

# Connections



## A Mother's Day Reflection

By Melanie Moss

Mother's Day often brings to mind a familiar image — flowers, cards, and the celebration of a woman who raised her children with love and care. But motherhood is far broader, deeper, and more beautifully complex than any single picture can capture. Today, we pause to honor all sorts of mothers — the many ways nurturing love shows up in our lives.

We celebrate the mothers who gave us life and the grandmothers who helped raise us, offering wisdom rooted in experience and grace. We honor stepmothers and adoptive mothers who chose love and showed that family is built not just by blood, but by commitment and care. We recognize foster mothers who open their homes and hearts, often in uncertain and challenging circumstances, providing safety when it is needed most.

We remember the mothers who have lost children — those who carry both love and grief in equal measure. Their motherhood does not disappear; it transforms into a quiet strength and enduring remembrance.

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### Zion's Worship

Come worship with us at 10 a.m. each Sunday, 510 Pine Street, Trinidad CO



### First Sunday Potluck

Join us after worship the first Sunday of each month for a potluck in the Fellowship Hall. This month it's May 3.

### 5-Loaves

Our food ministry delivers meals to the community the last Saturday of each month. That's May 29 & 30 this month.



### Church Council

Council meets the second Sunday of each month, immediately after worship.

### Reconciling in Christ

Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ Community. All are welcome!



### Zion's Camp Out

Mark your calendars! We have reserved the group camping area at Trinidad Lake State Park May 31 (Sunday) through Wednesday June 3.

## Mother's Day Reflection...

Continued from Page 1

We hold space, too, for those who long to be mothers, whose prayers and hopes may be unseen but are deeply felt.

We recognize mothers who can no longer care for themselves, who may struggle with memory issues or illness, mothers for whom we now care.

They are the ones from whom no words are spoken, but in their presence an eternal love persists.

We remember mothers who no longer are with us, but whose legacies and love endure from generation to generation .

We think of mothers who are estranged from their loved ones, recognizing the messiness of some relationships, the words and prayers yet unspoken, and the possibilities yet to be recognized.

There are spiritual mothers among us — who guide, mentor, teach, and uplift others in faith and in life. Their nurturing may not be defined by biology, but by presence, encouragement, and steadfast love.



There are also women who serve as caregivers, aunts, teachers, coaches, neighbors, and friends—those who step into mothering roles when needed, offering compassion and support.

And we do not forget the mothers who are weary.

Those in the thick of raising young children, balancing responsibilities, facing challenges behind closed doors. Your work matters. Your love matters. Even on the hardest days, you are shaping lives in ways that ripple far beyond what you can see.

Motherhood, in all its forms, reflects something sacred. It mirrors a love that is patient, selfless, and enduring—a love

that gives without always receiving, that shows up again and again. It is a glimpse of God's care for us: constant, compassionate, and unwavering.

This Mother's Day, may we broaden our understanding and deepen our gratitude. May we see and honor every expression of mothering love around us. And may each person who nurtures, comforts, guides, and loves feel recognized and valued.

To all mothers — thank you. You are seen. You are appreciated. You are a blessing.

## About Us:

### Church Council:

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

### Staff:

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

### Contact Information

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# May

2026



	ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHER	COMMUNION
3	Becky McNeil	Jody Alford	T. M. Garner & Terri Watson	Lisa & John Rygiel
10	Julie Wersal	Mary McKenna	Mary McKenna & Cherie Holder	T.M. Garner & Terri Watson
17	Jo Moss	Coralie Lashbrook	Steve Hanson & Mark Moss	Carol Hanson & Jo Moss
24	Mike McNeil	Kathy Broman	Jody Alford & Cheryl Leef	Kathy Humphrey & Kathy Broman
31	Becky McNeil	DeWayne Harris	David Novey & John Rygiel	Julie Morris & Cherie Holder

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
						7 pm TMA Spring Concert @ FMC
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 am Worship 11:30 am First Sunday Potluck 2 pm TMA Spring Concert @ FMC	5:30 pm AA		10:30 am Book Club			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship & Council Mtg.	Noon PEO. 5:30 pm AA		10:30 am Book Club	12-1 pm Rotary		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	5:30 pm AA	Newsletter Deadline for June	10:30 am Book Club	12-1 pm Rotary		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	5:30 pm AA			12-1 pm Rotary	8:30 am 5-Loaves Prep	8:30 am 5-Loaves Deliveries
31						
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship <b>Zion's Campout at Trinidad Lake</b>						

## Birthday Wishes

2 — Jennifer Erickson  
 13 — DeWayne Harris  
 17 — Ruthie Culpepper  
 26 — Ezekiel Jones

5 — Linda Theige  
 13 — Steve Karspeck  
 21 — Jan Ratliff

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

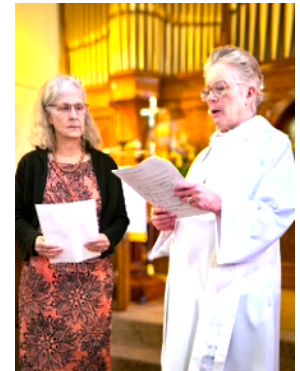
❖ We are grateful to **Jeff Morris** for his excellent work cleaning the Fellowship Hall Carpet. Watch in the days ahead as the church council continues work to replace or upgrade the carpet.



❖ Thank you to **John Rygiel** and **Terri Watson** for their work to repair and upgrade the handrails along the sidewalks between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. The walkways are safer and we now are in compliance with the insurance requirements.

❖ We've updated locks on some of our doors, if you have a "green" key, it no longer works. If you need for a replacement, please let **Julie Wersal** know.

❖ The Trinidad Music Association will present its Spring concert at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, at First Methodist Church with an encore presentation at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 3.



❖ Zion's on Easter Sunday welcomed **Coralie Lashbrook** as the newest member of our congregation. Also, Easter Sunday, we were blessed by **Keilley O'Hara** who shared her musical talents with an offertory harp solo. (Photos at right.)

❖ As summer approaches, Zion's is looking at summer activities. Our campout is planned for May 31 to June 3 at Trinidad Lake (see page 7). In addition, we may build upon the popular soup suppers with monthly summer dinners and activities. If you are interested or have a suggestion of your own, talk to a church council member or **Pr. Lisa**.

❖ Friday evening Yoga is on hiatus for the summer. Zion's received a nice thank you note from the winter yoga class (see photo at left). The card is posted on the bulletin board at the Fellowship Hall entrance.

❖ Children's Choir also is on summer hiatus.



**Acknowledgements:** Contributors — Melanie Moss, Pr. Lisa Rygiel, Mary McKenna, JoAnn Karspeck, Terri Watson, Norine Hazen, RMS, ELCA.

Photos/Images — Jo Moss, Melanie Moss, William Schweikhard, Julie Wersal, John Rygiel, ELCA, RMS, Google Images.

Editorial Team — Jo Moss, Mark Moss, Julie Morris, Erin Ogletree

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## Rocky Mountain Synod

### **Zion's Delegates Challenged and Encouraged at Synod Assembly**

By Pastor Lisa Rygiel & Terri Watson



Pastor Lisa Rygiel and Terri Watson attended the 2026 ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly and what a wonderful experience! The assembly was hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church of Cherry Hill Village (a suburb of Denver). The facility was lovely and there were more than 150 Lutheran churches in the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod represented.

The keynote speaker was Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, associate professor of leadership and formation of Iliff Seminary (whose resume took 10 minutes for the Bishop to read). Lizardy-Hajbi spoke about church vitality and understanding and evaluating your church's vocation. She challenged us to evaluate our congregations based on the following factors:

1. Why was your church founded? How has its purpose/vocation changed over time?
2. What about our church's history continues into the present? Who participates in your church? What gifts/skills/capacities have they added to your congregation?
3. What is the community like that surrounds your church/region? What needs are present there?
4. How does your own vocational calling align with your church's vocational calling?

In addition to the keynote speaker, there were multiple, intriguing-sounding workshops to choose from, unfortunately, there was only time in the schedule to attend two. Pr. Lisa and Terri did a divide and conquer approach. Terri attended Camp Ministry and ELCA Church Property Resource Hub sessions. The latter was designed to provide faithful, practical strategies for church property stewardship which Terri found to be very interesting. Terri later said that when it came time for the workshop to end, the group wasn't ready to do so, as the conversation was dynamic and productive.

Pastor Lisa attended a workshop on De-escalation, which provided practical strategies for safe, more hospitable ministry practices. She also attended a Communication Workshop designed to provide practical communication tools and stronger storytelling strategies.

In addition to the keynote speakers and workshops, Bishop Megan presented her report, new synod council members were elected, and booths represented a variety of ELCA organizations such as World Hunger, Lutheran Family Services, Global Refuge, New Beginnings, camps, and seminaries.

The overall experience was excellent, and Pr. Lisa and Terri appreciate the congregation and council for allowing them to attend.

## **5-Loaves Meal Requests Result in More Delivery Routes**

As more people feel the pinch of higher prices and benefit cuts, requests for 5-Loaves monthly meals is increasing. Since Thanksgiving, those requests have increased about 15 percent. As a result the eight delivery routes we've used for years are no longer adequate.

During the summer, we will be adjusting routes to ensure that each route is manageable for our volunteers to provide meals in a timely and courteous manner. This likely will mean the addition of two new routes. With 10 routes, instead of eight, we will need additional volunteers to support meal deliveries. Prayerfully consider helping with future 5-Loaves delivery assistance for the last Saturday of each month.



## Centering on Worship: The Gathering

*Last month we looked at the four parts of our Sunday worship, the Ordo. We now look at each of those parts.*

Worship is an opportunity for us to *gather* around the means of grace, which is the first part of the “ordo” reflected in the italicized headings of our Sunday bulletins – Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending.

~Gathering~

The Holy Spirit calls us together  
as the people of God.

Through the Gathering, God calls us together through the Holy Spirit to form a community of diverse individuals – physically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally. *As we do so, we form a community that is fulfilling and different each time we meet. Pr. Lisa often reminds us that sometimes worship (just like faith) can be messy.*

However, we still gather through the Holy Spirit; bringing our commonalities and our differences. And while our differences are not erased, for a while, we experience a foretaste of the future that God has prepared for us by simply bringing us together.

As part of our worship service, the Gathering technically is outside of the formal worship service. Instead, it reminds us that we are all first and foremost, sinners, that we are a broken community; we are not perfect and that is why we are here. A Lenten series Zion’s used in 2021 and

2022 invited us into a “Threshold” moment where we prepare ourselves for the word and the meal that awaits us later in the liturgy once we have gathered to cross the threshold.

Thus our “Gathering” allows us to offer prayers and supplications asking for God to have mercy on us. We do this through the Confession and reinforce it with the Kyrie – Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

We then praise God in our opening hymn, in our Thanksgiving for Baptism, and/or the Cantic of Praise. The gathering portion of worship concludes with the prayer of the day, led by the presiding minister, as a way of unifying us.

Sometimes the prayer of the day is referred to as a Collect as it is a prayer that collects us before God and turns us towards the scripture readings we are about to hear, which we will explore in the next section of the ordo – Word.



### Movie & Discussion Brings Congregations Together

During the month of April, members of the First Methodist and Zion’s Lutheran families came together to view the documentary movie *Bad Faith* at First Methodist Church. Then on April 30, a small group braved an unexpected rain and snow storm to gather at Zion’s to talk about the movie and its implications in days and years to come. We are grateful to Pastors Lisa Jo Benner, Jan Everhart, and Lisa Rygiel, for spearheading this. The move is available to watch on Amazon Prime and on Tubi. And, if you want to continue the discussions or have questions, reach out to one of the pastors.

## Zion's Campout is at Lake Trinidad

Zion's campout/picnic is a time of fellowship, relaxation, and fun. This year's campout is at Trinidad Lake, using the Piedmont group camping shelter and surrounding campsites, that we have enjoyed in the past. Be sure to have a park pass, all other camping and picnic use fees are covered by Zion's. For directions, see map.

As in prior years, participants may join the fun at any time during the event. Some people spend the day enjoying a picnic and fellowship while others prefer to spend a day or more camping.

The Piedmont camping shelter is well suited for our needs. It can seat 60 in the main shelter where there is a fireplace, water, electricity, and a large grill. In addition, 10 tent sites and three RV sites with 50-amp electrical hook-up also are available. Additional RV spots are adjacent to the group site.

Plan to bring food, camping and recreational supplies, favorite outdoor games, as well as cards, dominoes, and other activities for the evening. *Be aware that due to ongoing drought and wildfire dangers, burn bans may be in place, which will limit outdoor cooking and evening campfire..*



## Sharing Our Recipes: Fruit Salad

From JoAnn Karspeck

Editor's Note: JoAnn's recipe has been potluck and luncheon favorite at Zion's for years.

We are grateful to her for sharing it with us this month.

### Ingredients

- 1 Large Can Peach Slices
  - 1 Large Can Fruit Cocktail
  - 1 Can Mandarin Oranges
  - 1 Can Pineapple Tidbits
- Drain, reserve juices. Combine fruits in a bowl.

### Directions

- Sprinkle 1 Large Box Instant Vanilla pudding over drained fruit.
- Add small amount of fruit juice and mix well. Add more juice as desired to make creamy, but not runny. Chill.

### Notes

- Sometimes I add a small box of the pudding, along with the larger one.
- I also like to chill the cans of fruit prior to preparing.



# Council Updates: April

## Zion's Lutheran Church Council

### Members present

The regular meeting of the Zion's church council was brought to order at 11:40 a.m. All members were present. Opening prayer presented by Pr. Lisa. Council then discussed taking turns presenting opening prayer. Stephen Hanson offered the idea of council members sharing prayer responsibilities in the hope of bringing more opportunities to learn and grow as leaders. Council members agreed to alternate prayer responsibilities:

- Stephen Hanson – May
- Mary McKenna – June
- Mark Moss – July
- Mike McNeil – August
- Julie Morris – September
- Julie Wersal – October
- Terri Watson – November
- Norine Hazen – December
- Pastor Lisa – January

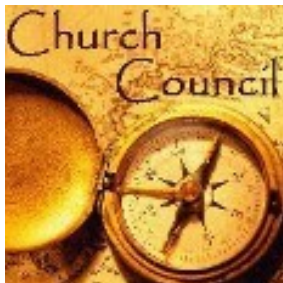
Discussion regarding carpeting was moved to the start of the meeting to accommodate John Rygiel's presentation, which included a detailed description of carpet options, noting pros and cons of each. Council reviewed estimated costs, lifespan, noise control, maintenance burden, etc. Julie Wersal made a motion to install "Option B" — commercial LVT. Norine Hazen, seconded the motion and council approved unanimously.

### Reports

#### **Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Trust**

**Fund** — All reports reviewed and approved. Including payment of bills.

Financial Secretary also reported that the last two 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offerings benefited the soup kitchen for a total of \$888 and \$550 respectively.



**Food Ministry** — In March 5-Loaves fed 282 people. Safeway has been helping distribute bags to unhoused as the road around the Soup Kitchen is still under construction and closed.

**Pastor** — Coralie Lashbrook joined Zion's Lutheran on Easter Sunday.

Worship and Music have planned worship through Pentecost, June 7. The book club continues with good attendance and response to the series. Pastor will look for the next series.

The next meeting of the Trinidad Ministerial Alliance will be at noon on Aug. 7 at Almack's.

Our follow-up discussion of the movie "Bad Faith" with our Methodist Siblings will be at 6 p.m. on April 30 at Zion's Fellowship Hall.

Terri Watson will join Pastor Lisa at the Synod Assembly in Colorado Springs April 23-25.

July 5 absence will require a pastor fill. Stephen Hanson will step in during Pastor Lisa's absence.

Best of Trinidad is voting for best church in 2026.

### Old Business

- A. Work group to complete council handbook will add Julie Morris to help edit and refine.
- B. Camping is planned at Trinidad Lake May 31-to June 3. Overnight and day camping is planned.

### New Business

- A. Lawn care for 2026 was discussed. Our current person has not been as reliable as needed. Julie Wersal made a motion to change the vendor. Stephen Hanson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

- B. Zion's received a request to use a PA system for the *No King* march. Zion's does not have a remote one. Mike followed up with requestor.

The Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

-Submitted by Council Secretary Mary McKenna