



# Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

May-June-July  
2023

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## The Heart of Faith

*Pastor Veronica Gould*

Have you ever wondered what exactly makes a person a Christian? You could give all kinds of answers to this question. Many Christians point to their baptism, while others could emphasize the role of faith or belief, and still others may place importance on living in the way Jesus has shown us. What's at the heart of faith for you?

Our summer theme for worship is “The Heart of Faith.” We will be doing a deep dive into the letter to the Romans. The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the church community in Rome both as an introduction for himself (as he was an outsider) and as an introduction to a particular way of understanding who God is and how the church was called to live together in the light of Christ. Throughout the history of the church, the letter to the Romans has had a profound legacy in shaping our own theological understanding. Martin Luther considered Romans to be “the chief part of the New Testament and the purest gospel” and “daily bread

of the soul.” As we explore this letter in greater depth, I think you will see why.

The letter to the Romans shows us the heart of our faith, the most essential aspects of who God is and what it means for us to be God's people. Its message is powerful and timeless. At times it is challenging, at other times liberating. Whether you know these passages by heart or whether you are encountering Romans for the first time, it is my hope that we will all be inspired to consider for ourselves what is at the heart of our faith together.

For many of us, summer offers a different pace. Perhaps this is an opportunity for us to check in with ourselves and ask God what is most essential in our life of faith. Just as the heart keeps the body alive, the promise and presence of God keeps our spirits alive. One thing that is at the heart of my faith is the promise that wherever you find yourself this summer, God is with you and God is for you!

## Summer Worship Themes

### The Heart of Faith: Romans (all texts are from Romans)

June 11	Justification by Faith	4:13-25
June 18	Suffering and Hope	5:1-8
June 25	New Life in Baptism	6:1b-11
July 2	Freedom in Christ	6:12-23
July 9	The Struggle	7:15-25a
July 16	Flesh and Spirit	8:1-11
July 23	Children of God	8:12-15
July 30	Known and Chosen	8:26-39
August 6	Irrevocable Love	Ch 9-11
August 13	Transformed	12:1-8
August 20	The Good Life	12:9-21
August 27	The Law of Love	13:8-14
September 3	Humility in Community	14:1-12

### Summer Worship Hours begin Sunday, May 28!

8:30 a.m.  
Traditional Worship  
In Person or Zoom  
Outdoors  
(weather permitting)

Faith Formation for children each  
Sunday between services.

10:30 a.m.  
Contemporary Worship  
In Person or Zoom  
Outdoors  
(weather permitting)

## Music Ministry

*David Dunbar*

It's been a busy music season already at Zion, and it's only April! This year we have been blessed to hear the wonderful women's choir of Colorado Christian University, the sonorous sounds of Lutheran Men of Song, the resounding resonances of the Rocky Mountain Chamber Singers, and of course the tuneful tones of our very own Zion Chancel Choir.

And as always, the Bell Choir, Children's Choir, and Praise Band have lifted us up with their amazing talents and musical offerings. I would like to personally extend my heartfelt thanks to all our incredible church musicians, most of whom are volunteers, and without whom Zion would be just an ordinary place to worship. The combined efforts of all these folks, as well as the rest of our exceptional pastors and staff members, make Zion a truly special church home—a home where the Spirit is invited in and felt by all at every service. Thank you, everyone!

*Continued on page 3.*

*Music Ministry continued from page 2.*

As we wind down the spring season, we will soon be looking forward to the late summer when we will have our second annual **Zion Resounds** concert. This concert is an opportunity for everyone and anyone in the church to share their musical talents, whatever they might be. It is also an opportunity for Zion to invite local semi-professional musicians and groups in to perform for us! So, musicians of the church, please be thinking about what you would like to perform. The concert will be sometime in mid-to-late summer; watch for that announcement.

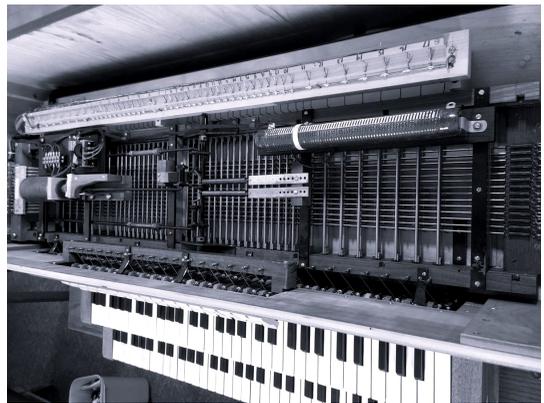
By now, most of you will probably have noticed that the organ console has been moved from the south side of the sanctuary to the right side of the organ cabinet which houses the organ pipes. I wanted to take a moment and tell you all about that move, and why it was done. Logistically, the move will make things so much better for the organist as you likely have seen me trying to discreetly move back and forth from the organ to the piano without disrupting the ongoing service too much. The new location will make this move to the piano much easier and quicker.

But even more importantly, the organ console is now in a much better place to be used to accompany the choir! In its prior position, it was virtually impossible for someone to play the organ and be able to follow anyone who might be directing the choir on the other side of the sanctuary (which is why I didn't play the organ trumpets during the combined choir piece on Easter Sunday). Now there is a much closer direct line-of-sight to the choir director. The move of the console also opens up the entire south side of the sanctuary chancel area for other activities, such as sacred space, or whatever the future might bring us.

All in all, I think this relocation of the organ

console was an excellent decision, and I believe it will serve the church well going forward. And just to give you an idea of the work that went into this move, take a look at the photos included here. One photo shows what the inside of the organ console looks like, and the other photo shows the three control cables that needed to be cut. Inside those three cables are over 200 individual leads that needed to be spliced back together!

[The relocation of the organ was made possible by the Mike Tegeder memorial fund. The family wished the fund to be used for something related to music at Zion.]



**Inside the organ console.**



**Three cables with over 200 leads to be spliced back together.**

# Children's Music Ministry

*Noelle Bauman-Stucky*

## Children's Summer Musical Camp at Zion Lutheran Church

Summer is almost here! This is an opportunity to kick it off with a fun, engaging, and memorable musical! The Zion Children's Music Ministry (CMM) will hold a musical camp from Tuesday, May 30 through Saturday, June 3. We will be preparing *A Technicolor Promise* by Allen Pote and Carole McCann, which tells the story of Noah, the flood, and the ark with an array of colorful song and dance.

Children are welcome to join the week of June 3 to undergo an immersive week. There is also an option to attend Wednesday rehearsals through May to work on lead roles for the week of June 3.

The musical camp will teach children (grades 1-8) acting skills, memorization, dance, and singing through a variety of exercises and the preparation of a musical. Children will attend rehearsals from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon. A small snack will be provided!

### Children's Choir Musical Rehearsals (Optional)

May 3	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Zion Lutheran Church
May 10	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Zion Lutheran Church
May 17	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Zion Lutheran Church
May 24	5:00-6:00 p.m.	Zion Lutheran Church

### Children's Music Ministry Musical Camp

May 30-June 3	9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon	Zion Lutheran Church
June 3	1:00 p.m. Performance	Zion Lutheran Church (reception to follow)

Register for the music camp at this link:

<https://zionloveland.com/summer-music-virtual-camp-all-ages/>

If you want to sign up for Wednesday rehearsals through May, please email:

[noelle@zionloveland.com](mailto:noelle@zionloveland.com).

# Reflections

## *Pastor Veronica Gould*

I was delighted to celebrate both my ordination and installation here at Zion on March 5. It was a lovely service, with Bishop Jim Gonia presiding and friends and family from all over the country joining in person and virtually to make the event extra special. Many thanks to all who attended the service and shared gifts with me and Greg as we were moving into a new place. We have felt so welcomed here at Zion!

Starting during the season of Lent, many people told me I was “jumping in with both feet.” I got to experience the joys of soup suppers, small groups, and Holden Evening Prayer every Wednesday evening. It helped to have this midweek pause to reflect on where I saw God at work in my life and in our community.

As you may know, I was called to Zion as Associate Pastor with a focus in faith formation. My philosophy of faith formation begins with the community of faith we find in the church. I have often said, “We cannot be Christians alone.” We learn from and are formed by one another, by learning from the witness we hear in scripture and in the faith stories we share. We are also formed by what we do, by the week-in / week-out practices of faith as we worship together, pray, study God’s word, and care for one another.

Throughout my first months at Zion, I have been getting to know this community and observe all that is already happening here, from Sunday school to confirmation to camps and retreats. There truly is never a dull moment at Zion! I am looking forward to the summer season as we move outside in more ways than one: as we go out to camps and gatherings, that we experience deep transformation that we bring back with us; as we worship outside, that we remember the gospel cannot be contained within the walls of the church; and as we are sent out to live God’s love in the world, that we are blessed to be a blessing for others.



**Bishop Jim Gonia of the Rocky Mountain Synod presides over the ordination and installation.**



**An assemblage of pastors witness the occasion.**



**And finally, may we introduce to you, Pastor Veronica Gould, Associate Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Loveland, Colorado.**

# Greetings, Zion!

*Andrea Kragerud, MDiv DL Cohort 11, Luther Seminary*

It seems like it's been a lifetime since I was in person with you all. I thought I should share what I've been up to since the end of December. Starting January 2, I've been working at my clinical site as a chaplain finishing my last requirement (clinical pastoral education-CPE) for graduation and ordination. My experience at St. Anthony North has been wonderful, challenging, humbling, and holy walking with people through a variety of crises and celebrations. This type of work can be quite intense with encounters ranging from life to death and everything in between. It's been a wonderful journey for me and is almost complete. I will finish this piece on May 5 and look forward to some downtime.



**Zion's former intern pastor and later pastor assistant, Andrea, will graduate on May 21 from Luther Seminary in Minnesota.**

So, what's next? I've started conversations with the synod office about the first call process and how that will work for me. I will have my final approval with my candidacy committee on May 9. Please note, once I know where I am headed, there will be an ordination! I will certainly keep you all up to date when this happens. I hope you will be able to attend and celebrate with me. You've all been such an important part of my journey toward ordination.

For now, the more immediate celebration is graduation! I completed faculty approval in mid-April and will travel to St. Paul, Minnesota, with my family in May to participate in the festivities with faculty and classmates. There will be a

baccalaureate service on Saturday, May 20, held on campus at Luther Seminary and a graduation ceremony Sunday, May 21, at Central Lutheran Church located in downtown Minneapolis. Both will be live-streamed. The links to watch those services will be posted here at some point in the next few weeks: <https://luthersem.edu/commencement>.

Thank you all for the support, encouragement, and love you have shown me over these past almost two years! I am excited and feel blessed to be completing these milestones and experiencing what God has in store for me next.

## **Baccalaureate Service with Communion**

Saturday, May 20—2:00 p.m. Central Time  
Luther Seminary, Chapel of the Incarnation  
Olson Campus Center  
1490 Fulham Street, St. Paul, MN 55108

## **Commencement Ceremony**

Sunday, May 21—3:00 p.m. Central Time  
Central Lutheran Church  
333 South 12th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404

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## **A few words about ordination and installation and of gratitude for those who made the celebration possible**

Zion has been blessed not only by Pastor Veronica accepting the call as associate pastor; we have been doubly blessed that she chose to combine her ordination with her installation as our newest pastor! All believers are entrusted with ministry in the world, but some are called to the office of the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

# Intern Pastor Katie is coming to Zion!

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

Zion has been blessed by two intern pastors in recent years. Courtney Steitz interned with us in 2018-2019 and is now serving at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. Andrea Kragerud interned with us in 2021-2022 and is now preparing for the process of interviewing for a first call (see article from Andrea on page 6 of this newsletter). These experiences have been positive for Zion and for the interns as a mutual partnership and learning. Zion has grown from their presence and leadership, and these interns are now great pastors serving the larger church. Because it has been such a positive experience, creating a path for regular, yearly internships has been part of our congregational vision for a few years.

Good news! After Easter, Luther Seminary notified us that we will be receiving Katie Elkin as an intern pastor. We don't know the exact details yet about when she will start, but we are too excited not to share the news now! Katie is from North Carolina. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and seminary at Duke Divinity School. She has a breadth of ministry experience, including outdoor ministry, Young Adults in Global Mission in Madagascar, Lutheran Campus Ministry, and more. We are so excited to welcome Katie sometime near the end of the summer. Stay tuned for more details about Katie in the near future.

In the meantime, we are exploring two considerations to provide a great internship experience. First, we will be recruiting an intern committee that will meet with her at least once a month. If you are interested in working with her to provide constructive feedback and critique, please let Pastor Joel know. Second, we will be looking for housing very soon. Intern pastors need their own housing, so it can't be a basement of someone's home unless it has amenities such as a separate entrance and kitchen. Most likely, we will need to lease an apartment, duplex, or house. If you have any thoughts, please let us know as soon as possible.

*A few words about ordination and installation and of gratitude for those who made the celebration possible continued from page 6.*



After years of study and mutual discernment with the whole church, these individuals are ordained as pastors and called to a specific ministry of leadership. On Sunday, March 5, we were blessed to celebrate Pastor Veronica's ordination and call to Zion! Thank you to everyone who made this celebration possible, including the call committee, Josh and Lindsey Walter who prepared food for the incredible reception after the service, and the youth who helped lead the worship.



# Sunday School in Review

*Ronda Buck*

Howdy, everyone! This year has certainly been a whirlwind of activities and fun! After completing our Advent activities, the elementary and middle school kiddos moved quickly into our Lent theme mirroring the church theme of Seeking!

Elementary students used scenery created in their classroom to use as a scaffolding for all the weekly parables that matched each weekly theme. Each week they read the weekly parable, used puppets in the scene to recreate the stories, added the necessary pieces for each parable—the well, the temple, the road Jesus took, and much more. Students ended each session by either completing other hands-on activities or singing with Ms. Noelle in preparation for singing with the choir on Palm Sunday.



**The elementary Sunday School students sang with the choir on Palm Sunday during the 8:15 a.m. service.**

Now we are preparing for the SPRING!!! We are using a variety of themes and resources to make sure all the students receive the best instruction on why God is so GREAT! Our themes will include Love of God, The Lord's Prayer, and Biblical Crossing. We are super excited to dive into our new spring themes with your children!



**Pastor Veronica visited the elementary Sunday School students for the first time during class.**

Finally, we are planning for summer and next year! Ta-dah!!!! Please forward any ideas, suggestions, concerns, etc., about your thoughts about Sunday School...WE WANT YOUR INPUT!!!!

Middle School Sunday School also has been an adventure! Like the elementary kiddos, our middle schoolers have followed along with the church theme of Seeking! for Lent. Students had mini-bulletins that had the students reading, writing, analyzing artwork, and going on field trips in the sanctuary to learn about the different

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*Sunday School in Review continued from page 8.*

areas of the altar. Lots of lively conversations occurred, and students enjoyed the variety of activities.

For the rest of this year, the middle schoolers will be working with a curriculum called Ancestors, learning about the history of the Bible and all its characters.

Thank you to Noelle Bauman, Jen Barela, Pam Davis, Jenna Coleman, Afton Farasyn, Chas Farasyn, Janine Johnson, Pastor Veronica, and all the parents and any helpers I might have missed! We are all spiritual instructors for all our children, and none of our activities could happen without all of your help, love, and support!

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## **Nourish**

*Joel Brauner*

We've enjoyed another great few months of food, friends, and fellowship at Nourish. We started in February with a discussion about what is love and how views of love have changed over time. In March, we had a great presentation from Rick Searles, a certified genealogist, around starting your own genealogical work for a better understanding of your family history. And we are looking forward to more great conversations!

Nourish is a program created for all ages, from the youngest members of our community to whatever age you consider yourself to be at. Nursery care can be provided for children 3 years old and younger (let us know beforehand so we can set up nursery care). A separate kids program provides children with spiritual nourishment through topics similar to the adults' topic, but without their own parents cramping their style. Each evening always starts with a meal where all gather together for fellowship.

We start at 5:30 p.m. in the Zion fellowship hall. Our upcoming dates are listed below.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Joel Brauner.

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| May 13    | How many hours should a workweek be and does God value a strong work ethic? |
| June 10   | Topic TBD   |
| July 8    | Topic TBD   |
| August 12 | Topic TBD   |

# Faith Formation

*Pastor Veronica Gould*

## **L2F2 Vacation Bible School / Day Camp**

**June 12—16**

**Trinity Lutheran Church, Loveland**

**9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon**

It's almost summer, and summer means Vacation Bible School (VBS)!

We are so excited to be partnering with Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp and Loveland Lutheran Faith Formation (L2F2) to have a very special VBS day camp for our kids.

The theme will be “FruitFULL Faith: A Spirit Filled Life!” The children will learn about the fruits of the spirit as the Apostle Paul describes them in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

This year, the host site is Trinity Lutheran Church, 3333 Duffield Avenue, Loveland, CO.

Dates for VBS will be June 12-16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Each day, we will begin with a check-in and gathering worship, followed by rotations of small group activities for the kids. Snacks will be provided.

VBS is open to children ages 3 to completing 5th grade. The cost will be \$10 per child or \$15 per family. Each child will need a registration form filled out to participate in VBS.

We encourage youth completing 6th grade and up to participate in a volunteer leadership role. This is a great opportunity to serve!

We also need adult volunteers.

There are so many ways to support and make this year's VBS a success. All volunteers are asked to attend a training session on the afternoon of June 4 to prepare for VBS.

On June 15, we will have a special VBS potluck party to celebrate the end of the week and highlight all the fun things the kids have learned throughout the week.

For registration or to sign up to volunteer, please use the “Register for Events” tab on Zion's website. [www.zionloveland.com](http://www.zionloveland.com)

*By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.*

—GALATIANS 5:22-23

# Faith Formation

*Pastor Veronica Gould*



## **Sky Ranch Summer Camp**

We have lots of fun opportunities to get up to camp at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp this summer for kids in 1st-12th grade. We want to make sure all the kids at Zion are able to participate in as much of the fun as possible, so please let us know if financial assistance can help you or your child get to camp. Prices are listed below.

To register for camp, please contact the office.

### **June 25-30 (Confirmation Intensive)**

Confirmation students are invited to immerse themselves in the biblical story for the week at confirmation intensive camp. Cost: \$475.

High school students are invited to help facilitate the story at Confirmation Intensive Camp and have fun together. Cost: \$300.

### **July 30-August 4:**

Lower elementary students who are completing 1st-3rd grade this May can try a two-night introduction to camp (July 30-August 1). This is a great opportunity for first-time campers to make friends, worship, and experience Sky Ranch. Cost: \$280.

Upper elementary students who are completing 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade this May are invited to camp for the full week to connect with God and participate in community-building activities, day hikes, low ropes activities, and a sleep-out! Cost: \$475.

High schoolers completing 9th-12th grades are invited to the full week of camp for Rendezvous High School, where they will enjoy day hikes and rafting on the Poudre River, sleep in platform tents, cook over the fire, and engage in service projects. It's a high-adventure, high-fun week of camp! Cost: \$515.

## Labor Day Weekend at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp



**Come for the weekend to enjoy the beauty of the camp at 9,200 feet surrounded by mountains of 12-13,000 feet.**

This year, reservations will be made directly through Zion (not Sky Ranch) on a first-come, first-serve basis. To reserve and pay for a tent site, trailer site with electricity, cabin, or lodge room, call or email the Zion office, check the Connections sheet in worship, or go to the website and fill out the form under the “Register for Events” tab. Sky Ranch is requiring that we pay for a three-night minimum because they’re trying to fill the camp as much as possible. However, the rates are affordable, so even if you can’t stay all three nights we hope you will agree that it is a worthwhile value. If you are interested but need help paying, please contact one of the pastors. We want to have as many people there as possible, and finances should not keep anyone from participating who wants to share in this experience.

Trailer/RV site—\$45/night

Tent site—\$35/night

Cabin (up to 10 people)—\$55/night

Christ Lodge room (up to 4 people)—\$65/night

Ruth Lodge room (up to 8 people + private bathroom)—\$150/night

Zion has a long-standing tradition of celebrating the Labor Day weekend at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp! Come for the weekend to enjoy the beauty of the camp at 9,200 feet surrounded by mountains of 12-13,000 feet. There will be activities and programs—worship, campfires, yard games, hiking, crafts, high ropes, and more—but you can make your own schedule depending on your preference between social and alone time, physical activity and relaxation. This is a wonderful experience of fellowship and community in the beauty of the mountains, and you can register for your own level of comfort, from tenting, to staying in a lodge or cabin.



**Experience the enhanced spirituality of worship outdoors in the beauty of the mountains.**

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# Meet Zion's New Members

During worship on Sunday, March 23, 2023, the following new members were received and welcomed.

## **Alyssa Hart**

Alyssa is a certified occupational therapy assistant in pediatrics. The mountains and her work brought her to Loveland where she has lived for five years. She enjoys hiking and reading. She loves all opportunities to serve with youth and young adults and has been serving at Zion, in an interim capacity, coordinating the young adult ministry, helping with middle and high school activities, and providing the children's program at Nourish.

## **Edward Jo (Buzz) Rosson and Cynthia (Cindy) Botterill**

Ed is vice president of Technical Infrastructure, a public corporation, and is almost retired. He enjoys travel, fishing, and hot springs. Previously, he lived in Virginia. He is compassionate about wanting to help and support those in need.

Cindy is a dental hygienist. In her free time, she enjoys working with flowers and animals and loves to travel. The mountains are one of the things that brought her to Loveland.

Zion's open and welcoming community and mission are what brought them to become members.

## **Bettie Jane Padilla**

Bettie works at North Shore Health & Rehab in the rehab area. She enjoys reading, listening to music, doing crafts, and visiting with family and friends. Her great-granddaughter, Payton, was baptized at Zion last summer. Bettie has lived in Glenwood Springs, California, and Minnesota. A friend told her about Zion, and she feels this is a very kind community.

## **Madison Brandi Berger and Kody Windecker**

Madison is a graduate student at the University of Texas in Dallas where she earned her PhD in chemistry. Before moving to Loveland in January 2023, she lived in Houston and other areas of Texas. She enjoys hiking, swimming, fishing, camping, reading, and cooking. She says that everyone is so welcoming here at Zion where she is interested in serving as a reader and being a part of the Bell Choir.

Kody works as a chiropractor at a clinic in Johnstown. He enjoys fishing, hiking, camping—also playing guitar and piano. Prior to moving to the Loveland area in November 2022, he lived in Texas. At Zion, Kody would like to be a reader or join the Bell Choir.

Madison and Kody look forward to being married next year.

## **Brenda and Jon Fosse**

Brenda and Jon are retired.

Brenda worked as an occupational therapist and social security examiner.

Brenda and Jon have lived in Minnesota, Nebraska, and Alaska before moving back to Colorado. Brenda enjoys reading and playing games. Jon enjoys water boating, gardening, and home maintenance.

Both are figuring out how to share their gifts at Zion and appreciate the care Zion showed to both Mel and Mary Jo Haack, Brenda's parents.

# Caring Hearts Ministry

*Angie Elder*

## Stephen Ministers in Training

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members who are trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life such as grief, divorce, job loss, illness, or relocation. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.



On Wednesday, March 1, Stephen Minister training began for a group of five laypeople from our congregation. Over the next few months, these future Stephen Ministers will receive extensive training in Christian caring skills. Some of the areas they will cover include listening effectively, addressing feelings, confidentiality, using the Christian resources of prayer and the scriptures, and a number of topics dealing with specific life crises. At the completion of the training this summer, these men and women will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers to carry out ministries of caring within our congregation and community, with people experiencing hospitalization, grief, divorce, job loss, and a variety of other life crises. Working with Zion's Stephen Leaders—Angie Elder and Laura Dimmitt—our newest Stephen Ministers will extend the capacity of our congregation to care for one another. Please pray for those who are participating in this intensive training and committing to serve as Stephen Ministers: Jennifer Barela, Linda Breen, Noel Breen, Ron Christensen, and Susan Samuels.

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## Zion Cares for YOU

The congregation of Zion cares for one another in many ways:

- praying for one another through the prayer chain and prayers in worship
- providing meals for those recovering from surgery or illness
- providing rides to medical appointments
- providing home communion to those who cannot come to worship in person
- celebrating a special milestone or transition (moving, retirement, etc.).



If you are experiencing a difficult or challenging time, Zion cares about you! Please reach out to Angie Elder at [angie@zionloveland.com](mailto:angie@zionloveland.com) or 970-290-4787 or call the church office and let us know how we can support you.

***Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.***

—GALATIANS 6:2

# Caring Hearts Ministry

*Angie Elder*

## Are you a Zion member who volunteers in the community?

My desire is to acknowledge members of Zion who volunteer, highlighting where they are volunteering in the community and how they are sharing God's love with the world. If you volunteer and would like to share your story, please contact Angie Elder at [angie@zionloveland.com](mailto:angie@zionloveland.com). We would love to know about you!

## Featuring Zion Volunteer in the Community: Angie Elder

Mother Teresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

My name is Angie Elder, and I volunteer each week with Meals on Wheels of Loveland and Berthoud.

In January 1968, Meals on Wheels of Loveland and Berthoud (MoWLB) became the first home-delivery meal service program established west of the Mississippi River and this year celebrated 55 years of serving this community!

MoWLB seeks to nourish and enrich the lives of homebound individuals by providing a nutritious noon meal and daily contact by a caring volunteer. Every weekday, Monday-Friday,



**MEALS on WHEELS**  
LOVELAND AND BERTHOUD

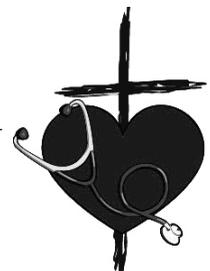
forty volunteers deliver approximately 400 meals to homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities in our community so they can live nourished lives, maintaining their independence and dignity.

I have had the privilege of delivering meals in the Berthoud area each week since August 2022. I have developed wonderful friendships with the 16 clients I serve and enjoy visiting with them for a few minutes each and every Friday. It is my prayer that I bring a bit of hope, laughter, and love into their day as they always shine a ray of light into mine.

If you would like to learn more about MoWLB, feel free to ask me or go to [www.lovelandmealsonwheels.org](http://www.lovelandmealsonwheels.org).

## Zion Parish Nurses

After a hiatus due to COVID, Zion is ready to re-engage the parish nurses as part of our caring ministry. The parish nurses play an important role in helping members of Zion to stay healthy and active by providing monthly blood pressure checks (*coming this fall*), various fitness opportunities (Tai Chi or a walking group), training classes for CPR/AED, and educational classes (funeral planning). If you are a nurse or a medical assistant and are interested in being involved in this important ministry, please contact Angie Elder at [angie@zionloveland.com](mailto:angie@zionloveland.com)



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## L2F2 Women's Retreat

*Angie Elder*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**L2F2 Women's Retreat**

**Friday, October 20 - Sunday, October 22, 2023**

**YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado**

Watch for registration to begin in June!

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## Women's Tea Party and the Teacup Story

*Janice Ehlers*

Saturday, May 6, is tea party day at Zion Lutheran Church. A tea party is the ultimate indulgence and the perfect way to share special moments—and special stories such as *The Teacup Story*. I would like to share that story here for all who could not make it to the tea party.

### **The Teacup Story** (author unknown)

There was a couple who used to go to England to shop in the beautiful stores. They both liked antiques and pottery and especially teacups. This was their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

One day in this beautiful shop they saw a beautiful cup. They said, "May we see that? We've never seen one quite so beautiful."

As the lady handed it to them, suddenly the cup spoke. "You don't understand," it said. "I



was red and I was clay. My master took me and rolled me and patted me over and over and I yelled out, 'let me alone,' but he only smiled, 'Not yet.'

"Then I was placed on a spinning wheel" the cup said, "and suddenly I was spun around and around and around. 'Stop it! I'm getting dizzy! I screamed.' But the master only nodded and said, 'Not yet.'

"Then he put me in the oven. I never felt such heat!" the teacup said. "I wondered why he wanted to burn me, and I yelled and knocked at the

haven't always been a teacup. There was a time when I

door. I could see him through the opening and I could read his lips as he shook his head, 'Not yet.'

"Finally the door opened, he put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. 'There, that's better,' I said. And he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Stop it, stop it!' I cried. He only nodded, 'Not yet.'

"Then suddenly he put me back into the oven, not like the first one. This was twice as hot and I knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried. All the time I could see him through the opening, nodding his head saying, 'Not yet.'

"Then I knew there wasn't any hope. I would never make

*Women's Tea Party and the Teacup Story continued from page 16.*

it. I was ready to give up. But the door opened and he took me out and placed me on the shelf.

“One hour later he handed me a mirror and said, ‘Look at yourself.’ And I did. I said, ‘That’s not me; that couldn’t be me. It’s beautiful. I’m beautiful.’”

“I want you to remember this,” he said, “I know it hurts to be rolled and patted, but if I had left you alone, you’d have dried up.

“I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled.

“I knew it hurt and was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn’t put you there, you would have cracked.

“I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn’t done that, you never would have hardened; you would not have had any color in your life.

“And if I hadn’t put you back in that second oven, you wouldn’t survive for very long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. You are what I had in mind when I first began with you.”

### **Moral of the Teacup Story**

God knows what He’s doing (for all of us). He is the Potter, and we are His clay. He will mold us and make us, so that we may be made into a flawless piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing, and perfect will. May the teacup story become our story as we willingly yield to our Potter’s hand.

### **Related Scripture**

Jeremiah 18:1-10 and Isaiah 64:8.

<https://www.creativebiblestudy.com/teacup-story.html>

## **Men’s Fellowship**

At the end of March, about 16 men gathered at Grimm Brothers Brewery for some friendly competition of darts and fellowship.

Other months, men have gathered for a cornhole tournament, miniature golf, a brewery tour, and other gatherings.

It has been a great opportunity each month, as men in the upper third of life in their 80s have shared wisdom, while men in the lower third of life in their 20s share wonder. The men in the middle third? They’re just trying to figure out what’s going on!

Ron Christensen has been coordinating the group, but he asks people to share an idea or coordinate one month’s gathering so that there is a variety of ideas and events.

If you are interested in being added to the communication list, let us know in the church office.



**Game On! Zion’s men gathered for a rousing competition of darts while enjoying camaraderie.**

## Among Members and Friends

### At Rest in Our Father's House

*Cliff Knobloch who died January 26, 2023, and whose funeral was February 3 at Zion.*

*Myrna Miller who died February 5, 2023, and whose funeral was February 20 at Zion.*

*Carolyn van Syckle who died February 13, 2023, and whose funeral was February 25 at Zion. Carolyn was the sister of Elizabeth Markham and Maggie Harmon.*

*Marijean Barela who died March 11, 2023.*

*Big Mutt Barela who died March 21, 2023.*

*Connie Wahlers who died April 11, 2023, and whose funeral was April 29 at Zion.*

### Joyous Celebrations of the Gift of Baptism

*Latoya Frances Corryn Palazzini who was baptized on April 8, 2023.*

### Grateful for Zion's Prayer Shawl Ministry

*Thank you so much for blessing me with a prayer shawl that Kathy [Pancoast] delivered to me. It is so meaningful for my upcoming surgery and very special. Praying for strength and encouragement for you as you have shared with me.*

*Blessings and love*

*Your kindness is greatly appreciated. I cannot begin to tell you how much I love that prayer shawl from Zion. I will forever cherish it and the prayers that come with it. Your kindness is just extraordinary and it means the world to me.*

*With thanks!*

### Prayers of Thanksgiving

*We rejoice with Rick and Sandy Bilstad at the birth of their grandson Jameson on March 22, 2023.*

### Joyous Celebration of Marriage

*We rejoice with Jacob Norton and Elizabeth (Elle) McMahonn upon their marriage on April 15, 2023, at Tapestry House in Laporte with Pastor Joel Pancoast officiating.*

### 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.*

### A Gracious Expression of Gratitude

*Church family,*

*Thank you SO much for coming to support my choir, Colorado Christian University Women's Choir in March. So many of the members of the choir commented on how beautiful our church is and how excited they were that so many of you showed up. I wasn't surprised to see so many familiar faces as I am so blessed to have been raised in a stunning church with an incredible congregation who again and again shows up for me. I really appreciated the support and I know my director, Mrs. Saunders, and my whole choir appreciated your attendance. You all were a blessing to us, and I hope we were a blessing to you that night. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.*

*Maddie Elder*

## Among Members and Friends

*Dear Zion Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you so much for the \$500 you gifted to me in January. It was a joy to serve in ministry together with you for the past 3+ years. I am so grateful to all your pastors and staff who supported our faith formation ministry. Blessings in your continued ministry now with Pastor Veronica joining you!*

*Love,  
Pastor Deb Abbott*

*Dear Zion Family,*

*We would like to thank you all for the love, support, prayers, generosity, and thoughtfulness you shared with us and our mom/wife over these last few months. You gave her and us the strength and courage to trust in God and walk with Him as she joined Him in Heaven. You are such a blessing in our lives and your kindness will never be forgotten.*

*God Bless You All,  
Ginger's Family  
(Jerry, Andy, Amy, Rebecca, and families)*

*Pastor Joel Pancoast and Zion Lutheran Church, We had a Winter Wonderland the day of my mom's funeral—Arlene Meyer. It was a beautiful service, and we are so appreciative of the kind and comforting words by Pastor Joel and for the luncheon served by the church women.*

*I (Karen) was blessed to have Mom for 70 of her 96 years. She and Dad were so confident in sharing their faith with their seven children. I was fortunate to attend Zion's services numerous times and also to some of the women's Bible study groups. Mom was a faithful follower of Jesus and a witness to many. Thank you to all who helped Mom in her spiritual life.*

*In Christian love,  
Ruth, Paul, Jim, Mary, and Karen*

*To the kind and faithful people of Zion Lutheran, Thank you for your compassionate support and partnership with Lutheran World Relief. Your generosity transforms lives. Thank you. I had the great pleasure to meet with some of you we visited earlier, and I wanted to say thank you for that welcome.*

*In Christ,  
Jamie*

*Dear Friends at Zion Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you for your generous gift of \$3,000 to LECM (Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry) and for your advocacy for our students and this ministry in the wider community. Your additional gift this year is a great blessing to us, and I write with thanks from our whole board and leadership team. I look forward to continuing to grow in partnership as we walk alongside students and young adults.*

*Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Monica*

*Alternatives to Violence (ATV) and Philo members would like to thank Zion and its congregation for the wonderful effort and generosity that was put forth to donate all of the "Fresh Start Basket" items. Each basket is valued at \$150! We were able to deliver twelve baskets to ATV.*

### Thank You Letters to Zion

- April 10, 2023—From Loveland Community Kitchen for a donation of \$300.
- April 11, 2023—From House of Neighborly Service for a donation of \$100.

## Sierra's Race—Saturday, June 17, 2023—8:00 a.m.

*Kathy Loken*

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

—HEBREWS 12:1

### **News Flash: April 12, 2023**

Two teachers from Eagle Crest High School died, one of whom had symptoms associated with bacterial meningitis.

### **Flashback: March 21, 1988**

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

Colorado averages seven deaths per year from bacterial meningitis. More than 75 percent of 17-year-olds in the United States had not received any meningitis B vaccines as of 2019.

Sierra's Race is changing that number. The 15<sup>th</sup> annual race had 600 participants and raised over \$51,000.00. Over the past 15 years, Sierra's Race has raised over \$771,000 and has been able to provide 7,220 free vaccinations. This translates into 7,220 families that are protected from the heartbreaking loss of a loved one taken from them.

So, while the race has been a fun, healthy, and competitive vehicle to accomplish our goals, the purpose has always been to raise awareness and provide free vaccinations to anyone and everyone.

The Laura Loken Memorial will partially fund registrations.

Kids 10 and under, free

Youth over 10 and adults, \$15.00.

Visit the Zion website: [www.zionloveland.com](http://www.zionloveland.com).



**Vaccinations are not just for infants, children, and teens!**

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

House of Neighborly Service (HNS) is a nonprofit organization that serves individuals and families with basic needs and services who are challenged by the effects of poverty or situational crises. While HNS may not be able to rescue them from difficult life events, they can come alongside them with a "help up" as well as hope for a better tomorrow.



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

### Essential Canned or Dry Food Items

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

### Baby Items

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

### Toiletries

Shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants, soap, facial tissues, razors, feminine products, denture products, and Band-aids.

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## Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra (NoCoYO)

NoCoYO had an amazing winter concert in January, and we have been hard at work preparing for our upcoming spring concert. This event is FREE and will be on April 26 at Mountain View High School. We'd love to see you there!



If you haven't already heard, the Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra is going to CARNEGIE HALL!



Students performed an amazing winter concert in January.

We are so excited to be preparing for our Carnegie Hall premiere in the summer of 2024. All students accepted to our Chamber Orchestra for the 2023-2024 season will be invited to join us in New York. If you know anyone who might be interested in auditioning, please direct them to [www.NoCoYO.org](http://www.NoCoYO.org)!

# Gift and Endowment Committee

*Sandy Bilstad*

The Gift and Endowment Committee seeks to champion generosity and good stewardship at Zion.

The committee manages Zion's Endowment Fund, which provides opportunities for ministry beyond the regular operating budget. They also provide educational opportunities for people to learn how to be generous beyond their regular giving and even beyond their lifetime, whether to Zion or any other purpose they believe in and are passionate about.

## **Educational Series**

**Sunday, April 30, 9:40-10:40 a.m.**

### **Will and Estate Planning**

**By Attorney Randy Starr**

This is an opportunity to gather information and become more familiar with options and decisions that can be made at the present time in preparation for the future. Come and be included in this informative session!

We will offer other presentations in the fall and early next year. Topics will include: Funeral Planning, End of Life Planning, Long-Term Care, Healthcare, and Elder Law. If you have other topics that might interest you, please let one of the Gift and Endowment Committee members know.

## **Great Gift Away 2022**

Two groups were gifted \$400. Zion is thankful for the Great Gift Away donations to provide support to each of these two nonprofit organizations in our community.

### **Alternatives to Violence (ATV)—Loveland**

ATV provides shelter, advocacy, education, and resources for people impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Since 1982, ATV has offered victims the

opportunity to heal both emotionally and physically in a supportive environment.

### **American Legion Thanksgiving Dinner—Loveland**

A Thanksgiving meal will be served to our veterans and guests.

## **Scholarships**

New this year is the Boyce/Tate Family Distinguished Disciple Scholarship. This scholarship or grant is offered to active members of Zion Lutheran Church with preference given to financial need. While preference will be given to ELCA educational institutes, applicants who have not qualified for or received another scholarship from Zion will also be considered.

Other scholarships offered through Zion are:

- Sprenger—Attending ELCA Institutions
- Peterson—Education Majors
- Therp—Incoming freshman in good standing academically.

### **Recipients of Zion's 2023-24 Scholarships:**

Boyce/Tate Family Distinguished Disciple  
Sophia Pancoast—\$2,500

Sprenger (two recipients)  
Olivia Tate—\$2,500; Tyne Klammer—\$2,500

Petersen—Maddie Elder —\$2,000

Therp—Not awarded.

No applicants met specific parameters.

## **Gift and Endowment Committee Members**

Sandy Bilstad, Kristin Blundell, Marthann Dahlen, Randy Davis, Kathy Loken, Pastor Joel Pancoast.

## Scholarship Awards

Zion has been fortunate to receive from the abundance of faithful stewards over the years who have established scholarships to support students for college or seminary. It is incredible to think that these stewards have shared the heart of their faith with students who do not even know them, yet receive from their abundance many years later.

This year, we are excited to announce a new scholarship opportunity. Thanks to the generosity of the Boyce-Tate family, a new scholarship called the Boyce/Tate Distinguished Disciple has been established to award active members of Zion who have shown outstanding contributions to the ministries of Zion and have lived their faith in the community. Preference will be given to students who show financial need, and to applicants attending ELCA colleges, universities, or seminaries (or a religious institution of a denomination in common communion with the ELCA). However, because Zion already has a scholarship dedicated for students attending ELCA institutions, if applicants have qualified and received another scholarship from Zion, students who have not qualified for or received another scholarship from Zion may be awarded as a Distinguished Disciple. Up to three new awards may be granted each year in the following categories:

1. One student entering their first year of college and identified as a “distinguished disciple.”
2. One upper class undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral student.
3. One seminarian.

This year, the Boyce/Tate Distinguished Disciple Scholarship was awarded to Sophia Pancoast in the amount of \$2,500. Sophia hopes to attend either California Lutheran University or Pacific Lutheran University to major in biology, with an emphasis in genetics.

The Sprenger Scholarship is awarded to students attending an ELCA college, university, or seminary. For the 2023-24 academic year, two returning students will each be awarded \$2,500 from the Sprenger Scholarship. Tyne Klammer will be a senior with a major in sociology at Pacific Lutheran University. Olivia Tate will be a senior with a major in nursing and a minor in religion at Pacific Lutheran University.

The Arnold “Pete” and Clarice Petersen Scholarship is awarded to students majoring in education. For the 2023-24 academic year, Maddie Elder will be awarded \$2,000 from the Petersen Scholarship. Maddie will be a sophomore at Colorado Christian University, majoring in elementary and special education.

We are so proud of each of these students, and grateful for the heart of faith of those who have made these scholarships possible. Please join us in praying for all of our students!



**Sophia Pancoast**



**Tyne Klammer**



**Olivia Tate**



**Maddie Elder**

# Zion's School Partnership

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

When the Thompson School District announced several years ago that Monroe Elementary School would be closing at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, many at Zion were saddened. Many youth and adults attended Monroe, or took their children there, or even worked there. And in the last decade, many from Zion have volunteered there in one way or another. Volunteers have tutored students, helped teachers with administrative projects or room decorating, made copies in the office, and led playground activities. Volunteers have also helped prepare and serve meals for Back to School Night, shared soups and other food for Parent-Teacher Conferences, or handed out bags with educational supplies (and candy) at Trunk or Treat. The work with the teacher, staff, and students brought great joy and fulfillment to many, so Monroe will be missed.

Many know this by now, but when the 2023-2024 school year begins, three schools will be combined into one campus that will house preschool through 8th grade. Monroe and Mary Blair Elementary

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**So the answer is a resounding "YES," they do want to partner with Zion!**

**We will need to respond. The needs in the community are great, and you can make a difference!**

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Schools were each somewhere around 40 percent capacity of their buildings, and Conrad Ball Middle School had room to share, so with grants from government agencies, the Conrad Ball building is being expanded to provide one home for all three schools. This new school will be known as Peakview Academy at Conrad Ball. Peakview is not right across the street, like Monroe was, but it is still "in the neighborhood."

Many at Zion have wondered if the faculty and staff at Peakview would still want to partner with Zion. Last fall, the new principal invited Pastor Joel to join the "community and engagement" committee to explore the questions many had been wondering, but it wasn't until the February and March meetings that the answers became clear. The principal asked every person

on the committee (about 24 of us) to write activities on large sheets of chart paper that could be done every month leading up to the school year and during the school year that would help engage and serve the community. The second phase of the activity was to write how these activities would get done and who would help. It was astonishing how many times "Zion" was written on every single piece of chart paper! So the answer is a resounding "YES," they do want to partner with Zion!

This means we have our work cut out for us. Be praying about if you are interested in helping at the school next school year, whether for one hour each week or more, and whether on the playground, in the office, in or in a classroom. If you are interested in volunteering in any of those ways, drop your name to one of the pastors or in the church office. We will need to respond. The needs in the community are great, and you can make a difference!

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# Safe Parking in Loveland

*Linda Breen*

What is “Safe Parking?”

Members of Zion’s Local Service Committee have been learning more about it. Zion has hosted two informational sessions with local churches and community organizers.

Churches in several Colorado cities have been working with CSPI (Colorado Safe Parking Initiative) to help people experiencing homelessness while making their own neighborhoods safer. The program goal is permanent housing, but waiting lists for affordable housing can be long, and shelter space is more difficult for couples and families with pets.

With a well-structured program, churches are able to offer parking space during evening and nighttime hours to screened and approved clients on a temporary basis. Spaces range from 3-20 cars, but 10 is typical. The experience has been overwhelmingly positive.

Support services have helped many people to achieve permanent housing and improved employment. Neighbors have appreciated improved safety. Careful screening and sensible guidelines are critical to the success of the program. Clients value a temporary place to park and sleep safely, and their presence acts as a deterrent to crime.

The program is similar to the help Zion was providing to homeless families that stayed in our building through Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) / Family Promise, except that they would stay in the parking lot instead of the building. If Zion were to start this ministry, we can choose

the level of services to provide—meals, showers, etc., depending on volunteer response.

The need is much greater than current spaces can accommodate. CSPI reports that more than half of their clients are working, about 50 percent are disabled, 30 percent are on fixed incomes and many have been through some source of trauma.

Three churches in Longmont have opened their lots for safe parking, and Saint Spyridon Orthodox Church in Loveland has recently approved a program.

Several Colorado cities are working to update their zoning regulations to facilitate Safe Parking programs. In Loveland, city staff have forwarded a recommendation to the city council to amend city policies to allow this important work to happen so that people have safe, affordable places to stay.

Look for more information as we listen for how God may be calling us to help.

Feel free to contact members of the Local Service Committee with questions or comments:

Linda Breen

Laura Dimmitt

Jacob Kuhns

Bill Kurtz

Ruth Sprain

Pastor Joel Pancoast.

## Drawn to the Word

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

Lent is the season of the church that includes the forty days (not including Sundays) prior to Holy Week. Traditionally, Lent was the season for people to learn the faith in preparation for baptism on Easter Sunday. As the church has grown and spread around the world, baptisms and formation were spread across the calendar, but Lent continued to retain its emphasis as a time to focus on formation on God's unrelenting love as a spiritual discipline. Zion has lived that as a communal experience, with soup suppers, small groups, worship, and mentoring all focused on one specific theme.

This year our theme was around "Drawn to the Word," a ministry of Pastor Paul Oman that uses his artistic gifts to share the stories of Jesus. On most Wednesdays, we shared a video of Paul telling a miracle story of Jesus, but on March 22, Paul was at Zion in person and painted the story about the friends of a paralytic man who brought him to Jesus for a healing. The way he shared his perception of this story was deeply profound, but one of the most exciting times during his painting was when he rotated the painting to show that what had been the bottom of the painting was actually the top...and what we could not see in the painting before suddenly became clear to us! This is so much like the stories from scripture that we read and hear. Sometimes we just can't make sense of it, until someone turns it around for us, and suddenly we understand what God had been trying to show us all along.

The worship planning team and staff chose this story of Jesus healing the paralytic man for a specific reason. As powerful as Jesus' miracle stories are, this miracle tells a story about the church. We hope that as people see this painting that graces the walls of the church building, we

will all be encouraged to be like the friends of the paralytic man, who cared for their friend deeply enough to bring him to Jesus.

If you have a friend, co-worker, acquaintance, or family member who does not have a church home, consider inviting them to worship, fellowship, Bible study, or any other Zion gathering, so they may experience the heart of your faith and the faith that we all share in Jesus. Who knows? Maybe they will receive a healing or even a miracle from Jesus as this paralytic man did!

Thank you to the Judy Bilstad memorial fund that helped pay for this experience and for the painting that we can see any time we come to Zion. We are grateful that Rick Bilstad, Judy's son, agreed that this would be a meaningful way to remember Judy and the heart of her faith. We are also thankful for Jessica Kuhns, who wrote the small group conversation guide and pulled together supplies both for Paul's painting and for the entire season, and for Jacob Kuhns, who built the frame for the painting and the easel that held it while Paul painted.

*Dear People of Zion Lutheran Church, Pastor Joel, Pastor Veronica, Jessica and Jacob and family, Lindsey, Stig, Ron, David, and all who participated in any way—Thank you for inviting me to share in worship with you and for the Paint-Along event. What a joy and blessing! God is blessing you with many talents and opportunities. I hope the painting will remind all who see it of God's mercy and forgiveness through Christ. I will long cherish our time together and your hospitality. A special thank you to the family of Judy Bilstad and their contribution.*

*Drawn Together in God's Word,  
Paul Oman*



During his painting, he rotated the painting to show that what had been the bottom of the painting was actually the top and what we could not see before suddenly became clear to us.



**Drawn to the Word—Bringing the Word to Life Before Your Eyes.**

## Hosanna! Lord help us!

Holy Week always begins with Palm Sunday, as we not only remember but join in the procession to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem and into our hearts. As we do, we shout “Hosanna!” which means “Please save (or help) us!” This year in worship, not only did we wave real palm branches, we also were invited to ask for God’s help in our lives or in the world. We wrote those requests on paper palm branches and left them at the altar, giving our concerns to God. We were struck by some of these requests and wanted to share them here for you to lift these prayers and requests to



- Health
- Trust
- Oppression
- Self discipline and pain management
- Homelessness
- Help as our young people prepare to leave for college
- My Dad’s health and our family as we try to care for him
- Lord how can we keep our children safe in our schools
- Peace and Love
- Forgiveness—Freedom—Healing
- Discernment
- Health Service and Loving Others
- Make our schools safe for our children
- With friends happiness
- Save us from war and natural disasters
- Senseless violence and disrespect of human life
- To keep an open heart and mind and to love others, self, and God
- Unity in our country; God is love
- Save me from my own expectations and surprise me with your grace and provisions
- Why my friend doesn’t like my drawings—I am trying my best
- Finish school
- To pray out loud with and for others and myself
- Help my son decide where life will lead him
- Insight and guidance for my work and moving forward into new territory
- Lead the judge to make decisions in my loved one’s divorce trial to be the best for their family
- Lord save our young people especially school children—help them find your grace and enable them to work through anger and hate in a nonviolent way
- God, please save me from my struggles with anxiety and mental illness and help me to find a way to be better at the way you made me special
- Spiritual Healing
- Prayers for my cousin’s husband, diagnosed with rare cancer
- Prioritizing time with God in my life
- Unity everywhere
- Peace in the World
- Addictions—War—Peace
- Healing my family; peace throughout the world
- Peace in the nations especially Russia and Ukraine
- Please watch over our church members
- Save the children from the constant threat of violence especially gun violence in schools
- Wisdom in finding a job where I can make a difference
- Let there be peace on this earth that you have given us

## Holy Week Highlights

Holy Week is truly the heart of the Christian faith. From Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, Christians focus on the last days of Jesus' life, and our celebrations and worship this year at Zion were quite meaningful and memorable at many levels. If you missed one and want to see what it was about, you can find the recordings of every service on Zion's website or our YouTube channel (Zion Lutheran Church: Loveland). We are so grateful for the many staff and volunteers who contributed time, energy, passion, and gifts to make this happen. Because of you, we were able to follow story and experience the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection through ten different worship services in just one week!

### Palm Sunday

Thank you to all who helped with the Palm Sunday Breakfast this year! We had a handful of children, youth, and parents serving, cooking, mixing, and cleaning. A special thanks to Jacob Kuhns for coordinating the breakfast. Under his direction, everything went smoothly; there was plenty of food, and abundant joy and fellowship.



It was said that Gordon Kuhns cooked every single pancake eaten!



## Holy Week Highlights

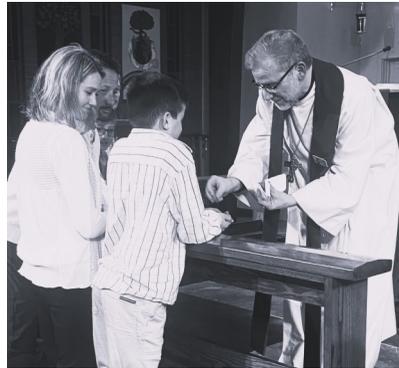
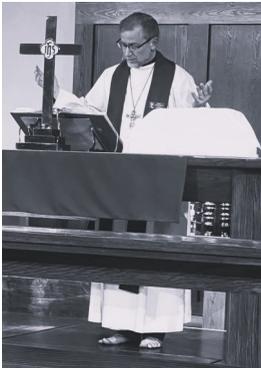
### Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, we gathered to hear Jesus' command to love one another and to receive signs of that love through foot washing and Holy Communion. It was especially beautiful to celebrate the first communion of two of our young people, Ascher Coleman and Madolynn Connors.

One of the great joys of ministry is walking alongside people during milestone moments of faith. On Maundy Thursday, we welcomed Ascher Coleman and Madolynn Connors to the communion table to receive their first communion. We were grateful to celebrate the day with their families. One thing that made the occasion extra special was that we made the communion bread together!

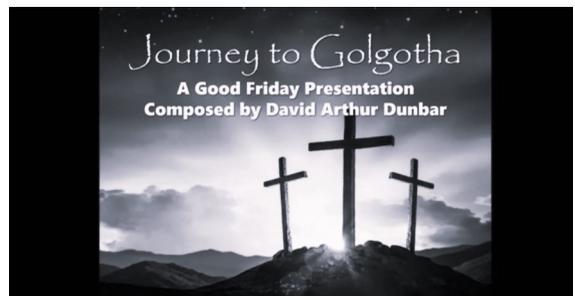
As Ascher and Madolynn prepared to receive their first communion, we had fun learning about the sacrament through videos, games, Bible stories, and conversations with one another. We also talked about the importance of grace and forgiveness, and the mystery of Christ's presence in the sacrament.

Here at Zion, we welcome people of all ages to receive communion, but it has been our tradition to offer instruction for those who are coming to the sacrament for the first time. This offers children and families the opportunity to learn more about the importance of this sacrament and the promise it holds for them.



### Good Friday

On Good Friday, we reflected on the power of the cross and Jesus' journey to Golgotha through the incredible cantata written by Dr. David Dunbar, Zion's director of music and worship.



## Easter Vigil

On Holy Saturday, we gathered in vigil to hear our stories of salvation all throughout the Bible, told by confirmation students and parents from King of Glory, Trinity, and Zion. And we celebrated the baptism of Latoya! Christ is risen!



## Easter Sunday

Finally, we began Easter Sunday with a sunrise service in the memorial garden, followed by two powerful worship services celebrating the resurrection! We were especially blessed with an incredible musical contribution from the combined ensembles of the bell choir, children's choir, and adult choir!



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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Issue 5/23

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## Join Us in Worship

**Summer hours begin May 28.**

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

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

### ***Our Mission:***

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

### ***Our Vision:***

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

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

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

April 30	Will and Estate Planning Seminar
May 3, 10, 17, 24	Children's Choir Musical Rehearsals
May 6	Women's Tea Party
May 13	Nourish
May 20	Andrea Kragerud Baccalaureate
May 21	Andrea Kragerud Graduation
May 28	Summer Worship Hours Begin
May 30-June 3	Children's Musical Camp
June 3	Children's Musical Performance
June 10	Nourish
June 12-16	L2F2 Vacation Bible School / Day Camp
June 17	Sierra's Race
June 25-30	Confirmation Intensive at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp
July 8	Nourish
July 30-August 4	Sky Ranch Summer Camp
August 12	Nourish

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