

CONNECTIONS

Website: ZionsLuth.org | (719) 846-7786 | Email: zionsluth@gmail.com

Zion's Worship

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

Opportunities

- ✦ **God's Work Our Hands:**
10 a.m. Sept. 7, worship
at Round Up Park
followed by a Potluck
Picnic and fellowship in
the Park. All are welcome.
- ✦ **Bible Study:** Resumes
on Thursday, Sept. 25,
see page 7 for details..
- ✦ **Church Council:** meets
Sunday, Sept. 14.
- ✦ **5-Loaves:** Deliveries are
Sept. 27.
- ✦ **Save the Date:**
Oct. 4 — Blessing of the
Animals
Nov. 27 — Community
Thanksgiving Dinner,
volunteers needed (see
Norine Hazen).



**A Reconciling in Christ
Community**

We Are Called

By Steve Hanson

*¹⁰ For we are God's
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared
beforehand that we should
walk in them.*

-- Ephesians 2



"God's work, our hands"
essentially means that as
believers we are called to use our actions, talents, and
efforts to serve God and others, reflecting God's love and
presence in the world. This means that it emphasizes that
our work, both physical and spiritual, is a way to participate
in God's ongoing work of creation, redemption, and love.

We are called to serve one another. There are many ways
of doing that. It can be done through volunteering our time,
donating to charities, and in giving of ourselves in practical
ways to help others. Perhaps someone needs a ride to an
appointment, or help with cleaning, or just spending time in
prayer or in listening to them.

We all have different abilities or talents, and God uses those
things towards building God's kingdom and in illustrating
God's love to one another. Perhaps you have an ability to
build or construct something, or maybe you have artistic gifts
or talents that can be utilized. We also can show God's work
by caring for the environment, and by conserving our
resources in many ways.

However, we can't expect to truly help others, if we don't
have a relationship with God. Spending time in prayer and
reading scripture is vital, not only for our service to others,
but for our own relationship with God.

(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:

The Rev. Lisa Rygiel, Pastor
Jo Moss, Assistant to Clergy

Standing Committee Oversight:

5 Loaves/Thanksgiving — Norine Hazen

Altar Preparation — John Rygiel

Angels in Aprons — Cherie Holder & Julie Morris

Building & Grounds — John Rygiel

Communion Bread — Cherie Holder

Directory — Julie Wersal

Facebook — Sharon Sorenson

Flower Team — Mary McKenna

Newsletter & Website — Jo Moss

Safety & Security — Mary McKenna

Worship & Music — Pr. Lisa Rygiel

Worship Support (ushers, lectors, communion, worship prep) — Pr. Lisa Rygiel

We Are Called...

(Continued from page 1)

If there isn't anything in our cup to give to others, then we are truly lacking in how we can affect others around us.

Perhaps you're called to show mercy to others, for this is one of the many gifts outlined in Romans 12; 8: "He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. " There are many people who are hurting around us, especially in this hour.

Find what your strengths and gifts are, and God will use these things for the creator's kingdom. What we have been given is not to be hoarded for ourselves, but rather, it is to be used for God's body and beyond.

"...So, we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

--Romans 12

See page 4 to learn more about this year's GWOH projects.

Save the Date — Blessing of the Animals:

Zion's will host a community wide "Blessing of the Animals" at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4, in the fenced lower lawn of the Fellowship Hall.

In addition to blessing the animals, we will collect animal food and other pet supplies to donate to local animal welfare programs.

This event is open to the community, so feel free to invite pet owners and animal lovers to join us. We ask that pets be on leash or in carriers.

After the blessings, participants (human and non-human) are invited to mingle, play, have photographs taken, and enjoy refreshments.

For more details, talk to T.M. Garner, Julie Wersal, or Jo Moss and watch for updates in the October newsletter.



September

2025



Lectors Ushers

7 Jo Moss	7 Mark & Jo Moss
14 Jody Alford	14 Cristy Street & Brittany Cook
21 Charlotte Strecker-Baseler	21 T.M. Garner & Terri Watson
28 Cheryl Leef	28 Kathy Broman & Cheryl Leef

Worship Assistants

Communion Prep/Clean

7 Julie Wersal	7 Mike & Becky McNeil
14 Mike McNeil	14 Steve & Carol Hanson
21 Becky McNeil	21 Mary McKenna & Cherie Holder
28 Julie Wersal	28 John & Lisa Rygiel

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10 am GWOH Worship in Round up Park & Potluck Picnic	5:30 pm — AA					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship & Church Council Pr. Lisa on Vacation	5:30 pm — AA					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 3 pm Children's Choir	5:30 pm — AA	Newsletter Deadline		10 am Bible Study	7:30 am 5-Loaves Preparations 12:30 am Bible Study	9:30 am 5-Loaves Deliveries
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 3 pm Children's Choir	5:30 pm — AA					

God's Work Our Hand:

Zion's Shares Daring Confidence in God's Grace

God's Work our Hands (GWOH) Sunday is Sept. 7, 2025. It is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Our GWOH service activities offer an opportunity to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Annual GWOH Outdoor Service of Worship

Zion's will celebrate GWOH Sunday at Round-up Park with a worship service at 10 a.m. followed by our traditional potluck picnic. We will provide chairs for this outdoor worship but also feel free to bring a lawn chair if you desire to do so. If you have one, wear your yellow God's Work Our Hands t-shirt. If you need one, please let Julie Wersal know.

Check out the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to see how you can help with this worship service. Also, take time to visit with church council members to learn more about ways to become involved in a variety of church ministries and programs. This is a chance to demonstrate GWOH all year long.

The Zion's GWOH Community Service Projects

Another part of GWOH 2025 are our community service projects in which Zion's can engage.

Building a Wheelchair Accessible Ramp

Zion's built a wheelchair ramp for a local family with work headed up by John Rygiel & Terri Watson. Project funding was donated by Kathy Humphrey. The project should be completed the first week in September

Packs for Unhoused Women

Coordinated by Becky McNeil, on Sunday, Aug. 24, Zion's members assembled 25 "*Period Packs*" for our unhoused neighbors. Each pack contained tampons, sanitary pads, pantyliners, and individually wrapped feminine hygiene wipes. Enough to take care of a woman's needs for one menstrual period. The Way ministry pastor, Clay Mason said that the packs will meet a need for many women.

Becky shares her gratitude with everyone who helped support this project.

Assisting a Member's Move

When Richard Stewart planned to move to a new home in Trinidad, a Zion's team lead by T.M. Garner stepped in to help him box and move the household, making the work easier and even enjoyable..



Becky McNeil displays Period Packs assembled after worship on Aug. 24.

GWOH Donations Welcome

A special offering, collected on Sunday, Aug. 24, covered costs for the period packs, as well as ancillary expenses associated with ramp construction, and for expenses associated with GWOH worship on Sunday, Sept. 7.

What's Happening in Zion's Lutheran Family?

Happy Birthday Wishes:

September 4: **Margaret Gumke**

September 6: **T.M. Garner**

September 16: **Elizabeth Reilley**

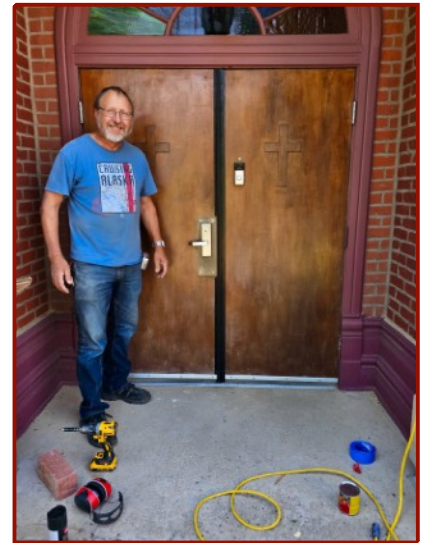
September 25: **Breann Hass**

September 28: **Carol Hanson**

September 29: **Skylar Jones**

September 30: **Jo Moss**

- ♦ **The Rev. Dr. Becky McNeil** will be our guest pastor on Sunday, Sept. 14, while Pr. Lisa is on vacation.
- ♦ **John Rygiel** (at right) used his carpentry talents to repair the church cupola, making much-needed repairs to the sanctuary, improving its structure and making it safer. In addition, John repaired the main sanctuary doors strengthening them and adding weather stripping. We are grateful to **Pr. Lisa & John** for donating the cost of these repairs and to **Terri Watson** for helping John with the cupola repairs.
- ♦ **Sharon Sorenson** has donated lovely new tablecloths for the Fellowship Hall, for which we are grateful.
- ♦ We are grateful to **Kathy Humphrey** for contributing a window air conditioner to the sanctuary. The unit replaces the inefficient and outdated swamp cooler that Zion's has used during the past several summers.
- ♦ **Mark & Jo Moss** share their gratitude with the congregation for their prayers, phone calls and messages, cards, and love during Mark's recent radiation treatments.
- ♦ **Jody Alford** did a wonderful job as photographer during Pr. Lisa's ordination. And, speaking of photos, thank you to **Julie Wersal, Jo Moss, and John Rygiel** for collecting photos and assembling them on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board featuring Pr. Lisa Rygiel's ministerial journey. Read more about that journey and see Jody's photos on pages 9-10.
- ♦ Special thanks to all who helped with the annual garage sale. Zion's raised almost \$2,392 for various ministries. We are grateful to **Julie Wersal** for again coordinating the event, as well as to **Terri Watson** for heading up the hot dog, snacks, and beverage sales, and to **Norine Hazen** for again serving as cashier. Thanks go to everyone who worked the sale and its preparation and clean up and to everyone who donated items for the project.



Garage Sale Team included (from left): **Steve Hanson, Julie Wersal, John & Lisa Rygiel, Cherie Holder, Julie Morris, Norine Hazen, Renae Einspahr, Terri Watson, Lorna Hassard, Elizabeth Reilley, Carol Hanson, and Jo Moss.**

Additional Dedications for New Hymnals

People continue to step up to sponsor the remaining blue hymnals — All Creation Sings (ACS) — which are the soft-covered blue hymnals in the pews.

Each donor is acknowledged with a book plate inside the hymnal's cover in recognition of their gift. We are grateful to John Rygiel for helping place the book plates in the new hymnals and to everyone who sponsored the project.

Additional donors and their dedications, to date, include:

Norine Hazen
In Memory of
her husband Walt

To the Glory of God
(Anonymous Donors)

Suzanne Lintner
Given in memory of my dear
Aunt Alice, who loved me
as her own child and provided an example
of being charitable & loving

Terri Watson
In memory of her parents
Tom & Mary Watson

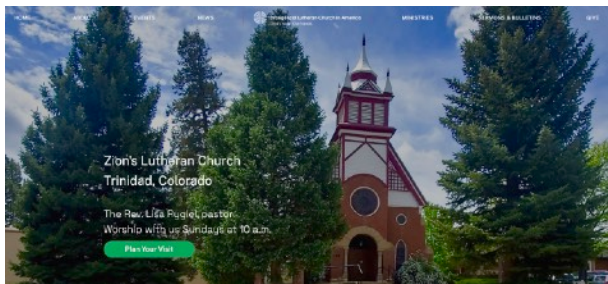


Thanks to our generous sponsorships, we were able to purchase more than 60 new All Creation Sings hymnals for the sanctuary.

Two Easy Ways to Learn and Share About Zion's New Brochure

A new brochure about Zion's Lutheran is available in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to share these brochures with other individuals and organizations. There are two different cover designs, with the same content so you can specify your preference or use both. If you need 20 or more copies, please let Jo Moss know, so that we can get them to you.

Website



Our website at ZionsLuth.org features information about the church, such as events, Bible studies, ministries, worship updates, details about Zion's, and ways to become involved. In addition, it offers bulletins, newsletters, and e-formation, the most recent versions of which can be found using the links on the Zion's Lutheran homepage. Additionally, archived versions of many items can be found (and downloaded) under the appropriate tabs for each page. For example, past E-formations, editions of the newsletter *Connections*, as well as special announcements, are found in the News tabs. Past bulletins and copies of some sermons are found in the Sermons & Bulletins tab.

New Bible Study Explores Early Christian History & “By What Authority?”

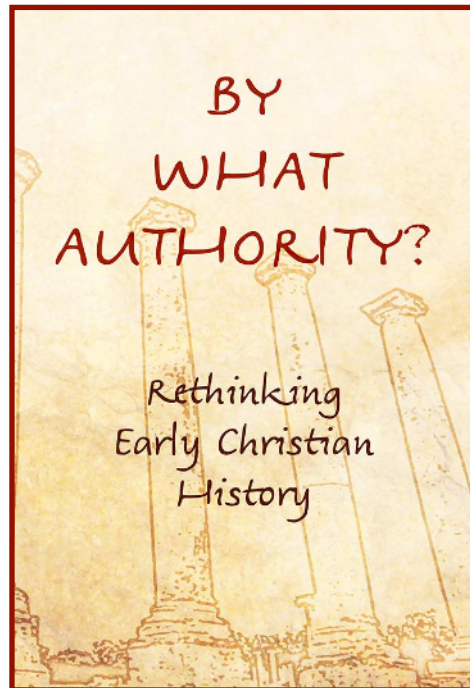
Beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, (and repeated at 12:30 on Saturday, Sept. 27), Pastor Lisa will lead a new Bible Study entitled *By What Authority: Rethinking Early Christian History*. The sessions likely will continue through Saturday, Dec. 20 and will be conducted in the Fellowship Hall.

Presented in a combination video and study guide format, the sessions give participants a chance to see how the drama of the early church's formation has direct

connections to our lives of faith today. The study guides will be shared at each session, so there is no need to purchase a book.

This study addresses many common, yet puzzling, questions that Christians face today, particularly questions of authority that are central in our lives: Who and what can you trust? Who do you follow or obey?

The study guide notes, “We sometimes rebel against authority we don't like. Who hasn't heard a child say to their parent, ‘You aren't the boss of me’? In geopolitics, this question lies at the center of all interactions. Some authority is imposed by power and might. Other authority is experienced as a trusted source of truth and light.



“This is the dynamic that played out in the early years of the Christian movement. It was a messy, fluid time, but also a time of exciting innovation and creativity. Establishing a common set of beliefs, a shared witness, and practice was the task of early church leaders.”

The materials explain that through the study, “You will experience the creation of a totally unique religion, which was, for the first time in history, not based on ethnicity, culture or geography.

“This is a faith for the whole world and one that crosses all boundaries and barriers. This is a revolution of enormous consequence. Knowing how this amazing phenomenon emerged and spread throughout the world is vital to understanding the faith in our day. You will be amazed at how so many of the challenges of those early years are still with us today, as we adapt to a changing world.”

As with most of the Zion's Bible studies, these sessions will be offered twice each week, offering flexible study opportunities.

If you have questions or need transportation assistance for attending sessions, please let Pastor Lisa know.

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ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

It's Already Time to Talk Turkey

For more than 30 years, Zion's Lutheran has prepared Trinidad's Community Thanksgiving Dinner, ensuring that anyone interested has an opportunity to enjoy a Thanksgiving Day dinner with all the trimmings whether in person or for pick up or delivery.

During the past several years, Zion's, on average, has provided more than 900 Thanksgiving dinners to the community. This is no small undertaking with preparations beginning months in advance. The food team, headed by Norine Hazen, plans the menu, shops, identifies volunteers, and seeks monetary and in-kind assistance.

On Thanksgiving Day, volunteers serve meals in the Fellowship Hall, provide curbside pick-up, and deliver food to those who are unable to come in person. Other tasks includes food preparation, turkey and ham donations, and clean up. If you are able to help Norine on the Thanksgiving team, please let her know. More details about our Thanksgiving plans, including our partnerships with area sponsors such as Safeway and other businesses, will be highlighted in the October newsletter.

Sharing Our Recipes: Restaurant-Style Queso

By Sean Reilley

This flexible recipe serves 2 to 20+ people. It is an outstanding appetizer for any event.

Sean's Restaurant-Style Queso

Yield: 2-20+ servings

Tools

Crockpot heated to medium high/high

Ingredients

- 8 to 16 oz Package of Velveeta Cheese
- 1 to 2, 10-oz Cans Original Rotel
- 8 to 16 oz Sharp (or Extra Sharp) Cheddar Cheese
- Favorite chips for dipping (tortilla chips are perfect)

Preparations

1. Cube Velveeta Cheese and place in heated Crockpot. Watch carefully and stir as needed to prevent sticking. Shred Cheddar Cheese and add to Crockpot. Continue to stir to combine cheeses.
2. Add can(s) of Rotel (do not drain) and stir to combine. Cook until heated through, then reduce Crockpot temperature to low/medium low. If it cools too much increase heat.
3. Serve in chip/dip platter (or in Crockpot) with chips.

Notes

1. For spicier dip spread jalapeño jack cheese instead of cheddar.
2. Adjust spiciness by selecting a milder or spicier version of Rotel.
3. If serving 20 or more people use the larger quantities listed in the ingredients.



Becoming Pastor at “Ripe Old Age” of 65

By the Rev. Lisa Rygiel

Now that I finally have been through the ordination and installation process and become Zion's Pastor, Jo (Moss) has asked me to share a bit about my call story and how I ended up here at the ripe old age of 65.

“Why bother?” you may wonder. Why not retire? Yes, I wonder that also. How exactly did I get here?

I have been a Christian most of my life although there were periods you wouldn't have known it based on my lifestyle. I grew up in the Church of Christ and one of my earliest memories of Church was seeing my father baptized. I went to a private Christian school where daily I received 30 minutes of chapel and one hour of Bible study.

My parents took church attendance seriously. We went to church Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night every week. Every summer, we had a youth group that travelled from Memphis to a church camp near Searcy, Arkansas. My father often went along as a counselor. He baptized me in the lake at camp when I was 13 years old.

The God I knew was an angry God and the church I grew up in was a place of rules and intense scrutiny for any signs of sin or rebelliousness. In my teen years, I didn't like that God much, and I didn't want to be around God's people. When I left home, I moved to Texas and quit attending church. I am sure others have a similar story.

I married too young and had children too young. During a visit from my parents when my sons were young, my dad and I had a frank talk about my dereliction of duty because I wasn't raising them to know the Lord. He flat out asked me, “If you don't do it, who will?” Guilt kicked in. I joined a small Baptist church and was fairly active. I taught high school girls bible school and helped with children's choir. I worked hard in the Church

trying to work my way into heaven. I had no concept of being saved by grace through faith.

I met John, my husband, 20 years ago and it was one of the best things that ever happened to me. We both loved to hike and

camp and birdwatch. We loved each other. We just had one problem, where could we worship together? He was Catholic, I was Baptist. And neither of us were comfortable with the denomination of the other!

A friend suggested we try his congregation, a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. It was quite progressive for a Missouri Synod church. It was evangelical enough for me and had enough of the liturgy that my husband grew up with to feel comfortable.

Fast forward a few years. I accepted a transfer to work on an exciting project in upstate New York. We started attending a Missouri Synod Church in Saratoga Springs. We never felt welcomed; it seemed nobody cared if we showed up. I saw another Lutheran church on my way to work and suggested we try it. I didn't know about the differences between the Missouri Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Glens Falls, New York, was a perfect fit! We were welcomed from the moment we walked in the door. The congregation was small but awesome. We loved the people and the liturgy. Actually, it is a lot like Zions! Pastor Joyce Fiore engaged me early on, testing my gifts. I served as an assisting minister and preached a few times when Pastor was on vacation. She began training me as a congregational deacon.



(Continued on page 10)

Becoming Pastor

(Continued from page 9)



Ordination Day with the Rev. Dr. Rebecca McNeil, the Rev. Jan Everhart, Deacon Colleen Teeuwe, the Rev. Lisa Rygiel, RMS Bishop Meghan Aelabouni, the Rev. Diana Linden-Johnson, and the Rev. Joyce Fiore.

She taught me that it is okay to question God and ask questions about God. I learned about a God of love, forgiveness and grace! I learned that I was constantly being washed clean by Christ's atoning sacrifice. I didn't have to work my way to heaven! I was saved by grace and not by my works. How freeing was that! I could love that God!

Pastor Joyce and I discussed Church history and theology. We walked through the Small Catechism. She presented me with The Book of Concord that we began studying together. Pastor Joyce told me I had a call but I was hesitant. I already had a chosen profession as a Safety Manager and felt that it was too late in my life to change paths.

Through God's grace, we ended up back in Trinidad (we had lived here briefly before) and went back to attending Zion's Lutheran. I had shared with our former Pastor Andrea that I felt called by God. I wanted to pursue a life of service. I just wasn't quite sure what that was supposed to look like.

In August of 2019, my family got a horrible phone call. My little sister Beth had gone into the hospital for a simple biopsy but suffered

an unanticipated accident. She was brain dead. We rushed to Albuquerque. We cried and prayed and waited. Finally, the fateful decision was made to take her off of life support. The family huddled together trying to console each other the best we could but we were all in shock.

Later, I wondered, why didn't we ask for a chaplain, someone who could walk us through this awful time? But as I said, we were in shock. That is when I decided where the Lord was leading me. I was intended to be a chaplain.

I planned to get my theological education and work alongside Pastor Andrea and others in this community who needed comfort in their last hours.

God saw things differently. When Pastor Andrea took me aside and asked me if I thought God had been calling me for "such a time as this," I was floored. That was not my plan. I was supposed to be a Chaplain, not a Pastor of a church. Funny thing about God...

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

– Isaiah 55:8-9

I talked to John, I talked to God, I talked to our bishop. And, the next thing I knew I was a TEEM student and Vicar. Three years later, I completed my seminary education and have been ordained and installed as the Pastor of Zion's. And, I am still finding it amazing that I am here.

Our God is one of surprises, of reinvention, of perfection and making all things new. I would have never known that as a small girl witnessing the act of my father's baptism that someday I might have the privilege of baptizing precious lives into God's kingdom!

I look forward to being your Pastor and I ask for your continued prayers.