

Connections



Our Fathers

By Stephen Hanson

My father died when I was five. He was just 30 at the time, a Lutheran pastor and theologian, a deep thinker, and a man who sought to understand life's mysteries. And then another one came into my life, a man of the soil who worked hard, and toiled in the dust. He loved us as his own and laid down his life as one might do.

He loved football and basketball, and he knew the scores from 60 years ago or even more. His mind was sharp, and wisdom was upon his brow. But the years wore on him towards the last, as breaths came slowly and with pain. But his laughter and jokes live on, and his words can still be heard at times. I spent many years working with him -- driving the truck for wheat harvest, as well as lifting heavy bales of hay. Yet greater still is the Father above, who formed me as I am. He showed me the path I have taken and walks there before me every day. Our earthly fathers are temporary, and their examples teach us many things. But the one above lives on within us and leads us ever onward.

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Zion's Worship

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



Summer Suppers

Join us the second Wednesday of each month this summer for food and fellowship. This month, that's June 10.

5-Loaves

Our food ministry delivers meals to the community the last Saturday of each month. That's June 26 & 27 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!



Pride Sunday

Zion's will celebrate Pride Sunday on June 7 with worship at 10 a.m., followed by a special First Sunday Potluck in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

Our Fathers...

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I've compiled many of my birth father's sermons into a book.

We lived in Fargo, Grand Forks, and the villages of Comstock and Wolverton in Minnesota.

After my father's death, mom stood up in front of the church he had pastored, and said she was taking us three young children back to where she had spent her college years at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas



THE STORYTELLER

(From my book of poems for my other father – 12/30/15.)

He always sat at the table across from me, and smiled as he gazed, and looked on in deep thought.

There never came a time when a tale was not near, or a joke that was uttered. We always knew when it was time for the next to be said. For they came in between salad and coffee, and toasted rye bread.

They came in deep grins, and smiles abounded. And the Swedes were quite proud of their wit and their humor.

There was Sven and Ole, and others that rhymed. There were Lutherans and Dutchmen, all about to be told.

He was a man of the field, of the farm, and the corn. He had lived many seasons tilling the land. He'd drink his coffee and then smile, for another one was near. The next one would come, unannounced with just a tear.

For sorrow and laughter are woven into one, for the words from his lips had wit and wisdom both. But folly was trite, and was forsaken, for good sense instead.

The food has all been eaten now, and he's been gone now for years. But I still see him and hear him in dreams and through tears.

A man of the soil, a father to us. He loved football and basketball, and Jesus as well. But politics had irked him and caused him to frown. For honesty and patience, the best of the virtues, were etched on his brow.

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

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June 2026



	ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHER	COMMUNION
7	Jo Moss	Carol Hanson	Steve Hanson & Mark Moss	Carol Hanson & Jo Moss
14	Becky McNeil	Coralie Lashbrook	T.M. Garner & Terri Watson	Mary McKenna & Julie Wersal
21	Mike McNeil	Tracy Wahl	John Rygiel & David Novey	T.M. Garner & Terri Watson
28	Julie Wersal	Cheryl Leef	Jody Alford & Cheryl Leef	Lisa & John Rygiel

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
			10:30 am Book Club	12-1 pm Rotary		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10 am Pride Sunday Worship 11:30 am First Sunday Potluck	5:30 pm AA		10:30 am Book Club 5:30 pm Summer Supper & Fellowship			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship & Council Mtg.	Noon PEO 5:30 pm AA		10:30 am Book Club	12-1 pm Rotary		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	5:30 pm AA	Newsletter Deadline for July	10:30 am Book Club		8:30 am 5-Loaves Prep	8:30 am 5-Loaves Deliveries
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	5:30 pm AA					

Birthday Wishes

2—Sean Reilley

3 — Mark Moss

4 — Connie Hass

4 — Connie Pallone

7 — Chloe Ellingham

7 — Maia Ellingham

8 — Jennifer Wood

10 — Jeane Nordine

14 — Carol Schulzkump

15 — Suzanne Lintner

17 — Joni Jones

18 — Bailee Jones

21 — Vicki Rienks

22 — Tracy Wahl

What's Happening in Zion's Lutheran Family?

- ❖ Congratulations to **Cheryl Leef** (photo at right) for placing second in the Corazon Gallery's DeColores Show in May. Her winning entry was *Fisher's Peak Sunset*. This year's show judges included **Jody Alford's** husband **Rich**, who also is an artist.
- ❖ Thank you to **Julie Morris** for sharing the bounties of her garden by giving tomato plants to all who were interested. We look forward to fresh tomatoes this summer.
- ❖ **Camp Out Change of Plans:** Due to high wildfire risk and related restrictions, weather, and schedule conflicts among people who wanted to attend but are unable to do so, we have postponed the upcoming campout.
- ❖ On Sunday, July 5, we will celebrate worship with a Service of the Word. **Steve Hanson** will lead the worship and provide the message, as **Pr. Lisa & John Rygiel** will be on vacation. The Service of the Word derives its pattern from the service of Holy Communion; however, the Eucharist is not shared at this service. It is a service that Zion's periodically uses.
- ❖ We are updating the prayer list. Please review and if you want the person to remain on the list, let **Pr. Lisa** or **Jo Moss** know. If you have someone who can now be removed from the list or where their information needs to be updated or corrected, let us know.



- ❖ Trinidad Triggers baseball season is underway, with the team's home opener on Monday, June 1 at the Central Park ballpark. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and the first pitch is at 6:35 p.m. against the Alpine Cowboys. **T.M. Garner** is hosting seven of the players this year at her house. With all of those extra mouths to feed, T.M. says, "If anybody is interested in bringing over casseroles or soups or things like that from time to time, I'm sure they would appreciate it."
- ❖ Trinidad Rotary again is taking orders for Palisade Peaches at a cost of \$50 per 20-pound box (the same price as last year). This year the crop is early so the deadline to order peaches is July 15, with delivery expected on July 29.

Acknowledgements: [Contributors](#) — Steve Hanson, Pr. Lisa Rygiel, Julie Wersal, Mary McKenna, T.M. Garner, Erin Ogletree, RIC, [Photos/Images](#) — Jo Moss, Erin Ogletree, ELCA, RIC, Corazon Gallery, Google Images. [Editorial Team](#) — Jo Moss, Mark Moss, Julie Morris, Erin Ogletree

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Zion's Summer Events

We Refresh Our Resistance this Pride Season

June is **Pride** month, and Zion's begins the observance with a **Pride** worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 7, which will be followed by our First Sunday Potluck and special Pride celebration. This event allows us to reflect upon how far we have come in difficult times while reminding ourselves that we need to keep moving toward the goal of true inclusion. As a Reconciling in Christ faith community, we are the living embodiment of hope for LGBTQIA+ full inclusion and equity.

We are living in a time when our society is less affirming and inclusive of those who are most in need. As such, we are called to respond with intention, faith, and love. When we work together for justice then both communities and their people are stronger. This Pride season, we step forward — as allies, collaborators, and co-conspirators in the Gospel — to boldly proclaim God's inclusive love for all. The RIC Pride month theme invites us into a fuller, more faithful expression of resistance — one that is grounded not only in action, but also in spirit:

- ❖ **Lament** for the harm and injustice that persist
- ❖ **Foundation** in the enduring truth of God's expansive love
- ❖ **Joy** that celebrates the beauty and gifts of LGBTQIA+ lives
- ❖ **Courage** to continue showing up, speaking out, and building a more just church and world



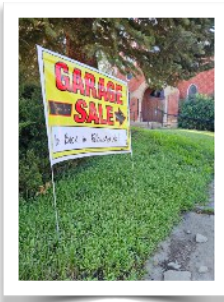
We need all of these elements in our lives and in our worship. Together, they shape a resistance that is not only responsive, but also is deeply rooted, life-giving, and transformative.

A Time of Fellowship & Fun — Summer Supper Gatherings

At 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each summer month, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for food and fun. The dates are June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, and Sept. 9. The first gathering will be Wednesday, June 10, with hot dogs and ham sandwiches as the main course with coleslaw, dessert, and other side dishes. Activities will include Pictionary, cards, and dominoes. If you are willing to help with the June meal, we need condiments, bread, buns, and chips. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for food and activities. If you can help, sign up and/or let Jo Moss or Julie Wersal know.

Zion's Annual Garage Sale is Slated for Aug. 1

This year's garage sale will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1. If you are able to volunteer time and items to the sale, your generosity will be appreciated. Donations can be brought for the sale beginning Friday, July 24. We can accept most items; however, we **cannot** take electronic items, including computers, and we do not accept clothing. If dropping off items the week before the sale, stack them on the stage or along the wall on the left side of the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers also are needed before the sale to help with set up and organizing. Help also is needed on sale day to manage the sale as well as assistance with clean up afterward as we need to be ready for worship and the First Sunday Potluck on Aug. 2. This is a fund raiser to support the ongoing ministry of Zion's as well as for capital improvements. If you have questions, or can help with the sale, or need access to the Fellowship hall to drop off items, please let Julie Wersal know.



Centering on Worship: As God Speaks to Us

This month we continue to look at the four parts of our Sunday worship, the Ordo (the italicized heading of our Sunday bulletins). In May we looked at "Gather", now we study the "Word".



~Word~

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

As Lutherans, we believe that within the Ordo, the Word is one way that God speaks to us. Within this section of worship are scripture readings, preaching, prayers, and song. For Martin Luther everything depends upon the Bible; hearing, using, and preaching it as the living voice of the gospel, also known as *viva vox evangelii*.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer noted that the Word, is qualified by being the very word of Christ; it is effectively brought to the heart of the hearers by the Spirit.

Typically, in the *Word* section, there are four lessons read from the scripture. The first is usually from the Old Testament and tends to follow a theme similar to that of the gospel, the second is a Psalm that we usually read responsively, the third is taken from an Epistle or Letter, and then the final reading comes from the Gospel.

After the reading of the second lesson, the congregation stands to greet the Gospel. We believe that God is present when we read God's word aloud and so we welcome God's presence through singing the Gospel Acclamation using

such words as, "Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!" After this, the presiding minister announces and read the Gospel. The Word not only is written and read, it also is preached, sung and prayed. Preaching at its roots is teaching, but it is more than that. The sacramental aspect of the Word – as a means of grace – underlies this teaching. Faith comes by the preaching of the Gospel, and preaching is an inherently social event. Thus, the effect of the preached Word as the primary means of grace is not individualism but community. Faith does not arise spontaneously in one's soul, but in the covenantal gathering of fellow hearers.

After the sermon, the hymn of the day is intended to bring home the points of the sermon and further proclaim the Gospel.

The affirmation of faith follows the hymn and usually is represented in the words of the Apostles', Nicene, or Athanasian Creed. The choice of the creed usually is based upon the church year, the season or Sunday being celebrated, and the leadings of the scripture messages. The creed again gives worshipers the opportunity to experience grace through community.

In the ELCA, "Prayers of the People" (or Prayers of Intercession) are a core part of Sunday worship. They follow a rhythmic, four-part structure: praying for the church, the creation, the nations, and those in need.

Because these prayers are intended to be relevant to current events and local communities, congregations often adapt the prayer templated using liturgy guidance and resources available through the ELCA.

The final element in the *Word* section of the Ordo is sharing the peace, which expresses the profound commitment that our relationship with God is deeply entwined with our relationships with one another.

Sharing *God's* peace with one another allows us to be reconciled and at peace with one another before receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion, which is the next part of the Ordo, known as the *Meal*. We will look at that section next month.

Sharing Our Recipes: Rocky Mountain High Altitude Chocolate Chip Cookies

From Erin Ogletree

I have made cookies, and especially chocolate chip cookies, for as long as I can remember. I had a *go-to* recipe that usually turned out well. The cookies were both crunchy and chewy as well as delicious. However, when I first moved to Colorado, my old recipe did not work and my cookies came out flat and greasy. I wondered if moving here was a mistake. I did some research and figured out I needed to add some flour and water, and then I developed this recipe after trying out several others designed for high altitude baking. I hope it works for you!

Ingredients

- 1 Cup butter, softened to room temperature
- 2/3 Cup brown sugar
- 1/3 Cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 Cups plus 2 Tablespoons all purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1-2 Tablespoons water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 Cups chocolate chips (I use one cup of milk chocolate & one of semi-sweet)



Directions

- Cream together (in mixer or by hand) the butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar. Then mix the egg into the creamed butter and sugar.
- Put the flour, salt, and baking soda into a separate bowl and whisk it together. Then add these dry ingredients to the above mixture. Do not over mix the dough once the flour is incorporated.
- Now, add the water and vanilla and briefly blend them into the dough.
- Finally, add the chocolate chips, mixing until they are uniformly incorporated into the dough.
- Use a muffin scoop to create balls of cookie dough and put them on a parchment-covered cookie sheet. Leave at least two inches between each cookie.
- Bake for about 9-10 minutes at 350 degrees. I remove them from the oven when the edges look like they are golden brown and the middle is not cooked through. (If you like well-done cookies, keep them in the oven for a few more minutes.)

Notes

When cookies are done, I leave them on the pan for about a minute before placing them on a cooling rack. I store them in cookie tins with waxed paper or parchment paper between layers of cookies, and then keep them in the freezer if they will not be eaten immediately. Besides, they taste even better when frozen. (And, oh yeah, sometimes I put a little bit of flaky sea salt on top when they are fresh out of the oven, just to balance the sweet.)

As Julia Child said, "Bon appetit!"

Council Updates: May

Zion's Lutheran Church Council

Members present

The regular meeting of the Zion's church council was brought to order at 11:37 a.m. by Mark Moss. Mike McNeil and Julie Morris were absent.

Opening prayer by Stephen Hanson. Mary McKenna will present the June invocation.

Reports

Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Trust Fund — All reports reviewed and approved. Including payment of bills.

There was no need to pull from the trust this past month, though that will be re-evaluated in coming months as the council considers "balanced billing" for utilities. Monthly utility bills average \$771.

The council also is reviewing the financial histories of donations.

Food Ministry — In April, the 5-Loaves program fed 288 people. More drivers are needed as our numbers of requested meals is growing. The feeding program also needs a hand dolly for moving the increased quantity of supplies. Canned goods increase weight significantly so decent boxes are needed.

Pastor — The baptism of Sophie LaLonde was postponed at the request of family.

Worship and Music committee is continuing planning worship services for the summer.

Adult learning continues Wednesdays with the series "What if Jesus was Serious". The next series will be "What if Jesus was Serious about Prayer".

Pastor Lisa & Terri Watson attended the Synod Assembly and a review of the event was included in the May Newsletter.

The Council agreed to share our 5th Sunday offering with the Lutheran World Hunger and Disaster Relief.

Stephen Hanson will preside at worship on July 5 while Pastor Lisa is out of town.

Council also discussed need for a cleanup day for the church yard and Fellowship Hall.

Old Business

- A. The annual Garage Sale will be Aug. 1
- B. A commercial grade flooring was selected for the Fellowship Hall. Council will follow up with costs and contractor options before presenting the overall project to the congregation.
- C. Council reviewed capital improvement needs, including painting of sanctuary exterior, front door repairs to be compliant with fire code, safety and insurance.

New Business

- A. RIC and Pride activities were discussed. June 7 was identified as Pride Worship Sunday with special fellowship to follow. Safety protocols also were discussed.
- B. Council opted not to participate in Santa Fe Trail Days due to limited impact at the 2025 event. Council noted that Zion's member involvement in Trinidad activities such as theatre, music, civic organizations, education, etc. seem to be our core abilities for demonstrating Zion's work in our community.
- C. Aug. 30 will be our "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday. The council still needs to determine goals and other details.
- D. The 2nd Wednesday of each month during the summer will be a simple summer meal and include activities in which all can participate. A sign-up sheet for food and activities is in the Fellowship Hall.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

-Submitted by Council Secretary Mary McKenna

