

CONNECTIONS

Website: ZionsLuth.org | zionsluth@gmail.com

Congregational Meeting

Our Congregational Meeting is Sunday, Feb. 5. Join us for worship, a potluck, and the meeting.

The agenda includes budget review, committee updates, and transition team reports, as well as the election of church council members.

Julie Wersal, as council president, presides at the meeting and will provide copies of documents and online links, before the meeting on Feb. 5.

If you haven't received your information or have questions, let Julie know.

Worship Services

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 and is at 8:30 a.m.

Bulletins and other worship resources also are on the Zion's website at: zionsluth.org.



Exploring Our Social Location and Scriptures

By Vicar Lisa Rygiel

Hello Vicar Lisa here from lovely Berkeley, California. I'm really enjoying my time at school, there is so much to be learned and I'm always amazed at our instructor's abilities to open the mind.

One of the courses that I am taking is called Methods and Hermeneutics which is basically a study on how we interpret the scripture.

We tend to think that we interpret scripture simply on the basis of what we read. However, we actually base our interpretation through the lens of our social location. Our social location is our gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, social class, ability, age, nation of origin, and religion and where we are positioned within the structures of social, political, economic, and religious power.

All these factors play into how we interpret the meaning of scripture and can help explain why we don't always agree. For example, the way that I interpret the Bible as an older, white, straight, married woman of privilege may not be the same as someone who is a black, queer, male with an unprivileged background.

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Using a hermeneutical approach, when we first read a scripture, our interpretation is one where we ask no questions of the scripture. We just assume it believes exactly what we think it believes.

Then we go through a period of critical consciousness where we ask ourselves who wrote this, when, why, who is the original audience, what was going on at that point in history, and what was the author's social or political or theological situation at the time of writing. In other words, put it all into context as of the time it was written. And then, try to determine where your own social location may have influenced your first assumptions.

Once we reach that point in our analysis, we read again (sometimes many times), hopefully leaving us with an interpretation that is new, deeper and more authentic. This gives us a better understanding of how others might read the same text differently as well as insight as to how we can best apply an ancient text in a post-modern world. I am finding it fascinating!

So the next time you look at a passage, try to move past the first assumption of what you thought you knew and move on to the critical consciousness step. Maybe you will see something in a new way!

God Bless!

Sanctuary Doors Get Repairs, More Still Needed

By Dick Rasmussen
Building & Grounds

Good news! Pueblo Lock and Key has repaired the church doors, returning them to operational status. Both the top door hinges were worn. By replacing the two hinges, it brought the doors in line with existing parameters for twin doors.

The doors panic bars also needed to be adjusted to meet normal operating procedures. Because the doors are now square to the opening, the door closure is now working as it was designed and intended and does not need to be replaced.

The doors are such that we should use the door with the lock first and then the second door with only the panic bar. Some work needs to be accomplished, as both doors need to be beveled where the doors meet in the center. When one door is opened, it drags the other door, creating a friction and making the doors stick. The bottom of the doors need to be shaved one-eighth of an inch due to dragging on the aluminum threshold.

There are three hinges on each door, the top hinges have been replaced and I cannot emphasize enough that the remaining two hinges on each door need to be replaced. Without doing so, it will create a bind on the two newly installed hinges and cause premature failure.

It has been recommended in the past by a previous Building and Grounds person, and now by Pueblo Lock and Key, that Zion's start planning on installing all new doors and necessary framework in the near future. This current set of doors is at the end of its intended lifespan. I would suggest that this be a priority for Fiscal Year 2024.



Looking for Love: A 2023 Lenten Worship

Each Sunday will feature a kind of love that Jesus exemplifies

(Note: This year, Zion's will return to the Worship Design Studio and the work of Dr. Marcia McFee for our special Lenten worship. It will focus upon love as Dr. McFee describes below.)

By Marcia McFee

The Christian scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can be found. And it is not in the "usual" places. Isn't it equally true for us today as it was of the scriptural authors? Don't we often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary "good feelings" and satisfaction?



Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. This year, we will move through stories of Jesus to find out who offers the "real deal."

"All we need is love!" Well, there may be some other things we need, but certainly we humans can feel when love is in short supply. And we know when the rhetoric of our world dishes out quite the opposite, as it is in this moment.

There is a "hole" we feel when we aren't experiencing enough love. We start to try to fill the hole with...what? So much distracts us from the depth of substantive love that really lasts, that really satisfies. Relationships, money, technology, and possessions are all necessary parts of life. However, we often become so over-focused and over-reliant (obsessed, and not in a good way) on them that, after a while, we are left feeling empty, and the hole remains.

Like Scrabble letters that just aren't coming together to spell out anything of worth, we sometimes cobble together things we think will make sense out of our lives, only to be disappointed.

Each week of the Lenten series, we will feature a kind of love that Jesus exemplifies. Through this Lenten series, we will explore the places where love and life-giving connection can really be found.

Dr. Marcia McFee is a professor, worship designer, author, preacher, and ritual artist. Drawing on a first career in professional dance and musical theater and equipped with a Master's in Theology and a PhD in Liturgical Studies and Ethics, she understands the role of any worship artist in the church as that of creating extraordinary portals through which communities journey with the Spirit. Dr. McFee has been known for creating deeply meaningful and memorable worship for over 25 years.

We begin the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday worship, at 7 p.m. on Feb. 22. Lenten Sunday worship services continues Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19, and 26. Palm Sunday is April 2. The Lenten season ends Saturday, April 8. Easter Sunday is April 9.

Spotlight On:

Safety Program: Requires Everyone's Support

The Safety Committee does much of its work "behind the scenes" and in conjunction with the church council to ensure that Zion's is a safe, secure, and healthy place to worship, share fellowship, and continue our many ministries. Among the health, safety and security tasks that the committee supports:

- Maintain the AED and ensure first aid kits are stocked and readily available.
- Incorporate a *Ring* security system at doors of both the fellowship hall and sanctuary. The *Ring* system can be monitored remotely.
- Ensure placement and signage for fire extinguishers in the fellowship hall and sanctuary (all updated in 2022). Institute fire safety measures including installing covers on the knobs of both stoves to avoid accidental gas leaks or burners being left on.
- Use motion-activated floodlights around the church yard to make it safer for members and guest who are on the grounds after dark.
- Lock the sanctuary doors at the start of worship for safety (a sign encourages worshippers to knock so that ushers can let them in).
- Reduce clutter that can cause fire hazards, as well as hazards that can create slips, trips, and falls, especially in snowy and icy weather.

While the Safety Committee ensures that Zion's uses best practices, safety is everyone's responsibility. Among the responsibilities we all share are:



- If you are among the last to leave the sanctuary or fellowship hall, ensure all doors and windows are locked (in the fellowship hall both upstairs and down). If you are unsure how to lock any doors, ask someone or contact a church council member or Vicar Lisa.
- If you are a key holder, your responsibility includes ensuring that doors are locked when you leave, even if you think someone may be inside or about to go inside, err on the side of caution and lock the doors.
- If you find a door or window that doesn't lock properly or note some other safety hazard, such as risks of fire, slips, trips, or other damage, please contact a council member. (See page 2 to learn about repairs to the sanctuary doors.)
- Do not leave things plugged in when you leave, especially kitchen appliances, fans, and audio visual equipment. (Please leave routers, printers, and other critical computer/internet equipment plugged in.)
- Always practice safe food handling and storage. Take perishable foods with you, or if you KNOW food will be used within a day or two, place it in a proper container in the refrigerator. Do not leave food in the oven or on the counters. Wipe up spills.
- Always follow hand washing, sanitizing, and food temperature guidelines.



- Ensure cleanliness of kitchen counters, work surfaces, pans and utensils, and tables, including cutting surfaces.

The Safety Committee work is ongoing, if you are willing to help, let Jeff Smith, Mark or Jo Moss or Mary McKenna know.

What's Happening in Zion's Lutheran Family?



- ★ Pastor Kate is settled in Albuquerque. Her address is 7305 Laster Ave. NE, Albuquerque NM 87109, if you would like to correspond.
- ★ Alison "Ali" England invites the Zion's family to join in the official unveiling of the 2023 performance season at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4, at *Main Street LIVE*. This is a free evening of song, appetizers, and libations, to celebrate the theater season and to introduce Ali as the Executive Director for Main Street. At 7 p.m., Ali, accompanied on the piano by Dr. Amy Wilson, will perform songs of Lloyd Weber, Piaff, Garland, Gershwin, and Kander & Ebb, as well as a couple of surprises.
- ★ Jan. 22 worship service was blessed not only by Pastor Diana Linden-Johnson, who officiated at communion and presented a stirring sermon, but also by Pastor Andrea, who came down from Colorado Springs, where her medical trials are continuing.
- ★ The downstairs area of the fellowship hall has been converted from a parsonage back to meeting and office space. Special thanks to Julie Wersal and the many other people who made that possible.
- ★ Save the Date: Saturday, March 4, is when Paula Little will reprise the Art & Wine event. Join in for a free, fun, and enlightening abstract painting time, no art experience is necessary. Donations accepted for materials which will all be provided.
- ★ Zion's is grateful to the Transition Team members for their dedication of time and talent these past five months in looking at where we've been as a church and where we are going. The team completed its review in January and submitted its report to the Church Council. Copies of the report will be distributed at the annual meeting Feb. 5. Those who cannot attend the meeting can request a copy be sent to them. Zion's will host a Transition Team Q&A after worship on Feb. 12.
- ★ We send condolences to the family of Harriett Goodale, our long-time member who passed away in December. Her memorial service was conducted Jan. 21, at Zion's.
- ★ Women's Bible Study resumes Friday, March 17, and meets every other Friday in downstairs in the fellowship hall, and a Zoom option will be available. This study will be discussing some of the Hebrew Names of God, as they are first expressed in the Old Testament. Among the questions for discussion are: What was happening at the time; and What does the name mean for us today? There will be no book to purchase. Direct questions to Carol Smith at csmith2621@gmail.com.
- ★ Dr. Robert Lennick has retired as rabbi at Temple Aaron, Trinidad. He and wife Loretta have moved to Florida. In announcing his retirement, Rabbi Rob wrote, "My entire rabbinical life, serving at Temple Aaron has indeed been the most meaningful, inspiring, and enriching Jewish experience of all. We have created many life-long friendships as we have together helped Temple Aaron, the 'small saving remnant' of Jewish life, not only survive its near demise, but we have ensured Temple Aaron's future in perpetuity. It has been a true blessing to be part of this wondrous process."
- ★ We join with the congregation of First United Methodist Church here in Trinidad as they mourn the loss of Pastor Dean Nosek who passed away in January.
- ★ Carol Smith works diligently to maintain Zion's prayer list. If you have updates (additions, corrections, names that can be removed) please let her know.

ELCA Update

Personal Faith Journey is Part of Transition Process



Through the past several months, Zion's has been undergoing a transitional process that is asking us where we have been and where we are headed. This process may have

caused some of us likewise to question where we have been and where we are headed with our faith and within our congregation.

Fortunately, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has introduced *Journi*, as a web-based tool to help people discern their call to leadership in the ELCA.

"Journi encourages all of us to seek out and inspire gifted people in our congregations and communities to consider a call to ministry of the gospel," said ELCA presiding bishop the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton.

Journi faith is an online tool that connects people with programs and ministries from across the ELCA. It features a range of content to assist people as they explore different kinds of leadership in the ELCA. Tools range from podcasts and videos to quizzes and articles, designed to provide all kinds of options to build a leadership toolbox.

There even is a spiritual personality quiz that can help identify content that suits a person best. People can retake the quiz at any time, or to skip it completely.

As a person takes their first steps in Journi they are encouraged to be open-

minded, to explore interests and to embrace the work of the Spirit as it reveals pathways to leadership.

By creating a free account with *Journi*, a person can take the ELCA Spiritual Gifts Personality Quiz, which will identify their top five spiritual gifts, and they will receive content recommendations based upon those gifts.

"*Journi* is for anyone who wants to explore how they might follow Christ in love and service," said the Rev. Philip Hirsch, executive for ELCA Christian Community and Leadership. "For those who feel they are called to make the world a better place but don't know exactly what they want to do, *Journi* will help them find a next step."

Users also can check out upcoming leadership events in the ELCA on the calendar and have access to nine different paths that are similar to small courses that showcase

programs and ministries from across the ecology of the ELCA, along with dozens of articles, videos, podcasts, and other resources from which users can learn.

Those nine paths are: Called to Lead, Chaplaincy, Choosing the Right Seminary, Connecting Faith & Public Life, Finding Faith on Campus, Get a Scholarship: Fund for Leaders, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Young Adults in Global Mission, and Youth Leadership.

"*Journi* is for everyone, not just those who want to become pastors or deacons in the church," Hirsch explained. "God calls everyone to love and serve."

The *Journi* link starts at:

<https://www.journi.faith/steps/what-is-journi>


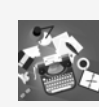



Or by using the QR Code at right:



February

2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Lectors: 5 — Mary McKenna 12 — Jo Moss 19 — John Rygiel 26 — Melodie Lanosga			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30 am Bible Study 10 am Worship  11:30 am Annual Mtg	11:30 am PEO 5:30 pm AA					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30 am Bible Study 10 am Worship 11:30 am Transition Team Q&A	5:30 pm AA					Newsletter Deadline 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30 am Bible Study 10 am Worship	11:30 am PEO 5:30 pm AA		7 p.m. Ash Wed- nesday Worship 		5 Loaves Preparations 	5 Loaves Deliveries 
26	27	28	Ushers: 5 — Mary McKenna & Joni Jones 12 — Jo & Mark Moss 19 — John Rygiel & Tracy Wahl 26 — Peggy Gustafson & Cherie Holder			
8:30 am Bible Study 10 am Lenten Worship	5:30 pm AA					
Birthdays: 4 — Doris Blalock 4 — Paula Little 6 — Becky McNeil		7 — Ernie Parker 9 — Julie Morris 12 — Morgan Otten 12 — Jon Otten		17 — Linda Bounds 17 — Mary McKenna 19 — David Serafini		

From Our History Books:

Beginnings, Endings and Memories at Zion's Lutheran

(This is the seventh in a series looking at the life of Zion's Lutheran, which has looked at church history through dedication of the Fellowship Hall in 1954.)



In celebration of the completion of the Fellowship Hall and Parsonage, Zion's was gifted back the seven-piece silver service of Pastor and Mrs. O. Samuel, that the congregation had given them for their 25th wedding anniversary.

In 1956, Pastor Ray Bartels, completed a two-year tenure at Zion's and was replaced in February 1957 by Pastor Robert F. Kugler. That same year, Zion's held an Evangelism Mission Week specially led by Pastor Titus School. As a result, seven new members joined the church. That same year, the Frauen Verein presented new communion ware to the congregation, and in 1958 Zion's introduced new service books and hymnals. Also in 1958, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Shambaugh presented Zion's the bronze cross that still graces our altar.

In November 1958, Zion's held a 70th Anniversary tea and the fellowship hall officially was named the Samuel Building, in honor of William Samuel whose trust fund made it possible for Zion's to complete the building. Finally, in April 1959, after 70 years of faithful service to Zion's, Frauen Verein disbanded. Proceeds from their remaining funds were used to purchase a 68-piece silverware set.

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