

CONNECTIONS

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Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, this year on March 2. It is named for the practice of imposing ashes as a sign of repentance. It is an ancient practice that early Christians adapted from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence. Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal and are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God. Our traditional Ash Wednesday Service is at 7 p.m. on March 2, in person and on Zoom.

Lenten Resources

Pastor Andrea has provided several Lenten devotionals for individual use. They include:

- *Good Enough* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Riche
- "My Song is Love Unknown" from Luther Seminary
- 2022 Lent Resource from Creation Justice Ministries
- Portals of prayer

Links for online resources are in the Ash Wednesday bulletin.

Our Worship

Zion's services are at 10 a.m. each Sunday. We worship in the sanctuary and online via Zoom. Bible Study is at 8:30 a.m. and Fellowship follows worship. All are welcome. We will continue to wear masks for indoor worship and fellowship.

Blooming Where We Are Planted



The season of Lent often is characterized as a journey. Perhaps a journey of faith, or of prayer and reflection, or even of abstinence. Our Lenten journey will be a time of worship and growth, a time to bloom where we are planted, as commentator Paul Harvey would say.

And, while the "bloom" quote is not in the Bible, that sentiment is prevalent in scripture. The phrase reminds us to be fruitful, to make the best of life where we find ourselves, even if it's hard, uncomfortable, or unpleasant.

We will embrace our "good enough" lives, using the resources of Dr. Marcia McFee's *Worship Design Studios* that we employed last year during Lent and again

for Advent. This time, Dr. McFee introduces the works of Kate Bowler and her book *Good Enough*. In that book, Dr. Bowler shares her life experiences to discuss that instead of change for "the best," we can gain momentum one day at a time, "to reach for a faith that is never perfect, but good enough".

As Dr. McFee writes in the worship series overview, we "take a page" from Dr. Bowler's work where we consider a Lenten Season of "Good Enough," embracing the imperfections of life and faith.

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Zion's Will Help Sponsor Afghan Family

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM) is supporting refugee and immigrant Afghan families who are settling in Colorado. The LFSRM team works with various partners to resettle them. Last year, Zion's expressed interest in sponsoring a family, and many members took the online course reviewing the process. We hoped to be assigned in December, but didn't get the news until February. Zion's shares sponsorship with a congregation in the Colorado Springs area where the family is being settled. For information about our sponsorship or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Andrea.

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"We live in a culture bent on definitions of a good life as continuous upward mobility—climbing ladders of prosperity with increasingly fabulous experiences that we can post to ever-more-likable social media accounts," she says. "We may comb the shelves of the self-help section in search of just the right formula to gain success. Perhaps we even gravitate towards spiritual leaders who promise great rewards if we only do 'the right thing.' But life happens, right? Most times we are not moving upward but trying to repair the rung we've just slipped from," she continues. "So what if we stopped climbing and started fertilizing, watering, and blooming right where we find ourselves?"

Dr. McFee notes that as the pandemic lingers, "We are still in the midst of a great disturbance from 'the way we imagined' life to be...dreams have been thwarted by pandemic through loss of life, health, and economic security. And then there's all the other hard stuff, unrelated to pandemic, that just keeps rollin' along."

The Zion's Worship & Music Committee, in reviewing the *Good Enough* worship resources invite all of us to embrace the imperfections of life and faith, knowing that, as Dr. McFee writes, "We are never alone." So, welcome to a Lent of affirming a faith in which we are blessed, regardless, and where we can lean into embracing our "good enough" lives.

Meet Kate Bowler

Kate Bowler, PhD, is a *New York Times* bestselling author, podcast host, and a seminary history professor at Duke University. She studies the cultural stories we tell ourselves about success, suffering, and whether (or not) we're capable of change. Her research focuses on the "prosperity gospel" movement whose development spans centuries and has contributed, fascinatingly, to our current moment's "self-help" craze. Ms Bowler's works chronicle her life as a young person living with stage four colon cancer, discovering she had fallen into the same trap her research is about: the belief that we can all "bootstrap" ourselves into a perfect life. Her works tell the story of her struggle to understand the personal and intellectual dimensions of the belief that all tragedies are tests of character.

"The Good News," as Dr. McFee concludes, "is that God loves us deeply and is present to us powerfully, even and especially in the midst of the imperfect and down-right crappy moments of life."

We begin the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday worship, at 7 p.m. on, March 2.

Dr. Bowler's book, [Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection](https://katebowler.com/good-enough/) is a good resource for this series and available from many sources (hardcover and audio) at <https://katebowler.com/good-enough/>.

God's Work Our Hands: Making a Difference Locally

- ✳️ Zion's SOUPER BOWL donations were used to directly benefit our community. Carol Smith delivered 36 cans of SOUP to Fisher's Peak Soup Kitchen and we also collected \$286 to support our community's feeding ministry. We love our neighbors in tangible ways that make a difference!











- ✳️ Our 5 Loaves feeding ministry is the recipient of one of the 2022 Las Animas County Non-Profit Grant Program. The County awarded a total of almost \$120,000 to 56 organizations, including Zion's, which was one of three religious organizations so honored. According to *The Chronicle-News*, "The funding stems from a 2020 ballot question in which voters approved the county keeping the Sales and Excise Tax from 2017 sales tax ballot question. Since then, the county has set aside \$120,000 per year to donate to 'charitable' nonprofits. In 2021, the first year of the funding, the county awarded 27 applicants. This year it awarded 56 applicants a total of \$119,990.

- ✳️ February brought with it many dangerously frigid days to our area. In conjunction with The Way Ministry and Pastor Clay Mason, Zion's made the upstairs of the Fellowship Hall available as an emergency warming shelter for the homeless. This life-saving ministry provided the homeless with a warm option where they could sleep and receive hot meals.



March 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
Birthdays: 5 — Elda Harbour & Cecily Bergano 7 — Ed Blount 9 — Lynn Chase 11 — Cherie Holder 16 — Norine Hazen 18 — Colby Navarette 23 — JoAnn Karspeck 24 — Matthew Hass & Kathy Broman 26 — Janet Nesbitt & Loren Eigenberg 31 — Jerry Harbour <i>Happy Belated Birthday: 2/17 — Mary McKenna</i>										
Daylight Saving Times Begins Sunday morning, March 13  Time to Spring Ahead		1	 7 p.m.: Ash Wednesday Worship	2	Noon: Piano Tuning Day 	3	11:30 a.m.: Welcoming Committee 9:30 a.m.: Women's Bible Study 	4	5	
8:30 a.m.: Bible Study 10 a.m.: Lenten Worship 6 p.m.: Bread & Belonging	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
8:30 a.m.: Bible Study 10 a.m.: Lenten Worship 6 p.m.: Bread & Belonging	13	14	Newsletter Deadline 	15	16	17	9:30 a.m.: Women's Bible Study 	18	19	
8:30 a.m.: Bible Study 10 a.m.: Lenten Worship 6 p.m.: Bread & Belonging	20	21	22	23	Noon: Book Club	24	8-11:30 a.m. 5 Loaves 1-3 p.m. W&M 	25	8-11:30 a.m. 5 Loaves 	26
8:30 a.m.: Bible Study 10 a.m.: Lenten Worship 6 p.m.: Bread & Belonging	27	28	Worship Ushers: 6 — Lisa & John Rygiel 13 — Kathy Broman & Doris Blalock 20 — Peggy Gustafson & Cherie Holder 27 — Paula Little & Carol Smith		Worship Lectors: 6 — John Rygiel 13 — Julie Wersal 20 — TBD 27 — Joni Jones					

(Send Lector & Usher Changes to j.karspeck@hotmail.com; send birthday info to Julie Wersal)

Pastors and Deacons: Word & Sacrament-Word & Service

By Lisa Rygiel

All of us as baptized believers have a responsibility to proclaim the Word. Jesus states in Mark 16:15, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." We are all called by God to preach the Good News but that doesn't mean that we are all pastors. Some people, like our beloved Pastor Andrea, are uniquely gifted in that way.

You may remember that during our annual meeting, there was a lot of discussion regarding updating our by-laws, which had been changed to be consistent with terminology being used within the ELCA and that now refer to the role of pastor and deacon with the terms Minister of Word and Sacrament and Minister of Word and Service. It was a bit confusing.

To better explain, the ELCA designates two distinct roles within the public "office" of proclamation: the role of pastor and the role of deacon. Pastors are those set apart for ordination for the public ministry of Word and Sacrament. Deacons are those set apart by consecration for the public ministry of Word and Service. Both of these roles involve a particular vocation to engage within the life of the church. Pastors also administer the sacraments while deacons serve in the various positions of public trust within the church. The ELCA maintains official rosters of all pastors and deacons, who are referred to collectively as "rostered ministers".



All ministers in the ELCA go through a similar process before being rostered. They begin by entering a lifetime of discernment where they seek to understand how God wishes them to serve. Some may enter a seminary as part of the early discernment process. Others may wait until they have entered the candidacy process.

Candidacy requires many steps including being supported by one's congregation, completing applicable paperwork and writing an entrance

essay, participating in a psychological evaluation, background checks, entrance interviews, and more. Once accepted as a candidate, the individual will complete seminary, then seek endorsement from the Candidacy Committee and the seminary faculty.

Once endorsement has occurred, the Candidacy Committee will approve the candidate as rostered minister and ready to be called into service.

You see that this is not a simple or easy process! Perhaps that is why the deacons within the ELCA wanted to be more clearly identified as the ministers that they had prepared and trained to be. But no worries, I am sure that the more familiar terms of pastor and deacon will remain in the vernacular for a long time.

Somehow, "Minister of Word and Sacrament" doesn't quite roll off the tongue!

Zion's Annual Meeting Held on Feb. 6

Zion's Annual Congregational Meeting took place Feb. 6 in person and on Zoom, with Julie Wersal presiding. The meeting included reviews of 2021 events and activities including Pastor Andrea's 2021 report of worship activities, featuring our response to Covid-19, and highlighting the addition of members -- eight new members and one baptism. Other reports included: Financial, Treasurer, and Investment, as well as written overviews from various committees that support Zion's ongoing worship, ministries, and health and safety.

Jeff Smith, Mark Nelson and Joni Jones were nominated and approved as Council members. Discussions focused upon updates to the Zion's bylaws, the proposed 2022 budget, and donations to ELCA Synod Mission Support.

Copies of the Annual Report overview are available upon request from Julie Wersal.

2022 Council Election

The Church Council in February elected officers for 2022.

They are: Jeff Smith as Trust Fund Officer, Carol Schulzkump as Treasurer, Joni Jones as Financial Secretary, and Peggy Gustafson as Secretary.

Lisa Rygiel will serve as Vice-President and Julie Wersal as council President.

Zion's at-large council members are Norine Hazen, Mark Nelson, and Vicki Rienks.

ELCA Update

Church Leaders Advocate for peaceful solution in Ukraine

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God"(Matthew 5:9).



The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is calling on the international community to take immediate action to avert further conflict and war between Russia and Ukraine.

“We have followed with deepening concern as rhetoric and actions have continued to escalate over the past few days, leading to a

situation where tensions are heightened and conflict or even war might be imminent,” says the Rev. Anne Burghardt, LWF General Secretary.

“We urge all parties to de-escalate the situation and work for peace and stability. A peaceful solution must be found. On behalf of the global communion of Lutheran churches, I want to assure the people of Ukraine, as well as the German Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Ukraine, of our solidarity and prayers. May the God of peace grant comfort to the people and guide political leaders to act for peace, in wisdom and humility.”

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, shared concerns about the continuing conflict saying in a formal statement, that she fervently prays that a peaceful resolution to the conflict will be reached. Bishop Eaton affirmed the Rev. Dr. Anne Burghardt’s statement urging all parties to de-escalate the situation and to work for peace and stability. Bishop Eaton also noted that ELCA’s social statement for Peace in God’s World offers important guidance:

“We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America share with the Church of Jesus Christ in all times and places the calling to be peacemakers...the basis of the Church's peace-calling is in God's final peace, the peace of God's eternal reign. That calling is to proclaim the Gospel of God's final peace and to work for earthly peace.” She wrote, “Join with me in praying for peace for the people of Ukraine and that the international community will play a constructive role in this regard. We pray also for the Ukrainian diaspora in our context, that they may know God's peace.”

A Message of Gratitude from Lutheran Family Service, Rocky Mountains

Dear Zion's Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your gift of \$847.48 designated for the Refugee Central Undesignated fund. Because of your generosity, Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains (LFSRM) is able to serve members of our community most at risk, and we are committed to caring for these groups regardless of the circumstances.

Together, "WE ARE THERE" making a real difference in people's lives.

For our REFUGEES and evacuees that just arrived in the U.S., WE ARE THERE providing food, immediate housing supplies, emergency rental assistance, ESL classes, career navigation and employment services, and ongoing case management.

For our FOSTER CARE families and children, WE ARE THERE providing safe, nurturing family environments for children who need them most including support through continued case management services and resources that are available 24 hours a day.

For our ADOPTION program, WE ARE THERE walking alongside adoptive families, birth parents, and, most of all, children who need forever families.

For our KPC CENTER families needing relief and support during a temporary crisis, WE ARE THERE providing respite care, crisis prevention care, and crisis care.

For our OLDER ADULT program, WE ARE THERE providing seasoned professionals who are compassionate towards those served, knowledgeable about resources and readily available to clients and their families.

On behalf of the President & CEO and LFSRM Board members, we remain ever grateful for your support of LFSRM and making a difference in the lives of people we serve!

Warm regards,
Tim Zeckser Director of Advancement

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Spotlight On:

Bread & Belonging, A Welcoming Student Fellowship Where Kindness and Curiosity Flow

By Becky McNeil

Lively games of *Scattergories* or nail-biting rounds of *Jenga*, Pastor Andrea's game of dice, or raucous rounds of *UNO* elicit laughter and loads of fun on Sunday nights at Bread and Belonging. On the first Sundays of each month, the student fellowship group begins with a delectable feast prepared by someone in the congregation. Other nights, snacks and sodas fill the bill. From 6 to 7 p.m. or so, food, conversation, fun, and games unfold for anywhere between three and eight high school and college students, and Pastors Andrea and/or Becky McNeil (and on nights when it's either Andrea or Becky another adult member of the congregation steps in). Megan Pierce and Caitryn Tieszen are the student leaders.

From 7 to 8 p.m., the group switches gears. The first Sundays of the month have become "Stump the Pastors" night when the students write down on sticky notes any questions they have about life, faith, theology, religion, etc. With the questions gathered on a big dinner plate, Andrea and Becky take turns drawing questions and the two of them respond. Lively discussions ensue -- sometimes it's a challenge to wind things down when it's time for prayer before heading home.

Earlier in the year the group considered questions raised in a book called, "*You Can't Ask That*" in which modern theologians from a variety of traditions tackle some of the big questions of faith. In January, the group turned its attention to Bible studies about some of the little-known women in the Bible.



Every session of Bread and Belonging ends with prayer for each other and whatever is on our hearts. The group isn't large, but it is deep and rich — a place where all are welcome and where any can belong. If you are high school or college-aged (or know someone who is), if you are looking for a place where kindness and curiosity are the norm, come to Zion's on Sunday nights at 6 pm. Bread and Belonging is here for you.

Temple Aaron Invites Zion's to Seder Celebration

After a Covid-19 hiatus, Temple Aaron in Trinidad again is observing Seder in person and has invited Zion's Lutheran members to join in this celebration that closes Passover, or Pesach (in Hebrew). The Seder celebration begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, the last weekend of Pesach, and includes a full Seder meal and Seder performed by Rabbi Robert Lennick of Albuquerque who does interfaith work and has held numerous interfaith positions through the decades.

Temple Aaron is welcoming both familiar faces as well as new friends of all faiths to The Seder. This will be a contemporary service that includes traditional elements of the Seder while also building bridges across cultures and traditions. The Seder will include a full meal by Alys Romer (Alys' Restaurant in La Veta), who has provided incredible meals for Temple Aaron events for many years. The meal is \$36 per person, and seats fill quickly, so please register at <https://www.templeaaron.org/events> if you would like to attend.

If the cost of the Seder is an issue, please let Pastor Andrea know as Zion's has grants available to help.

Pesach is one of the Jewish religion's most sacred and widely observed holidays. It commemorates the story of the Israelites' departure from ancient Egypt, which appears in the Hebrew Bible's books of Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, among other texts.

Our Worship & Music Committee Uses Red Hymnal and New Hymnal Supplement — *All Creation Sings*

You may have noted that during worship, we often have hymns for worship that are not in the current red hymnal, “Evangelical Lutheran Worship” (ELW). Many of those hymns come from the new worship supplement *All Creation Sings* (ACS). The supplement picks up on hymn page numbering where the red book leaves off.

According to an overview by Caitlin Sellnow, an ELCA communications manager, published in *Living Lutheran*, work on the supplement began in 2017 when 12 pastors, deacons and worship scholars gathered to discuss what was next in Lutheran worship. They proposed curating a collection of ideas and material that had arisen in the decade since *ELW*'s publication in 2006.



After the ELCA worship team and Augsburg Fortress mapped a plan to produce a new supplement, they continued its research in 2018 with a church-wide survey. While the responses contained a wide array of worship-related hopes and concerns, some patterns did emerge. Overall, the church body voiced a need for more material around four major topics: creation care, lament in times of crisis, healing and wholeness, and justice and peace.

In May and June 2019, the team issued a public call for new hymn suggestions. The team asked people for “songs you’ve sung that you think the whole church should know about.”

John Weit, ELCA assistant to the presiding bishop and executive for worship, said, “We were expecting maybe a couple hundred, but we received over a thousand submissions.”

The eight-member hymnody working group reviewed them all. Once the team members sifted through all the submissions on their own, they gathered in person, spent hours singing and discussing hymn candidates, and built up a refined but diverse collection of music. At the same time, another group focused on liturgy. The liturgy group also met in person for reflection and discussion. Later, several team members wrote new liturgies for the supplement.

Group member Denise Rector contributed a lament and prayer on racism. During her involvement with *All Creation Sings*, though, she valued the opportunity to explore the emotional side of liturgy. Now she hopes her work can give the Lutheran community words to engage with the difficult topic of racism and can make that community more inclusive.

Once the working groups submitted their recommendations and the planning team had commissioned and gathered additional material, the supplement went through a liturgical and theological review. The finished work contains liturgies, prayers and 200 new hymns and songs. It includes new expressions of worship, such as a contemplative service of word and song, a communion setting presented in both English and Spanish, and many songs meant to be learned by ear.

All Creation Sings was published in November 2020. The planning team recognized the strangeness of the supplement arriving during the COVID-19 pandemic, when most congregations couldn't worship together in person. But in some ways the work became even more relevant.

“These hymns for healing and wholeness and lament are going to fill a need for folks even though we can't sing together as an assembly,” Weit said.

The title, *All Creation Sings*, also has taken on new meaning in the pandemic says Martin Seltz, vice president and publisher of Augsburg Fortress, who hopes it will remind people that, through worship and song, they're still connected—to one another and to the entire cosmos.

“It should evoke some humility within us,” he said. It should also give hope: “Choirs aren't singing; we're not singing in church. But still, creation sings.”

The *All Creation Sings* family of resources is available for purchase from Augsburg Fortress.

From Our History Books:

Role of Women at Zion's is Rich in History, Service and Love

The role of women in the church has evolved through the decades and is reflected in the life of Zion's Lutheran Church, dating to the winter of 1889. At that time, Mrs. Ernest Resch and Mrs. Mary Lunning talked about the Zion's congregation, which was approaching its first anniversary. They discussed the role of women and the need, as Mrs. Resch explained, "To belong to a fellowship — this is like belonging to a family and from this family or fellowship, members derive strength and comradeship. Being a member of a group, each lady would be able to give the church more than just the work of her individual time. And, our purpose would be worthy — to serve people in the name of the church."

As a result of this conversation, the women of Zion's, on Feb. 24, 1889, placed an ad in the local newspaper, asking all German ladies to meet to help form a *German Church Club*. Twenty women responded to the invitation, and on March 7, 1889, Zion's first women's organization — *The Frauen Verein* (translates as Women's Association) — took form. The regular meeting minutes, handwritten in beautiful German script, were taken without fail as the women met monthly. It wasn't until a national catastrophe in October 1901 that the group missed a meeting as noted in the minutes, "The meeting that was to be held was postponed, due to our president William McKinley's death."

In a 1975, tribute, Pastor Albert Shandrick wrote: "Zion's Lutheran had many softly glowing kerosene lamps in these decades in the group named *Frauen Verein*. They must not be allowed to hide under the bushel of anonymity where they perhaps would prefer to remain hiding. Since they quietly and unselfseekingly poured into the parish life of Zion's Lutheran that which the Holy Spirit pours so superabundantly into their human spirits, since this love-and-faith power is the strength of any congregation, we ought to wave a glad sentence or two in their direction..."

Through the decades, *The Frauen Verein* played an integral role in the life and ministries of Zion's. As women's roles in the church evolved, the formal organization did as well, and while *The Frauen Verein* may not now exist, the fellowship of women in our congregation continues to thrive through Women's Friday Bible Studies, Women's retreats and luncheons, and the active roles of women as worship leaders and council members.

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