with three tokens each, allowing you to buy answers until you're out of tokens. Have Fun!

## Zion celebrates the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) for Ash Arzuolitis on October 30

### Faith Statement by Ash Arzuolitis

My name is Ash. I make a lot of art, but my artwork is always a work in progress, like myself. God made me to be a work in progress.

I used to doubt my faith when I was younger when things got really hard in school. I felt unsure and alone. Once I found my friends and felt that I fit in and belong is when I really started to see how God is helping me.

I want to be confirmed to make things more official and become part of this community. My past experiences and the people that are in my life have shown me to have hope and to have faith in God, even if I didn't see how he was helping immediately, to not lose hope. My friends and family have taught me to be a part of communities, and I believe Jesus invites us to be a part of his community.

I believe that God has given me a lot of gifts to share; my greatest gifts are the gift to be virtuous and help other people, as well as the gift to be open minded. I feel most at peace and grounded in God's presence in nature.

At Church I am most passionate about welcoming and loving everyone. If I had to change one thing about the Church, I'd just add more tiny decorations (even if it's just for holidays). I could be a part of that by helping to set up or finding decorations.

One thing I would change about the world is we need more kindness for one another. I want to spread awareness about this. Kindness is universal and we should be kind regardless of one another's beliefs.

My confirmation Bible verse is from Micah 6:8. . . . ***do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.*** I believe this demonstrates that God wants us to be kind and do what is right. He wants us to stay by his side and fight for the greater good.

**With the laying on of hands, Ash received a prayer and blessing for God's Spirit to continue to fill her life. Photos to commemorate the occasion were taken of Ash with Pastoral Assistant Andrea and Pastor Joel, and with her grandmother Dawn Arzuolitis.**



Ash Arzuolitis



# Faith Formation

*Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud*

## Confirmation

What are we up to in confirmation this fall? In partnership with our L2F2 friends at Trinity and King of Glory, our confirmation program is on a three-year rotation of curriculum. This year our confirmation learning experiences are happening twice a month at a variety of locations. We are getting out into our community to gain a better understanding of how we see our faith lived out in our day to day. Topics this fall have included lunch at McKee Hospital and a discussion around *The Cross* and a tour of the Loveland Police Department with discussion around what do we think it meant when Martin Luther stated we are both *Saint and Sinner* simultaneously. Most recently we discussed what does it mean to be *The Church* in a fun potluck type of format. Reflecting on Jell-O and crockpots full of food, to bread and grape juice in sharing communion, we can see ourselves in the church, and how the gifts each of us brings are needed.

## Upcoming Confirmation Events for 2022

Sunday, October 30		Confirmation/Reformation Sunday
Sunday, November 6	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Learning Experience at Trinity
November 11-12		Hunger and Justice Retreat at Trinity
Sunday, November 20	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Thanksgiving Service at King of Glory
Sunday, December 4	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Learning Experience at SummitStone / King of Glory
Sunday, December 11	12:00-2:00 p.m.	Christmas Party at Trinity

## Middle School

Programmatically for middle school, Girl Talk continues to happen each week on Monday nights, Man Cave and middle school fun night once a month. As L2F2 events, we are continuing to look at how we can engage kids fully in fun and creative ways.

## Middle School Events

November 6	Confirmation Class at Trinity, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
November 7	Girl Talk
November 11-12	Confirmation Retreat at Trinity. Starts Friday at 6:00 p.m.-ends Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
November 14	Girl Talk and Man Cave
November 21	NO Girl Talk because of Thanksgiving break
November 28	Middle School Fun Night
December 4	Confirmation Class at King of Glory, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
December 5	Girl Talk
December 11	Confirmation Christmas Party at Trinity, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
December 12	Girl Talk Christmas Party and Man Cave
December 19, 26, and January 2	NO Girl Talk because of Christmas break
December 26	NO Middle School Fun Night because of winter break

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# Faith Formation

*Pastoral Assistant Andrea Kragerud*

## High School

Worship Party                                      First Sunday of the month 9:40 a.m.  
High School Sky Ranch Retreat      November 11-13

### L2F2 2023 High School Summer Trip

**Western States Youth Gathering in Thousand Oaks, California**

**July 5-11, 2023**

This summer, L2F2 high school youth will be traveling to Thousand Oaks, California, for the Western States Youth Gathering!

We'll experience worship, large group gatherings, keynote speakers, and connect with the larger church (and even find the beach)!

Deposit: \$150

Deadline for Registration: December 1, 2022



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## Advent Workshop

**Sunday, November 20**

**9:40-10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**

The season of Advent starts on November 27 and ends on December 24. On the Sunday before Advent begins, everyone is invited to attend an Advent Workshop with stations featuring various projects, crafts, and devotions to be taken home and completed leading up to Christmas.

All ages are welcomed to participate in this fun, hands-on event. No signup is required. Just come.

## Advent Retreat

**December 2-4**

**Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp**

Register by November 21.

[www.skyranchcolorado.org/advent-retreat](http://www.skyranchcolorado.org/advent-retreat)

\$90/person or \$300/family

includes activities, meals, and cabin or lodge housing.

## Zion's Day to Ring Bells for the Salvation Army

**Tuesday, December 20**

**King Soopers at Orchards Center—the WEST Door**

Zion's Bell Choir is scheduled to ring bells 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Other available time slots are 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Sign up on the connection sheet insert in the Sunday bulletin or call the church office. You can sign up for any time you have available within the time slots listed. Just let us know.

# Sunday School

*Ronda Buck*

## Beatitude Fun

The Sunday School children spent several weeks learning a lot about the beatitudes in a variety of ways. Students had fun creating crafts, watching videos, doing science activities, participating in conversations, and labeling bees at the four stations on the wall outside the sanctuary. Students learned that the beatitudes are God's blessings to us for living His word. Ask the children how good it feels to BEE knowledgeable about the beatitudes!

Thank you so much to Jen Barela, Jenna Coleman, Chas Farasyn, Johnna West, Chris West, and Sharon Yurko for their hard work and willingness to help with the Sunday School children!

## Truth in the Tinsel

Coming soon to a Sunday School near you: TRUTH IN THE TINSEL!

Our next Sunday School rotation is based on our Advent theme. Each Sunday, students will participate in reading stories, creating crafts, and learning music—all to get ready for the children's Christmas program on Sunday, December 18, during second service.

Stay tuned for dates and times for special events and information about this! Get ready to put on your Christmas crafting tool belt for some super fun!!!!



**Lucas Davis, Graham Farasyn, and Zach West demonstrated how rocks are like all the problems we have in the world—they fill up all the space in the jar. But when we add God to our lives (the sugar), He fills in all the empty spaces and covers our troubles with His love. Blessed are the poor in Spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.**



## Coyote Howl Confirmation Retreat

On the weekend of September 23-25, seven of our youth along with 40+ other middle schoolers from along the front range, headed up the mountain to Sky Ranch for the Coyote Howl Confirmation Retreat. We had perfect weather, great programming provided by Sky Ranch staff, and an overall fantastic time as a group. Our worship, workshops, campfires, and all the other adventures around camp focused on the theme for the weekend of Loving God, Loving Others, and Loving Ourselves.



## Labor Day Weekend at Sky Ranch

A favorite activity for many at Zion is Labor Day weekend at Sky Ranch! The land and geography of that place is holy, but it is more holy because of the people who gather. People of all ages gathered to hike and challenge themselves on the new high ropes course, relax around the campfire and picnic tables, play yard games in the campground, and of course worship in the beauty of God's creation. Thank you to everyone who came up, whether for the whole weekend, a day of fellowship, or even those who drove up just for an hour of worship! Mark your calendar for Labor Day weekend at Sky Ranch next year and join in the fun!



Jacob on the high ropes



Annaliese on the high ropes



Amy watching the high ropes



Angie and Layne at cornhole



Colby at yard games



Guys at spikeball



PG down the zipline



The Barela family table



Pastor Joel leads worship



Sophia and Hannah in the hammock

Fire Recovery



Mountain Air

## God's Work. Our Hands.

Thank you to everyone who participated in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday on September 11! Ninety people from King of Glory, Trinity, and Zion Lutheran Churches spent the day out serving our community and witnessing to God's love that propels us to serve the neighbor. We served with Loveland Community Kitchen, House of Neighborly Service Food Bank, A Little Help, and Lincoln Elementary. We also spread joy through chalk art at Good Samaritan Village in Loveland, and we learned from our sponsored refugee from Afghanistan. It was a full day to make a difference in our community!



Community Kitchen



House of Neighborly Service Food Bank



House of Neighborly Service Decorating



Chalk Art  
at  
Lincoln  
Elementary  
and  
Good  
Samaritan  
Village



Yard  
work  
for  
A  
Little  
Help



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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Issue 11/22

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YouTube: Zion Lutheran Church Loveland

## Join Us in Worship

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**

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

November 20	Advent Workshop
November 21	Deadline to Register for Advent Retreat at Sky Ranch
December 2-4	Advent Retreat at Sky Ranch
December 15	Deliver Christmas Gifts to Zion for Monroe Kids
December 18	Children's Christmas Program
December 20	Zion's Day to Ring Bells for Salvation Army

### Schedules of Recurring Activities

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