



Eye on Zion

A Quarterly Newsletter for the People of Zion Lutheran Church

May-June-July
2024

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Pastor Joel Pancoast

Pastor

Pastor Veronica Gould

Intern Pastor

Katie Elkin

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Alyssa Hart—Young Adult / Nourish

Pam Stevens—Sacred Space

Director of Worship and Music

Noelle Bauman-Stucky

Organist / Praise Band Director

Neil Forsythe

Bell and Chimes Director

Open

Accompanist / Collaborative Artist

Ryan Marvel

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Childcare

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Down + Out: Where Grace Takes You

Pastor Joel Pancoast

The phrase “down and out” usually describes someone who is experiencing hardship. A person who is down and out is usually without money, a job, or a place to live. Down and out is a place of despair and hopelessness.

In contrast, “down and out” can also describe the life God gives followers of Jesus. Down and out is the direction of God’s grace, coming *down* into our lives and *out* into the world. A disciple of Jesus is not meant to stay at home, or even at church; a disciple of Jesus is meant to be so overwhelmed by the free, undeserved gift of God’s love that we are sent out of our homes and churches to love and care for the world God made.

Down and out. This is the very foundation of our lives lived by faith. What is most important is not believing in the right things or behaving in the right way. God does all the “heavy lifting” in the death and resurrection of Jesus, who died even for the

sake of those who crucified him. This is the good news of God made known in Jesus Christ. You do not have to do anything to prove yourself! You belong to God, who loves you to the end, no matter what! And that love calls each of us in a unique, special way for the work of God’s kingdom, which does end up serving those who are down and out in earthly ways: those who are experiencing hardship, those who the world sees as the lowest, the least, and the lost. God’s love goes down and out, to claim and call the down and out. Thanks be to God!

My hope, dear friends, is that everything we do, both as individuals and as a church, reflects the down and out movement of God. My hope is that you have found ways to live in the down and out movement, receiving God’s grace and sharing it with others. If you need more ideas,

Continued on page 2.

Down + Out: Where Grace Takes You continued from page 1.

look at the many expressions of the outward movement of grace in this newsletter. Whether it be growing as a disciple of Jesus or sharing as a servant of Christ to our neighbors, grace takes you down and out!

Your Down and Out Partner in Christ,
Pastor Joel

Summer Worship at Zion—Schedule and Themes

Summer worship takes us outdoors for both services, weather permitting. We worship under the pergola on the south side of the building, with the beauty of the memorial garden and the honey locust trees as our backdrop, where we often have tiger swallowtail butterflies join us to show off the beauty of God's handiwork. Note that our worship times shift in the summer, starting June 2.

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. Fellowship, Faith Formation, and Fun!

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Down + Out: Where Grace Takes You

Explore the direction of God's free, undeserved gift of love.



June 2	Up / Down—Justification and Vocation	Galatians 2:16-21; Acts 9:10-20
June 9	In / Out—Congregation	Exodus 35:4-5, 10-11, 20-22, 29; Acts 16:9-15
June 16	Wanna / Gotta—Community	Galatians 5:13-15; Philippians 2:3-8
June 23	Creature / Creator—Workplace	Genesis 26: 1-6,12-32; 1 Corinthians 3:5-11
June 30	Self / Others—Home	Genesis 32:24-30, 33:1-11; Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Everyday Prophecy

Four prophets give us direction in responding to God's call. It is easy to view the prophets of the Hebrew Bible as marginal characters in strange circumstances distant from our contemporary times, but there are tremendous lessons to be garnered from watching the way prophets responded to their everyday situations. The prophets were known for the ways they critiqued the systems and figures of power and privilege in their time and space. The ongoing life of the church demands prophetic address that both attends to personal need and empowers communal action in the service of justice and righteousness in the world. The work of the prophet is not based on status or talent, but on presence and

Continued on page 3.

Summer Worship at Zion—Schedule and Themes continued from page 2.

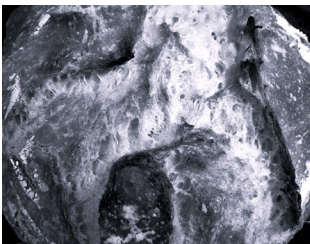
availability to the call of God. In this four-week series, we will explore how that call is carried out in everyday ways that make a profound difference.



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|---------|--|
| July 7 | Ezekiel: React or Respond, How do we answer God's call?
Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123 |
| July 14 | Amos: On-the-job Training, Our habits are more important than our titles
Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13 |
| July 21 | Jeremiah: Looking for Good Shepherds, God models caring for God's people
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23 |
| July 28 | Elisha: More Than Enough, God's provision is abundant
2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18 |

The Gospel According to Bread

Every three years, the lectionary (a set of Scriptures assigned for worship) gives us John 6 for five straight weeks, and things can get a little...stale. This series will give us something to...chew on. The stories in John 6 encourage participation in the lived experience of Christ. We do not always understand what Jesus is talking about, but he always seems to feed first and raise questions later. The disciples who are left by his side at the end aren't those who have figured out what he's talking about. They're the ones who know that no matter how confusing or provoking Jesus is, there's nowhere else they can go to find the words of eternal life. We don't always understand Jesus. But we need him, like daily bread, every single day to sustain and satisfy us.



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|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| August 4 | Feeding of the 5000 | John 6:1-21 |
| August 11 | "Give Us This Bread Always" | John 6:24-35 |
| August 18 | "I am the Bread of Life" | John 6:35,41-51 |
| August 25 | "My flesh is the True Food" | John 6:51-58 |
| September 1 | "You have the words of Eternal Life" | John 6:56-69 |

Held Together in Christ (HTIC)

Intern Pastor Katie Elkin

Thank you to everyone who has been joining Zion's "Held Together in Christ" discussions! Based on Zion's tagline (Colossians 1:17) and vision statement, HTIC provides opportunities to engage in difficult conversations with our Christian identities as the starting point. So far, we have delved into student loan forgiveness, immigration, and renewable energy. On June 2, during the faith formation hour, we will have a conversation around Loveland's sales tax shortfall. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss, please bring it to one of our gatherings. We vote as a group about what we'll talk about next! We will continue throughout the summer, with a goal of meeting every other week. See you there!

Music Ministry

Noelle Bauman-Stucky

It seems as quickly as we began the season, it is now over. That said, it was a fulfilling season with worship that was impactful. There are so many who strive to lay the foundation of engaging worship services, and even more who interact with open hearts in the services and beyond our walls. Gratitude spreads through our church, and I can't go without thanking you all. As we wrap up the spring season, here are a few things to prepare for summer.

Summer Worship

As we approach the summer months, don't let the absence of structured ensembles like choir and bells make you think we slow down. Summer worship is starting and with it as many outdoor services as possible. These weeks always bring opportunity to reset and appreciate the world in which we live. Summer worship will include a traditional service and a contemporary service with plenty of songs to sing. If you are interested in leading a traditional service (leading hymns) or singing with the Praise Band, please do not hesitate to reach out! There are always opportunities to share your vocal or instrumental gifts.

Art and Music Camp 2024

I have always enjoyed holding summer music camps with kids from Zion and the surrounding

areas. We have done musical camps, songwriting camps, and again, we will hold a Music and Art Summer Camp the first week of June! The activities will show comparisons between the elements of music and art and provide opportunity for participants to experience each in a new way. This is a week geared toward cultivating a supportive community within our children and youth, but it also works for any adults who are young at heart and looking for an artistic outlet. Registration is open on the website so let me know if you would like to attend! I need to prepare material for anyone who wants to attend.

Seasonal transitions always lend to reflection, and I want to honor that. We had a great time working with children during our Lenten season as we sang songs about Holy Week and made crafts that were thought-provoking. There was a spread of ages and backgrounds, and everyone worked well together. The Chancel Choir had a very full season with exciting music and collaborations with Trinity Lutheran Church. I am very thankful that our Zion community is invested in areas that span age groups and offer places for everyone. Many thanks to all who have given their time and energy to create meaningful worship throughout this season. Looking forward to beginning again in August 2024!

Introducing Bonnie Schowalter, Zion's interim council president

Hi! My name is Bonnie Schowalter, and I am so excited to be Zion Lutheran Church's council president pro tem. I fell in love with the church about 10 years ago when my husband and I moved to Colorado. I come to you with a lot of passion for our members on their spiritual journey. My leadership skills from the airline business and my pilgrimage in seeking Christ in my life pulled me to apply for this position.

Our council team has some new faces that will bring fresh ideas and energy while honoring and respecting the traditions already in place. We will look to expand outreach opportunities in our community, welcome new members with open arms, and continue to serve the Lord. Most of all, we will be there for our members, our families, our friends, and our community. I hope you'll help me with these goals, and I invite you to reach out for any reason.

Thank you so much for this opportunity!

Background

Steve Courts was elected council president at the January annual meeting for a two-year term. Unfortunately, shortly after that meeting, he and Stephanie were presented with an opportunity to move to Arizona for a warmer climate. This was a difficult decision for them, but ultimately was made due to some health issues and lifestyle choices. According to Zion's constitution, the council appointed a replacement who would serve until the next congregational meeting in July, and Bonnie Schowalter wholeheartedly accepted this appointment. We are grateful for Bonnie's willingness to serve, for her passion for the ministries at Zion, and for her connection and heart to so many in the congregation!



Pictured here are members of Zion's church council.

BACK ROW: Steve Courts, Chas Farasyn (Treasurer), Chris West

MIDDLE ROW: Gordon Kuhns, Pastor Joel Pancoast, Cindy Vosberg (Secretary), Erin Bachman (Vice President), Ron Christensen

FRONT ROW: Pastor Veronica Gould, Bonnie Schowalter (President Pro Tempore), Amy Moore

Gifted by Intern Pastors

Pastor Joel Pancoast

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

—PSALM 121:8

Zion has been gifted by three intern pastors over the last five years, and because of the vision of our leadership and the generosity of the congregation, we celebrate that we have reached the goal of hosting regular, yearly internships as we prepare to welcome our fourth intern pastor at the end of the summer!

Intern pastors serve for a year under the supervision of a pastor trained by the seminary to mentor a student in the final stages of their preparation for ordained ministry. During internship, interns are both leaders and learners in the congregation, putting their learning and skills to practice in a safe environment.

Our commitment to hosting intern pastors is a gift to the wider church as we prepare gifted pastors

I hope you will join us on Sunday, July 21, at 12:00 for a special reception to celebrate the end of Katie's ministry with us at Zion and bless her for the next steps.

to serve all over the country.

At the same time, this commitment is a gift to Zion, as we have grown from the presence, leadership, and fresh ideas that intern pastors bring.

While we still have until July 31 with Intern Pastor Katie,

we are already preparing for our next intern pastor. Talk about an emotional roller coaster! We will all be so sad to see Katie go, but we celebrate that she will be on her final step of her journey to ordination. I hope you will join us on Sunday, July 21, at 12:00 for a special reception to celebrate the end of Katie's ministry with us at Zion, and bless her for the next steps. Then, in early August, Rosalie Brunner will join us, and like our previous interns, will be with us for 12 months. Stay tuned for details of how we will welcome Rosalie into the Zion community.

In early August, Rosalie Brunner will join us, and like our previous interns, will be with us for 12 months.

In the meantime, there is space for two more people to join the internship committee. This committee meets with the intern monthly to share observations and feedback to the intern that will help them develop and grow their skills and leadership. The committee also helps with the evaluation process. The committee is understood to be support, sponsor, consultant, evaluator, faith sharer, and ministry partner. If you are interested in serving on this committee, or want to know more, let Pastor Joel know.

Internship Reflections

Intern Pastor Katie Elkin



It's hard to believe that our year together is already drawing to a close. In some ways, it feels like just yesterday that I was sitting on the east coast (literally, I was at the beach) writing my introductory bio for Pastor Joel to share with Zion before I arrived. When I say that Jordan and I have felt loved and supported by you all from the moment we arrived in Colorado, I mean it! Internship has provided me so many opportunities for growth, change, and creativity, and I am enormously grateful to all of y'all who have poured into me over the last year. There are too many stories, people, and experiences to be thankful for; I couldn't fit them all in one newsletter article! So what I will do is highlight three of the gifts you all have consistently offered me throughout this year.

1. The way you all trusted me from the beginning. On my fourth day of internship, a funeral home called to see if Zion could offer a service for a Loveland community member. Neither Pastor Joel nor Pastor Veronica were able to take it, so they asked me if I wanted to do it! (At that point, I had never done a funeral, much less one all by myself!) The family ended up finding a different minister, but from that point on, I knew that I had been entrusted with the gift of being a pastoral presence at Zion and in Loveland. I have not taken your trust lightly. Your trust has allowed me to grow into my pastoral identity in some mighty ways.
2. The way you all let me be me—from teaching silly camp songs at confirmation, to recovering from mistakes when leading worship, from laughing at my jokes, to joining a March Madness bracket, allowing me to ask questions, and to encouraging me to trust my gut. I have never felt less than who I am when I am with you all. Zion's open-hearted embrace of your pastoral leaders is a HUGE gift you all offer, so THANK YOU!
3. The way you share your time, resources, and expertise. It didn't take me long to figure out that if I needed help with something or wanted to try something out, Zion had someone who would be up to the task. (I mean, y'all stocked an entire house before I even got here!) Sharing God's abundance is a mission that you all are truly living out, and I feel blessed to have been the recipient of that abundance in more ways than I can count this year.

As we say "so long" and you all prepare to receive your next intern, I know that these are gifts you will offer to them too. These ways of being together are what make Zion such a wonderful learning congregation for us interns who are still discovering what type of leader God has called us to be. I am "grateful to God...when I remember you constantly in my prayers," Zion, and I trust that God will hold us together, even as we go our separate ways (2 Timothy 1:3). As Winnie the Pooh says, "how lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard!"

Peace,
Katie

Introducing Zion's fourth intern pastor Meet Rosalie Brunner

Hello! My name is Rosalie Brunner, and I am thrilled to be joining Zion Lutheran as your pastoral intern this coming year! I am originally from south-central Pennsylvania where all of my family still resides in farm country just outside the small city of Reading. I completed my undergraduate work in the social sciences at Messiah University near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, studying sociology, anthropology, and psychology amidst the wild season of the pandemic. From there, I took a leap of faith moving across the country to St. Paul, Minnesota, to be a residential student at Luther Seminary where I have been living for the past three years. I've cherished my time in several congregations serving children, youth, and families as well as working many summers at a little Lutheran summer camp in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. I also work as a birth and postpartum doula, which is a service I adore and am always happy to share more about! When I am not engaged in church or seminary work, I love to be outdoors, playing/teaching music on the guitar and ukulele, and spoiling my very particular little cat, Nux. I am incredibly grateful to be joining you all in August and wish all those at Zion a blessed beginning to the summer months!



Rosalie Brunner will join Zion in August as the next intern pastor.

Loveland Pride

Pastor Veronica Gould

In our welcome statement, Zion affirms that “we invite all into the fullness of God’s love. This love is inclusive of people of every race, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, physical or mental ability, sex, or station in life. We pledge to use our differences as gifts for our work together.” This is no small commitment. To welcome all with the love of God means encountering our neighbors and being willing to be transformed. We weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.

Loveland Pride is a celebration of rejoicing with our LGBTQIA+ community members about the joys of life and love, even in the face of life’s challenges. The Loveland Pride celebration will be held on June 15, beginning with a gathering at Foote Lagoon at 11:00 a.m. LGBTQIA+ individuals and families, as well as allies and supporters, are welcome to come and share in the spirit of joy and community. If you have never been to Pride, it is a family-friendly celebration. All are welcome, and this year’s focus will be on mental health. If you are interested in going to Pride as a group and showing Zion’s support, please contact Pastor Veronica. I hope to see many of you there!

Blessing of the Graduates

Congratulations to all of the students in our Zion family who are graduating this year! You have worked and studied hard and discovered more about yourself and the world around you. We pray for God's blessing at this time of graduation. May God bless you with a spirit of discernment to understand where God is calling you next.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

—PHILIPPIANS 1:6

Ellie Black
University of Portland



Preston Green
University of Colorado,
Boulder



Robert Gatton
Colorado State
University



Cate Schlagel
Berthoud High
Texas Tech University

Matthew Pickett
Mead High



Alex Prazan
Berthoud High
Trade School and
CDL (Commercial
Driver's License)



Payton Peach
Roosevelt High
Larimer County
Community College

Scholarship Recipients

Pastor Veronica Gould

Zion is blessed to be able to provide scholarships to students in our church community through the generous endowments of several scholarship funds. This year, scholarships have been awarded to three students for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year. The Petersen scholarship is awarded to full-time students majoring in education. This year's recipient, Maddie Elder, is studying special education with an emphasis in elementary education at Colorado Christian University. The Boyce-Tate Distinguished Disciple scholarship is awarded to students who live out their faith in the community and have shown contributions to the ministries of Zion. This year, the scholarship was awarded to two students: Gabrielle Ligothke and Sophia Pancoast. Gabrielle Ligothke, who has served as a NICU nurse for six years, is attending Regis University where she is studying for her master's in nursing to become a neonatal nurse practitioner. Sophia Pancoast is majoring in biology at Pacific Lutheran University where she has enjoyed attending faith-based events on and off campus. Sophia was also awarded the Sprenger scholarship, which is awarded to students attending ELCA colleges or seminaries. This year, no applications were received for the Therp scholarship, which is available to students entering their first year of college who have a GPA between 3.0 and 3.5 and are active in church and community service.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients; may God bless you as you grow in knowledge and wisdom!

Maddie Elder
Colorado Christian University
Petersen scholarship \$1,500 for 2024-2025 academic year

Sophia Pancoast
Pacific Lutheran University
Sprenger scholarship \$1,000 for 2024-2025 academic year
Boyce-Tate scholarship \$2,500 for 2024-2025 academic year

Gabrielle Ligothke
Regis University
Boyce-Tate scholarship \$2,500 for 2024-2025 academic year

Gabrielle Ligothke is awarded the Boyce-Tate Distinguished Disciple Scholarship

To the scholarship committee and the congregation of Zion Lutheran,

I grew up within the walls of Zion Lutheran, from Sunday school to confirmation, to graduation from high school, then college, and now working on my master's degree. I have always known that Zion was my home away from home. I have been so blessed to have always felt the love and support of my Zion family and have been strengthened by your love, prayers, and continued support through every adventure of life.

I currently work in the Neonatal Intensive Care unit at Poudre Valley Hospital while I work on my master's degree of nursing to become a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.

This scholarship has been such a blessing, and I cannot even put words to explain how grateful I am. Thank you not only for the financial support but the vote of confidence it brings with it. I am so blessed to have my Zion family beside me during each new adventure and I can't wait to celebrate graduation next May! Thank you again for this blessing.

Gabrielle Ligothke

Gift and Endowment Committee

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.

An educational opportunity coming in September between worship services is on Planned Giving and Stewardship. Watch for further information.

One project underway at Zion is the chapel renovation; take a look at the progress! Also, sanctuary lighting will be updated with funds provided through an anonymous gift.

Great Gift Away remains active at Zion. A mailing during your birthday month will be sent to you on how you may participate.

Gift and Endowment Committee members are Sandy Bilstad, Kristin Blundell, Marthann Dahlen, Cindy Kurtz, Kathy Loken, and Pastor Joel Pancoast.

SAVE THE DATE

Dedication

Chapel Renovation

Generous Support from the Mel and Mary Jo Haack Estate and the Ginger Klein Stephen Ministry Memorial

August 25, 2024

9:45 a.m.

Summer Faith Formation

Pastor Veronica Gould

As we move outside and embrace our summer worship hours, we also find a new rhythm for Sunday faith formation beginning June 2.

Pre-K to High School Youth Sunday School

Following the first service, youth from pre-k to high school will gather outside (weather permitting) for games and fellowship. From 9:45 to 10:15 a.m., we will have community-building and faith-forming activities for kids, focusing on games, music, simple storytelling, and prayer. If you are interested in helping with summer Sunday school, we are still looking for volunteers who can share the love of Jesus with our youth. Please contact Pastor Veronica to find out how you can lead this summer!

Summer Camps

Registration is open for camps!

VBS Day Camp will be held June 17-21 at King of Glory. This year, by popular demand, the camp will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9:00 to 12:00 noon on Friday for all elementary school students. Preschoolers are also welcome from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Monday through Friday. For more information, please see the registration link on our website or contact the office.

Art and Music Camp will be held June 3-7 at Zion for children of all ages and is sure to be a fun time for all!

Sky Ranch Camp is running all summer with various opportunities to engage, including family camps and camps for elementary, middle, and high school campers. Zion's camp week is July 28-August 2.

L2F2 Summer Fun Days

Throughout the summer, we will also have L2F2 Summer Fun Days bringing children and families together from the Loveland Lutheran congregations. These events are completely free to attend and a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor! We hope to see you there :)

- June 9 at 4:00 p.m.
“Inside Out” Family Movie Night at Trinity Lutheran Church (snacks provided).
- July 7—All ages Trivia at King of Glory dinner at 5:00 p.m.; trivia at 6:00 p.m.
- August 18 at noon
Back-to-School Lunch and Family Karaoke Party at Zion (lunch provided).

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible studies will continue throughout the summer, meeting at 7:30 a.m. and noon with refreshments provided. If you have never attended this Bible study, it is a great way to dig more deeply into the Scriptures we are reading in worship, as well as building a supportive community of faith with others. All ages are welcome to attend the Wednesday Bible study.

Blessing of the Bikes and Wheels (ft. Bikeathon)

SAVE THE DATE: June 23 is the Blessing of the Bikes and Wheels, and this year, we are inviting all youth to participate in a “Bikeathon” during the faith formation hour from 9:45-10:15 a.m. Bring your bikes, trikes, skates, skateboards, and scooters to church for a fun faith formation experience. Come play outside as we work through an obstacle course and relay races and learn Bible stories along the way. Prizes will be awarded for top racers and best team players. If you would like to help out with the Bikeathon, please contact Pastor Veronica!

Youth Shelter Groundbreaking, i.e. “Wallbreaking”

Pastor Veronica Gould

On May 2, youth and families, neighbors, school district representatives, leaders from the Matthews House, and so many other supporters gathered for the groundbreaking of the new youth shelter, which is a partnership between the school district and the Matthews House. Although the shelter won't be ready to officially open until the fall, the crowd eagerly anticipated taking their first steps into the building. There's something exciting about envisioning something that isn't there yet. It's filled to the brim with possibilities—the stuff of the Holy Spirit.

The vision of the new youth shelter, which is called The Landing, is to be a beacon of support and care, to empower unaccompanied youth ages 15-21, to share belonging with those who need it most.

One of the young men who has been part of the community at the Matthews House got up to share his testimony with the gathered crowd. Speaking from the heart, he shared his own story—the story of a childhood that had not been easy. From a young age, he knew that the struggles he faced were not shared by most of his peers. He didn't always know where his next meal would be coming from or where he would be sleeping at night. When he came to the Matthews House, he found not only support and stability, he found a community of care that changed his life for the better. “For the first time in a long time, I knew people cared about me. ...Fast forward to today,” he said, “and I stand before you with my own place, a steady job, surrounded by loved ones.”

There are 1,300 youth and young adults in northern Colorado who are facing similar challenges today, experiencing homelessness, and often the feeling of hopelessness that can accompany it. We know that in our culture, homeless people are left out,

forgotten, ignored, and even disparaged by the people around them. The Landing is committed to changing that story for youth and young adults. We are so blessed to be the across-the-street neighbors of this new community of welcome, support, and care. Please pray for all who will live, serve, and grow at The Landing, and for God's guidance in how we are being called to accompany and care for our new neighbors arriving in the fall.



Seeing as the building that will house the youth shelter is already completed, precluding any actual groundbreaking, and the fact that the walls will mostly remain intact, a plywood board was placed in front of the entryway to the building, with various stakeholders and contributors swinging hammers to break it down.

Sharing Where Grace Takes YOU

Pastor Joel Pancoast

Last September, George Stevens attended a conference called “Reclaim,” hosted by the African Descent Ministries of the ELCA. You can read more about his experience in the article he wrote in the November, December, January issue of the “Eye on Zion.” In order to hear a little more about that conference, but especially to mark Black History Month, George helped Pastor Joel deliver a dialogical sermon on Sunday, February 26. The Scripture focus for that Sunday was the



To mark Black History Month, George Stevens helped Pastor Joel deliver a dialogical sermon where the focus was Jesus calling Peter to get out of the boat and come to him.



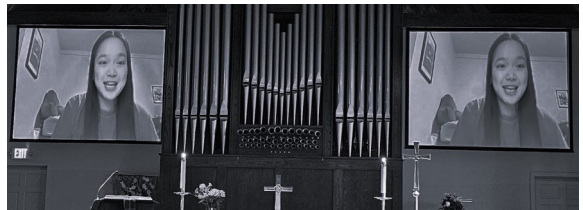
George shared where grace has taken him in his life, how God has been present with him through others.

story of Jesus calling Peter to get out of the boat and come to him...even if it meant walking on water! George shared how God had been present with him through his mother and many other mentors who were the voice of Jesus calling him through many difficulties in life. George shared where grace has taken him in his life.

During Lent, Amy Brauner, Beilynn Geiss, Kevin Patrick, Bill Kurtz, and Janice Ehlers shared part of their own stories of how God has been present in their lives through friendships that reflected commitment, support, compassion, encouragement, and sacrifice. They each shared where grace has taken them.



During Lent, Amy Brauner and Beilynn Geiss were among those who shared where grace has taken them.



Each of these stories is unique from most of our stories, but they all reflect where grace has taken them, and invite us to consider where grace has taken us. The pastoral staff would love to have similar conversations with you about how you have experienced God in your life and how you live your faith. If you are interested in sharing your story on a Sunday morning, please let one of the pastors know. We will work with you so that the presentation will be more conversational in tone if you prefer and comfortable for you. You have a unique story to tell about where grace has taken you!

Thank You, Lenten Speakers!

Intern Pastor Katie Elkin

We are deeply grateful for the witness of those who spoke on our Lenten theme of “friendship” this year.

Amy Brauner shared about how a committed friendship is a steadfast gift that gets her through good times and bad. Beilynn Geiss testified to the networks of support in her life that have built friendships and empowered her to reach out in support of others. Kevin Patrick spoke about showing compassion by being present for his friends, even if he doesn’t know what to say. Bill Kurtz reflected on how encouragement can turn attitudes around and build friendships through challenge. And Janice Ehlers shared about the power of sacrificing your time—your “nows”—for your friends.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU,
THANK YOU to each of our
speakers!!

If you missed the midweek worship services but still want to hear these witnesses to the power of Christian friendship, you can find recordings on Zion’s website!

And if you would like to share one of your stories during a future Lenten season, let one of the pastors know!

2024 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly and Bishop Election

Our larger church body, the Rocky Mountain Synod, met April 25-27 here in Loveland for our annual synod assembly. The assembly brought together ELCA Lutheran churches from across Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, and Texas for a time of celebration and discernment.

We adopted two new resolutions. The first resolution gives voting representation to lay leaders from outdoor ministries in future synod assemblies. The second resolution focused on advocating for justice and peace for Israelis and Palestinians.

We also elected synod leaders and representatives to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona. Pastor Joel was selected as one of our synod’s voting representatives to the churchwide assembly!

As Bishop Jim Gonia completes 12 years of service, we held an election to call our synod’s next bishop. Pastor Meghan Johnston-Aelabouni has been called to serve as bishop in a six-year call to service with the Rocky Mountain Synod. Pastor Meghan is currently serving in the Holy Land as a theologian in residence. She has previously served as a pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Collins. She will take office August 1 and be installed October 5 at Augustana Lutheran Church in Denver.



**Pastor Meghan
Johnston-
Aelabouni is the
newly elected
bishop of the
Rocky Mountain
Synod.**

Many of you know that Pastor Joel was nominated in the bishop’s election, and so we want to thank him for his discernment and commitment to service in our Lord’s church. We also want to extend our gratitude to Amy and Joel Brauner for serving as our congregation’s representatives at the synod assembly this year.

Please join us in praying for our newly elected bishop, Pastor Meghan, her husband, Pastor Gabbi, their children, Ethan, Natalie, and Luke, and their families and beloved communities in the United States and in the Holy Land as they transition from one call to the next. May God bless our synod’s leadership and faithful witness to a world in need.

Among Members and Friends

At Rest in Our Father's House

Myrna Bratten

Norma Dimmitt

Donna Freed

Elliott Pancoast

Betty Rothe

Mary Ellen Strick

Betty Schlagel, grandmother of Anna and Cate Schlagel

Martha, mother of Elaine Nichols

Matt, friend of Dave Steele

Orville Riggert, guest of SafeLot.

Joyous Celebration of New Birth

Jaxson, son born to Kevin and Janice on March 26.

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.*

*Dear Zion Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the beautiful
memorial service for Carol Schultz.
Everything was perfect!*

*Love and Prayers,
Keith and Donna Schultz*

*Dear pianist for Carol's memorial
service,*

*I just had to tell you how beautiful your
playing was. Several people mentioned
how good and how comforting you played.
You were truly a blessing!*

*Prayers and thanks to you,
Donna Schultz and Family*

THANK YOU

*There are not enough words to express
how thankful we are for your sympathy
and kindness. We gratefully appreciate the
cards, flowers, donations in Elliott's
memory, and kind expressions of
sympathy during this difficult time.*

*Kathy and the Family of
James Elliott Pancoast*

Dear Lindsey,

*Please extend our gratitude to the
generous congregation at Zion. We are
delighted with the contributions to Philo's
work to provide Fresh Start baskets to the
clients of Alternatives to Violence.*

*Best regards,
Lorie Smith, Philo ATV Chair*

Among Members and Friends

Dear Zion Lutheran Members,

Once again you have provided us with delicious soups and desserts during our conferences. Thank you! I appreciate all the work and coordination it took to organize the meal! Your caring efforts are most appreciated!

Sincerely,

Mary Shaffer

(Monroe and Peakview Kindergarten)

Jessica May Named 2024 Colorado Teacher of the Year

. . . and she has a connection to Zion

Jessica May, a middle school teacher at Turner Middle School in the Thompson School District, was named the 2024 Colorado Teacher of the Year.

May teaches family and consumer science at Turner Middle School in Berthoud and taught at Conrad Ball Middle School in Loveland last school year when she was nominated. She has taught for decades in the Thompson School District, covering all manner of subjects including math, social studies, science, and language arts.



2024 Colorado teacher of the year, Jessica May, is the daughter of longtime Zion member, Rosemary Nilson.

Dear Friends at Zion,

Thank you for your gift of \$175 to campus ministry in Greeley. As we accompany students through the last weeks of the semester, we are grateful for your care and support! End-of-year programs include joining Greeley's Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service, our graduation cookout, and a student-hosted finals ramen bar! Thank you for your partnership in this ministry!

Pastor Monica

A Zion Prayer Shawl Comforts Yet Another

Just a note to thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl. You were so kind to give one to Mark before he died, and now you continue to comfort me. It truly does keep me warm in the cold and lonely evenings.

Thank You Letters to Zion

- January 27, 2024—From Loveland Community Kitchen for 2023 donations totaling \$2,990.
- February 1, 2024—From Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, El Paso, Texas, for 2023 donations of \$2,418.
- February 4, 2024—From KidsPak for 2023 donations totaling \$1,744.10.
- March 15, 2024—From ELCA World Hunger for gifts of \$1,591.17.
- April 15, 2024—From Loveland Community Kitchen for a donation of \$300.
- April 29, 2024—From KidsPak for a donation of \$231.21.

Nourish

Nourish had a great last few months and continues to grow. In March, we started with UFOs then moved into a discussion about whether we should welcome aliens from other countries (or aliens from outer space!). In April, we participated together in a Seder meal, the traditional meal celebrated during Passover. In May, we discussed affordable housing and the new controversial Centerra South development. Thank you to everyone who joined our evenings!

And even bigger thanks to those select people who helped start our conversations each night. Thank you to Jacob Kuhns for sharing his experiences with affordable housing while working in nonprofits. Thank you to Anita Turner-Steele (and Dave and Matthew) for guiding us and allowing us to share the Seder meal tradition together. Thank you to Pastor Veronica for sharing her heartfelt beliefs about immigration.

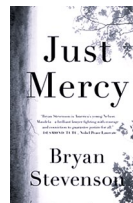
Our next Nourish evenings will be on June 8, July 13, and August 10. Keep your eyes and ears peeled as there may be some small changes coming to Nourish in the upcoming months.

Biblical Justice Book Group

The Zion Biblical Justice Book Group began in 2023. Our purpose is to enlighten and expand our knowledge of interesting and often difficult topics. So far we have read:

- **How the Word is Passed**
by Clint Smith
- **Maid** by Stephanie Land
- **Devil in the Grove**
by Gilbert King
- **Lies My Teacher Told Me**
by James Loewen
- **The Righteous Mind**
by Jonathan Haidt.

We will continue stretching our knowledge and understanding of topics in this genre. Our next title is **Just Mercy** by Bryan Stevenson. This is a selection requested by many in our group and is a powerful look at the injustices that exist in our criminal justice system. On July 27, we will host another community movie night to watch the film version and have discussion. We hope that you will join in with the discussion!



Look for announcements of meeting dates and times in the Sunday bulletin.

Contact Erin Bachman, Florence Doksansky, or Jessica Kuhns for more information or if you have questions.

NO SECOND SERVICE ON JUNE 23!

WHY?

Because that is paint and picnic Sunday.

Join us after the first service on June 23 to attack projects around the church with paint and brushes.

Following will be a potluck picnic with games to celebrate summer.

CHAN (Colorado Hosting Asylum Network)

Will Reents

Across history, people have found ways to accompany, shelter, and defend the rights of those who are at risk, providing sanctuary in a wide variety of forms. Out of that concern, some members of Zion have decided to become a team and work with CHAN (Colorado Hosting Asylum Network) to sponsor a LEGAL immigrant family or person.

An immigration attorney would have evaluated them and deemed them to have an excellent case for being granted asylum status. To obtain that status, one has to prove that they have been persecuted and need asylum status for their safety—not that they are merely poor, living in a dangerous place, or want a better life in the United States.

This family or person would reside with hosts Kathy and Will Reents for six to eight months at which time the immigrant would hopefully have a work permit, employment, and live independently. They cannot apply for a work permit for five months.

In addition to hosts, the team is comprised of a coordinator and team leaders in the areas of finance/fundraising (most of these funds are already available), shopping and life skills, medical/dental, English classes, and drivers and transportation. We have team leaders for these areas, but not for legal support (funds provided by CHAN), education, and social/emotional/spiritual needs. Children would need to be enrolled in school and some adults may want to be enrolled in job training. Many have had a traumatic journey to the US border so mental health care may need to be arranged.

NOTE: The team leader is NOT to do all the work, but will call others who have already committed to help. Hopefully we can receive our immigrant guests starting in about August. If any of these areas interest you, contact Will Reents. He can get you access to a detailed guide and description. More information about CHAN is available at <https://www.hostingasylum.org>.

Honoring Veterans

Rick Searles

Each year the Northern Colorado High Plains Honor Flight honors living veterans with a trip to Washington DC to visit various monuments. This year's trip was April 28-29 with 120 Korean and Vietnam war veterans being honored.

There are two kinds of veteran, the living and the dead. The dead are the true heroes as they gave all. We, the living, are survivors. This trip is how we survivors are honored by sending us to the national monuments to reconnect with our past and allow us all to honor the true heroes for whom the monuments are dedicated.

This year's Honor Flight started out on Sunday at 7:00 a.m. at the Ranch in Loveland where veterans, their families, and their guardians gathered for presentations and recognition. We were then loaded on buses and proceeded to the Loveland airport with a massive escort. We went on a roundabout route past many people with signs and flags thanking us for our service. At the airport, we boarded a charter flight to Baltimore. As we taxied out, we were saluted by several local fire and rescue units. Two large fire trucks sprayed a water arch over the plane. We then took off for the three-hour flight to Baltimore.

Approaching Baltimore, we flew right over the recent ship and bridge wreck; what a mess. In the airport, we were greeted by several well-wishers and then loaded on buses for the short trip to the airport Hilton where rooms were waiting for us. We had an hour to freshen up before dinner. We all met at 6:00 p.m. in the banquet hall for the evening events. We were provided a wonderful dinner and a great program with guest speakers to honor us. We then had time to visit and connect after dinner before turning in for the night.

The next morning, we met at 6:00 a.m. for breakfast and were on the buses again by 7:00 a.m. for the trip into Washington DC. First we toured the new World War II memorial which is very moving as one display is a massive wall full of gold stars each representing 1,000 lives lost in that war. And there are a massive number of gold stars. Next we went to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for a wreath presentation and changing of the guard. After that, we went to the Iwo Jima (Marine) Memorial where we had a box lunch on the grass behind it. After the lunch we went to the Vietnam and Korean war memorials. These were the most moving and painful monuments for us to visit as we all knew comrades who died there. The polished black marble on those monuments was designed to reflect the people passing by as ghost-like figures. For us veterans, the ghosts are real as we still see all our forever young comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Based on an iconic image of the second flag-raising on the island of Iwo Jima during World War II, the US Marine Corps War Memorial is dedicated to "the Marine dead of all wars and their comrades of other services who fell fighting beside them."



Honoring the men and women who served in the controversial Vietnam War, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial chronologically lists the names of 58,318 Americans who gave their lives in service to their country. At the wall, Rick Searles pays his respect to fallen comrades.

After our group photo at the Lincoln Memorial, we boarded the buses for the ride back to the Baltimore airport. Once there, we boarded our charter flight for the three-hour trip back to Loveland.

Again, we were greeted with local fire and rescue units lined up, lights flashing to greet us. We were loaded on buses for the short ride back to the Ranch with a police escort.

When we arrived, we were greeted by our families, many people all with flags and signs, an honor guard, and a bagpiper.

All along the way we were repeatedly thanked for our service, and more

importantly welcomed home, a phrase that we did not hear when we returned from service.



Assembled for a group photo at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC are 120 Korean and Vietnam veterans from northern Colorado.

Journeys of Paul

Where Grace Takes You for a Journey of Transformation

Pastor Joel Pancoast

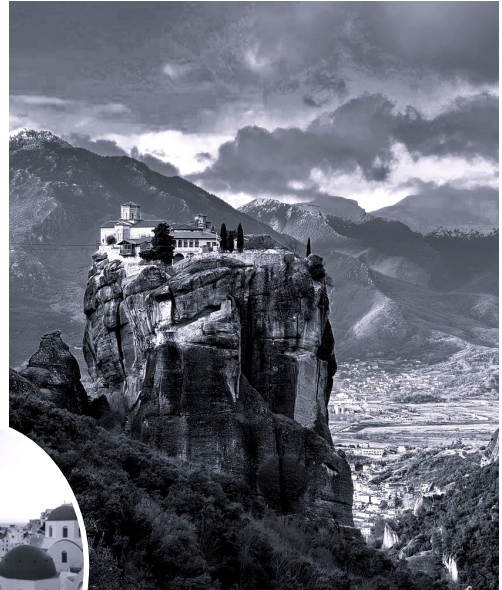
The Apostle Paul was the first and arguably the greatest Christian theologian. He was unexpectedly swept away by grace through God's love made known to him in Jesus Christ, so much that he wanted to tell the world. Grace literally took Paul to the outer reaches of the world he knew, so that he could tell people about this God of grace and to establish churches and communities centered on this grace. Even after establishing these churches, he continued to visit them and write letters to them to continue teaching and guiding them.

I invite you to consider joining Sonja and me in June 2025 for a pilgrimage to walk where Paul walked and learn how Paul's teaching, preaching, and writing still speaks to how Jesus is working in our lives today. We will see the ruins of Philippi, Ephesus, and Corinth. We will renew the promise of our own baptism at the river where Lydia, the first Gentile woman to be baptized, and her household were baptized. We will climb Mars Hill where Paul defended faith in Jesus as he overlooked the city of Athens. Then, we will board a boat and take a four-day cruise to see several Greek islands, including Mykonos, Patmos (where John wrote the book of Revelation), Rhodes, Crete (where Paul spent time on his way to Rome), and Santorini. The cost for this pilgrimage is \$4,890, which includes airfare, lodging, food, guide service, and other transportation. There is also an option to add an Istanbul excursion into your journey to view other ancient wonders of the early church world. I have participated with four different groups with Elias Tours, and my experience shows that this price is among the cheapest of all travel companies, while providing one of the most personal, transformational experiences possible.

We have taken two groups from Zion to the Holy Land in the last five years, and I have learned several things. Travelers enter in the way that is most meaningful to them. It is a pilgrimage, meaning a journey for religious and personal transformation. However, some will join the journey for other reasons, and the white cliffs of Santorini, the cliffs of Athens, and the crystal blue waters of the Mediterranean invite you for whatever reason you may find. Additionally, community is formed across the generations on these pilgrimages. Young and old travel, enjoy meals, and worship together. Across the generations, we care for each other. And when the wisdom of the elder and the wonder of the youth come together, we experience the world with different eyes. On our last pilgrimage, the older generations were overjoyed when the younger generations started a dance party on the "Jesus boat" in the middle of the Sea of Galilee! These pilgrimages are open to everyone, regardless of age, level of faith or biblical knowledge, or any other expectation, so we hope you will join us.

We will have brochures available soon with more information, or you can find our individual link for the trip at <https://www.eliaستours.com/tours/journeys-of-paul-the-greek-island-with-rev-joel-pancoast->

[zion-lutheran-church](#) (or if it's easier, go to www.eliaستours.com and search for our trip with my name on dates June 17-28). Sometime early in the fall, we will have a gathering for questions and answers with Elias Nawawieh, the owner/operator of our travel company. If you have questions let me know!



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Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Issue 5/24

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YouTube Zion Lutheran Church Loveland

Join Us in Worship

Summer hours begin June 2.

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

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

Our Mission:

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

Our Vision:

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

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

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

June 2	Summer Worship Hours Begin
June 3-7	Art and Music Camp
June 8	Nourish
June 9	"Inside Out" Family Movie Night at Trinity
June 15	Loveland Pride Celebration
June 17-21	VBS Day Camp at King of Glory
June 23	Blessing of Bikes and Wheels—Bikeathon Paint and Picnic Sunday
July 7	All Ages Trivia at King of Glory
July 13	Nourish
July 21	Reception to Celebrate Intern Pastor Katie
July 27	Biblical Justice Book Group Community Movie Night
July 28-August 2	Zion's Camp Week at Sky Ranch
August 10	Nourish
August 18	Back-to-School Lunch and Family Karaoke Party at Zion
August 25	Chapel Renovation Dedication
