

# 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:**  
Oct. 5, following worship.  
All are welcome.
- ♦ **Bible Study:** Studies are  
at 10 a.m. on Thursdays,  
with session repeated at  
12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Pr.  
Lisa is leading a series on  
early Christian History.
- ♦ **Church Council:** meets  
Sunday, Oct. 12.
- ♦ **5-Loaves:** Deliveries are  
Oct. 25.
- ♦ **Blessing of the  
Animals:** begins at 10  
a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4.  
See page 4 for details.
- ♦ **Save the Date:** Zion's  
Thanksgiving Dinner is  
Nov. 27 (more details on  
page 7).



**A Reconciling in Christ  
Community**



## All Saints and Souls

By Coralie Lashbrook

November is coming up: the time of the year that celebrates saints and souls. **All Saints' Day** is a holy day celebrated annually by Catholics, Lutherans, and certain other Protestant and Orthodox denominations. The day, dedicated to all saints in heaven, was created in 609 AD by Pope Boniface IV, when he consecrated the Roman Pantheon to the Virgin Mary and all Martyrs.

Since the mid-eighth century, All Saints Day has been celebrated annually on Nov. 1. All Saints Day celebrates the saints who have entered heaven.

**All Souls Day**, formally assigned to Nov. 2 of each year, was first rooted in the Catholic concept of purgatory and focused on praying for the dead who still required spiritual cleansing before reaching heaven. Lutherans and other Protestants do not believe in the state of Purgatory, but use All Souls Day to remember the recently departed, such as church members, family members, and friends. Actually, many Protestant churches, including Zion's, merge All Saints Day and All Souls Day celebrations into one observance called **All Saints Sunday**. All Saints Sunday is celebrated annually on the first Sunday of November.

(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 — John Rygiel

Angels in Aprons — Cherie Holder & Julie Morris

Building & Grounds — John Rygiel

Communion Bread — Cherie Holder

Directory — Julie Wersal

Facebook — Sharon Sorenson

Flowers — Mary McKenna

Birthdays — Lynn Chase

Newsletter & Website — Jo Moss

Safety & Security — Mary McKenna

Worship & Music — Lisa Rygiel

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

## All Saints & Souls

(Continued from page 1)

The day acknowledges a continuing connection between the living and the dead. Recall that in Hebrews 12:1, the faithful in the Old Testament were said to be surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses." These witnesses included departed saints like Abel, Noah, Abraham, and Moses, who were seen as continuing to provide spiritual encouragement to the living.

So, when you hear the term 'saint', who first comes to mind? Many of us, regardless of religious denomination, first think of "famous" Saints canonized by the Roman Catholic Church over the last one-thousand or more years. The Saints with a capital S include the Apostle Jude, Joan of Arc, Francis of Assisi, Mother Theresa: human beings who were exalted by the Catholic hierarchy for miraculous acts and the possession of **heroic virtue**.

Heroic virtue represents a level of virtue that is so extraordinary, so above and beyond the type of virtue that an everyday human would be expected to demonstrate, that the person who possessed it was considered worthy of sainthood. Heroic virtue is demonstrated by people of exceptional faith; they are excellent role models, fervent lovers of both God and their neighbors, and perpetrators of remarkable acts of faith, hope, and charity.

They are capable of giving up their resources for others and, in some instances, are willing to give their lives for their faith. As mentioned, the very first All Saints Day was created to provide a vehicle to celebrate these martyrs.

In contrast, the non-capitalized word saint is derived from the Latin word *sanctus*, which means 'holy'. The word 'saint' is also used to translate the Hebrew word *qadosh*, which conveys the idea of 'separation'. So, a saint is a believer that is set apart or dedicated to God. Multiple New Testament scriptures convey an assurance that saints include everyday believers like you and me.

In Philippians 1:1, Paul greets congregants in the Church of Philippi as 'saints'. In Ephesians 4:12, we are told that God distributes special gifts to each of us "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

You and I are developing saints. We certainly did not earn that title through our acts, heroic or otherwise. It is only through God's grace that we are part of the communion of saints: the great cloud of past witnesses joined with present and future believers.

# October

## 2025



Lectors		Ushers	
5	Erin Ogletree	5	Julie Morris & Jody Alford
12	John Strecker-Baseler	12	Mary McKenna & Cherie Holder
19	Steve Hanson	19	Steve & Carol Hanson
26	Coralie Lashbrook	26	T. M. Garner & Terri Watson
Worship Assistants		Communion Prep/Clean	
5	Jo Moss	5	Mark & Jo Moss
12	Mike McNeil	12	Steve & Carol Hanson
19	Becky McNeil	19	Kathy Humphrey & Julie Morris
26	Jo Moss	26	John & Lisa Rygiel

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
				10 am Bible Study	5:30 pm Yoga in the FH	10 am Blessing of the Animals 12:30 pm Bible Study
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10 am Worship 11:30 am Potluck & Fellowship 2 pm Children's Choir	5:30 pm — AA			10 am Bible Study	5:30 pm Yoga in the FH	12:30 pm Bible Study
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship & Church Council 2 pm Children's Choir	5:30 pm — AA			10 am Bible Study	5:30 pm Yoga in the FH	12:30 pm Bible Study
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 2 pm Children's Choir	5:30 pm — AA	Newsletter Deadline		10 am Bible Study	7:30 am 5-Loaves Preparations 5:30 pm Yoga in the FH	9:30 am 5-Loaves Deliveries 12:30 pm Bible Study
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10 am Reformation Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 2 pm Children's Choir	5:30 pm — AA			10 am Bible Study	5:30 pm Yoga in the FH	12:30 pm Bible Study

## **Blessing of the Animals**

### **Everyone is Welcome, Including Our Pets**

October is the traditional month for animal blessings as it is the Feast of Francis of Assisi. As such, it is a time that Zion's traditionally invites pet owners and their companions to join us for a blessing of the animals. This year's blessing is at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4, in the fenced lawn area of the Fellowship Hall.

While cats and dogs traditionally are presented for blessings, Zion's welcomes all socialized animals. Please bring animals on a leash or harness, in a crate, or cage for the blessing. If your pet has crossed the Rainbow Bridge, or it is not otherwise possible for your animal to be with you, consider bringing a photo of them or even their "stuffy" for a special blessing.



#### **And, There's More**

We also will help to bless animals in need that can benefit from donations of food, health care, and pet items. People are invited to donate pet items – including food, new or lightly used leashes, collars, bedding, etc. as well as to make a monetary donation, all of which will support PALS.

#### **After the Blessing Activities & Opportunities**

After the blessings, Zion's will have gifts and food for all participants (human and non-human). This includes photographs and caricatures. So, stay after the blessings to mingle, play, and enjoy the fellowship.

If you want a head start on the pet caricatures, simply send an email with the pet/pets photo to [zionsluth@gmail.com](mailto:zionsluth@gmail.com). We will have the drawings available to pick up on the day of the blessings.

There is no charge for any of the day's events. For more details, or to lend a hand with the blessing, please talk to T.M. Garner, Brittany Cook, Julie Wersal, or Jo Moss.

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## **Who was Francis of Assisi and Why Animals?**

Oct. 4 is the Feast of Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology, making a October a good time to recognize the gifts of God given to us through all of creation. Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, known as Francis of Assisi, was an Italian mystic, poet and Catholic friar who founded the religious order of the Franciscans.

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, he gave up his inheritance to serve the poor. Inspired to lead a Christian life of poverty, he became a beggar and an itinerant preacher.

Francis of Assisi "astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally — not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by following all that Jesus said and, he did so joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance", according to the Franciscan Media.

"He called animals 'brother' or 'sister,' and he exhorted them to praise God. He would go through the streets and byways, inviting everyone to sing with him. And one time when he came upon an almond tree, he said, 'Brother Almond, speak to me of God.' And the almond tree blossomed." Francis, who died in 1226, had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

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

## Happy Birthday Wishes:

October 1: <b>Jane Davis</b>	October 19: <b>Mark Nelson</b>
October 3: <b>Tea Compton</b>	October 19: <b>Megan Pierce</b>
October 7: <b>Cheryl Leef</b>	October 19: <b>Lisa Rygiel</b>
October 9: <b>Tami Hix</b>	October 21: <b>Julie Wersal</b>
October 16: <b>Tyler Erickson</b>	October 22: <b>Erin Ogletree</b>
October 17: <b>Tiffany Ellingham</b>	October 26: <b>Jan Everhart</b>

- ♦ We are updating the worship assistant lists for the remainder of 2025. If you would like to help with communion preparation and clean up, lector, and/or usher, please let **Pr. Lisa or Jo Moss** know. If you would like more details about tasks and schedule let them know that too. Your role in worship services is another way to share our welcoming, daring confidence in the grace of God -- loving, celebrating, and welcoming all people.
- ♦ To honor Pr. Lisa's ordination and installation, **Brittany Cook** made her a beautiful mosaic depicting Zion's and made, in part, with remnants of Zion's embossed plates (photo at right).
- ♦ **Julie Wersal** is beginning work on the Zion's 2026 Church Directory. This church directory includes contact information for anyone who considers themselves part of the Zion's Lutheran family. You do not need to be a voting member of Zion's to be included in the directory. If you would like to be added to the directory, need information updated, or would like a new photo, please let Julie know.



- ♦ If you have corrections, or updates to the prayer list, let **Pr. Lisa, Jo Moss, or Vickie Rienks** know. We are grateful to Vickie for agreeing to assist with this important task.
- ♦ At **Pr. Lisa's** Ordination and Installation, **Becky McNeil** led the prelude while **Dwayne Harris** used ASL to sign the hymn *All Creatures Worship God Most High*. It was a beautiful way to begin the ordination service.
- ♦ Remember the time changes in November: Fall back on Sunday, Nov. 2, set your clock back Saturday night or you may arrive at church an hour early on Sunday.

**Acknowledgements:** Contributors — Coralie Lashbrook, Brittany Cook, Mary McKenna, Jody Alford, Lisa Rygiel, Julie Wersal, Norine Hazen, Vickie Rienks, RMS, ELCA, *Living Lutheran*.



ReconcilingWorks  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

Photos/Images — ELCA, Jo Moss, Jody Alford, John Rygiel, Terri Watson, Sunday & Seasons.

Editors — Jo & Mark Moss

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# Zion's Members Step Forward to Advocate for Others

## City Council

On the heels of a Sept. 2 city council decision to expand the municipal code definition of "Special Event" and require permits for "recurring gatherings in public parks", *The Way* ministry is seeking options to continue feeding and worship ministries for the unhoused. In the interim, Zion's will provide the lower fenced yard for 1 p.m. Sunday meals.

Trinidad City Council members voted 5-2 to increase restrictions for recurring city park use. Council members Manny Trujillo and Erin Ogletree voting against the measure. Erin (also a member of Zion's) expressed concerns that the measure not only represented overreach on the city's part but also reflected policies that were more punitive than practical.

Faith and community leaders shared with the council concerns about the impact the new code would have upon faith-based groups that feed and minister to the unhoused. Pastor Clay Mason of The Way Ministry reminded council members that the unhoused are "real people" of all ages and backgrounds. Zion's member Pr. Becky McNeil echoed the sentiment. "These are our neighbors. We cannot push them to the edges," she said.

Pr. Lisa Rygiel told the council, "The unhoused and the poor are not a 'problem'. They are people. People down on their luck, who have made mistakes, are fighting addiction, suffering from mental illness or have been abandoned by family... A lot of the people who show up (at the park) are not unhoused, they are just living on the fringes of society, unable to make ends meet. And once a week, a good man of God leads them in worship, reminds them that God loves them, that they are worthy of that love."

Pr. Lisa added, "when I heard that their (The Way) designated meeting place, their church so to speak, had the tables and benches removed and they were now forced to worship and to eat on the ground, I was appalled. Where was the mercy in that? Where was the justice.... This city bulldozes and destroys the meager shelters and belongings of those that have almost nothing and then attempts to outlaw being unhoused.

She continued by noting that now, the city wants The Way ministry, led by Pastor Clay (who helps minimize the suffering of many people in need in our community) to get insurance and permits in order to provide a church service and meal. "Where is the mercy in that," she asked.

## Colorado Immigrant Rights

The Colorado Rapid Response Network (CORRN) responds to raids, deportation, and any Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity happening in our communities across the state. The network, part of CIRC (Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition), is made up of multiple immigrant advocacies and activist groups.

Formed in 2017, during the first Trump administration, CORRN has been the focus of renewed importance. A call to the rapid response hotline, 1-844-864-8341, alerts the Trinidad *Confirmers* -- two of whom are part of the Zion's congregation -- who respond to the location of suspected ICE raids. They help to document the activity and inform potential targets of their Constitutional Rights, as well as recording accurate information about the activity.

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## Colorado Rapid Response Network

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Recently, individuals have contacted CORRN for assistance in escaping the U.S. soil to avoid detention and/or deportation. For example, a local confirmer helped an immigrant in Southern Colorado who was facing an urgent and precarious situation. The individual was in the United States under Temporary Protective Status, when he received a notice of deportation, putting him at risk of separation from his family.

The situation this family faced was not simply a bureaucratic issue; it was a matter of family unity and of personal safety. CORRN confirmers successfully worked with the community to help raise funds and arrange travel for the immigrant to the Venezuelan Embassy in Mexico City, where he could seek the assistance that he desperately needs.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. If you see what appears to be an ICE raid, please call the hotline. If you need assistance in protecting an immigrant family, contact CORRN as well. The support network offers safe place and offers cards and flyers that inform immigrants of their rights. Copies of the flyers and cards are available in the Fellowship Hall. If you need additional information, talk to Jody Alford or Lorna Hassard.

## It's Time to Get Ready for Thanksgiving

Our annual community Thanksgiving Dinner is just around the corner. We anticipate feeding upwards of 900 meals. So, save Thanksgiving Day (as well as the weeks before) to help with set up, cooking, serving, and delivering.

While 5-Loaves Ministry serves about 250 meals to more than 100 families and individuals each month, the Thanksgiving meal reaches more than three times that many people who either attend in person, pick up their meals, or request delivery.

As such, Zion's will need people to help with food preparation, packaging, serving, delivery, set-up, and clean-up. Norine Hazen will have sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall for those who can help. Food preparations begin about 10 days before Thanksgiving and food purchases are underway now, so please consider helping out.

This project requires the involvement not only of the Zion's congregation and the 5-Loaves team, but also the community at large. At the end of September, Zion's began reaching out to local businesses and community organizations for both monetary and in-kind donations.

Again, this year, Safeway will collect donations from shoppers for community meals. These turkey bucks and similar donations will be given to Zion's to help offset the cost of Thanksgiving Dinner. Please keep this in mind when you shop at Safeway. Their generosity makes a big difference for this event.

We also are sending letters and emails to local businesses and organizations, seeking additional support and donations — both in-kind and monetary. Individual donations are welcomed too, and can be mailed to the church at 510 Pine Street (designate Thanksgiving on all donations), or donations can be made using this link: [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/1334741](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/1334741).



## A Look at the Zion's GWOH 2025 Activities

God's Work our Hands (GWOH) 2025, saw Zion's members complete service projects to help both the community and the congregation. Our projects included preparing period packs for unhoused women, helping a member move, and constructing a wheelchair ramp.

We are grateful to John Rygiel and Terri Watson for their work on the ramp (before/during/after photos at left) and to Kathy Humphrey for covering costs for that project.



Thanks also go to T.M. Garner for spearheading the move; and to Becky McNeil for leading the period packs project; as well as to everyone who helped with these projects or contributed to the cost of the work.

The congregation also participated in our annual worship and potluck picnic at Round-Up Park, with the Orphan Valley Singers again providing music for the service.



## Sharing Our Recipes: Pigs in Ponchos

By Vicki Rienks

Here is a simple recipe that I found many years ago.

### Pigs in Ponchos

Yield: 8-16 servings

#### Ingredients

2 Rolls of Unbaked Refrigerator Crescent Rolls  
Fat-Free Frankfurter (beef, pork, turkey, etc.)  
Salsa

#### Preparations

1. Preheat Oven to 400-degrees and spray baking pan with non-stick spray
2. Place one frankfurter on the wide end of each crescent.
3. Roll dough around frankfurters. Pinch at seams to seal.
4. Place frankfurters on pan and bake until brown, about 10 minutes.
5. Transfer to a plate and serve with salsa for dipping





# A Story of Zion's, Comfort Bears & Semicolons

By Brittany Cook

Like many of us that Sunday morning watching Mary (McKenna) give Dot the bear to Elizabeth Reilley, I was beyond moved. I kept thinking, if I had grown up with an accepting church like this I may not have ever needed to know what the semicolon stands for besides sentence structure.

Little did I know that Jody (Alford) also was inspired. Within a couple of weeks, Rainbow the Bear appeared and went to another in need. Mary graciously gave that bear to me.

This year has been tough for many reasons, but receiving Rainbow was a reminder to hold on. For me, sometimes holding on for other people is easier than for myself.

Since gaining Rainbow in my life, I take him with me to new places. It has helped me find the courage to keep walking new paths. It reminds me that I have a whole group of people in my life that are a part of God's army and willing to fight for me when I can't fight for myself.

Zion's is a place where children and adults alike can find refuge, acceptance, and love. Sometimes it might even be in the shape of a stuffed animal. I felt like there was a children's book theme that needed to be written. What better way to teach children and the adults who read to them about love and acceptance than through the story of our bears! After texting Mary about the idea, she and Jody took off with the rest.

The thoughts that consumed my head as "Dot" the bear and Elizabeth met were of children everywhere, including the young queer children and anyone else who has struggled with themselves and with finding connections that makes life beautiful. If they had a church like Zion's, or even just a blessed stuffed toy, it might save someone from suicide.

As a survivor of a failed attempt, the "semicolon" became a statement in my life.



Blessing the Bears: During Children's Time at Sunday worship, Pr. Lisa blessed the Comfort Bear ministry, assisted by Chloe, Maia & Owen Ellingham.

A semicolon is used when an author can end their sentence but chose not to. The author is you and the sentence is your life.

## Project Semicolon

The semicolon movement was started by Amy Bleuel in 2013 after her father died by suicide. The semicolon symbolizes the continuation of a story despite a potential ending.

In writing, a semicolon is used to pause before continuing the sentence. Similarly, the semicolon in mental health represents the choice to continue living despite struggles with mental illness or substance use.

Finding the courage to continue on meant holding onto a few verses that were used to help save me that night

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## Zion's, Bears, & Semicolons

(Continued from page 9)

### Isaiah 43:1-3

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

These verses still talk to me and help whenever I need to feel my connection to God. Alongside the bears, the connection of this congregation, and the many teachings from many of this group, I read these differently now. For me, the meaning has shifted, which is something I find wonderful about the Bible. I am also thankful for Pastor Lisa teaching me to continue reading.

### Isaiah 43:18-19

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

My old environment had given me refuge whenever it was needed, God working through them. After being hurt by a religious

environment, I shut the door on God. I even had the arrogance to believe I was telling God to stop working in my life; I didn't want it. Thankfully, *Jehovah Jireh* — The Lord our Provider — was making a safe environment for me to heal.

The culture where I grew up taught me from a very young age that I would go to Hell for who I loved. Pursuing God on my own to learn how incorrect that was, I moved 1,200 miles and have found so many people who accept me for me. It truly helps.

Dot and the Rainbow Bear Brigade have already helped and blessed my life, but it is through everyone attending this church that their story will be told; many people will find their healing here.



## ELCA to Install New Presiding Bishop

The Rev. Yehiel Curry will be installed as presiding bishop of the ELCA on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 2 p.m. Central time at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Curry will be the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

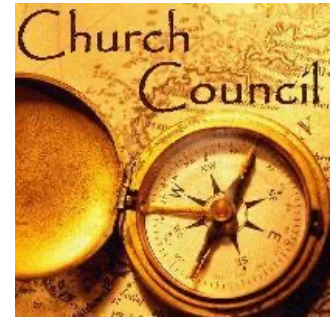
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preside at the installation and present Curry with the pectoral cross, the common symbol of the office of bishop in the ELCA. Kevin Vandiver, a pastor of Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Washington, D.C., will deliver the sermon.

Members of the ELCA Conference of Bishops and other church leaders will participate in the processional. Music for the worship service includes the National Lutheran Choir and musicians from St. Olaf College and the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod. The installation is a public worship service, where all are welcome. It also will be available via livestream.

Curry was elected to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop on July 30, during the 2025 ELCA Church-wide Assembly in Phoenix. He has served as bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019 and previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill. Curry's first day in office will be Oct. 1.

# Council Updates: August & September 2025

*Zion's Lutheran Church Council*  
*11:30 a.m. Aug. 17, 2025*



## **Members present**

Mike McNeil, Mark Moss (via Zoom), Mary McKenna, Julie Morris, Julie Wersal, Terri Watson, Cheri Holder, Kathy Broman, Lisa Rygiel. Absent Norine Hazen.

Pr. Lisa Rygiel offered the invocation.

## **Reports:**

**Secretary** — The July minutes were reviewed and accepted.

**Treasurer** — Thank you to Coralie and Kathy for the sandwiches provided for Pastor Lisa's ordination.

Thank you to John Rygiel for donation of services to repair the cupola. Treasurer report approved unanimously.

**Financial Secretary** — \$6,144 August Collection, \$7,500 collection for July, \$5,000 collection for June.

Discussion regarding needs for stewardship and communicating information to the congregation. Treasurer report approved.

**Trust Fund** — There has not been a lot of movement with gain of \$144. Trust report approved unanimously.

**Food Ministry** — Food Ministry report approved unanimously.

**Pastor** — All costs for initial purchase of new *All Creation Sings* hymnals have been covered by memorial donations. Council approved purchase of additional hymnals for the balcony area.

Council discussed fellowship options such as walking club, movie night etc.

Pastor Lisa will be absent on Sept 14 for vacation. In addition, "Theocon" is scheduled Sept. 28-Oct. 2 followed by the First Call retreat Oct. 2-4.

The Methodist church restarts worship at 2 p.m. on Sept. 7 with a quarter-time pastor.

Council unanimously approved the report

## **Old Business**

Discussion regarding teams idea. Current committees will continue for the time being with plans to refine opportunities and educate the congregation about options.

The Garage Sale saw 29 boxes of clothes delivered to Pueblo. We made \$2,391 on the sale and \$213 on food. The garage was cleaned in the process.

Thanks to Kathy Humphrey for our new air conditioner, John Rygiel and Terri Watson for cupola repairs, and Sharon Sorenson for our new tablecloths.

Discussion continued regarding exterior repairs on our main building. Mark offered his experiential knowledge regarding painting and stucco repairs. Mike will also check with the historical preservation.

## **New business**

Mike McNeil will compose a letter to Schwab regarding the Trump event.

John Rygiel will get a proposal and cost estimates for Fellowship Hall capital improvement for flooring.

The ADA thresholds also are needed and sidewalk expansion and repair along the side of the sanctuary were discussed.

John Rygiel will outline for the capital improvements and costs.

Mike McNeil will contact the synod for assistance regarding fundraising and/or stewardship campaign.

The next meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 17

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Mary McKenna, council secretary



## Church Council Updates

(Continued from page 11)

### *Zion's Lutheran Church Council 11:30 a.m. Sept. 14, 2025*

#### **Members present**

Mike McNeil, Mark Moss, Mary McKenna, Julie Wersal, Julie Morris, Cheri Holder, Terri Watson, Norine Hazen via Zoom, and Kathy Broman. Absent: Pr. Lisa Rygiel.

#### **Reports:**

**Secretary** — The minutes of a special meeting of Aug. 24, were reviewed and approved unanimously. The minutes for August were tabled.

**Treasurer** — Reports focused on actual vs. budget. Thank you to Kathy Humphrey for her \$1,100 donation for the ramp building project for GWOH. The Council revisited recent donations and garage sale numbers. Unanimously approved reports and bill paid.

**Financial Secretary** — Donations have been the same. The Council discussed options for increasing congregational knowledge of the needs for Zion's ongoing growth. Report unanimous approval.

**Trust Fund** — Council reviewed fund growth and reports were unanimously approved.

**Food Ministry** — Our fund growth was reviewed, and reports unanimously approved.

**Pastor** — Mary McKenna read the pastor's report.

Tiffany Ellingham expressed interest in being baptized along with her three children. Her mother will join by faith affirmation. Worship and Music met to identify music for the next 6 weeks. Mark Nelson will play at worship Sept. 21 and 28.

Bible study will resume Sept. 25 and repeated Saturday Sept. 27. The study is entitled "By What Authority: Rethinking Early Christian History". Plans are underway for Sunday school/confirmation classes.

Policy revisions are still in the works. GWOHs Sunday was a success. Council unanimously approved the Pastor report.

#### **Old Business**

Council discussed revising committee lists and surveying the congregation to determine skill sets, talents, etc.

Capital improvements are ongoing, which the council unanimously approved.

#### **New Business**

The Council is still assessing exterior building needs.

Mike McNeil will follow up on the Rocky Mountain synod regarding the Stewardship campaign with a December start up.

Council discussed Pastor Clay and his flock, recognizing needs to reach out for information from the homeless coordinator and to learn more regarding trauma and the needs for this population.

The next meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 12

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary McKenna, council secretary

### **Trinidad's Senior Center Offers Meals and More**

Many members of our congregation also are involved with the Senior Center at 1222 San Pedro, in Trinidad.



The center's mission is to provide nutritious, affordable meals in a welcoming environment that promotes events for socialization, health, and education, while treating each individual with respect, dignity, and embracing cultural differences.

In addition, the center offers various activities and opportunities, including vaccination clinics. To learn more, talk to Norine Hazen or Kathy Humphrey.