
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.

Our Advent worship services continue in December; and we will have worship services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, which is on a Sunday. Bulletins and online worship links are on our website at: zionsluth.org. Click the "Worship Bulletin" button on the home page to find it.

Blue Christmas

Zion's Lutheran Church is offering a Blue Christmas service for the entire Trinidad community at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13 in the Zion's sanctuary.

This service offers a quiet and contemplative worship experience that honors those who are walking through grief and struggling with loss. The congregation invites all who desire to honor their losses and wish to do so in a safe and sacred space.

As with all worship services held at Zion's Lutheran (ELCA) you do not have to be a member to participate nor is there any cost for the service provided. This service represents western Christianity, but participants need not have any particular religious affiliation to participate. The service is designed to create a sacred and holy setting for comfort.



Kindness, Compassion and Kids

By Mary McKenna

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."

—Matthew 19:14

One of my favorite verses from Vacation Bible School came to mind today. It's simple instruction, "Let them come to me"... "Do not hinder," became a foundation for my heart and pediatric practice. It continues today as I interact with our youngest citizens at Holy Trinity Academy.

Children become the teacher of any given moment speaking honestly, without hesitation. Our response of kindness and compassion must be at the core of the interaction. We must center ourselves in a calm manner to optimize the outcomes and "grow" all involved. Yelling at children's behaviors increases frustration and stops understanding and growth. Yelling often leads to demeaning comments further alienating others.

A learning moment is always around the corner with kids! Some examples that stand out from my early career include, "You have coffee breath" or the loud "No" when I (only once) asked a three-year-old if he wanted to take his medicine now! Then there was the day that a very young patient and I plotted to squirt water at the pediatrician with a giant syringe as he checked on her still makes me smile. The little girl was very sick awaiting an experimental surgery. The pediatrician, kind and compassionate, exaggerated his surprise resulting in lots of laughter! We were blessed in that moment of joy with this little child of God.

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Our global glorious little citizens have seen so much trauma these past two years. Our own opinions surrounding the pandemic are unimportant compared to the losses of parents/caregivers, teachers, siblings, doctors, nurses, etc., as well as the impact upon the children.

Part of the educational losses and developmental problems are a result of the deaths and violence the country has experienced. Trauma can paralyze emotional growth impacting the learning process in school. We have the duty to move forward with kindness and compassion for our scholars no matter where we are. Love, for all, our family, communities, and the globe should be our priority. Our youngest citizens are the future and our responsibility is to be fully present and prepared to help.

Part of the care our children need is keeping our minds open to others in moments of need. You cannot listen to a child with your own distracting random thoughts. My son (when he was wee) and I would get in a disagreement and each call for quiet time in our frustration, me tired from work and Will tired from his play. We would get back together again laughing and working out the issue with ease. He is also the one who, as I was frantically trying to get him to the orthodontist on time said, "Mom, we can go crazy or calm, we will get there no matter, your choice". Talk about a reminder to calm!

My mom, during a time my brother was on drugs, would plan paint by numbers or mosaic creations for just the two of us to talk and create. She helped me process the chaos and still thrive by this simple act. It is possible we all can change the world by our kindness.

So. As we walk the journey of transition and what we want as a church, I hope we will remember the kids. I hope we will be fully inclusive, kind, and compassionate, and honest, as well as remaining true to our teachings. I believe we are role modeling for the community. Our dedication to the process of growth and how it can possibly positively impact the community is very important for future successes.

Zion's Lutheran is important to the city of Trinidad. We are a hub of goodness for **all**.

Zion's Supports First National Bank's Giving Tree Program

Trinidad has several well-established holiday gift programs that primarily focus on children, yet often our senior citizens are overlooked. For shut-ins, or seniors with little or no family nearby, the holidays can be an especially lonely time of year. The First National Bank, Trinidad again is working to make their Christmases a little brighter with the help of South Central Council of Governments, Corazon Square, Las Animas County Department of Human Services, Trinidad Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, The Legacy at Trinidad, and local organizations and individuals.

So, again Zion's is supporting the bank's Senior Angel Giving Tree program. Already many of our members have offered to assist seniors this holiday season by picking up one or more Christmas letters that the bank has provided to Zion's.



"This is the sixteenth year we have sponsored this program in Trinidad, and it has grown to 330 requests from senior citizens. The recipients of these gifts are so appreciative. In some cases it is the only Christmas gift they receive. We are pleased with the success of this program; both the giver and the receiver experience the gift of giving," says event coordinator, Chris Eglund. "With so many requests, we need the public's help more than ever! Please stop by and pick up a letter. You'll be glad you did! With your help, we can give our seniors the assistance they need and a special holiday memory to treasure."

If you are willing to help, please let Jo Moss know. Simply select items from the individual's wish list to buy for Christmas, wrap the items, attach the gift tag that is provided with your individual's information and return the gift to First National Bank, Trinidad, no later than Dec. 15. If you have questions, concerns, or need help getting the gifts back to the bank, please let Jo Moss know.

What's Happening in Zion's Lutheran Family?

- ★ If you plan to use the fellowship hall for any event, please coordinate with Julie Wersal to ensure that we do not have schedule conflicts on the master calendar. Also, if you have provided food for a church event please claim your containers from the church kitchen. Help us reduce the kitchen clutter.
- ★ Recently, Pastor Kate brought a cross to worship service and asked the congregation members to individually pray for Pastor Andrea and Paul. Pastor Kate presented the cross to Andrea in November as she and Paul prepared to move to Littleton, while she undergoes clinical trials that could help with her cancer. If you want to send a Christmas Card or other greeting to Pastor Andrea, her address is: 2896 West Long Circle, Apt. C., Littleton CO 80120.
- ★ Hal & Rita Burton sent thanks "for the kind hospitality toward us" during recent illnesses. They shared gratitude for food, prayers, and support. "We thank you from the bottom of our hearts," Rita said.
- ★ For pastoral care, contact Pastor Kate: (619) 916-9630 or email kateschlechter2005@gmail.com. Pastor's office hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, please contact her to schedule an appointment.
- ★ Deadline for December newsletter is Dec. 21, send contributions to zionsluth@gmail.com or to Jo Moss. If you have pictures to share from the past year at Zion's for a pictorial year in review, let Jo Moss know.



Transition Team Sponsors Cottage Meetings



By Erin Ogletree

The Oxford dictionary defines "transition" as "the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another."

Zions Lutheran Church Council asked each of us to serve on the Transition Team to assist the church at this unique and challenging time: this period of transition from one pastor's leadership to another's, and from what we have been to what we believe and hope we can and should be for the future. Specifically, we understand we were asked to help better inform us all about who we are right now as a church, who we want to become over the next few years, and to assess our collective interest in taking part in that process of becoming.

stand we were asked to help better inform us all about who we are right now as a church, who we want to become over the next few years, and to assess our collective interest in taking part in that process of becoming.

To do that, the team has been having informal conversations on these topics (and any other topics that participants want to discuss) with church members during the past few weeks — also known as "cottage meetings," — as well as meeting with our new Vicar, Lisa Rygiel, and our longtime Council President, Julie Wersal, for their input. What we are learning has been sometimes surprising, often encouraging, and generally hopeful, and we look forward to reporting our findings to the whole Council and the church in the next few months.

Our last few cottage meetings will be happening after the Sunday service during the next few weeks. We very much want to hear from you throughout this process; so please be sure to sign up for one of these opportunities in December. We need to hear your thoughts. If you happen to not feel comfortable sharing your input in a cottage meeting, please know that we would be happy to meet with you one on one at a place and time convenient for you. Just let any of us know and we will work to make that happen.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this Advent season. If you think of it, Advent itself, during which we wait and prepare to receive the Christ child, is a period of transition — from one way of understanding God to something much more tangible and concrete as we witness how God became one of us and all that his incarnation means. Surely, Advent is one of the most significant periods of transition the Church ever experienced.

We hope you all have a Merry Christmas — and that the new year brings us all we hope and pray we can become as members of this particular body of believers living in this time and place.

Zion's Thanksgiving Dinner Highlights Community Spirit



Although Thanksgiving Day dawned cold and snowy with many volunteers calling in to say that they could not get to the church because of the snow, it still was an amazing day. More than 50 volunteers made it to the fellowship hall to help with food preparation, set up, service, deliveries, and clean up.

All of this was in addition to volunteer time spent preparing and carving turkeys (including the annual turkey frying/carving day, which took place Nov. 19); roasting ham, making potatoes, gravy, and stuffing; packaging rolls; and cooking cranberry sauce from scratch, among other tasks.

As Thanksgiving coordinator Norine Hazen explained, "Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet," could stop the 29th annual Thanksgiving dinner from taking place. "The meals must go through...and, they did." She said more than 800 meals were provided to area residents, volunteers, and travelers.

Many volunteers came from Zion's congregation, others were members of the community some of whom helped for the first time, and others who have made participating in the community dinner a Thanksgiving tradition.



"By the end of the day, we delivered 545 meals on 12 routes and made 138 delivery stops," said Jo Moss, who helped coordinate meal requests with volunteer drivers and routes. In addition, Zion's provided take out of 100+ meals and served dine-in dinners to another 100+ people.

Thanksgiving Day demonstrated the best in people. For example, a woman shuttled people who were stranded in the snow storm from area hotels and gas stations to the church for dinner and collected take-out meals for those who could not dine in. College students stopped by to eat too.

Additionally, JoAnn Karspeck helped coordinate 20 meals for the Hamilton funeral in Hoehne and those family members helped assemble meals too.

Delivery teams also took meals to the employees of Safeway (both morning and evening shifts), to the Super 8 Motel, and the jail, which allowed inmates to have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Several meal recipients called the church to say thank you for the extraordinary efforts to deliver meals in sometimes treacherous conditions.



One gentleman, who sustained an injury and could not even clear his sidewalk, praised a delivery driver who parked his vehicle at the bottom of a steep roadway and carried dinner to the house. In addition to the volunteer time and talents that provided meals to so many area residents, the success of Thanksgiving dinner was due, as well, to the donations of individuals and businesses.

This included a generous donation from Safeway that represented not only contributions from the store, but also the "Turkey Buck" fundraising drive where members of the community donated \$1 or more toward the dinner. Safeway provided an incentive to employees to promote the donation drive through an internal competition where the top fundraising employee was awarded the "honor" of throwing pies in the face of the store manager.

Other generous donations and in-kind donations were from local businesses, dispensaries, food distributors, and people who received the meals.

From Top: Thursday deliveries; Nov. 19 Turkey Frying Day; & Safeway Turkey Bucks Information.

Spotlight On:

Zion's Communications Team Focuses on Outreach

When Zion's Lutheran Church formed in the 1880s, its founding members could not have envisioned the direction that its communication to members and to the community would take during the next 130+ years. In the early days, Zion's worship and most of its other communication was handwritten script and usually in German!

Fast forward through the decades as technology moved to the type-written word and Zion's communications was increasingly in English. Then fax messages, email, text messaging, webpages, Facebook and other platforms; then Zoom and similar instant meeting applications became the norm.



Until recently, Zion's had a webpage with basic information about the church's physical location and worship information. Often the site was out of date and difficult to navigate. The best source of information about Zion's had been our Facebook page that featured basic church information, but also included updates for special events or recordings, as well as good graphics. However, periodically we encounter problems and confusion because search engines often pull up Zion's churches from throughout the world or a Zion's Lutheran, Trinidad, "Historic" page created by Wikipedia.

Increasingly, Zion's has depended heavily upon email for regular updates about worship and events, as well as "E-Formation" messages.

To help manage modern mass communication and to rectify as much of the confusion as possible from old or unofficial websites, and to better coordinate email, webpage, and Facebook, Zion's has been working on improving its social media outreach. For example, in 2021 Zion's formed a website committee and revamped its webpage to offer update information about the church, events in the life of our congregation, worship services, news and newsletters, and much more.

Still there was a lack of coordination among the various forms of communication upon which Zion's depends, so a Communication Team has been created to coordinate social media and community outreach, as well as to find ways to consolidate the number of email messages that come from the church.

Some of those changes resulted in consolidating email messages so that E-formation now goes out each Wednesday, and the Saturday worship reminder and bulletin distribution via email has been replaced with easy access to that information on our website. Bulletins and online worship links now are on our website at: zionsluth.org. Click the "Worship Bulletin" button on the home page to find the Sunday bulletins. Additionally, online links to Zoom are under both the "Event" & "Sermon & Bulletins" tabs from the home page.

The new Communications Team is working to ensure that the information shared in E-formation, the bulletins, Facebook, on the webpage, and in the newsletter are consistent and accurate. In addition, the committee is working to provide as much information as possible without violating privacy. For example, bulletins posted online will not include the prayer list and photos that we use on Facebook or on the webpage do not include pictures of individuals who do not want their photographs online. Published photos of minors are only used with the permission of parents or guardians.

The Team is continuing to work on consistent messaging and welcomes input or suggestions from the congregation. If you have suggestions or concerns, please talk to Vicar Lisa Rygiel, Sharon Sorenson, Paula Little, Lynn Chase, Tracy Wahl, or Jo Moss.

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Pastor's Pondering**For the Bewildering Mystery of Life, I am Grateful**

The season of Advent is upon us. And, by the end of the month, we will be singing Christmas carols, lighting beautiful candles on Christmas Eve, and offering thanks-giving to God for the birth of the Christ child in each one of us.

Sheri Brown writes, "Faith can be a comfort and a struggle. It is, if we let it, always *making something* new of us. Faith pushes us to question what we *think* we know. It pulls us beyond who we *think* we are."

In this season of faithful anticipation, may you know that no matter what struggles disrupt the comfort and joy of the season, God's gift of Love is given for you. As the days grow darker and longer, know the light of world comes to you. I offer you this blessing from one of my favorite poetry books *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by author Ann Weems.

STAR-GIVING

*What I'd really like to give you for Christmas
is a star....*

*Brilliance in a package,
something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
or in the pocket of your being.*

*Something to take out in times of darkness,
something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
something you could hold in your hand,
something for wonderment,
something for pondering,
something that would remind you of
what Christmas has always meant:*

God's Advent Light into the darkness of this world.

*But stars are only God's for giving,
and I must be content to give you words and wishes and
packages without stars.*

*But I can wish you life
as radiant as the Star
that announced the Christ Child's coming,
And as filled with awe as the shepherds who stood
beneath its light,*

*And I can pass on to you the love
that has been given to me,
ignited countless times by others
who have knelt in Bethlehem's light.*

Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a star.

Open your hands and your hearts and receive God's love in the signs of a new moon, the pristine flakes that we try to capture on our tongues when the snow glides from the sky, and the smell of cinnamon and flames as the fires crackle in our home hearth. Divine Love for all.

Waiting in God's love for the light with you,
Pastor Kate Schlechter



December 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Lectors: 04 — Jo Moss 11 — Kathy Broman 18 — Carol Smith 24 — Jo Moss 25 — David Lamb Ushers: 04 — Mark & Jo Moss 11 — Kathy Broman & Doris Blalock 18 — Jeff & Carol Smith 24 — Kathy Nicolai & TBD 25 — Mark & Jo Moss				1	2	3
				5 p.m.: Transition Team Meets 	Noon: Ministerial Alliance	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2nd Sunday in Advent 10 a.m.: Worship & Fellowship Follows	11 a.m.: PEO 5:30 p.m.: AA (fellowship hall)	Dementia Support Group Meets	Loss & Grieving Support Groups 	5 p.m.: Transition Team Meets 		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3rd Sunday in Advent 10 a.m.: Worship & Fellowship Follows 11:30 a.m.: Church Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.: AA (fellowship hall)	5:30 p.m.: Blue Christmas Worship Service	Loss & Grieving Support Groups 	5 p.m.: Transition Team Meets 		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4th Sunday in Advent 10 a.m.: Worship & Fellowship Follows	5:30 p.m.: AA (fellowship hall)		Newsletter Deadline 			Christmas Eve Worship
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day Worship 10 a.m.: Worship & Fellowship Follows	5:30 p.m.: AA (fellowship hall)					New Year's Eve
Birthdays: 03 — Carol Smith 19 — Vicki Otten 28 — John Rygiel Reminder: Each Sunday after worship, except Christmas Day, the Transition Team will continue to gather input and insight through Cottage Meetings, plan to attend one or contact a Transition Team member for an individual meeting.				Communion: 04 — Mike McNeil & Cherie Holder 11 — Mary McKenna/John Rygiel 18 — Peggy Gustafson & Kathy Humphrey 24 — Kathy Nicolai 25 — Jo & Mark Moss		

From Our History Books:

Zion's Lutheran Persevered Through World War II

(This is the fifth in a series looking at the life of Zion's Lutheran. Previous articles in this series looked at Zion's History from its inception through the depression and celebration of its first 50 years in 1938, where this article picks up.)

Zion's moved from its golden jubilee in 1938, into a time of sanctuary improvements in 1939, honoring its first 50 years. Still under the pastorate of C.L. Ramme, the church purchased 100 "Parish School Hymnals" and made improvements to the chancel area, the choir loft, and the balcony where work was completed to improve ventilation. In 1941, Zion's built a garage for the pastor's car. That garage still stands today, however it has been renovated and the garage door replaced with a more modern one.



By the end of that year life changed dramatically following the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, signaling the entrance of the United States into World War II. While the church continued operations and services, rationing of gas, tires and food worked hardships upon members of the congregation.

In August 1944, Pastor Ramme concluded his service at Zion's and in February 1945, Pastor John Eastlack arrived and served Zion's through 1948. Due to World War II, there was a need for food, clothing, and money; the church was unable to meet its expenses and had to borrow from other funds. However, the congregation persevered, and in 1945 introduced the *Zion's Lutheran Herald* newsletter. In 1946, planning resumed for a new parish hall, a conversation begun in 1938. In addition, in 1947 Zion's purchased new hymnals at a cost of \$2.25 each.

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ADDRESS:

