

# CONNECTIONS

Website: [ZionsLuth.org](http://ZionsLuth.org) | (719) 846-7786 | Email: [zionsluth@gmail.com](mailto:zionsluth@gmail.com)

## Zion's Worship

Services at 10 a.m. each  
Sunday at 510 Pine Street  
in Trinidad CO.

### Opportunities

- ✦ **First-Sunday Potluck:**  
Aug. 3, following  
worship.
- ✦ **Bible Study:** Watch for  
updates in the  
September newsletter.
- ✦ **Church Council:** meets  
Sunday, Aug. 17.
- ✦ **5-Loaves:** Deliveries  
are August 30.
- ✦ **The Zion's Annual  
Garage Sale:** Saturday  
Aug. 2, see page 8 for  
details.
- ✦ **Ordination Sunday:**  
Aug. 10, ordination and  
installation of Lisa  
Rygiel as the Zion's  
Pastor. Invitation and  
details on page 8.



**A Reconciling in  
Christ Community**

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

## More Than Been There, Done That, Got the T-shirt

By Jo Moss

As summer wanes, ELCA congregations nationwide prepare for a synod outreach program called "God's Work Our Hands" (GWOH). Most of us at Zion's are familiar with GWOH through the bright yellow shirts emblazoned with the God's Work catchphrase and Zion's name on the back.

Since 2013, the ELCA designates the second Sunday of September (this year Sept. 7) as God's Work Our Hands Sunday. This is an opportunity for congregations throughout the country to celebrate who we are as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities associated with this day allow us to explore a basic Lutheran conviction: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, every daily calling, every corner of life — flows freely from our living out a daring confidence in God's grace.

Zion's traditionally observes the day with a fellowship worship and picnic in one of the local parks as well as a related community service project. Through the years, Zion's projects have included activities such as cleaning riverbanks or helping feed the homeless.

(Continued on page 2)

## Serving Zion's

### Church Council:

- ✦ Kathy Broman, financial secretary
- ✦ Norine Hazen
- ✦ Cherie Holder
- ✦ Mary McKenna, secretary
- ✦ Mike McNeil, president
- ✦ Julie Morris
- ✦ Mark Moss, vice president
- ✦ Terri Watson, trust fund
- ✦ Julie Wersal, treasurer

### Staff:

Lisa Rygiel, Vicar  
Jo Moss, Assistant to Clergy

### Standing Committees:

5 Loaves/Thanksgiving — Norine Hazen, lead

Altar Preparation — John Rygiel, lead

Angels in Aprons/Birthdays — Lynn Chase, lead

Building & Grounds — John Rygiel, lead

Communion Bread — Cherie Holder

Directory — Julie Wersal

Facebook — Sharon Sorenson

Flower Guild — Lynn Chase, lead

Newsletter & Website — Jo Moss

Safety & Security — Mary McKenna, lead

Worship & Music/Prayers — Lisa Rygiel, lead

Worship Support (ushers, lectors, communion, worship prep) — Vicar Lisa

## GWOH...

(Continued from page 1)

At Zion's, we also acknowledge our calling in activities during the year. Often, these are times we are encouraged to wear our yellow GWOH shirts – Santa Fe Trail Days, Thanksgiving Dinner, and the annual Garage Sale, etc.

After each event, as I wash my shirt and put it away until our next activity, I wonder whether it is too easy to likewise put away my “acts of service.” I try to remind myself that, with or without the yellow shirt, all of us still are called to share our daring confidence in God's grace. God's Work Our Hands is not an annual event, it is a year-round commitment to ourselves and to one another.

This happens in acts of simple service to one another, to our community, and even globally. We share it each Sunday during fellowship as we welcome and celebrate everyone. We share it in 5-Loaves meals, workdays at church, visitations, and during special services of worship.

Yes, GWOH events provide us an opportunity to come together wearing our yellow shirts in public settings to share our welcoming, daring confidence in the grace of God -- loving, celebrating, and welcoming people of all faith backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, ages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

We also see God's Work Our Hands at Zion's in individual acts of welcome, of members who check on one another, who provide transport for those who need assistance, of those who care for animals, and so much more.

We know -- with or without a yellow shirt -- as people of God, our acts of service, our everyday callings are reflections of God's Work Our Hands. It is a message reinforced in the Kyrie we've sung each Sunday this summer, particularly verse 2:

“That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;

that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

(Editor's Note: In the coming weeks, Vicar Lisa and the church council will be seeking suggestions for Zion's GWOH 2025 project. If you have an idea, please share it with a council member or Vicar Lisa. The plan is to celebrate GWOH with a service project Saturday, Sept. 6, and Worship & Picnic in the park on Sept. 7.)

# August

## 2025



### Lectors

### Ushers

3 John Strecker-Baseler

3 Cherie Holder &amp; Jodi Alford

10 Tracy Wahl

10 Mike McNeil &amp; John Rygiel

17 Cheryl Leef

17 T.M. Garner &amp; Terri Watson

24 Charlotte Strecker-Baseler

24 Kathy Broman &amp; Cheryl Leef

31 Carol Hanson

31 Mary McKenna &amp; Cherie Holder

### Worship Assistants

### Communion Prep/Clean

3 Jo Moss

3 Kathy Humphrey &amp; John Rygiel

10 Julie Wersal

10 Terri Watson &amp; Cheryl Leef

17 Mike McNeil

17 Mary McKenna &amp; Cherie Holder

24 Becky McNeil

24 Mike &amp; Becky McNeil

31 Jo Moss

31 John &amp; Lisa Rygiel

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
						8 a.m.-2 p.m.  CHURCH GARAGE SALE
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 am Worship 11:30 am First Sunday Potluck	5:30 pm — AA <i>Vicar Lisa's Sabbath</i>					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 am Worship 11:30 am 1 pm <b>Vicar Lisa Ordination &amp; Installation</b>	5:30 pm — AA <i>Vicar Lisa's Sabbath</i>					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship & Church Council	5:30 pm — AA <i>Vicar Lisa's Sabbath</i>			Newsletter Deadline		
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	5:30 pm — AA <i>Vicar Lisa's Sabbath</i>				7:30 am 5- Loaves Preparations	9:30 am 5-Loaves Deliveries

# ELCA Elects a New Presiding Bishop as Bishop Eaton Retires

The Rev. Yehiel Curry on Wednesday, July 30, was elected to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the ELCA. He replaces Bishop Elizabeth Eaton who is retiring after 12-years as presiding bishop. Curry's election took place at the 2025 ELCA Church-wide Assembly held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix Convention Center.

Assembly representative elected Curry on the fifth ballot. He received 562 of the 799 votes cast. Four hundred votes were needed for election. Kevin Strickland, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes.

After his election, Bishop-Elect Curry, who is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA, addressed the assembly and reflected upon his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Illinois, where he became a lay mission developer. During that time, he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA. TEEM focuses upon emerging ministry contexts such as ethnic-specific, multicultural, and both rural and urban settings and . Tis the same program that Vicar Lisa Rygiel followed in preparation for her ordination and installation as pastor at Zion's.



Bishop-elect Curry spoke to the synod assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting his first ministry role. "I'm what a return on your investment looks like," he said. "Perhaps I'm out there in one of you. I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support of that ministry meant everything. So, if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me. And I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment."

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries. Bishop-elect Curry and his wife, LaShonda, are parents of three daughters.



## Zion's Renews Its Recycle Program

Beginning this month, Zion's will renew its recycling program working through *Treasures Not Trash Recycling*, a local business. The company's recycling team will collect Zion's items (especially paper and plastic) on the first Monday of each month, using large bright yellow bags they provide. When the company collects the filled bags, they will leave a set of empty ones for the next month's collections. We are grateful to Vicar Lisa for making this possible and to Julie Wersal for taking recycled items to Pueblo until the local collections begin. In addition to these efforts, Terri Watson has placed an aluminum can recycling container in the Fellowship Hall to collect those items.



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

*Happy Birthday Wishes:*

August 2: **Renae Einsphar**

August 6: **Melanie Moss**

August 24: **Diane Hagen**

August 16: **Keeliey O'Hara**

August 25: **Darlynne Sandstead**



- ♦ We are grateful to everyone who has worked diligently on the garage sale, especially to **Terri Watson & Julie Wersal** for spearheading the Food Sale and Garage Sale, respectively.
- ♦ **Julie Wersal** did an amazing job creating **Vicar Lisa's** liturgical stoles, which upon her ordination and installation on Sunday, Aug. 10, will be part of her pastoral vestments. Vicar Lisa selected the fabric and Julie used her artistic eye and sewing skills to produce the unique designs.
- ♦ Tucked away in each pew holder are the new *All Creation Sings* hymnal supplements. To make room for the books, the pew Bibles have been moved to the table at the back of the sanctuary and on each pew. Sponsorships for the new hymnals came quickly and, as of July 30, all 50 books had dedications. A list of dedications is on page 6.
- ♦ To better inform the congregation of Zion's financial status, the church council will begin providing monthly statement overviews to those who wish to have a copy. Anyone with questions about the financial statements and ways to give to Zion's should contact council president **Mike McNeil** or treasurer **Julie Wersal**.
- ♦ *Living Lutheran* has brought back its print magazine publication! The storytelling you know and love will appear in mailboxes with four seasonal issues each year. Subscribe for the latest news, reflections and stories from the ELCA. You can set up an individual subscription by visiting [livinglutheran.org/subscribe](http://livinglutheran.org/subscribe). Congregation and gift subscriptions are also available. Subscribe by Aug. 10 to receive the fall issue.

*Save the Date:*

Aug. 10: Ordination & Installation of Lisa Rygiel

Sept. 6-7: God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) Weekend



**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

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Editors — Jo Moss & Erin Ogletree.

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## Hymnal Dedications Become Part of the Zion's History

Many people stepped forward to sponsor the new blue hymnals called *All Creation Sings* (ACS), which not only honor and expand our worship resources, but also honor the lives, accomplishments, and memories of members of the Zion's congregation. The soft cover supplement picks up where the cranberry book leaves off, beginning with page numbers and liturgies that are next in chronological order. Each donor is acknowledged with a book plate inside the hymnal's cover in recognition of their gift. Several people made multiple dedications with the same message. Donors and their dedications, to date, include:



Kathy Broman  
& Mike Blackmore  
In Memory of Andrea Doeden

Given in Celebration of  
Zion's Lutheran Church  
A Reconciling in Christ Community

Jan Ratliff & Jan Everhart  
In Memory of Mark Hurst

Cherie Holder  
In Memory of my Parents  
Jake & Phyllis Bradbury

Jan Ratliff & Jan Everhart  
In Memory of Gage Lee Everhart

Julie Morris  
In Memory of her Mother Jane Farrand

Jan Ratliff & Jan Everhart  
In Memory of Mary Steele Ratliff

Cheryl Leef  
To the Glory of God

Jan Ratliff & Jan Everhart  
In Memory of Marilyn Kay Johnson

The Family of  
T.M. (Garner) & Andrew Jackson

Jan Ratliff & Jan Everhart  
In Memory of Sharon Ratliff Hurst

Erin Ogletree  
In Memory of Lanae Rossi

Jody Alford  
May our voices be to the Glory of God.  
Sing to God, sing praises to God's name...  
-- Psalm 68:4

Jo & Mark Moss  
in Memory of their parents:  
Carol & Bill Schweikhard,  
Lorene & S.L. Moss

Vicki Rienks  
In Memory of Aaron Rienks  
Rest in Peace, My Dear Son

Given in Memory of  
Dale Kruger

Ena Sroat  
In Memory of Phyllis Brown

In Appreciation of Mark Nelson's  
Life-long Love of Lutheran hymnody

Connie Pallone  
In Memory of Andrea Doeden  
*Soli Deo Gloria*

(Continued on page 7)

## Hymnal Dedication...

(Continued from page 6)

Sharon Sorenson  
In Memory of my loving parents,  
Alvin & Evelyn Sorenson,  
who grounded me in the Lutheran Faith  
And taught me to value & respect  
All of God's Creation.

Sharon Sorenson  
In Memory of my dear  
Aunt Carlene & Uncle "Snöz"  
who showed me how important  
family can be in our lives.

Ernie Parker  
To my Aunt Mary,  
a high school teacher who started  
my journey down the path of an  
education in mathematics & opened  
my eyes to the beauty of astronomy.

John & Lisa Rygiel  
in Honor of Carolyn Schatzman  
May she find Peace

By John & Lisa Rygiel  
in Memory of Rosanne Rygiel Dillon  
Who left this world too soon

John & Lisa Rygiel  
in Memory of John James Rygiel, Sr.



John & Lisa Rygiel  
in Honor of JoAnne Elizabeth Rygiel

John & Lisa Rygiel  
In Appreciation of  
James Edward Schatzman  
The best dad ever!

John & Lisa Rygiel  
in Memory of Beth Schatzman  
You are missed

Becky McNeil  
In Memory of Aunt Ruth,  
A devout Lutheran who disliked  
a "new hymnal"...I was seven & not a  
Lutheran, but her strong feelings  
made an impression on me. May she sing  
new songs with joy in heaven.

## Texas Disaster Assistance Continues With Your Help

Disaster recovery from the catastrophic flooding in Texas on July 4 is ongoing. As of July 30, more than 135 people died, and several others remain missing. The scope of damage is still unknown and details remain limited concerning response and recovery help from state and federal officials.

Lutheran Disaster Relief (LDR) and Lutheran World Relief (LWR) are assisting people who still are in urgent need of basic supplies and support to navigate immense grief and loss. These organizations work with other response groups to provide food, water clean-up kits, hygiene supplies, and other essentials. However, they need donations to continue and to expand assistance. To donate, please use the link on the Zion's webpage or follow one of these links:

LDR -- <https://give.elca.org/page/85307/donate/1?ea.url.id=3755534&forwarded=true>

LWR -- <https://lwr.org/blog/2025/texas-floods-how-your-compassion-helping-right-now>

## Help Wanted: Zion's Garage Sale Needs Volunteers



Every summer Zion's conducts a garage sale to raise funds for special ministries or needs of the church. This year, the sale is from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2, in the Fellowship Hall. In addition to garage sale items, Zion's will offer for sale hotdogs, snacks, and bottled water. Terri Watson is overseeing this part of the sale, so if you can help with time or donations of baked goods, please let Terri know.

As always, it takes many volunteers to make the sale possible. fundraising garage sales. Volunteers especially are needed on sale day to help with sales. If you can help with the garage sale tasks, please join us Friday and Saturday in the Fellowship Hall and **be sure to wear your God's Work Our Hands yellow t-shirts.**

Additionally, help is needed with set up and pricing, as well as with clean up after the sale. Volunteers also are needed to help box up unsold items for storage or to donate to other organizations, such as PALS thrift shop and other local organizations that likewise sponsor

If you have questions or can help with the sale, please contact Julie Wersal.

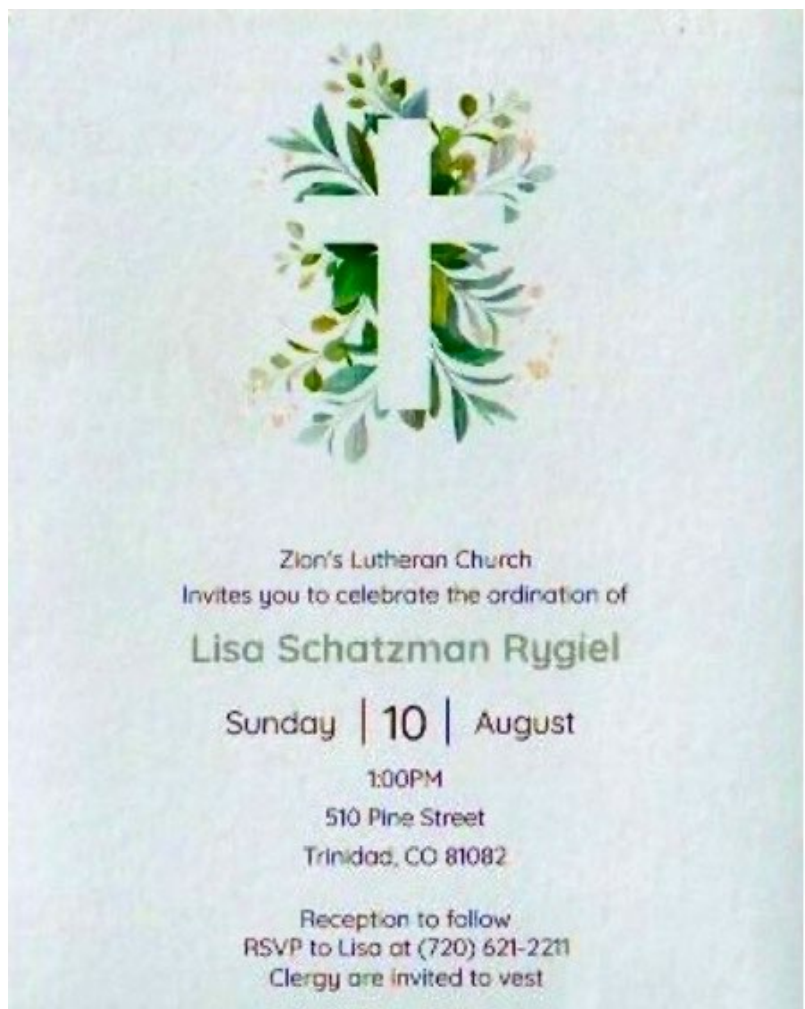
## An Historic Day for Zion's Lutheran is Coming Up

On Sunday, Aug. 10, Vicar Lisa will be installed and ordained as Zion's Lutheran's next pastor.

This historic event is the culmination of extensive study and professional development by Vicar Lisa and after an extensive transition process for the people of Zion's.

We will have to worship services on Aug. 10. Regular worship will be at 10 a.m. that Sunday while the Ordination and Installation service of worship and celebration will begin at 1 p.m. that day.

Further details are in the invitation, included here. If you can help with the reception after the ordination or can help with set up on Saturday, Aug. 10, please let Julie Wersal know.





## Sharing Our Recipes: Peach Cobbler

By Kathy Broman

The original recipe came from Bon Appetit. Like all cooks, I have tweaked the recipe. I decreased the sugar by more than half and used a splash of molasses rather than brown sugar. I also added 1/4 tsp cardamom and 1/4 tsp allspice, and substituted 1/4 tsp nutmeg instead of 1/2 tsp mace.

### Brown Butter Peach Cobbler

**Yield:** 8-10 servings

**Total Time:** 1 hr & 20 minutes

#### Ingredients

- 5 Peaches (about 1½ lb.)
- 2 Tbs. Dark Brown Sugar
- 1 Tsp. Ground Cinnamon
- 1/2 Tsp. Mace
- 2 Cups (400 g) Granulated Sugar, divided
- 1 Cup Unsalted Butter (two sticks)
- 2 Cups (250 g) All-purpose Flour
- 1 Tbs. Baking Powder
- 1 Tsp. Diamond Crystal or ½ tsp. Morton Kosher Salt
- 2 Cups of Whole Milk
- 1 Tbs. Vanilla Extract



#### Preparations

1. Place a rack in middle of oven; preheat to 375°. Peel skins from 2 peaches. Halve and remove pits from all of the peaches. Slice ¼" thick. Transfer to a large bowl; add brown sugar, cinnamon, mace, and ¼ cup granulated sugar and toss to combine. Let sit while you prepare the topping (at least 20 minutes).
2. Cook butter in a small skillet over medium heat, stirring often, until it foams, then browns, 5–7 minutes. Pour brown butter into a 13x9" baking dish. Whisk flour, baking powder, salt, and remaining 1¾ cups sugar in a medium bowl. Whisk in milk and vanilla, then pour batter into baking dish by the ladleful so butter swirls and mixes into batter. Top with peaches.
3. Bake cobbler until golden brown and bubbling around the edges, about 1 hour. Let cool slightly before serving.

# Church Council Updates: July 2025

## *Zion's Lutheran Church Council 11:30 a.m. July 13, 2025*

Members present were:

Mike McNeil, Mark Moss, Mary McKenna, Julie Wersal, Terri Watson, Cheri Holder, Norine Hazen, Julie Morris, Kathy Broman  
Vicar Lisa Rygiel offered the invocation.

### **Reports:**

#### **Secretary —**

The June minutes were reviewed and accepted.

#### **Treasurer —**

Reviewed actual vs. budgeted. We need approximately \$6,000 per month to cover budgeted missions and operations and are behind in securing this level of offering. Reviewed two of our mission donations of \$300 to the Synod and \$375 to ACTS. A motion was made to accept the report, approve all bills paid, and discussed the need to communicate our status with the congregation.

#### **Financial Secretary —**

RIC donation was \$979.00, an annual, one-time offering as part of the RIC process. We discussed monthly offering as the average amount needed is \$5,000.

#### **Trust Fund —**

Reports were reviewed and funds withdrawn from the trust to cover current deficit. All transfer monies come out of the liquid accounts.

#### **Food Ministry —**

Our June distribution went out to approximately 250 recipients.

We had a report of no food received by one of our participants. This home had an unsecured dog in the yard. Our volunteer drivers have been instructed to not enter to reduce chances of bites.

Chef salad has been removed from the August menu as a matter of food safety.

The menu plans for the rest of the year are:

Aug. — Baked potato

Sept. — Chicken

Oct. — Bratwurst

Nov.- Turkey dinner

Dec. — Beef or Ham

#### **Vicar —**

- Worship and music team met July 31 to work on the next six weeks of music. Mark Nelson has joined the team and will play when Connie is traveling.
- Reviewed status of All Creation Sings: Pew Edition Hymnals.
- Drafts for policies and use procedures for kitchen use, safety and security, facility use, weddings and funerals will be reviewed at our next meeting.
- God's Work Our Hands is scheduled for Sept. 7. Reviewed ideas for service projects with the final decision to be determined. All t-shirts are being stored in closet downstairs Fellowship Hall.

#### **Old Business**

Teams committee proposal was tabled due to inadequate time to review all aspects of the current draft.

#### **New Business**

- Garage Sale plans were reviewed to include both a garage sale and a food sale. All proceeds will benefit the ministries of Zion's.
- John Rygiel presented a thorough analysis of repairs needed for the cupola. All questions were covered in relation to the history and maintenance required. Terri Watson volunteered to assist/standby. Total estimate for the project is \$1655.00 was approved unanimously.
- Stewardship discussion tabled.

Respectfully submitted, Mary McKenna,  
Council Secretary