

# CONNECTIONS

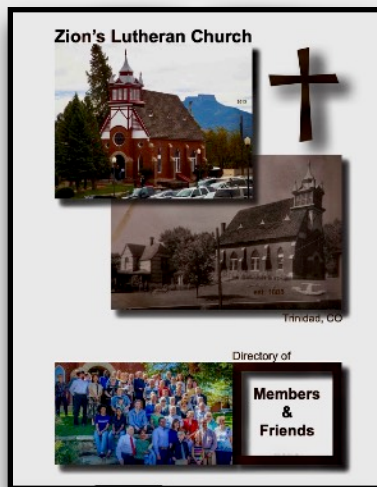
Website: [ZionsLuth.org](http://ZionsLuth.org) | [zionsluth@gmail.com](mailto:zionsluth@gmail.com)

## Worship Services

Zion's worship services are at 10 a.m. each Sunday at 510 Pine St. Our First-Sunday Potluck will be after worship on April 7. Bible Study, is included and we will start a new lesson.

## Church Directories

The 2024 church directories have been sent via email to Zion's members and friends. If you did not receive one, need a printed copy, or want to be added to our e-mail list, please contact Zion's via e-mail or call the church.



## Growing Where Planted

By Tracy Wahl

Twenty years ago, I lived in downtown Baltimore, Maryland, in a row house in one of the same neighborhoods made famous by *The Wire*, an HBO television show from a couple of decades ago.

One day, I planted a few corn seeds in a big whiskey barrel planter behind my house.

I didn't know at the time that corn plants needed a lot of other corn plants to produce corn, otherwise they won't germinate. Most any self-respecting granddaughter of farmers and ranchers would probably be embarrassed to admit this lack of knowledge.

I'm not really -- embarrassed that is -- I just think it's funny that it took me so long to understand basic facts. So, behind that house in Baltimore, I grew lots of corn plants but no actual corn.

I still enjoyed the process. It made me feel connected to my grandparents who had been some of the early farmers of irrigated corn on the Northeastern Plains of Colorado.

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## Serving Zion's

### Church Council:

Kathy Broman  
 Peggy Gustafson  
 Norine Hazen  
 Cherie Holder  
 David Lamb  
 Mike McNeil  
 Mark Moss  
 Jeff Smith  
 Julie Wersal

### Staff:

Lisa Rygiel, Vicar  
 Jo Moss, Asst. to Clergy

### Standing Committees:

5 Loaves/Thanksgiving

— Norine Hazen, lead

Altar Preparation —

Kathy Nicolai, lead

Angels in Aprons/

Birthday Cards — Lynn

Chase, lead

Building & Grounds —

John Rygiel, lead

Communications/Social

Media — Lisa Rygiel,

lead

Communion Bread —

Cherie Holder

Flower Guild — Lynn

Chase, lead

Prayer List/Warriors —

Carol Smith, coordinator

Safety & Security — Jeff

Smith, lead

Worship & Music — Lisa

Rygiel, lead

Worship Assistants —

JoAnn Karspeck,

coordinator

*Contact these people via  
 Zion's email or by  
 phone listed in the  
 church directory.*

## Growing...cont.

(continued from page 1)

A few years later in 2020, during COVID, I grew some lettuce in my tiny yard on State Street in Trinidad. I was 52 years old and had never really had a garden of any kind - with the exception of those corn plants and some morning glories I happily watered on the roof of my condo in Washington DC.

I didn't know at the time that they were an invasive weed, called bind weed by my Colorado friends and family. They grew pretty well in that roof top deck I'm happy to report.

At that point, I didn't really know much at all about the parable of the mustard seed. And I wouldn't connect with Pastor Andrea until 2022, a couple of years later.

This past weekend I found myself at a day of celebrations to honor Temple Aaron, the Jewish Synagogue in Trinidad. It had been selected a couple of months ago to be a National Historic Landmark. Pastor Andrea had urged me to go to Passover Seder there a couple of years ago, right after I was baptized on Easter Sunday, 2022. The synagogue had been rescued by a group of citizens in 2016 when it looked like it was going to need to be sold.

For a while now, since her death, I have been convinced that she planted seeds in all of us in the congregation -- seeds that would take us in surprising directions.

Tonight, after a long day of marveling at the similarities between the architecture of Zion's Lutheran and Temple Aaron (both were designed by the same architects, the Rapp Brothers) one of the members of the Temple Aaron board pulled out his cell phone to show me a smiling laughing picture of



Pastor Andrea. The gentleman and his wife wanted to learn more about the food mission of Zion's. The seeds Pastor Andrea planted are still coming up. We'll have to see what happens next.

## What's Happening in Zion's Lutheran Family?

★ Again this Easter, we were blessed by the work and talent of the flower team, headed by **Lynn Chase**, who did a wonderful job preparing the sanctuary for worship. We also are grateful to everyone who made the Easter and new member brunch such a delicious success.



★ Special thanks to **Tyler Erickson Jr.** for again working with **Julie Wersal**, to complete Zion's 2024 pictorial directory of members and friends. If you need updates let Julie know.

★ The church council has elected its 2024 officers. They are **Julie Wersal**, president; **Peggy Gustafson**, vice president; **Norine Hazen**, recording secretary; **Mike McNeil**, treasurer; **Kathy Broman**, financial secretary; and **Jeff Smith**, trust fund officers.

★ The updated worship assistant schedule is ready and **JoAnn Karspeck** sent it via email to volunteers who have agreed to serve this year. If you did not receive the updated schedule and accompanying guidance, please let her know. In addition to the e-mail information, copies of the new schedule are posted on the main bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and in the Robing Room in the sanctuary.

★ Have you noticed during worship how beautiful the organ sounds? The much overdue repairs have been completed and we can appreciate the skills of organist **Connie Pallone** as she leads the music that allows us to raise our hearts and voices to worship, praise, and give thanksgiving to God.

★ We celebrate with **Dante & Arissa Begano** as we welcome their son **James Joseph** into our family of faith through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. James Joseph is the 4th generation of the Begano family to be baptized at Zion's. Also, on Easter Sunday, Zion's welcomed new members by affirmation of faith. Learn more about them on page 7 of this newsletter.



★ We congratulate Congregation Aaron in the placement of its historical marker March 23. Temple Aaron is among the oldest synagogues in Colorado and in December 2023 was designated a National Historic Landmark.

★ We congratulate **Vicar Lisa**, who successfully has completed her TEEM endorsement process and is on the way to becoming a full-fledged Pastor.

# RIC: A Ministry Highlighting our Values

By Vicar Lisa Rygiel and Jo Moss

As Zion's continues its journey, exploring the purpose and process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, questions are bound to surface and that the Council is just starting its exploratory journey on behalf of the congregation.

An open honest dialogue must be allowed to surface based upon facts and with an assurance that indeed the process reflects the missions and visions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and Zion's Lutheran in Trinidad CO. This recognizes that ultimately it is up to the congregation to vote whether Zion's takes the RIC path.

RIC is one of the many ministries supported by the ELCA and demonstrate that our values are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and practices our faith, and guide how we journey forward in Christ as church together. Those values are forgiveness and reconciliation; dignity, compassion, and justice; inclusion and diversity; courage and openness to change; and faithful stewardship of God's creation and gifts. Its purpose is to: ensure welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program to facilitate this learning and growing process.

Since 1983, the RIC program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church. Over time, those commitments expanded to include Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC) as the organization continued to live into the values stated above.

Each ministry setting begins this journey from its own unique context and the RIC program, through ReconcilingWorks, helps congregations to create an authentic welcome journey that is customized to them and their community.

As with any important church mission, financial support through offerings and donations is part of the RIC program. RIC is a ministry; it is not an organization or society that requires payment of dues or other membership fees. An annual contribution is customary. Contributions support the sustainability and health of the RIC program; support the program's viability by strengthening relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) & the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC); works to dismantle injustice through advocacy as a faith voice in support of LGBTQIA and BIPOC people and families endeavoring to ensure that the holy work is intersectional and ecumenical.

The ministry is straightforward and supportive. RIC is an opportunity to vision and dream about this holy work in new ways in our communities and faith families.



**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



## ELCA Update

### **Bishops Conference Takes Vital Social Stances**

ITASCA, Ill. (March 7) — The ELCA Conference of Bishops voiced its concerns about international and domestic situations during its recent meeting in Illinois. The conference, an ELCA advisory body, comprises 65 synod bishops, the presiding bishop, and its secretary. In key business the conference issued two statements:



- Calling for a permanent bilateral cease-fire in Gaza, and sent a letter to Pres. Joe Biden and legislators to “do everything in their power to bring an end to the current suffering and lay the foundation for lasting peace with justice.”
- Stating solidarity with migrants in Texas that expressed concerns about the fate of Annunciation House, a place of welcome for immigrants in El Paso, “Annunciation House’s work with the marginalized in society resonates with us as leaders in the ELCA, a church with a core immigrant identity, for whom welcoming the stranger is a significant part of our baptismal covenant.”

Among other business the conference:

- Received an update on Holy Communion practices that reviewed varied thoughts about communion practices throughout the church and presented reflective questions for their consideration.
- Received an update on synod diversity goals that focused on work being done in synods as called for in the continuing resolution (from the 2016 Church-wide Assembly) requiring each of the church’s expressions annually assess ethnic and racial diversity.
- Engaged in learning and deliberations on white supremacy and patriarchy including the conference’s 2023 work on racial justice and gender justice and work of the church related to white supremacy and patriarchy.
- Engaged in a learning opportunity on ELCA social statements, social messages and continuing resolutions including updates on the process for reconsideration of the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*.

### **Weekday Bible Study Springtime Leader Sought**

Carol Smith has done an outstanding job coordinating our Wednesday Bible Studies and her series about the Parables ended in March. She will be unavailable to coordinate studies in April or May, so we are looking for someone who would be willing to coordinate the springtime studies. Bible study meets every other Wednesday morning, so lessons would be April 10 & 24 and May 8 & 22. If you need extra study days, the June study days would be the June 5 & 19. We usually take a summer break, so the schedules are flexible. If you are interested in leading the study, please let Vicar Lisa now.

## In the Spotlight:

# Sanctuary Preparation Has Many Facets

*Zion's worship services require coordination among many people who help make it comfortable and welcoming. During the next few months, we look at why these responsibilities are important.*

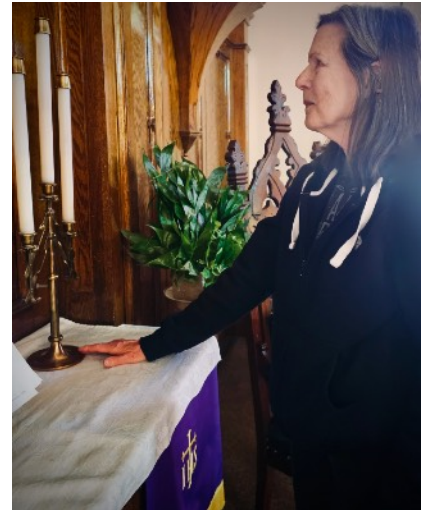
At Zion's, as in every church, there are people who care for the accouterments of worship as servants of God. These tasks require dedication, joy, and privilege, as well as with reverence. This includes ensuring that the altar and sanctuary are ready for each worship service with appropriate colors and candles.

The tasks are weekly and the primary person responsible for preparations is Kathy Nicolai who each week ensures that the candles, candle lighter, and paraments on the walls and altar are ready for the next worship service.

Kathy, who has attended Zion's for more than a decade, began the altar tasks more than two years ago at the request of Pastor Andrea, when she agreed to help tend to the worship space by managing the paraments and banners, which designate the worship season and help make the worship experience more immersive.

Soon after beginning this work, Kathy also added the responsibility of tending the altar candles and candle lighter. This means that each week, she goes to the sanctuary and checks the level of oil in the altar candles and of the lighter, filling them as needed. Kathy says that the altar candles usually need to be refilled after each use and the lighter less often. She also inspects the paraments for spills and damage and works with church staff if these items need to be repaired or replaced. She carefully places the correct colors and paraments in their respective places and updates the wall banners as needed.

Kathy says that because of these duties, she has become more aware of the symbolism of the colors and the changes of the worship season. She is dedicated to her duties and if she is going to be out of town on a weekend, Kathy ensures that the refills are completed before her departure. Thanks to her dedicated efforts, a part of worship that so many take for granted, helps make Zion's a welcoming and respectful place to worship.

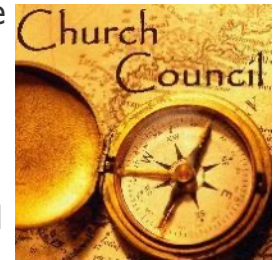


**Acknowledgements:** Contributors — Julie Wersal, Lisa Rygiel, JoAnn Karspeck, Kathy Nicolai, Tracy Wahl, ELCA, Rocky Mountain Synod, Reconciling Works; Photos/Images — Jo Moss, Sunday & Seasons -Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress — All rights reserved; Asst. Editor — Lynn Chase & Editor — Jo Moss.

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## Church Council Bits & Pieces: March 2024

Zion's Church Council met after worship on Sunday, March 10. The council finalized its slate of 2024 and approved reports from the recording secretary, financial secretary, and Trust Fund.



Vicar Lisa presented her report noting that the Lenten Soup Suppers were going well. She presented the work of the Mission and Vision Statement group for council consideration and provided RIC updates. Vicar Lisa will be at seminary June 2-8 and will be out of town June 30 to attend a memorial for her husband's father and sister. Arrangements have been made for both Sunday absences for visiting ministers to preside at worship.

A group made up of Jeff Smith, Mike McNeil, and Julie Wersal are exploring alternative insurance companies as part of the process of reviewing existing insurance coverage and costs. Roman Uskovits with Rocky Mountain Pipe Organ Service Co. in Pueblo completed repairs to the organ. The council again expressed its gratitude to the individuals who donated funds to make the long-overdue repairs possible.

Council members and the Building & Grounds committee expressed concern about the condition of the swing set. Paul Tennery built and donated it when Holy Trinity Academy was renting our lower level for their school. The wood is not treated or set in concrete and is unsafe. The council gave permission to remove the swing set. Spring Clean-up for the lawn and buildings was tentatively set for May 4.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Wersal, Council President

*The official meeting minutes are available upon request. A summary is included in E-formation the week after the council meeting.*

## Zion's Welcomes New Members at Easter

As part of Zion's Easter celebration, the congregation was pleased to welcome seven new members. Two additional members were unable to attend Sunday and will join officially in the near future. Those who joined Easter Sunday are:

**Jan R. Hartliff** and her partner of 35 years, Jan Everhart Hartliff, came to Trinidad last November (2023). Jan says their journey together has not been boring. A native of Limon, CO, Jan is a potter creating functional pottery through her business *BearClaw Pottery*. Before starting that business, Jan ran an accounting business *Ratliff/Thornhill* for many years before she entered the nursing profession earning her BS in nursing. She worked as a trauma nurse, most recently at Denver Health Medical Center, and, when she moved to Iowa, turned her skills to hospice and home health nursing. Jan's interests are in social justice, especially for the unhoused and the LGBTQI+ community, and she is a Golden States Warriors fan.

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**New Member...cont.**

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**Andrew Jackson & T.M. Garner** is a native Texan, Andrew is a self-described prospector who born in Midland and, in 1958, was baptized into the First Christian Church there. He and T.M. were married April 16, 2020, in Waxahachie, Texas. T.M. also is a native Texas, born in Baytown. She was baptized in California in 1977. T.M. said that her values are to be of service to our Lord Jesus Christ and to the community. An animal lover and protector, who works to rehabilitate injured and orphaned livestock and wildlife, T.M. is dedicated to educating the public about how to respect and coexist with native wildlife.

**Julie Morris** and her husband Neal moved to Trinidad in 2017 after retiring from the University of Oklahoma and the state health department. Their children, Marla and Jeff, followed them to Trinidad. Jeff and Jules own SoCo Quick Clean, a cleaning and water remediation company. Jeff's daughter Lyric is almost 6. Julie says she enjoys gardening, fishing, and golf and Neal restores Willys jeeps.

**Sean Reilley, Melanie Moss, & Elizabeth Reilley** come to Zion's from Christ Lutheran in Georgetown, Texas. Melanie has an extensive emergency management and healthcare background with the State of Texas as a planner and public information officer and as one of the state's foremost experts in school safety and emergency preparedness. She now works as the emergency manager for St. Mary Corwin hospital in Pueblo. Before moving to Colorado, Sean worked for Film Fleet handling logistics at location movie and television shoots where he worked with everything from film animals to setting up trailers for cast and crew. Sean now is employed by Lowe's in Pueblo. Elizabeth is a first grader at Sierra Vista Elementary School in Pueblo West and likes to play with her pets, go camping, and swimming. They live in Pueblo West.

**Jennifer Graham** and **Cheryl Leef** will be joining in the near future.

**New Members:**  
 Vicar Lisa welcomes new members (from left) Elizabeth Reilley, Melanie Moss, Sean Reilley, T.M. Garner, Andrew Jackson, Julie Morris, and Jan R. Hartliff, pictured with Jan E. Hartliff (far right).







## What Does It Mean?

# Colors Call Attention to Church Seasons



In Christian tradition different colors are associated with holy days and are part of a unified system that developed somewhat haphazardly through the Middle Ages.

The colors serve to adorn the worship space, and to call attention to the nature of the season or festival being celebrated.

ELCA uses a system that, for the most part, is consistent with many Roman and Anglican churches worldwide.

However, variances occur among churches where colors have different cultural connotations. (For example, white is the color North American and European Christians associate with Christmas and Easter to signify the purity of Christ, light, or joy. In many Eastern cultures white connotes mourning. Red, associated with energy, blood, or fire in Western culture, is associated with purity in India.) The colors used today are:

- ✦ **Advent:** Blue — suggesting hope though some assemblies use purple as a color associated with royalty as the church awaits the newborn king.
- ✦ **Christmas, Epiphany of Our Lord, the Baptism of Our Lord, and Transfiguration of Our Lord:** White — calling to mind the purity of the newborn Christ, and to our light and joy in him. Some churches also use gold.
- ✦ **Time after Epiphany:** Green — symbolizing our growth in Christ. Also, it is a "neutral color" used when a festive or somber color is not appointed.
- ✦ **Ash Wednesday and Lent:** Purple — for Lent, though sometimes black is used since it is the color of the ashes.
- ✦ **Days of Holy Week:** Scarlet or Purple — for Monday-Wednesday of Holy Week. Scarlet or White — Maundy Thursday celebrating the Lord's Supper. No Color on Good Friday when paraments are removed. White or Gold — Vigil of Easter (Saturday), suggesting joy in the Resurrection.
- ✦ **Easter Sunday:** White or Gold — symbolizing the "queen of feasts," unique in the entire church year. White — Sundays of (after) Easter for the resurrection.
- ✦ **Day of Pentecost:** Red — symbolizing the color of fire to remember the tongues of fire descended on the crowd in Jerusalem.
- ✦ **The Holy Trinity:** White — expressing the joy in the mystery of the Triune God. It also is the color of All Angels Sunday.
- ✦ **Time after Pentecost:** Green is used, to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ.
- ✦ **Reformation Sunday:** Scarlet — for the strength and power of the Holy Spirit.
- ✦ **Christ the King:** The final day of the church year uses white, a festive color suggesting light, joy, and the celebration of our Lord.