

CONNECTIONS

Website: ZionsLuth.org | zionsluth@gmail.com



In Gratitude from Zion's Lutheran

Pastor Kate Schlechter concludes her service to Zion's Lutheran as its Intentional Interim Pastor.

We are grateful for her guidance, insight, patience, and leadership during this transitional period.

As Pastor Kate moves on, we wish her Godspeed knowing she has made a difference in the life of our congregation and contributed much to the rich history of Zion's Lutheran.

Let us also welcome with encouragement and grace Vicar Lisa Rygiel who will provide pastoral services to Zion's.

God is Like a Movement A Final Message from Pastor Kate

God is like a Movement.
 Love, Growing.
 Rowdy with aspiration.
 Adapting and creating
 In the directions of liberation.
 Using beauty to inspire—
 painting dreams across creation.
 Feeding the bread of life to all who hunger for justice.
 Weary, but alive with hope.
 Fueled with tears,
 and grit,
 And memories of saints past.
 Going nose to nose with evil,
 planted firmly in truth.
 Working.
 Writing.
 Singing.
 Arrests and threats.
 Slander and shame.
 It is Sacred labor,
 but laughter too.
 Whatever you have to bring is enough.
 Loaves and fishes are made into feasts.
 Can you hear the invitation?
 It extends to all who desire freedom.

— Author Unknown

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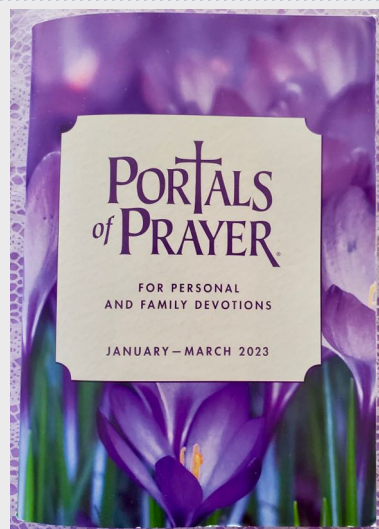
Worship Services & Bible Studies

Zion's worship services are at 10 a.m. each Sunday. We worship in the sanctuary at 510 Pine Street and via Zoom. Bible Study precedes worship at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. Watch the bulletin, website and E-Formation for schedules and details.

Bulletins and other worship resources are on the Zion's website at: zionsluth.org. Large print bulletins and hearing assistance are available for worship in the sanctuary.

Plan Ahead...Women's Bible Study will resume in March. For details, talk to Carol Smith.

Portals of Prayer Now Available



The January-March edition of Portals of Prayer is available in the Sanctuary.



(continued from page 1)

In gratitude to you, Zion's Lutheran Church, for this season in God that we have shared together. My prayers will be with you as you move into the New Year propelled by God's grace.

May the joy that comes in believing fill you with faith, hope and love. Remember, the greatest of all is love for all.

Continue to open your doors to God's invitation to Choose Life.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Kate Schlechter and Koi

Pastor Kate: You Truly Are Loved and Appreciated

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever! – Psalm 136:1

Pastor Kate, on behalf of Zion's Lutheran Church, we cannot thank you enough for coming to us during our time of transition.

We know that the Lord is good because you were sent to walk alongside us during this trying time.

You have meant so much to so many of us in many ways. You have been a tower of strength, a font of wisdom, a shoulder to cry on, a loving friend, a patient mentor, and much more.

You gave of yourself repeatedly, sometimes to your own detriment, and we want you to know that it is recognized and appreciated.

We pray that as you go forward, know that you take a piece of our hearts with you, and we wish you blessings as you journey.

May the Lord bless you
and keep you safe and loved forever.

Vicar Lisa Rygiel



Pastor Kate Brought a Wealth of Experience, Knowledge, and Caring to Zion's

By Jo Moss

Pastor Kate Schlechter brought almost 30 years of broad-based ministerial experience to Zion's when she was called as our intentional interim. Though she was contracted to serve the Zion's congregation in a part-time capacity while also continuing her dissertation work, Pastor Kate's dedication to the people of Zion's meant that she far surpassed that commitment.

Her duties included worship preparation and presiding at services, sermon writing, bulletin work, newsletter articles, Transition Team launch and support, and pastoral care. She provided support to Vicar Lisa as she started the TEEM program and helped prepare the vicar's solo journey with Zion's in 2023. Pastor Kate also worked closely with the church council focusing upon the transitional process.

In addition, Pastor Kate played an integral role in establishing a grief and loss support group for the extended Trinidad Community. She introduced the Blue Christmas Service as an alternative for those who struggle with the season, and conducted a powerful and beautiful Christ the King Sunday healing worship. She coordinated the Blessing of the Animals Service Oct. 1, highlighting her love for all God's creatures, this service included her trusty companion Koi. Her dog Koi served as the best four-legged ambassador for the congregation. Pastor Kate joined in the artistic endeavors when Paula Little presented Zion's first Art & Wine event on Oct. 15 where proceeds benefited Diana Hagen's missionary work in Panama.

Pastor Kate regularly leant a hand, a listening ear, or wise counsel to those in need, providing comfort, understanding, empathy, and prayer. Her diligent work with our members during the God's Work Our Hands clean up day on Sept. 17, allowed the congregation to really get to know her. Likewise Pastor Kate shared her time, resources, and support for the church garage sale, Five Loaves and Thanksgiving dinner programs, and the warming shelter in December.

As part of ensuring a meaningful worship experience, Pastor Kate taught us that worship should not be stagnate and does not have to be perfect. She made us to smile, cry, and, at least once, collectively gasp during an unexpected tumble. Pastor Kate initiated a change to the Prayers of Intercession (Prayers of the People) so that the presiding minister and the assistant alternate each segment. She streamlined the Worship Leader's Bulletin and worked for consistency in the liturgy.

Most of all, Pastor Kate brought us love, compassion, a unique style of teaching and encouragement. She fostered Zion's efforts to improve communications across the board. We are better for having had her in our midst and are grateful for her service and grateful to Bishop Gonia for sending her to Trinidad.



What's Happening in Zion's Family?

A Pictorial look at 2022

January & February

Zion's started 2022 with a focus upon being a welcoming and accessible church. Among the changes begun in January and February were the availability of readers, hearing devices, and large print bulletins for worship. The sanctuary pews were rearranged to accommodate wheelchairs. Also, the restrooms became gender neutral, more handicapped accessible. In addition, Zion's Fellowship Hall was utilized in February as a warming shelter for the homeless.



March & April

Our Lenten Series focused upon "Good Enough" and at Easter Zion's flower team outdid themselves preparing the Sanctuary for worship. At Easter we welcomed Tracy Wahl to Zion's in a beautiful service of baptism. At the end of April, Angela & Avery Holshouser were baptized too.

April was bittersweet as Pastor Andrea concluded her decade of service to Zion's during a heartfelt worship conducted by Bishop Gonja. Afterward, Pastor Andrea shared: "I'm still reflecting on the gift Zion's has been and is to me. You have always been a loving, encouraging, affirming community to me!"

In addition, the flower team completed a butterfly garden beautification project on the west side of the Fellowship Hall.

May & June

May began with a campout at Lake Trinidad where several members of the congregation enjoyed good company and the beautiful outdoors in a special fellowship that is sure to become a traditional event. In May, Lisa Rygiel and Carol Schulzkump represented Zion's at Synod Convention in Loveland. We also celebrated with the Haas Family the baptism of Liam Anthony Magnone and at the end of May bid Godspeed to Pat Fletcher and the Navarette Family. And with June began preparations for the arrival of Pastor Kate.





July & August

Pastor Kate and Koi settled in and began the transition process. Julie Wersal coordinated Zion's summer garage sale. On Aug. 19, Lisa Rygiel began the TEEMs process and her vicar journey. At the end of August, the new Transition Team went to work with an introductory gathering. Zion's enjoyed visits from former parishioners and a Texas youth group that stayed overnight in the Fellowship Hall.

September & October

The fall season was a busy time in the life of Zion's, beginning with God's Work Our Hands Sunday worship in the park, where our GWOH special offering provided funds for the school lunch program at Holy Trinity Academy. GWOH service activities began the following Saturday with a clean up of Zion's property including clean up of the kitchen and a deep cleaning of the sanctuary. The Transition Team began regular Thursday evening meetings and introduced its cottage meetings and individual sessions to gather feedback from Zion's members. The team sponsored the congregational timeline event on Sept. 25. In October, Pastor Kate presided at a Blessing of the Animals. Oct. 15 featured Zion's first-ever Art & Wine gathering, which was an outstanding time for fellowship, talent, and learning. Reformation Sunday was a special time both in the life of the congregation as Bishop Gonja joined us for worship and delivered the message. In addition, the Bishop officially installed Lisa Rygiel as Vicar.



November & December

November saw a snowy and successful Thanksgiving Dinner serving about 900 people. Zion's conducted a coat & blanket drive for those in need too. We had another warming shelter when temperature plummeted. Zion's first Loss & Grieving Support group began, followed by our first Blue Christmas worship on Dec. 13 (an event worth repeating annually). Advent focused upon Jesus as the light; the season was capped with a Candlelight Worship and Christmas Day worship. December also saw Zion's bidding Godspeed to Pastor Kate.



Spotlight On:**Congregational Meetings Important to Zion's**

It's nearly time for Zion's congregational annual meeting, which this year is on Sunday, Feb. 5 immediately after worship and includes a potluck lunch. Congregational Annual Meetings are a chance for church members to make decisions that affect their common life together and grow out of the Reformation idea of the "priesthood of all believers."

The ELCA Constitution for Congregations states that the powers of the congregation are vested in the congregational meeting scheduled, called, and conducted as provided in both the synod and congregational constitution and bylaws.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to conduct the church's official business for the year and includes review of finances, receipt of committee reports, pastor's report, a vote on the 2023 budget, and election of council members, among other tasks. So far, seven people have indicated an interest in serving on the council, for which there are three open slots. As church council president, Julie Wersal will preside at the meeting.

Those attending the meeting and providing input should do so prayerfully and with respect for the church and for each other. An anagram of the word respect demonstrates how that should happen, as shared by ELCA for annual meetings:

R=**Responsibility** for what you say and feel without blaming others

E=**Empathetic** Listening

S=**Sensitivity** to differences in communication styles

P=**Ponder** what you hear and feel before you speak

E=**Examine** your assumptions and perceptions

C=**Confidentiality** with a focus upon keeping confidences

T=**Trust** ambiguity because we are not there to debate who is right or wrong

Most of all, the annual meeting is a chance for the church to celebrate the congregation's life, where it has been and where it is going.



Thank You Notes:

- ♦ Thank you to **Sherry Gartside** for making and sharing the Christmas ornaments with worshippers during December. A few extra ornaments remain, and Sherry says to help yourself. They are on the table in the Fellowship Hall.
- ♦ Thank you to the many people who helped **Pastor Kate** pack for her move to Albuquerque and to those who helped clean the parsonage after she left.
- ♦ Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated in the 1st National Bank's Angel Tree Christmas drive for senior citizens and to everyone who volunteered to support Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship activities.
- ♦ The family of **Jim Hamilton** send their thanks to the people of Zion's for their support following Jim's passing, including the provision of Thanksgiving meals.
- ♦ **David Delotta** and **Ronald R. Muller** each wrote lengthy heartfelt letters of thanks for the Thanksgiving meals provided to them at the jail. If you would like to read the letters and perhaps correspond with them, see Jo Moss for the information to do so.

January

2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10 am Worship 11:15 am Celebrate Pr. Kate						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:30 am Bible Study 10 am Epiphany Worship 11:30 am Council 	5:30 pm AA (Fellowship Hall)					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30 am Bible Study 10 am Worship	5:30 pm AA (Fellowship Hall)				Newsletter Deadline 	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30 am Bible Study 10 am Worship	5:30 pm AA (Fellowship Hall)					
29	30	31	Ushers: 1 - Pierce Family 8 - Steve & Joanne Karspeck 15 - Mike McNeil & Cherie Holder 22 - Paula Little & Elaine Trujillo 29 - Carol Schulzkump & Ruthie Culpepper			
8:30 am Bible Study 10 am Worship	5:30 pm AA (Fellowship Hall)					
Birthdays: 5 - Elaine Trujillo 17 - Doug Theige 17 - Andrew Jackson Garner 21 - Jennifer Pierce			Lectors: 1 - Lisa Rygiel 8 - JoAnn Karspeck 15 - Jo Moss 22 - Paula Little 29 - Ruthie Culpepper		Communion: 1 - Julie Wersal & Doris Blalock 8 - Kathy Nicholai 15 - Jo & Mark Moss 22 - Carol Smith & JoAnn Karspeck 29 - Cherie Holder & Tracy Wahl	

From Our History Books:

Tales of the Dishes, Chimes and the Fellowship Hall

(This is the sixth in a series looking at the life of Zion's Lutheran, which to date has looked at church history through World War II.)

Following a year-long pastoral vacancy from 1948-1949, Pastor Howard Bream filled the pulpit from October 1949 to October 1953. During this time, the Altar Guild was organized and, in 1951, a tower broadcast system was installed to play bell records (now on tape) from the church tower. The chimes were one of many gifts to Zion's by Mr. and Mrs. William Samuel. That same year, Mrs. Jacob Erickson donated the church's current set of 100 dishes with Zion's name embossed on them.



In 1951, two other momentous events took place. First, the long-awaited construction of the Fellowship Hall (Parish Hall and Parsonage) began. Second, the Samuel Estate bequeathed the Coronado Hotel on Commercial Street and all of its furnishings to Zion's in the form of a trust. This gift enabled the Fellowship Hall construction to move forward and resulted in Zion's officially naming the hall in honor of the Samuels Family as reflected on the cornerstone, which is dated 1951 but not placed until 1958.

Fellowship Hall construction was not without issues. The building contractor declared bankruptcy in April 1952, then problems with the new contractor contributed to the slow construction of the hall. In February 1954, after a three-month pastoral vacancy, the Rev. Raymond Bartels came to Zion's and remained until 1956. During his tenure, the Fellowship Hall was completed. The *Parish Hall* (now Fellowship Hall) was dedicated in 1954, completing a congregational dream begun in 1938.

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