

CONNECTIONS

510 Pine Street, Trinidad CO 81082 / zionsluth@gmail.com

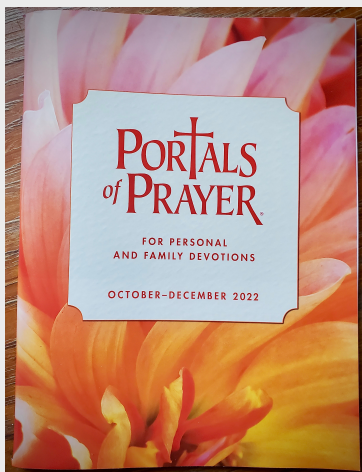
Our Worship

Zion's worship service is at 10 a.m. each Sunday. We worship in the sanctuary and via Zoom. However, on God's Work Our Hands Sunday, Sept. 11, we will gather at the part at the Fairgrounds for worship and a picnic. Bible Study resumes after Labor Day at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. Fellowship time follows worship. All are welcome!

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer for September through December are available. The small booklets are in the sanctuary. Large print versions are in the Fellowship Hall, quantities of the large print are limited.

Several copies of the June through August Portals of Prayer still are available, so help yourselves.



God's Plan, Not Mine

By Lisa Rygiel

Thank you good people of God for allowing me to share my call story. This is short version (yes, I have been around a while) but feel free to reach out anytime with questions. Starting at the very beginning, I was born outside of Nashville, Tennessee, to James and Carolyn Schatzman. I was the eldest of three girls born about 2 years apart each. My mother had been raised in the Baptist Church; my father Episcopal. Through the influence of our pediatrician, Dr. Pettis, both my parents joined the Church of Christ. One of my earliest memories of Church as a child was seeing my father get baptized.

We moved to Memphis when I was in second grade. Later, I was enrolled in Harding Academy, a private Christian school. My parents took church attendance seriously. We went to church Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night every week! Every summer we had a youth group that traveled from Memphis to a church camp near Searcy, Arkansas. My father often went along as a counselor. He baptized me in the lake at camp when I was 13 years old.

With that background, it may be easy to think I never strayed far from the Truth. But I did. My teenage years were rocky. Church during my preteen and teenage years was a place of rules and intense scrutiny for any signs of sin or rebelliousness. Corporal punishment was appropriate for those sins. And the God I knew seemed of the same mold.

I left home at age 17 and moved to Houston, Texas. I believed in God but was uninvolved in corporate worship. I married too young, had children too young, and went through a series of marriages and divorces. But, I have two sons of whom I am enormously proud; also having children brought me back into the Church, a story that I have shared with you before.

(continued on page 2)

God's Plan...

(continued from page 1)

I joined a small Baptist church and was fairly active. I taught high school girls Bible school and helped with children's choir. I worked hard in the Church trying to work my way into heaven. I still had no concept of being saved by grace through faith.

I met John, my husband, 16 years ago and it was one of the best things that ever happened to me. We both loved to hike, camp and birdwatch. We loved each other. We just had one problem, where could we worship together? He was Catholic, I was Baptist. And neither of us were comfortable with the denomination of the other! We had a friend who suggested we try his congregation, which was a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. It was quite progressive for a Missouri Synod church. It was evangelical enough for me and had enough of the liturgy that my husband grew up with to feel comfortable.

Fast forward a few years. I accepted a transfer to work on a very exciting project in upstate New York. We started attending another Missouri Synod Church in Saratoga Springs. We never felt welcomed, and it seemed like nobody cared if we showed up or not. I saw another Lutheran church on my way to work and suggested we try it. At the time, I didn't know anything about the differences between the Missouri Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA).

St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Glens Falls, New York, was a perfect fit! We were welcomed from the moment we walked in the door. The congregation was small but awesome. We loved the people and the liturgy. Actually, it is a lot like Zion's! Pastor Joyce Fiore engaged me early on testing my gifts. I frequently served as an assisting minister and preached a few times when Pastor was on vacation. Pastor Joyce began training me as a congregational deacon. She taught me that it is okay to question God and to ask questions about God. I learned about a God of love, forgiveness, and grace! I learned that I was constantly being washed clean by Christ's atoning sacrifice. I didn't have to work my way to heaven! I was saved by grace and not by works. How freeing was that!

Pastor Joyce and I discussed Church history and theology. We walked through the Small Catechism. She presented me with The Book of Concord that I don't think I will ever digest but I am trying a bite at a time. I began the discernment process. I felt called but I was hesitant. I already had a chosen

profession as a Safety Manager and felt that it was too late in my life to change paths.

Through God's grace, we ended up back in Trinidad (we had lived here briefly before) and returned to attending Zion's Lutheran. I shared with Pastor Andrea that I felt called by God. I wanted to pursue a life of service. I just wasn't quite sure what that was supposed to look like. In August of 2019, my family got a horrible phone call. My little sister Beth, who had gone into the hospital for a simple biopsy, had suffered an unanticipated accident. She was brain dead. We rushed to Albuquerque. We cried and prayed and waited. Finally, the fateful decision was made to take her off life support. The family huddled together trying to console each other the best we could but we were all in shock.

Later I wondered, why didn't we ask for a chaplain, someone who could walk us through this awful time? But as I said, we were in shock. That is when I decided where the Lord was leading me. I was intended to be a chaplain. My plan was to get my theological education and work alongside Andrea and others in this community that need comfort in their last hours.

God saw things differently. When Andrea took me aside and asked me if I thought that God had been calling me for "such a time as this," I was floored, weak kneed even. Definitely terrified. It wasn't what I had planned. I needed to talk to John. I needed to talk to God. I talked to John, and I talked to God. And the next week I talked to Bishop Jim Gonia. It seems that he and Pastor Andrea had a plan. God's plan, not mine. And that is how I came to be a TEEM student and a Vicar.

Yes, I am still scared, nervous, and excited. But, no longer terrified. Our God is one of surprises, of reinvention, of perfection and making all things new. I would have never known, as a small girl witnessing the act of my father's baptism, that someday I might have the privilege of baptizing precious new lives into God's kingdom! I feel that I have been blessed to know women pastors who have modeled how women can and do lead. Pastor Joyce got me pointed in the right direction. And, here now at Zion's I have a trifecta: Andrea, Becky and now Kate! And I am in the Zion's community of love and caring, prayer, and hope. I look forward to being your Vicar and I ask for your continued prayers as we go through this very challenging transition.

What's Happening in Zion's Lutheran Family?

- ★ Special thanks to **Dick Rasmussen** for coordinating work to repair the sanctuary's hail-damaged roof. Dick bravely climbed up on our very steep roof to coordinate the inspection.
- ★ Congratulations to **Lisa Rygiel** who is our new TEEM vicar.
- ★ Do you have a favorite hymn you want us to sing during worship, share your suggestion on one of the blue cards found in the pew racks in the sanctuary. Place the card in the offering plate and your request will be shared with the **Worship & Music Committee**. Please include your name and contact information in case they need to verify your preferred tune or have copyright concerns to share.
- ★ It's a small world after all. **Mark & Jo Moss'** granddaughter **Elizabeth** in mid August started kindergarten in Texas. Her teacher is **Hanna Aguilar** the granddaughter of Zion's former pastor **Vaughn Neshiem & wife Marian**.
- ★ **Sherry Gartside** enjoyed some special time with **Koi** and even crocheted a prayer shawl especially for Koi (and one for Pastor Kate too). We also congratulate her for her upcoming baptism affirmation.
- ★ Zion's 2022 Garage Sale is one for the books. We raised almost \$1,500 and donated items to Noah's Ark, Pastor Clay & the Way, and to ACTS. Thanks to everyone who helped with the sale and cleanup and especially to **Julie Wersal** for her yeoman's work in coordinating and running this year's event.



Lisa Rygiel (above) and **Jo Moss**, were guests of the South East Colorado Women of the ELCA's Creative In the Image of God, retreat at First Lutheran in Colorado Springs for a day of spiritual growth while gaining a better understanding of how God created each of us to be creative!



Top: Elizabeth Reilley and Hanna Aguilar. Bottom: Sherry and Koi share Fellowship.



- ★ We want to have a blessing of animals on Oct. 1 and need volunteers to help coordinate this special day. Let **Becky McNeil** know if you can help.
- ★ Our annual community Thanksgiving Dinner is just around the corner. We anticipate feeding upwards of 900 meals. So save the date for Thanksgiving Day (as well as the weeks before) to help with set up, cooking, serving, and delivering. If you can volunteer, please contact **Norine Hazen**, **Peggy Gustafson**, or **Julie Wersal**. If you know someone who needs Thanksgiving meals delivered please let Norine or Peggy know (people already on the 5-Loaves list automatically receive Thanksgiving dinners).
- ★ For pastoral care, contact **Pastor Kate**: (619) 916-9630 or via email kateschlechter2005@gmail.com. Pastor's office hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, please contact her to schedule an appointment.
- ★ Plans have changed: **Wal Reat**, missionary in Sudan, will not visit Zion's this year. We hope to schedule a visit next time he is in the U.S.
- ★ Deadline for September's *Connections* newsletter is Sept. 19, email contributions to Zion's at zionsluth@gmail.com or to Jo Moss.

Journeys in Faith: Rock of Ages, A Life & A Hymn

By Tracy Wahl

The other day, my parents loaded up a bunch of cattle and moved them from one pasture to the other. Remarkable enough given that my mom is about to turn 80.

Even more remarkable that she broke her hip just a couple of months ago.

So this required her climbing into the pickup — it has a running board which is helpful.

There is a gooseneck trailer attached to the pickup filled with the couple dozen cattle that my dad managed to persuade to go

in the trailer. The whole point is that there is more green grass in the pasture they are being moved to and so in the few weeks before they get picked up by the next buyer they will gain weight and be worth more.

I say to my mom you realize what a crazy scene this is, right? She can barely walk across the house with a walker and yet she's riding shotgun pulling a load of cattle. She's also too fragile to be left at home alone right now, so if my dad doesn't take her with him he doesn't go either.

At least you don't get bored I said to her and laughed. She doesn't find it funny — this is the very reason she keeps trying to convince my dad that this will be the last year they run cattle over the summer.

She also admits that if something were to go wrong...there wouldn't be much she could do. Even if she got out of the cab. She couldn't walk very far. And cell service is no guarantee out there.

It was just the other day that I visited them for the first time since I saw her that day in the hospital the day after she broke her hip.

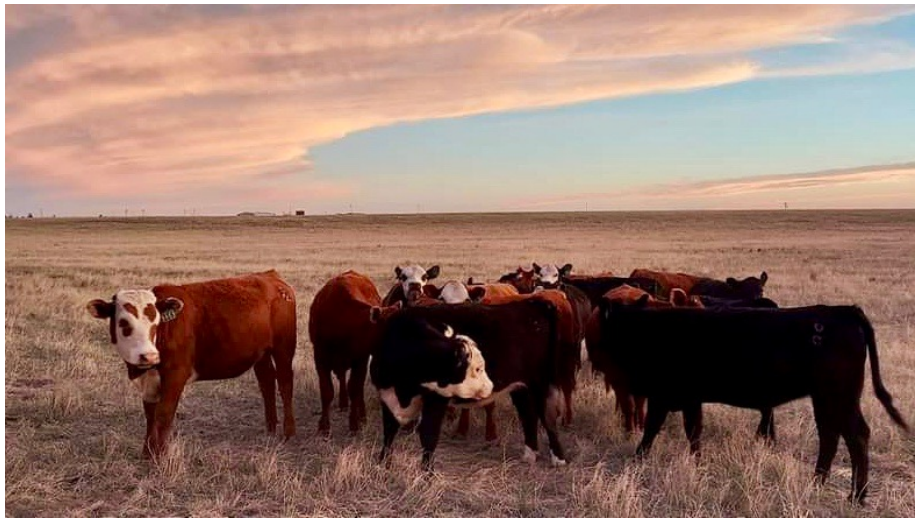
I wanted to give her and my dad time to get their routine down.

She's the cook and the vision behind the food. The day I was there we went to the grocery store. Transferring from the wheel chair to the car was surprisingly easy. She held a basket in her lap and filled it up the way she always did.

The next day she ate breakfast at the same time as usual and then turned her attention to her exercises. I went in to the piano. She had mentioned a few days before that she'd been playing. We both grew up hearing my grandmother play. She was amazing — Scott Joplin chords with all the fingers.

That book on the piano was a book of simple hymns and standards. I paged through it and found that I could in fact even piece most of the left hand together with the right.

I played Rock of Ages. When I finished I turned and there was my mom, sitting behind me. We play about the same level, she said.



Acknowledgements: Newsletter contributors — Becky McNeil, Julie Wersal, Lisa Rygiel, Pastor Kate Schlechter, Tracy Wahl, Mary McKenna, and ELCA/Synod Bishop's Office. Photos/Images — Jo Moss, Pastor Kate Schlechter, Tracy Wahl, and Living Lutheran. Editorial Assistance — Lynn Chase and Tracy Wahl. Editor — Jo Moss.

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Pastor Kate: The Dog Ate My Homework

*Just like it was kibble
She started up slow
With a cute little nibble*

Thirty-two years ago this month, my grandma Lois was in her small apartment in Mountain Home, Idaho, participating in her nightly ritual: a cup of Campbells soup and two saltine crackers (only two; at 84 she said she needed to watch her waistline).

She followed her daily meal with team play as Vanna White revealed the letters on *Wheel of Fortune* and Alex Trebek moved through the categories on *Jeopardy*. A consummate teacher (there are 14 in my family of origin), Grandma lived by the creed: "One is never too old to learn something new."

That's why she read, recited verses from the Bible as she lay her head upon her pillow each night, and made new friends across the generations. Grandma Lois believed everyone has the potential to learn. One of the blessings of Grandma's life is that she was learning until the day God received her into God's loving arms. Grandma completed her baptismal journey sitting on her couch on Sept 6, 1990. The television featured Alex Trebek who had posed the final Jeopardy answer. I like to believe that what my grandmother heard was not Alex's voice, but God's asking her, "Lois, how does it end?" Her response, "What is heaven?"

Here's a question for you? When was the last time you opened your Bible to learn from God's Word, read a non-fiction book, or listened to someone teach you something that you perhaps never thought of? September for me is all about going back creating space so God can break into our lives and surprise us by teaching us something new. That's why this fall at Zion's there are a lot of ways that you can participate in community and perhaps learn anew. Here is a sampling:

- September signals the start for your new Transition Team. The team will reach out to you through cottage meetings for the purpose of listening to you tell them about Zion's.
- Friday, September 2: Begins a new Women's Bible Study on Galatians
- September 11: God's Work Our Hands Sunday with new songs to Learn; new people to talk to at the Fairgrounds Picnic
- Saturday, September 17: God's Work Our Hands at Zion's (WE NEED YOU)
- September 18: Sunday Morning Bible Study Begins: Topic TBA

Let us trust God at work in and among us as we step into a servant posture that is poised for the Holy Spirit to fire the flames of curiosity, learning and community within us. Langston Hughes in his poem "Live your Creed" says it best:



I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one any day
I'd rather one walk with me than just to show the way.
The eye is a better pupil and more willing than the ear.
Advice may be misleading but examples are always clear.
And the very best of teachers are the ones who live their creed,
For to see good put into action is what everybody needs.
I can soon learn to do it if you let me see it done.
I can watch your hand in motion but your tongue too fast may run
And the lectures you deliver may be very fine and true
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the fine advice you give
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

Blessings,
Pastor Kate Schlechter



Julie Wersal, Koi & a Snack

Gods Work Our Hands Worship & Project Planned



God's Work our Hands (GWOH) Sunday is Sept. 11. It is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. It is another chance to steward faithfully the gifts that God has so abundantly given to us.

Our GWOH service activities offer an opportunity to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Zion's will celebrate GWOH Sunday at the fairgrounds park. Bring your favorite dish for the potluck picnic and a lawn chair for outdoor worship. If you have one, wear your yellow God's Work Our Hands t-shirt. If you need one, please let Julie Wersal know.

We also will collect a special offering that day to benefit the school meal program for Holy Trinity Academy.

The following weekend, on Saturday, Sept. 17, our GWOH service activities will be at the church where we will work on projects both indoors and out. For more project details, talk to Julie Wersal (for outside activities) or Lisa Rygiel (for projects in the sanctuary).

GWOH Special Offering Helps Students

By Mary McKenna

Zion's special offerings are blessings of kindness and support for our community in need. Kindness is an integral part of any community's growth and success. Demonstrating kindness to our youngest scholars helps build a foundation for mission, and that is what we will do with our GWOH Sunday offering.

The Soup Kitchen of Trinidad has enthusiastically stepped up to work with Holy Trinity Academy (HTA) to help provide lunches and snacks for students. HTA students pay \$4.50 per day for two snacks and lunch. This fills a gap that occurred when HTA's public school partners were unable to support the school meals. For many families, the cost of tuition (although small) is all they can afford and studies show that students learn and behave better when they are not hungry.

The costs to provide the food are partially offset by families needing this service each month. HTA hopes to increase the program as more families in need are identified.

Holy Trinity Academy is a K-12, all-denominational faith-based school established in Trinidad in 2004. HTA is grateful to Zion's Lutheran for the continued support of Holy Trinity through special offerings.

Hunger Network: Working to Serve Communities in Need



The Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network along with Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Colorado and the Creation Care Team are presenting Thirsting for Water, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Cherry Hills Village (CO) and via Zoom. This event overlaps our God's Work Our Hands workday, but also offers another way that we are called to pray for and care for God's creation.

The workshop addresses such questions about drought and climate change: Where does our story mesh with God's story? What is happening to our farmlands? How can we address our human impact on climate? Where can we find the political will to agree on and implement solutions? Guest speakers are Ryan Cumming, program director for

ELCA World Hunger Education; Peter Backlund, associate director of the School of Global Environmental Sustainability; and Colorado State Senator Chris Hansen. The registration fee is \$25 for in person and includes lunch. The fee to participate via Zoom is \$15. The link to register and to view the agenda is at: rmsel-ca.org/thirstingforwater. Consider joining this event as "we work together for a world in which all are fed."

Spotlight On:**What does the Worship & Music Committee do?**

By Becky McNeil

At our July meeting, Pastor Kate described our work as “paying attention to the whole of what happens on Sunday mornings at Zion’s in the sanctuary and making it a collaborative effort.” That’s a big umbrella! Under it falls things as varied as choosing hymns and securing musicians to training ushers and coordinating with the flower ladies about themes for special days.

As a retired pastor, I have served with many worship committees, but this is the first time I’ve been asked to chair one. The committee, made up of Lisa Rygiel, Sharon Sorenson, Connie Pallone, Jo Moss, Pr. Kate and I, are meeting monthly as we bring each other up to speed on how things have been done in Zion’s past and figure out who’s doing what and why as we move forward. We are

learning together and it is good work. Several new things coming out of our committee are:

1. We have designated a smaller sub-committee to work together to choose hymns for each Sunday. Previously, that task took up most of the committee’s time.
2. We would like to do a “Blessing of the Animals” on Saturday morning, Oct. 1. We are looking for volunteers to help plan, publicize and carry out this ministry. Please contact me if you are interested.
3. We have prepared “Hymn Request Cards” to be found in the pew back racks along with the prayer request cards. Everyone is welcome to make a hymn request, by filling the card out completely, with the name of the hymn, whether or not it is found in our red “Evangelical Lutheran Worship” hymnal, and your signature. (You may also ask for the hymn in honor or in memory of someone, if you desire.) The blue hymn request cards can then be placed in the offering plate and will find their way to our committee. We cannot guarantee that every hymn requested will be used in worship, but we hope to be able to use them when the hymn fits the theme for a given Sunday and is available to us within the limits of copyright laws.

Zion’s is a congregation made up of so many of us from many different denomination and church backgrounds it is not easy for those choosing our hymns to choose hymns that are most beloved and meaningful. We’re an ELCA Lutheran congregation full of folks who know and love hymns that come from our Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Episcopalian, Wisconsin Synod Lutheran, Missouri Synod Lutheran, Church of Christ, Roman Catholic (and maybe more) traditions.

If you have questions or suggestions or are interested in serving on the Worship and Music committee, please contact me, Becky McNeil 402.540.5615.

ELCA Update**2022 Churchwide Assembly Shares Summary of Actions**

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly met Aug. 8-12 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Ohio. Gathering under the theme “Embody the Word,” the assembly worshiped together in services of eucharist and lament, experienced a liturgy rooted in Indigenous traditions, and heard a public apology in a non-legislative session to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina for harm experienced from actions taken by the Sierra Pacific Synod and this church. Among the assembly’s actions were:

- Elected Imran Siddiqui of the Southeastern Synod as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

- Directed the ELCA Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the statements of purpose for each expression of this church, the principles of organizational structure and our shared commitment to dismantle racism, with findings to be reported to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention.

(continued on page 8)



Share Support and Prayers for our Transition Team

By Pastor Kate Schlechter

Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, each of us is called to offer ourselves in service to the world in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for us.

On Sunday, Aug. 28, we recognized and offered our words of support and prayers for the newly chosen Transition Team of Zion's Lutheran.

The following persons were prayerfully chosen by the church council to serve the congregation. The transition team serves as a sub-committee of the church council and reports directly to them. They will meet each Thursday for at least the next two months to engage in a process of congregational self-study and learning. Please thank the following volunteers when you see them:

Kathy Broman
Lynn Chase
Cherie Holder
JoAnn Karspeck
Becky McNeil
Erin Ogletree
Arthur Pierce

St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and

there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."

PASTORAL TRANSITION TEAM



We are grateful for each member's willingness to give their time and talents to this important ministry.

Please take time over the next few months to seek out a team member or two and share with them on a new level.

By engaging in conversation with them, by choosing to participate in the events they sponsor, and by praying for them, together we all share the new creation Christ is preparing in our midst.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly...







(continued from page 7)

- Directed an external audit of ELCA governing documents to consider diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, with findings resulting in recommended changes to the governing documents.
- Authorized revisions to the social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust; approved exploration of reconsideration of the four stated positions of "bound conscience."
- Encouraged members, congregations and synods of this church to educate themselves about Indigenous peoples, calling on the churchwide organization to work with synods and Indigenous partners to identify sources of funding for ministries for Indigenous peoples, and encouraging restorative justice that could include the return of land to the appropriate Native nations.
- Approved the budget for the triennium, including a spending authorization of \$68,814,000 for 2023 for the current fund, along with a spending authorization of \$22,869,000 for ELCA World Hunger.
- Reaffirmed the commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, directing the churchwide organization to set a goal of a 50% reduction of net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030, with a long-range goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Responded to memorials on diversity; nuclear weapons; voting rights and Washington, DC, statehood; strategies for fortifying urban ministries; a Black migrant strategy; the right to boycott; gun violence; LGBTQIA+ welcome; substance abuse; Roe v. Wade; remembrance of Armenian, Assyrian and Greek genocide; parental and medical family leave; revisions to the mission development process; consideration of communion practices related to remote worship; affirmation of the task force created by the Church Council to review the discipline process; and a social message on child abuse and protection.
- Approved or ratified amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, most of which were related to general clarifications and updates; inclusive language; synod-authorized ministry; designation of advisory members by the Church Council; boards of the separately incorporated ministries; and election procedures for officers and the Churchwide Assembly.

The next churchwide assembly is 2025 in Phoenix.

September 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Birthdays: 2 — Hal Burton 2 — Clayton Nelson 6 — T.M. Garner 10 — Margaret Gumke 15 — Bethany Pierce 20 — Dennis Hornaman				1 5 p.m. Transition Team Meets 	2 9:30 a.m.: Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall & Zoom) 	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 a.m.: Worship w/ special service of Baptism Affirmation, Fellowship Follows	5:30 p.m.: AA (Fellowship Hall)			5 p.m. Transition Team Meets 		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 a.m.: God's Work Our Hands Worship at Fairgrounds Picnic Follows 	5:30 p.m.: AA (Fellowship Hall)			6-8 p.m.: Autism Awareness 5 p.m. Transition Team Meets 	9:30 a.m.: Women's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall & Zoom) 	God's Work Our Hands Workday at the Church 
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30 a.m.: Bible Study 10 a.m.: Worship, Fellowship & Church Council Mtg Follow	5:30 p.m.: AA (Fellowship Hall)	6:30 p.m. Worship & Music Committee (Fellowship Hall)	 Newsletter Deadline		Five Loaves Preparation Day 	Five Loaves Delivery Day 
25	26	27	28	29	30	
8:30 a.m.: Bible Study 10 a.m.: Worship Fellowship Follows	5:30 p.m.: AA (Fellowship Hall)			10 a.m. Book Club 5 p.m. Transition Team Meets 		
Lectors: 04 — TBD 11 — Jo Moss 18 — Becky McNeil 25 — Ruthie Culpepper				Ushers: 04 — Steve & JoAnn Karspeck 11 — Mary McKenna & Jo Moss 18 — Pierce Family 25 — Kathy Broman & Doris Blalock		

From Our History Books:

Milestones for Zion's Lutheran Reflect Rich History

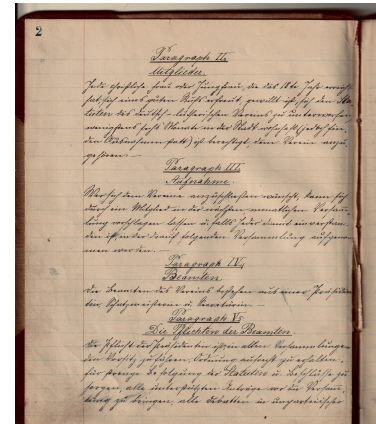
(This is the first in a series looking at the life of Zion's Lutheran, Trinidad)

Zion's sanctuary was constructed in 1888-89 and began an evolution that continues today for both the buildings and the congregation itself. The sanctuary was dedicated in February of 1890, then just six months later gas lighting was installed, the front stone wall constructed, and the sidewalk laid.

In 1893, Zion's changed from the Missouri Synod to an independent Lutheran congregation. It was then that Pastor Oscar Samuel arrived in Trinidad from the Texas Synod. He would serve Zion's until 1902. During his tenure, the church adopted a new constitution, added evening worship services in English (most of Zion's worship services at the time were in German). Pastor Samuel also gifted pews to the sanctuary and spearheaded efforts to eliminate the congregation's indebtedness.

In 1904, the Ohio Synod gifted to Zion's its first 24 hymnals printed in English. That same year, Zion's established a relationship with Lutherans in Raton. In 1905, the church purchased, for \$1,500, its first parsonage on Park Street. The year 1912 brought many changes to Zion's. In January, the church began to alternate worship service each Sunday in German then in English. In April, Zion's joined the Rocky Mountain Synod. For the first time too, church minutes were written in English.

In 1914, Zion's celebrated its 25th Anniversary. That also is the year Zion's "Lutheran Workers" were organized for younger English-speaking women of the congregation. Additionally, Sunday school was conducted entirely in English and the church purchased 50 English copies of the "Book of Worship". June of 1914 saw the church exchange the Park Street parsonage property, plus \$500, for our current parsonage/fellowship hall property at Prospect and Pine.



Sample page from Zion's early constitution. It is written in German.

Zion's Lutheran Church
510 Pine Street
Trinidad CO 81082

ADDRESS: