



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

Zion Lutheran Church  
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## Join Us in Worship

**Fall hours begin September 10.**

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

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

## Our Mission:

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

## Our Vision:

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

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

Issue 8/23

Change of Service Requested

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

August 27	Confirmation Kickoff
September 9	Pastels on 5th
September 10	Fall Worship and Sunday School Hours "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday
September 11	Woman 2 Woman
September 21	Zion Evening Book Group
September 24	L2F2 High Schoolers Pizza and Games
October 14	Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop
October 19	Zion Evening Book Group
October 20-22	Women's Retreat
October 28	L2F2 High Schoolers Haunted Corn Maze
November 17	L2F2 High Schoolers Friendsgiving Dinner
November 23	Children's Choir Perform at Early Worship
December 15-16	L2F2 High Schoolers Lock-in at Zion

### Schedules of Recurring Activities

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Zion Evening Book Group	Page 18



**Eye on Zion**  
A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

August-September-October  
2023

#### STAFF

##### Pastor

Pastor Joel Pancoast

##### Associate Pastor

Pastor Veronica Gould

##### Intern Pastor

Katie Elkin

##### Faith Formation Coordinators

Ronda Buck—Sunday School

Alyssa Hart—Young Adult / Nourish

Pam Stevens—Sacred Space

##### Connecting Hearts Coordinator

Angie Elder

##### Director of Music and Worship

Open

##### Assistant Director of Music

Noelle Bauman-Stucky

##### Bell and Chimes Director

Thomas Chen

##### Accompanist/Collaborative Artist

Ryan Marvel

##### Office Manager

Lindsey Walter

##### Worship Technology Coordinator

Stig Oresjo

##### Bookkeeper

Terri Sloan

##### Childcare

KB Benstock

##### Custodian

Ronda Buck

#### VOLUNTEER STAFF

##### Parish Nurses

Sharon Finch

Vicki Johnson

##### Financial Secretary

Eileen Huddle

Scott Sprain

##### Librarian

Janie Lichtfuss

##### Publications

Linda Sterner

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

##### President

Greg Schairer

##### Vice President

Erin Bachman

##### Secretary

Amy Brauner

##### Treasurer

Chas Farasyn

##### Members-at-Large

Ron Christensen

Steve Courts

Gordon Kuhns (Youth)

Tom Robinson

Chris West

## Entrusted

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

What has God entrusted to you? Every one of us has someone or something, maybe many someones or somethings. There are times that what we have received in life may not feel like much. We compare ourselves to the neighbors, or ad campaigns make us feel like we're lacking. But whatever God has entrusted to you is precious and valuable, and should never be taken for granted.

As a church community, we are entrusted with many gifts together, beginning with God's Word. This Word promises that we belong to God, we are forgiven, and we are loved. In response, we are entrusted with gifts of community, and caring for others and the world God made.

Zion's mission says it well: *Together we share God's abundance to transform lives through the love of Jesus.* I am proud and honored to be part of

a community that lives out this mission in so many ways. As you read this issue of the *Eye on Zion*, see how many ways you see this mission being lived and shared, and consider how you might care for the gifts you have been entrusted with.

In October and November, the primary scriptures for worship will be from the Gospel according to Matthew, where reading after reading reminds us of the extent of God's love for us and the trust given to care for the world around us.

As we move into the fall season, consider how you might respond to God's generosity in your life with gratitude, and invite your friends, family, and neighbors to come and experience this same Word of promise and community that has been entrusted to you.

# Fall Worship Schedule and Themes

## God's Work. Our Hands.

SEPTEMBER 10 *Bring a friend, neighbor, or family member to worship and/or to help serve in the community and share God's abundance.*

## Loving Our Enemies

*Though it often seems more easily said than done, loving the seemingly unlovable is possible when we consider that God loved us first, even when we have fallen into sin. These themes are formed into questions to represent the uncertainty we often have with the difficult task of loving our enemies.*



The image of rusty barbed wire evokes the image of binding in the scriptures when we are unable to live in forgiveness.

SEPTEMBER 17	What if They Hold a Grudge?	Genesis 50:15-21; Matthew 18:21-35
SEPTEMBER 24	Are You Envious Because God is Generous?	Jonah 3:10-4:11; Matthew 20:1-16
OCTOBER 1	Is God's Way Unfair?	Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32; Matthew 21:23-32
OCTOBER 8	Why Did You Give Me Sour Grapes?	Isaiah 5:1-7; Matthew 21:33-46
OCTOBER 15	Why Are You So Angry?	Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 23; Matthew 22:1-14

## Entrusted

*Matthew's gospel encourages followers of Jesus to live in gratitude for the gifts God has entrusted us with.*

OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 19 weekly themes to be announced later.

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

*The Mount of Beatitudes was especially meaningful to us because we have been studying the Beatitudes in our Sunday morning adult class at church. To actually be there and see where Jesus spoke those same words was amazing. The whole trip made the stories in the Bible come alive by seeing where it all took place when Jesus walked, taught, and healed. What a blessing it was to share this experience with our family and your church! Thank you for including us in this life-changing trip!*

—BARRY AND CINDY ELDER  
(RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA)



Pictured are Barry, Maddie, Angie, Layne, Gene, and Cindy Elder.



Worship site at the Mount of Beatitudes.

*For me. A favorite experience was communion on the Mount of Beatitudes. We received our bread and cup. The words receive what you become hit the center of my heart. The Beatitudes are my mom's favorite Bible verses. We read that together frequently. Thank you so much for an amazing trip. And, thank you for another great remembrance of my baptism.*

—BONNIE SCHOWALTER



Looking out over the hill where Jesus might have preached the sermon on the mount or the sermon on the plain (depending on your perspective of where you stood).



The group gathered at the Jordan River.



**Pictured are Barry and Cindy (Gene’s parents), Maddie, Layne, Gene, and Angie Elder.**

*I am so grateful to have experienced my second trip to the Holy Land, and the highlight for me was experiencing it with my family. It was a true joy to travel in the footsteps of Jesus with my husband, our two daughters, and my in-laws—three generations of learning and insight coming together in this incredible 14-day journey. We ate together, learned together, walked together, laughed together, prayed together, worshipped together, and experienced the Holy Land together. What could be more incredible than that?!?! These are memories I will cherish for a lifetime.*

—ANGIE ELDER



**Sisters Layne and Maddie danced.**



**And . . . You never know who you might run into in the Holy Land . . . Pictured are Layne Elder, Pastor Andrea Kragerud (former Zion intern pastor and pastoral assistant who was traveling with a different group), and Angie Elder.**



*My favorite part of the Holy Land trip was the boat ride on the Sea of Galilee as well as getting a tattoo at the oldest tattoo shop in the world. The boat ride on the Sea of Galilee was really touching and put it into perspective of what it could’ve been like in Jesus’ time. Layne and I danced on the boat and so many others in our group were all enjoying themselves listening to praise music and enjoying the time we all had together (something I would assume Jesus and his people did too). I’m grateful I was able to get a tattoo while we were there to remember my time Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus!*

—MADDIE ELDER

*What I enjoyed most about our Holy Land adventure was definitely being there with Sophia! We have grown up together, and it was so cool to experience this journey with her!! Especially when we would pet all the cats, hold goats, and ride the camels! My other favorite part was the boat ride on the Sea of Galilee!! It was fun dancing around with everyone and seeing where Jesus walked on water!*

—LAYNE ELDER

**Layne Elder and Sophia Pancoast grew up together and now pilgrimaged together in the Holy Land.**



## **Zion searches for a new director of worship and music upon the resignation of Dr. David Dunbar effective July 31, 2023.**

### **A Search Committee Update**

*Erin Bachman*

As Martin Luther said, “Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music.”

We all know and have experienced how the role of music plays such a vital and vibrant role in worship at Zion. The presence of music in worship can evoke emotions, enhance a message, and bring community together through shared singing. Because of this, the task of searching for Zion’s next worship and music director, chancel choir director, praise band leader, and organist is not an easy one to be entrusted with. The task is one that requires a great deal of trust in many forms—trust from the congregation, trust from the participants in Zion’s music programs, trust from our applicants, trust from God to make wise decisions, and trust from the committee to know God will direct us to the right candidate for Zion. The search team is truly honored to be entrusted with so much.

In the spirit of this trust—and with a sense of wisdom and discernment—the search is well under way to hire someone who can be entrusted to lead music programs at Zion. We have received applications from several quality

candidates, and a first round of interviews was conducted the week of August 7. Top candidates will be invited back in late August or early September for second interviews, as well as auditions and an opportunity to work with the band and choir. We are hoping to have a decision made by the beginning of October.

In addition to the trust given to the search committee, it seems appropriate to extend our gratitude to them as well. They have done a fantastic job reviewing and updating job descriptions, brainstorming and discussing important qualities we want to see in the candidates as well as in our music programs, reviewing resumes, writing interview questions, and participating in the interviews.

We have been blessed with a great, diverse group who represent a number of Zion’s musical interests. These committee members are: Pastor Joel, Noelle Bauman-Stucky (staff), Erin Bachman (council/personnel committee), Rod Braman (praise band), Eileen Huddle (choir), Janie Lichtfuss (organ), Amy Moore (congregation), Hannah Pancoast (youth), and Tom Robinson (praise band). Thank you all for your time, energy, service, and trustworthiness!

# Children’s Music Ministry

Noelle Bauman-Stucky

Some of you observed and were even part of our fun summer program with the children at Zion. We presented a musical story of Noah and the Ark. Not only did the participants tell the story through spoken and sung words, they learned dances with ribbons and hula hoops. In five days of rehearsal, the kids pulled off an entire musical!

We had amazing participants, volunteers, and musicians. Special thanks goes out to Kathy Pancoast for assisting through the production by organizing costumes and providing her artistic eye, David Dunbar for sharing his piano skills that last two days, Annaliese Bachman for stepping in as a lead in a role she shared years ago, and Ronda Buck for her patience in a messy fellowship hall and her assistance cleaning it up. Also, to the families of the participants, we could not have a camp without you! Thank you for your willingness to be part of our camp. You can see our rising stars pictured below.



Children in the summer music program presented a musical story of Noah and the Ark.

Ready for more?

- We will start our next season on September 6, 2023, focusing on singing technique and rhythmic work with instruments!
- Rehearsals run from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at Zion.
- Since we will have a two-week break (to accommodate my schedule), we will present

our music in worship on November 23, 2023. We are excited to get back to making music together!

### Children’s Choir Fall Schedule and Registration Link

- Wednesday, September 6
  - Wednesday, September 13
  - Wednesday, September 20
  - Wednesday, September 27
  - Wednesday, October 4
  - Wednesday, October 11
  - Wednesday, October 18—NO REHEARSAL**
  - Wednesday, October 25—NO REHEARSAL**
  - Wednesday, November 1
  - Wednesday, November 8
  - Sunday, November 23—8:30-9:30 a.m.\*
- Children present their music during worship.
- \*The Sunday call time is subject to change depending on which part of service the children sing.*

Families can use the QR code to register for the program.



Please email [CMM@zionloveland.com](mailto:CMM@zionloveland.com) with any questions.



Especially meaningful was for the Pancoast family to make the pilgrimage together. Pictured are Sonja, Sophia, Hannah, and Pastor Joel Pancoast.

*My favorite memory from the Holy Land was being on the Sea of Galilee. It was super cool to be able to be at that same place where so much happened.*

—HANNAH PANCOAST



*Memorable for me was to have meals included on the trip. I enjoyed the conversations, new foods, and Palestinian hospitality. I loved the meatballs on cinnamon sticks and am now a hummus snob.*

—JOYCE BUCHHOLZ

Pictured are mother and daughter (Joyce and Marie) walking hand-in-hand at Mount Arbel.



*It was amazing to see all the various sites where Jesus walked and lived. I really enjoyed the free evenings walking around Bethlehem. I got to see the local culture and people.*

—SOPHIA PANCOAST



Wandering the streets of Bethlehem.

*We have a lot of incredible memories from our trip, but what made it most special was that we could experience it together. Touring amazing sites, our baptismal remembrances in the Jordan River were all done side-by-side.*

—MARIE BUCHHOLZ

## Holy Land

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

In June and July, 20 people from Zion joined another 28 from Atonement Lutheran in Boulder to walk the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land. It was an incredible experience for everyone.

God has entrusted us with a story that comes alive in the Word of God, but God has also invited us into the story, and these pilgrims were able to experience the story of Jesus and other biblical narratives by walking in their footsteps.

It was so fun to see a group with an age range between 15 and 80+ grow together in faith—caring for each other, eating together, and learning together, and I can't leave out that it was especially meaningful that my family was able to make this pilgrimage together.

From sailing on the Sea of Galilee to walking its shores, we were able to imagine together Jesus calling the disciples to fish for people, teaching multitudes on the hillside about God's kingdom blessings, and his multiplying a few loaves and fishes to feed crowds of people.

We made the trek down the Jordan River to wash where Jesus was baptized and give thanks for the promise of baptism in our own lives.

We surveyed the wilderness where Elijah was fed by angels and where Jesus located his parable of a Good Samaritan.

We sang with the angels in the shepherds' field and rejoiced at the birth of Jesus in the caves of Bethlehem.

We wept with him as we looked across the hill to Jerusalem, grew weary in the Garden of Gethsemane, and cold and lonely as he was lowered into the pit below Caiaphas' house. Then, we followed the cross through the old streets of Jerusalem to where he was crucified.

That only scratches the surface of the many sites we saw and feelings we experienced.

I am grateful for the love this group showed for each other and for their willingness to keep their eyes and ears, hearts and minds open to God.

**Twenty people from Zion joined another 28 from Atonement Lutheran in Boulder to walk the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land.**



## Welcome Intern Pastor Katie Elkin!

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

As many at Zion know, hosting an intern pastor is a rewarding experience in the life of the church. We get to know and love someone who is in the final stages of training to be a pastor, knowing that we have been entrusted with an incredible service and ministry to the broader church, while we also get to benefit from the time, energy, and creativity of a leader in training. In recent history, Zion has benefited from Andrea Kragerud serving as an intern in 2021-22 and Courtney Steitz in 2018-19. They brought so much to the life and ministry of Zion, and we expect the same of Intern Pastor Katie, who started her ministry with us August 14.

Zion has had the ability to pay the stipend for the

intern pastor for a number of years, but many of you know how expensive and difficult it is to find decent, affordable housing. God provided an opportunity when Zach Schairer decided to go to college in Denver and offered to lease his home to Zion, a mere five blocks or so from the Zion building. We are grateful for such an opportunity to provide great housing, not only for Intern Pastor Katie, but for subsequent interns.

Below is an introduction from Katie, but please welcome her when you see her and let her know why you love your faith community! Since she likes to "explore the local food scene," we are inviting people to shower her with gift cards from our favorite restaurants.

Hello! My name is Katie Elkin, and I am so excited to be with Zion for internship this year! I am originally from North Carolina, and I am a candidate for Word and Sacrament ordination with the NC Synod of the ELCA. I went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for undergrad (Go Heels!), and after graduation, I served as a Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) with the Lutheran Church in Madagascar. (How cool that some of the Malagasy Lutheran Synods are international companions with the Rocky Mountain Synod!) I discerned a call to seminary through YAGM, and I began the Master of Divinity program at Duke Divinity School in 2019. I graduated from Duke in 2022, and I am coming to you after finishing a year of Lutheran studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. I have several years of experience in camping ministry and campus ministry, and I can't wait to learn alongside y'all throughout internship! Outside of church, I enjoy riding my bike, playing board games, exploring the local food scene, and making new friends. See y'all soon!



**Katie Elkin from North Carolina is Zion's intern pastor for 2023-2024. Welcome Katie!**

# 2023 Fall Faith Formation

*Pastor Veronica Gould*

## Youth Faith Formation

### Sunday School—Nourish—Confirmation —and More!

We enjoyed gathering throughout the summer for Sunday school with fun games and activities as we “Roamed through Romans” together with mixed ages. We are looking forward to the fall season, where we will dive into God’s word and discover the kind of love God invites us into, a love that is for everyone. We are all entrusted with caring for one another. Our fall focus “Entrusted” will pair service with learning to help us embody the love of God in our lives.

If your child will be participating in Sunday school or any other youth events, we will have sign-ups available on our website. We return to our fall worship and Sunday school hours on September 10. We also encourage all families with children of any age to participate in Nourish on the second Saturday of each month. We are offering a mixed-ages youth program, and childcare is available on request.

Elementary Sunday school will gather from 9:30 to 10:30 on Sunday mornings. Stay tuned for more information as we continue to evaluate how to best serve our youngest members of Zion’s church family. We have opportunities every week for children to learn through music, art,

storytelling, and play.

Middle schoolers will gather from 12:00-2:00 p.m. twice a month for confirmation, with confirmation kickoff on August 27. We also have Middle School Mondays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. every Monday night at Trinity Lutheran Church, with mentorship, devotional, and fellowship opportunities for the kids.

On the fourth Sunday of the month, during the Sunday school hour, we invite middle and high schoolers to join in the kitchen to Cook, Eat, and Serve. We will make and enjoy a fellowship meal together with extras left over to share with our neighbors through Community Kitchen.

We will continue to have monthly gatherings for high schoolers with our L2F2 friends. Save the dates:

September 24—6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Pizza and Games

October 28—5:00-9:30 p.m.  
Haunted Corn Maze

November 17—5:00-8:00 p.m.  
Friendsgiving Dinner

December 15-16  
Lock-in at Zion.

## Looking back on a summer of faith-forming experiences for Zion’s youth

We started off the summer with a week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) Day Camp, where we welcomed over seventy children from our community to learn, play, and grow in God’s love. Staff from Sky Ranch led the activities with curriculum on the fruits of the Spirit.

In June, our confirmation students enjoyed a week up at Sky Ranch. With a group of fifteen students, we learned about the life of Jesus and the mission of the church: calling, teaching, feeding, and

*Continued on page 7.*

# Sierra’s Race 2023 Results

*Kathy Loken*

Thank you to the 42 participants of Laura’s Team that led the way for another successful race. Not only was Laura’s Team the largest out of 471 racers, but it was also the fastest team! A special recognition to first-time Zion participants HARRIET COLTON, PAUL JONCAS, MATT MOORE, ELLIOTT PANCOAST, and the SORENSEN FAMILY from Wisconsin.

Proceeds from the 2023 race totaled \$44,400, and 100 percent of that goes toward promoting meningitis awareness and providing FREE vaccinations. Sierra’s Foundation has vaccinated over 5,700 people since 2008 through its many free vaccination clinics! Each vaccine costs \$100, and your race participation and donations help save lives.



**The Pancoasts are long-time members of Laura’s Team while Paul Joncas crosses the finish line as a first-timer.**



# Footsteps of Paul

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*



Many of you have heard about our pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Many of you have joined us for the pilgrimage. For 2024, we are exploring the possibility of a different kind of pilgrimage, this time as we follow the Apostle Paul through Greece, Turkey, and the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas as we experience the context in which Paul helped create communities that followed Jesus.



We don't have exact dates yet, but are considering late May-early June 2024 if we have enough people interested. If we do not have enough people interested in this pilgrimage for summer 2024, we will look to summer 2025. Please let Pastor Joel know as soon as possible if you are interested in joining this pilgrimage in summer 2024 or 2025.

**Philomatheon:** *Someone who serves as a member of a philanthropic or volunteer organization for the good of the community.*

Dear Lindsey,

Please extend a very heartfelt thank you to the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church from all of us at Philo. The generous donations that helped us fill our Fresh Start baskets for the women served by Alternatives to Violence [ATV] make a huge difference as they work toward starting a new life. We so appreciate your helping us fulfill our Philo mission!

Sincerely,

Philo ATV Committee: Stephanie, Breanne, Shannon, Eileen, Ruth, and Lorie

### Zion Women in Philo

*Florence Doksansky*

Many members of Zion serve our community in a variety of ways either within the congregation or outward to the Loveland community and beyond. Whether it be at the Community Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, House of Neighborly Service, Habitat for Humanity, and many more, we try to help and love our neighbors.

Several Zion women are members of Philo, short for Philomatheon Club, a women’s organization serving the community since 1918. Committees within Philo support Alternatives to Violence (which supports victims of domestic violence), blood drives, canned food drives, Integrated Early Childhood (supporting Head Start children within the Thompson School District), and scholarships for nontraditional, post-high school education. Philo has three fundraisers: Philo Women’s Golf Tournament to raise money for scholarships; Dine Out with Heart, helping to eliminate hunger in Loveland and Berthoud; and Rotary Duck Race to help purchase computing devices for schools. Philo members also enjoy social gatherings. For additional information, talk with any of Zion’s Philo members.



**At the annual spring dinner, Zion’s Philo members celebrated their friendships ala the “Golden Girls.” Standing left to right are Ruth Sprain, Florence Doksansky, Susan Linden, Amy Black, Nita Starr, and Cindy Kurtz; seated are Eileen Huddle and Kathy Loken. Members not pictured are Marthann Dahlen and Coleen Ligothe.**

Philo, short for Philomatheon Club, is a 501.c.3 nonprofit women’s service organization based in Loveland, Colorado. It is one of the oldest service clubs in Loveland. Founded in 1918 by high school students, the club was organized as a way for young women to come together in friendship and service to the community. Today, over 100 years later, these goals remain. Beginning as a small group of 10, the club has continuously grown over the years.

## ELCA Youth Gathering 2024

*Pastor Veronica Gould*

### Save the Date

We are so excited to be heading back to the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer, July 16-20, 2024. The Youth Gathering is one way that our denomination supports and encourages youth to discover a faith that is their own, that they will carry with them no matter where life takes them. We will be partnering with L2F2 to travel to New Orleans for the 2024 Youth Gathering.

We will be holding an interest meeting in October and planning meetings throughout the year to help us prepare for the gathering together. If you are interested in attending the gathering or if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Veronica. More information is available online at [elca.church/gathering](http://elca.church/gathering).

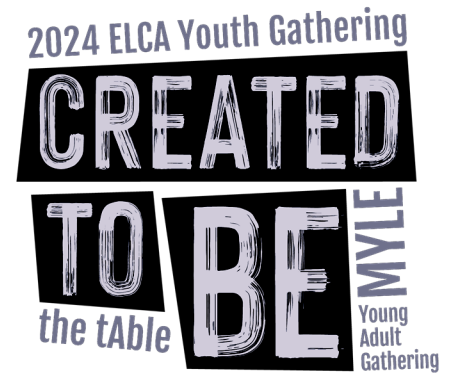
WHAT: Youth Gathering 2024: Created to Be “Authentic, free, disruptive disciples”

WHERE: New Orleans, Louisiana

WHEN: July 16-20, 2024

HOW: By the grace of God and the planning of our youth, families, and L2F2 leadership team

WHO: All youth completing 8th grade through 12th grade in 2024.



Looking back on a summer of faith-forming experiences for Zion’s youth continued from page 6.



The confirmation camp kids encouraged each other on the high ropes.

sending. The kids encouraged one another on the high ropes course, led worship, and enjoyed time in the great outdoors!

In July, our high school youth traveled to California Lutheran University (CLU) for the Western States Youth Gathering (WSYG). We heard from powerful speakers, shared nightly devotionals, and had a lot of fun along the way as we road-tripped together across the country.

In August, Sky Ranch welcomed our elementary and middle schoolers as they finished out their summer season. The last week of camp was the busiest, and it was fun to see camp bustling with kids laughing, singing, playing, and creating. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers at Sky Ranch as well as the many volunteers from Zion who helped make this summer special for our kids!

# Entrusted to Make a Difference in Our Neighborhood

*Pastor Joel Pancoast*

Have you ever thought about why God placed Zion where it is? We say the church is not a building but a people and a community, yet our location, where God has planted us, is still very important. God has entrusted us with the location to bring awareness of God’s kingdom to the neighborhood, schools, businesses, and anyone else in our surrounding community.

As early as 2012, Zion has looked across the street at Monroe Elementary School and asked what God intended. Since then, Zion has sent volunteers to help teachers, students, and staff in many ways. We have tutored students; completed tasks for teachers so they had more one-on-one time for students; provided meals and clothing for teachers, students, and families; and so much more. Those who have helped have incredible stories and knowledge that they have indeed made a difference.

In 2011-2012 the school was in danger of being closed because they were not meeting statewide standards, and the principal at the time credited Zion’s response with bringing them above the curve. Unfortunately, due to both the Monroe and Mary Blair buildings being used at only around 40% capacity, the school board chose to close both of those buildings and reopen Conrad Ball Middle School as a larger school called Peakview Academy at Conrad Ball that houses children from preschool through 8th grade.

We will miss Monroe being right across the street, but Peakview Academy is still in the neighborhood community that God has entrusted to our care. For the past year, Pastor Joel has been on a community engagement committee for Peakview, and the response from the teachers,

staff, and parents at that school has been overwhelming that they value and desire our continued support. We have already helped by providing snacks to 110 teachers as they started unpacking and setting up their new classrooms!

Below are some ways we can support our neighborhood schools. We will also have more detailed requests as we move forward and as the teachers in this new school get acclimated and figure out their needs. If you are interested in helping in any way, whether as a regular support (mentor, tutor, helper, etc.) at the school or as an occasional provider, please contact us in the church office to let us know.

### Weekly Classroom Volunteer

Peakview would love to have volunteers help to get their new school in order. This could be in various ways such as shelving library books, organizing supplies, or helping in classrooms. We have opportunities in different grades and different days of the week. Please reach out to the church office if you are interested in helping.

### Coaching

Coach Cole, the athletics director, is looking for people in the community who may have time and interest in coaching different sports, such as volleyball, wrestling, and track and field. These are part-time paid positions that can be additional to people who have other full-time work or who are retired but have the interest and time. If you are interested, let us know in the church office and we’ll connect you with Coach Cole at Peakview.

*Continued on page 9.*



Chamber music ensembles of the Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra performed at the tea party adding to the elegant ambience.



Each table was assigned a gentleman waiter who presented the teapots, poured the tea, and replenished the food delicacies, thus pampering the guests to an afternoon of pure enjoyment. To be asked to pour tea is an honor; the pourer is considered the guardian of the teapot.





# Tea Party Extravaganza: food! fashion! and fellas!

Dear Janice (Ehlers),

My friends and I are still buzzing about the women's tea you organized on May 6. We were overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness and generosity of Zion's members and participants. The photos are a wonderful souvenir of the event!

Joyce Buchholz



Afternoon tea is considered to be an elegant affair. Hats are usually an option, and when you dress up it makes the occasion all the more special.



Entrusted to Make a Difference in Our Neighborhood continued from page 8.

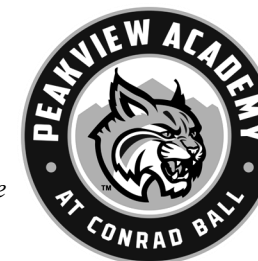
## Winter Gear for Thompson School District—Throughout October

In October we will gather winter gear for the students in the Thompson School district. Specific sizes and genders will be given to us based on the needs of the children. Look for information in your bulletin in October.

### From the Superintendent

We are extremely excited to officially open Peakview Academy at Conrad Ball, a PK-8 campus that consolidates the school communities of Monroe Elementary School, Mary Blair Elementary School, and Conrad Ball Middle School. The middle school received an extensive renovation over the past several months, and we know that our students and families are going to love the building as well as the new programs that have been designed.

—DR. MARC SCHAFFER, SUPERINTENDENT



## Gracias!

Thank you so much for helping sponsor the 2023 Monroe Pozole Dinner and Carnival as always! It was a great success and our best one yet! I truly hope we can continue on with this event! We greatly appreciate all that Zion does for us and thank you for the purchase and use of the cotton candy machine! You are all amazing and we are so very blessed by you!

Gloria Major, Monroe Elementary



Pozole 2023: cotton candy, facepainting, photo booth, rubber duckies: does it get any more fun than that?

## Heartwarming gratitude from the students for winter gear

Thank you so much for all the awesome winter gear!

Thank you so much for the new coat and boots. I love them very much.

Thank you for the coat and the boots. Love,

Hi, Just wanted to say thank you for the winter clothes. The jacket is his favorite color. They fit him perfect. Thank you for helping us out. Very thankful.

Thank you for the coat and boots I received for winter. I hope you have a good year.

Dear Donor, Thank you for giving me these winter clothes. They are going to help me stay very warm.

## Young Adult Ministry

### Fun summer for Zion's young adults

*Alyssa Hart*

This has been a fun summer for our young adult ministry! In May, we went bowling and enjoyed some fellowship and a bit of competition. In June, I hosted the group for a pool party and some grilling and yard games. For July's event, we hiked Carter Lake and enjoyed the sunshine, the mountains, and each other. It has been such a joy leading these events and getting together.

Zion's young adult group spans from post-high school to early thirties. If you or anyone you know are interested in joining, please let me know. All are welcome! We are looking forward to a fun fall with some seasonal events and discussions of faith. We meet once a month for events; be on the lookout for emails and announcements!



Scott Teesdale, Danae Burseth, and Pastor Veronica enjoyed the fun and games at the grilling and pool party hosted by Alyssa Hart.

### Young adults connect via Zoom

*Angie Elder*

This school year Zion will be hosting a Young Adult Zoom session every Sunday evening as a way for the young adults of our congregation to stay connected as they are away at college or not able to attend worship at Zion.

This will be a "come as you are if you are able" kind of gathering where we will share highs and lows, read a devotion, share prayer concerns for the upcoming week, and bless one another.

Watch your email for the start date, times, and details. Feel free to invite a friend to join us too!

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Veronica, Alyssa Hart, or Angie Elder.

Young adults Alyssa Hart, Danae Burseth, Matthew Steele, and Scott Teesdale enjoyed the sunshine, the mountains, and each other on their hike at Carter Lake.



## Among Members and Friends

*Dear Lindsey,*

*Thank you so much for everything you did to help us with Mom's "Celebration of Life." God sure uses you to be His hands and feet. It must feel amazing to help in such a special way. We love and appreciate all you've done. Please pass along our gratitude to everyone involved. Thank you!*

*Love,  
Carol Kimble (Colorado)  
Dale Wahlers (Kansas)  
John Wahlers (Arizona)*

*Thank you to everyone who brought food to me when my hand was out of commission. That was a wonderful surprise and was a terrific help to me.*

*Janie Lichtfuss*

*Your hugs, cards, and words of sympathy at my mother's death were so comforting. Thank you all so much.*

*Linda McCann*

### 90 Quilts

*Thank you all [of Zion's quilt ministry] for your amazing work to create these beautiful quilts!*

*Pastor Joel*



*Pastor Pancoast,*

*Thank you for your generous contribution. Your gift will allow the Veteran Servant Corps Project [VSCP] to continue hosting worship services at various RMS [Rocky Mountain Synod] Veteran Homes.*

*I am always grateful when folks like you take time to remember how VSCP is serving Veterans and their families. I will be praying for all these saints in days ahead.*

*Peace,  
Vicky*

[Vicky Daub is the director of VSCP, a ministry of the Rocky Mountain Synod. Royce Schultz serves on the board, and asked for Zion's support. The council approved \$300 from local benevolence, which will help VSCP to continue to offer worship services in three different homes for retired and disabled veterans.]

### 315 Pounds

*Thank you so much for the food donation that was dropped off this week! The total weight of the donation was 315 pounds, and we appreciate every item.*

*Erin Becerra, Food Program Manager  
House of Neighborly Service*

Together, we are creating a kinder, more neighborly community. House of Neighborly Service assists and advocates for people challenged by the effects of poverty or situational crisis—since 1961.

### Thank You Letters to Zion

- May 16, 2023—From Alternatives to Violence for a gift of \$400.
- May 18, 2023—From House of Neighborly Service for a donation of \$1,015.
- June 20, 2023—From Loveland Community Kitchen for a donation of \$800.
- July 25, 2023—From ELCA World Hunger for a gift of \$2,206.89.
- July 25, 2023—From Loveland Community Kitchen for a donation of \$300.
- August 11, 2023—From Loveland Community Kitchen for a donation of \$300.

## Among Members and Friends

### At Rest in Our Father's House

Larry, cousin of Teresa Majeski  
 Janice Molitor, sister of Lisa Teesdale  
 Jim, brother of Susan Schairer  
 LeaVealle Sumner  
 Marilyn Miller  
 Paul, friends of the West family  
 Barbara Squire, aunt of Rick Searles  
 Mike Langhoff, father of Nita Starr  
 Erie, uncle of Pam Stevens  
 Carol Meiers, mother of Linda McCann  
 John Boose  
 Coral, mother of Mary Harris  
 Irma Geidel  
 Karen Ferchen, wife of Pastor Duane Ferchen

### Joyous Celebration

We rejoice with Elizabeth and Thomas Chen at the birth of their son Logan.

### We Keep in Prayer

Mike, relative of the Linden's  
 Rosemary, aunt of Pastor Veronica  
 Lorraine, friend of Janice Ehlers  
 Pam, friend of Angie Elder  
 David, cousin of Cindy Brusko  
 Teagan, cousin of Cindy Brusko  
 Marilyn, friend of Carleen Blake  
 Rick, relative of the Vosberg Family  
 Marjorie, Deb Steine's mother  
 Flo Gustafson  
 Carolyn Schultz  
 Jim Poppe  
 Scott Sprain

### Thank you

- \* Susan Osborn for the piano cover
- \* Office volunteers and bulletin folders
- \* Joel Brauner and Ron Christensen for moving furniture for the intern
- \* Steph and Steve Courts, Angie Elder, Debbie Joncas, Stig Oresjo, and Pastor Joel for setting up the house for the intern
- \* Everyone who donated supplies for the intern housing
- \* Everyone who donated to the sanctuary heating and air
- \* Don Fenske and Mike and Teri Sloan for weed management at Zion
- \* Zion's worship planning team and the outdoor worship volunteers who help make Sunday worship a success.

Dear Pastor Joel and Zion Parish,

Thank you for letting us stay the night. Your building is beautiful. Thanks for the clean, safe environment. Blessing on your summer. So, so grateful! What a place of hospitality.

Wyatt, Lizzy, Kelly, Violet, Evan,  
 William, Carrie, Garren, and Molly

From a Catholic youth group from Princeton, Minnesota, who stayed overnight in our building on their way home from a trip.

Last year I was entrusted with the idea of Zion hosting a women's tea party, and on May 6, 2023, Zion hosted a fabulous tea party. A sincere thank you to the following who helped make the party such a success: Lindsey Walter, Angie Elder, and Pam Stevens for being part of planning committee, Jessica Kuhns for designing and painting the beautiful floral backdrop for picture taking, Marthann Dahlen and Teresa Majeski for entrusting us with their beautiful hats, Greg Schairer for taking the pictures and Susan Schairer for assembling them, Members of the Northern Colorado Youth Orchestra for providing beautiful chamber music, Zion men who made sure there were plenty of treats on the tables and the teapots were full, and numerous Zion women who entrusted so many gorgeous teapots to us.

Janice Ehlers

[The tea party is featured on pages 24 and 25 of this newsletter.]

## Pastels on 5th—Another example of a Zion member serving our community in a unique way

### Florence Doksansky

Pastels on 5th is a sidewalk chalk art festival that highlights one of Loveland's most distinguishing features—its internationally renowned arts community AND it helps fund Alternatives to Violence (ATV). Pastels on 5th is an annual event, and this year it is on Saturday, September 9. Again, Zion's own Jessica Kuhns will display her artistic talent on Loveland's 5th Street sidewalk.



Zion is a sponsor for Pastels on 5th and Jessica Kuhns is OUR artist!

### Pastels Background

Pastels on 5th is a free, family-friendly, community-wide sidewalk chalk art festival where artists, businesses, and downtown Loveland come together to transform 5th Street into a spectacular sidewalk gallery. This event is designed to highlight the thriving Loveland arts community and serve as a benefit for ATV. The focal point of the festival is the artwork created right on the

sidewalk by local and regional artists using brightly colored pastels. Each year, judges select their favorite works of art with juried awards that include cash prizes for the winning artists. Community members also get to vote for their favorite works of art in the People's Choice awards. Every year, professional, amateur, and student artists join in for this creative and fun day that includes live music, food, a marketplace, and a children's art area.

Founded in 2011 by Marcia Moellenberg and Vicky Bryant, Pastels was created as a benefit for ATV and designed to benefit Loveland artists, businesses, and community members. The first year was an amazing success with over 65 artists/sponsors and raised over \$10,000 for ATV. The second year had over 85 artists and raised over \$25,000. In 2018, the event included over 140 artists/sponsors, more than 3,000 spectators, and raised over \$50,000 for ATV. In 2016, 2017, and 2018, Pastels was awarded the Best of Loveland Awards for Arts and Entertainment.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend Pastels on 5th on September 9. Come and show your support both for ATV and for Zion's own artist Jessica Kuhns.

## God's Work. Our Hands. Celebrating 10 Years!

On September 10, 2023, the ELCA is celebrating 10 years of "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday—a day that our church sets aside to celebrate the many ministries of our congregations and communities. We remember that we are the Body of Christ. We are Christ's hands and feet. God has equipped us for service in a world with great need. We give thanks for opportunities to serve and share God's love in the world.

Again we will be partnering with other Loveland ELCA churches (L2F2). We will have opportunities to learn about public policy advocacy and prison ministry, prepare care bags for people in need, care for the community properties at LuMin [Lutheran Campus Ministry] and Lincoln Elementary, support A Little Help, and more!

Not only is "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday a great opportunity to serve, it is also a powerful witness to our neighbors as we live out our faith. There are activities for all ages and ability levels, including children, and we encourage families to sign up and participate together. Sign-ups will be in the bulletins and online. For more information, please contact the office.



### Zion loves A Little Help, an amazing organization



In June, five people from Zion came out to help two different homeowners around their homes. Thanks to the crew of Steve Courts, Ron Buchholz, Cindy Kurtz, Bill Kurtz, and Janice Ehlers!

Steve Courts may have retired from A Little Help, but he is still active in promoting and coordinating Zion's relationship to this amazing organization. A Little Help connects volunteers with older adults so that they can continue to thrive in their homes as long as possible. Zion loves A Little Help because it provides an opportunity for our own members to be connected with volunteers to help them, and it provides an amazing way for Zion to provide our time and energy to the community. What an amazing opportunity we have been entrusted with as a faith community! Stay tuned for opportunities this fall to be involved with A Little Help. On Sunday, September 10, this will be one of our opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ on "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday.

Later in October, there will be another opportunity for a fall cleanup day.

*Zion Evening Book Group Selected Books for 2023/24 continued from page 20.*

story of Dr. Jim O'Connell, a gifted man who invented ways to create a community of care for a city's unhoused population, including those who sleep on the streets—the "rough sleepers."

When Jim O'Connell graduated from Harvard Medical School and was nearing the end of his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, the chief of medicine made a proposal: Would he defer a prestigious fellowship and spend a year helping to create an organization to bring health care to homeless citizens? Jim took the job because he felt he couldn't refuse. But that year turned into his life's calling. Tracy Kidder spent five years following Dr. O'Connell and his colleagues as they served their thousands of homeless patients. In this illuminating book we travel with O'Connell as he navigates the city, offering medical care, socks, soup, empathy, humor, and friendship to some of the city's most endangered citizens. He emphasizes a style of medicine in which patients come first, joined with their providers in what he calls "a system of friends."

Location to be announced.

*What a miracle it is that out of these small, flat, rigid squares of paper unfolds world after world after world, worlds that sing to you, comfort and quiet or excite you. Books help us understand who we are and how we are to behave. They show us what community and friendship mean; they show us how to live and die.*

—ANNE LAMOTT

### Prayer Shawls for ALL

*Kathryn Pancoast*

Thank you to our generous prayer shawl group for loading up the shawl ladder. Your home family was most appreciative of the warmth they gave us during our outdoor worship service Sunday, August 13! Friends, unload the ladder and share these loving gifts with those whom you know that need prayers of celebration or healing.

*Dear Zion Lutheran Church,*

*The prayer shawl is beautiful! I am very impressed by the talent of whoever made the shawl and really grateful for all the prayers that went into making it. Please convey my appreciation to the group as we continue to hope for our grandson's healing. Thank you for thinking of us.*

Zion Evening Book Group Selected Books for 2023/24 continued from page 19.

enslaving more than four hundred people. It is the story of the Whitney Plantation, one of the only former plantations devoted to preserving the experience of the enslaved people whose lives and work sustained it. It is the story of Angola, a former plantation-turned-maximum-security prison in Louisiana that is filled with Black men who work across the 18,000-acre land for virtually no pay. And it is the story of Blandford Cemetery, the final resting place of tens of thousands of Confederate soldiers.

Location to be announced.

MARCH—*The Johnstown Flood* by David McCullough, 1968. 302 pages. Nonfiction.

The stunning story of one of America's great disasters, a preventable tragedy of Gilded Age America, brilliantly told by master historian David McCullough. At the end of the nineteenth century, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, was a booming coal-and-steel town filled with hardworking families striving for a piece of the nation's burgeoning industrial prosperity. In the mountains above Johnstown, an old earth dam had been hastily rebuilt to create a lake for an exclusive summer resort patronized by the tycoons of that same industrial prosperity, among them Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and Andrew Mellon. Despite repeated warnings of possible danger, nothing was done about the dam. Then came May 31, 1889, when the dam burst, sending a wall of water thundering down the mountain, smashing through Johnstown, and killing more than 2,000 people. It was a tragedy that became a national scandal.

Location to be announced.

APRIL—*Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, 2022. 416 pages. Fiction.

Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, very far from the glamor of any racetrack.

New York City, 1954. Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance.

Washington, DC, 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse—one studying the stallion's bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success. Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

Location to be announced.

MAY—*Rough Sleepers* by Tracey Kidder, 2023. 320 pages. Nonfiction.

Tracey Kidder has been described by The Baltimore Sun as a “master of the nonfiction narrative.” In *Rough Sleepers*, Kidder shows how one person can make a difference, as he tells the

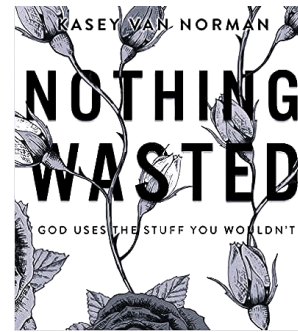
Continued on page 21.

## Women's Retreat 2023

Angie Elder

Friday, October 20-Sunday, October 22, 2023  
YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado

Attention all women: please prayerfully consider joining us for this year's L2F2 Women's Retreat.



At this retreat, we will learn from the video-based Bible study titled “*Nothing Wasted*” with professional counselor and Bible teacher Kasey Van Norman. In a world that often encourages us to overspiritualize, dismiss, or water down the messiest parts of us, “*Nothing Wasted*” presents God as a mixed-media artist who lovingly gathers the broken bits and scraps of our lives to create a masterpiece of grace and redemption. Kasey offers a vulnerable exposition of just how capable and willing God is to resurrect us from sin and redeem us from all shame. She takes the pressure off of outing our past, revealing God as the perfecter of everything that brings us shame or pain. God does not care if we are the reason for or recipient of our messes—He

wants us to understand the magnitude of receiving his grace and trust Him to transform our pain into something glorious and even beautiful! Nothing is ever wasted with God!

The cost for the retreat is \$180 for a double-occupancy room and \$290 for single-occupancy.

Cost includes all retreat materials and food for the weekend. Scholarships are available. Registration and scholarship forms are available in the church office or online at [www.zionloveland.com](http://www.zionloveland.com) and click the “Register for Events” tab.

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

Sign up TODAY and come join in the fellowship and fun of the L2F2 Women's Retreat!

If you have any questions or want additional information, please contact Angie Elder or Pastor Veronica.

### Woman 2 Woman

Sarah Gall

WHEN: Monday, September 11  
6:30 p.m. fellowship  
7:00 p.m. book discussion

WHERE: Home of Sarah Gall—806 Madrone Drive (directly behind Zion where you can park near the basketball hoop where the gate will be open)

BOOK: **Freeing Jesus** by Diana Butler Bass  
Each is responsible for purchasing the book. Contact Lindsey in the church office if you need support purchasing the book.

REFRESHMENTS: Last names beginning with A-M: bring a bottle of wine; last names beginning with N-Z, bring fruit or a dessert.

Any questions, contact Sarah Gall.

## SafeLot is coming to Zion soon!

Linda Breen

Plans are progressing to open Zion's parking lot to temporary overnight guests starting this fall. Guests who will be screened, background-checked, and will sign a contract with rules designed to keep the church grounds safe and tidy are people living in their cars. Case management will be provided to assist with permanent housing and employment as needed. By following a protocol which has been successful in several other churches, we expect that the church and neighborhood will have improved safety due to increased monitoring and partnering with the Loveland police department.

Initially, four cars will be accommodated, and the cars will rotate each month between Zion and another local church. Additional churches are interested in joining the program soon. Volunteer opportunities for members may include providing meals and monitoring showers for parking



Safe parking provides a safe, legal place to sleep and provides stability for people on their path toward more permanent housing.

guests. During August, Zion members and pastors are visiting neighbors to discuss the parking lot. A Q&A session was scheduled on August 13 for church members. Soon, a porta-potty will be arriving in the northeast corner of the parking lot with a privacy fence, and signs will indicate SafeLot parking locations. A flyer is available with additional information. Feel free to discuss any questions with members of the Local Service committee or the pastors. Local Service committee members are Linda Breen, Laura Dimmitt, Jacob Kuhns, Bill Kurtz, and Ruth Sprain.

## Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop

All Saints Episcopal Church  
3448 North Taft Avenue, Loveland, Colorado

Saturday, October 14, 2023  
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Walk-in registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Cost: Donation

Centering prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us.

All are welcome. If you have questions, contact Mary Koltze at 720-236-6368 or Sister Rebecca Myers at 970-430-8329.

*Be still, and know that I am God!*

—PSALM 46:10

Zion Evening Book Group Selected Books for 2023/24 continued from page 18.

NOVEMBER—*Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel* by Bonnie Garmus, 2022. 400 pages. Fiction.

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo. Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.

We meet on Thursday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Laurie Pascoe, 5357 Eagle Creek Drive, Timnath, 80547.

JANUARY—*Eleanor* by David Michaelis, 2020. 720 pages. Biography.

In the first single-volume cradle-to-grave portrait in six decades, acclaimed biographer David Michaelis delivers a stunning account of Eleanor Roosevelt's remarkable life of transformation. An orphaned niece of President Theodore Roosevelt, she converted her Gilded Age

childhood of denial and secrecy into an irreconcilable marriage with her ambitious fifth cousin Franklin. Despite their inability to make each other happy, Franklin Roosevelt transformed Eleanor from a settlement house volunteer on New York's Lower East Side into a matching partner in New York's most important power couple in a generation.

When Eleanor discovered Franklin's betrayal with her younger, prettier social secretary, Lucy Mercer, she offered a divorce and vowed to face herself honestly. Here is an Eleanor both more vulnerable and more aggressive, more psychologically aware and sexually adaptable than we knew. She came to accept FDR's bond with his executive assistant, Missy LeHand; she allowed her children to live their own lives, as she never could; and she explored her sexual attraction to women, among them a star female reporter on FDR's first presidential campaign, and younger men.

We meet on Thursday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Cindy Brusko, 3735 Prickly Pear Drive, Loveland, 80537.

FEBRUARY—*How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith, 2021. 352 pages. Nonfiction.

Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Clint Smith leads the reader on an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks—those that are honest about the past and those that are not—that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves.

It is the story of the Monticello Plantation in Virginia, the estate where Thomas Jefferson wrote letters espousing the urgent need for liberty while

*Continued on page 20.*

## Zion Evening Book Group Selected Books for 2023/24

Scott Sprain

*Our first book has just been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2023.*

SEPTEMBER—*Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, 2022. 560 pages. Fiction.

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, *Demon Copperhead* is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, *Demon* braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

Many generations ago, Charles Dickens wrote *David Copperfield* from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in his society. Those problems have yet to be solved in ours. Dickens is not a prerequisite for readers of this novel, but he provided its inspiration. In transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Barbara Kingsolver enlists Dickens' anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story. *Demon Copperhead* speaks for a new generation of lost boys, and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can't imagine leaving behind.

We meet on Thursday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jaci Engel and Wes Melander, 4110 Bonnell Drive, Loveland, 80537.

OCTOBER—*Dinners with Ruth: a Memoir on the Power of Friendships* by Nina Totenberg, 2022. 320 pages. Memoir.

Four years before Nina Totenberg was hired at NPR, where she cemented her legacy as a prizewinning reporter, and nearly twenty-two years before Ruth Bader Ginsburg was appointed to the Supreme Court, Nina called Ruth. A reporter for *The National Observer*, Nina was curious about Ruth's legal brief, asking the Supreme Court to do something revolutionary: declare a law that discriminated "on the basis of sex" to be unconstitutional. In a time when women were fired for becoming pregnant, often could not apply for credit cards or get a mortgage in their own names, Ruth patiently explained her argument. That call launched a remarkable, nearly fifty-year friendship.

*Dinners with Ruth* is an extraordinary account of two women who paved the way for future generations by tearing down professional and legal barriers. It is also an intimate memoir of the power of friendships as women began to pry open career doors and transform the workplace. At the story's heart is one, special relationship: Ruth and Nina saw each other not only through personal joys, but also illness, loss, and widowhood. During the devastating illness and eventual death of Nina's first husband, Ruth drew her out of grief; twelve years later, Nina would reciprocate when Ruth's beloved husband died. They shared not only a love of opera, but also of shopping, as they instinctively understood that clothes were armor for women who wanted to be taken seriously in a workplace dominated by men.

We meet on Thursday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Scott and Ruth Sprain, 5260 Crabapple Court, Loveland, 80538.

*Continued on page 19.*

## Stephen Ministry

*Grief Counseling*

Stephen Ministry is a program at Zion Lutheran Church that equips lay persons to provide distinctively Christian one-to-one care (confidential listening) to those who are experiencing a wide variety of life challenges and circumstances, both in our congregation and in our community. For over three decades, Stephen Ministry at Zion has cared for persons experiencing crises including illness, death, divorce, job loss, depression, and life's many transitions.

Zion's Stephen Ministry has many grief resources that include pastoral visits, a Stephen Minister, and grief mailings. **Journeying through Grief** is a set of four short books sent to people at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one. Author Kenneth C. Haugk writes in a warm, caring style, with short, easy-to-read chapters. He walks alongside the reader through the grief journey, sharing helpful insights about grief. Zion sends the books to members and non-members of the congregation. A second resource, "The Shepherd Guide," is a set of five cards sent throughout the year. The cards are a reminder that Zion acknowledges that grief surfaces many times during the church calendar year.



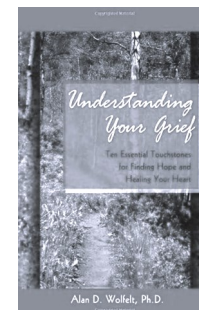
If you have family or friends who could benefit from this ministry or would like additional support, please contact Pastor Joel or Pastor Veronica at Zion Lutheran Church 970-667-1836.

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



## Understanding Your Grief Support Group

Angie Elder



When you experience grief of any kind, it can be hard to understand your complex and painful thoughts and feelings. We need support and compassion from others during these difficult times. If you or someone you know is grieving, please consider joining the upcoming 11-week grief support group at Zion. We will use the book *Understanding Your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart* by Alan D. Wolfelt, a leading grief educator. This book outlines ten touchstones that are essential physical, emotional, cognitive,

social, and spiritual actions for you to take to help yourself heal. Through reading, journaling, and group discussions, we will work together to understand the normal and necessary journey that we call grief.

This 11-week support group will meet on Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m., beginning October 19 and concluding on January 11. We will meet at Zion and a Zoom option will be available. If you are interested in participating in this group, please contact Lindsey in the church office by October 1 so we can order the appropriate materials. If you have any questions, please contact Angie Elder at [angie@zionloveland.com](mailto:angie@zionloveland.com).

## Featuring Zion Volunteer in the Community

### Carol Ward

*Angie Elder*



**Carol Ward, a longtime member of Zion, has served the Foothills Service League for over 30 years.**

Carol Ward has been a volunteer with the Foothills Service League (FHSL) for over 30 years. FHSL was established in 1959 in the home of Lois Anderson over a cup of coffee and a desire to help those in our community. The current organization is made up of approximately 30 women whose common goal is to raise funds for two important charities: Foothills Gateway, Inc. and the Namaqua Center.

Foothills Gateway, Inc. has improved the lives of thousands of people with cognitive disabilities and their families in Northern Colorado by helping them conquer challenges and achieve their maximum potential. Foothills Gateway, Inc. strives to empower every ability and highlight the achievements of the human spirit of all ages. (Learn more at [www.foothillsgateway.org](http://www.foothillsgateway.org)).

The Namaqua Center provides care, counseling, treatment, and healing to our most vulnerable children. These children have lived through trauma, have severe behavior challenges, or live with diagnosable mental illnesses. Each of them deserves a change to transcend his or her current circumstances to the extent possible. At Namaqua, the children-centered, community-based programs assist children and families in developing and maintaining stability and healthy levels of functioning. (Learn more at [www.summitstonehealth.org/namaqua-center/](http://www.summitstonehealth.org/namaqua-center/)).

The Foothills Service League is committed to

improving the quality of life of Northern Colorado individuals with cognitive disabilities, as well as children who have been abused and neglected. FHSL is a diverse group of women who enjoy camaraderie, sharing of their talents in hard work, and feeling the satisfaction of putting on two fundraising events each year. An astounding \$245,063.97 has been raised, divided, and donated to Foothills Gateway, Inc. and the Namaqua Center in the last 6 years alone.

Carol Ward, a longtime member of Zion, is proud to be a part of the mission of FHSL and has developed many lasting friendships due to her involvement with this organization. Carol also served on the Board of Directors for Foothills Gateway, Inc. for 11 years and attended the State Legislature on several occasions asking for more funding and assistance for their clients.

Wondering how you can get involved? Here are a few ideas:

- Attend one of Foothill Service League's fundraising events: The Foothills Taste of Loveland (held each spring) or The Foothills Tree for All (held in December)
- Be a sponsor or make a donation at [www.foothillsserviceleague.org](http://www.foothillsserviceleague.org).
- Learn more about Foothills Gateway, Inc. or the Namaqua Center and volunteer your time and talents with these organizations
- Contact Carol Ward for additional information on how to become involved in the Foothills Service League.

Thank you, Carol, for your dedication and service to "the least of these" in Northern Colorado for over 30 years. You are a blessing!

## Congratulations to Gene Elder, who was recently announced as a 2023 Athletic Hall of Fame recipient to his alma mater, Mount Marty University



**Gene Elder  
Loveland, CO  
Baseball  
1995-1999**

Gene Elder was a prominent figure among the Lancers' roster during the mid to late 90s. His exceptional skills as a pitcher led the team to regular season conference championships in 1996, 1997, and 1999, as well as triumphs in the South Dakota Iowa Conference (SDIC) in 1998 and 1999. Throughout his career, the Lancers amassed an impressive record of 109 wins and 49 losses.

Gene's dedication extended beyond the field, as he also excelled academically, being recognized as a two-time NAIA Scholar-Athlete in both 1998 and 1999. By the time Gene concluded his illustrious career, his name adorned several spots on the career and season charts. Notably, he ranked 2nd in career wins with 24, 2nd in career innings pitched with 185 innings, and 2nd in career complete games with 22. On the single-season charts, Gene shared the top position for most complete games in a season with 9, tied for 2nd with 11 pitching starts in a season, and tied for 2nd with 8 wins in a season, which he accomplished in both the 1998 and 1999 seasons. For his efforts Gene was recognized as 2nd Team SDIC in 1998 and 1st Team SDIC in 1999.

Presently, Gene resides in Loveland, Colorado, together with his wife Angie, who is also a 1999 graduate of MMU. Angie is currently pursuing her Master's in Divinity and is set to graduate from seminary next spring. Their daughter Madison is studying Elementary Education and Special Education as a sophomore at Colorado Christian, and their daughter Layne will be commencing her freshman year at Grand Canyon University, focusing on business studies.

Outside of their family life, the Elders actively participate in their church, Zion Lutheran where they with their kids have been active members for almost two decades, and contribute to their community by supporting the local Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, Gene serves on the Post 22 Foundation board in Rapid City. He has also established a financial planning practice affiliated with Thrivent in Loveland, Colorado.

As for hobbies, Gene continues to stay involved in baseball by participating in a wood-bat league, although he no longer pitches after undergoing two rotator cuff surgeries. He also enjoys indulging in golf, hunting, and fishing whenever their busy schedule permits, especially when they are not traveling or attending their children's events.