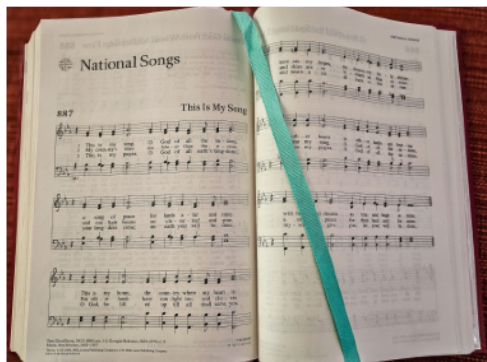


Connections

A Reconciling in Christ Community



This is My Song

By the Rev. Dr. Becky McNeil

When I was three our family walked to see the Fourth of July fireworks at Fontenelle Park. By the time the display reached its grand finale - "blowing up" the island in the middle of the park lagoon, lightning was adding to the aerial display.

When we got home, Daddy opened the garage door, closed it again, and all four of us stripped out of our dripping clothes on our way to dry towels, pjs, and ultimately, bed.

When I was 13, a whole group of us from our new neighborhood, made the longer trek by foot to Fontenelle Park for the 4th. I remember it because I tried to paint my blonde hair red, white, and blue and my Maybelline eye shadow was done with the faintest hint of those colors.

When I was 16, our family accompanied Dad to a pediatric convention in Philadelphia during the Bicentennial celebration. I remember seeing the Liberty Bell and feeling proud of our nation. Mine was a naïve patriotism. I was a good girl, a good Girl Scout, a good Christian, a good American. I pledged allegiance to the flag at school, at scouts, at Grandma's Vacation Bible School.

Then came college, and a semester in Sweden, travels through the Soviet Union and Europe, courses on the Holocaust and theology.

Continued on Page 2

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 July 8.

5-Loaves

Our food ministry delivers meals to the community the last Saturday of each month. That's July 24 & 25 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 Annual Garage Sale

Our garage sale will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1. Sale items and volunteers are needed. More details can be found on page 5. If you have questions, talk to Julie Wersal.



My Song...

Continued from Page 1

After that was Seminary and language school in France with Christians from many countries together in a tiny village that saved the lives of thousands of Jews during the Nazi control of France. From

there was Zaire and time with Christians different than I, and conversations about what it means to pledge one's allegiance to a nation when one has already given one's life to following Jesus.

Somewhere along the line, I understood that I cannot pledge allegiance to a nation, when I've pledged allegiance to one who taught us that everyone, everywhere, throughout all time is our neighbor.

Nations go to war. Nations seek their own good over that of their neighbors. Nations are wrong as often as they're right -- our own nation included. Those who think ours is a Christian nation and those who think it should be, haven't read Jesus' teachings carefully.

I read a quote from a leader in my Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) tradition who served a term in his state's legislature. As I remember it, when he was asked to serve another term, he declined, saying in effect, "I have come to believe one can be a good Christian, and one can be a good statesman, but one cannot be both at the same time."

Martin Luther wrote extensively of the separate realms of nation and of church nearly 500 years ago. In rejection of "Christian" nationalism of the Protestant churches in Nazi Germany 75 years ago, theologians and church leaders wrote the Barmen Declaration against it, reminding the church and Germany's Christians that God's gift of grace is for all people without preconditions and exclusions.

"All people" means all people. Lutheran scholar, Michael T. Grozonka writing in the Journal of Lutheran Ethics says, "This truth exposes that fundamental flaw of "Christian nationalism" where it attaches Christianity to peoples of a particular

nationality. But there are no national versions of Christian belief; there is single Christianity for all humankind." ("Ninety years Barmen Declaration of Faith (1934)").

I won't be wearing red, white, and blue this year for our nation's 250th birthday. I'll wear something black, as I have for the past year because I am grieving the death of decency and democracy in our nation. Seeing news reports of people dancing with glee at the opening of "Alligator Alcatraz" broke my heart. It is blasphemy when politicians and church leaders climb into the same bed, create a war department, separate families seeking safety, demote people of color, trans people, and women, kill peaceful protesters, assassinate boaters on open waters, strike school girls dead with drones, and stage cage fights on the White House lawn all while wearing crosses around their necks, or on their ties, or tattooed on their bodies.

We've fallen far from "liberty and justice for all" and even further from "what you do to the least of these, you do unto me." Christian nationalism sings, "I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free" without the least thought for those who are not free. I'll not be waving a flag, nor singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee." This year, as in years past, I'll be singing Lloyd Stone and Georgia Harkness's glorious hymn, "This is my Song." Maybe, it's your song, too.

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.

This is my home, the country where my heart is, here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine; But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.

O hear my song, thou God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Ruler of all nations: let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done.

In peace may all earth's people draw together, and hearts united learn to live as one.

O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations; myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

July

2026



	ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHER	COMMUNION
5	Jo Moss	Mary McKenna	Mary McKenna & Mark Moss	N/A
12	Julie Wersal	Becky McNeil	John Rygiel & Terri Watson	Mary McKenna & Julie Wersal
19	Mike McNeil	DeWayne Harris	Steve Hanson & Mark Moss	T.M. Garner & Terri Watson
26	Jo Moss	Richard Stewart	T.M. Garner & Julie Wersal	Lisa & John Rygiel

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
				12-1 pm Rotary		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10 am Service of the Word Worship 11:30 am First Sunday Potluck	5:30 pm AA	5:30-7 pm Dementia Support Group	10:30 am Book Club 5:30 pm Summer Supper & Fellowship			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship & Council Mtg.	5:30 pm AA		10:30 am Book Club	12-1 pm Rotary		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	5:30 pm AA	Newsletter Deadline for July	10:30 am Book Club	12-1 pm Rotary	8:30 am 5-Loaves Prep	8:30 am 5-Loaves Deliveries
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship <i>Garage Sale Preparation</i>	5:30 pm AA					

Birthday Wishes

9 —Richard Stewart

24 —Kathy Humphrey

29 — Ena Sroat

What's Happening in Zion's Lutheran Family?



❖ Building upon the success and fellowship of our June get together (photo at left), the next Summer Supper is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8. Terri Watson will cook hamburgers. Dessert will be ice cream sundaes. Side dishes and condiments are needed. The evening activity will be an art project with **Steve & Carol Hanson**.

❖ The Dementia Support group meets from 5:30 to 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. Lead by **Amanda Korth**, this group is open to anyone dealing with dementia or supporting loved ones affected by it.

❖ God's Work Our Hands Sunday at Zion's will Aug. 30.

❖ For Sunday worship, we have printed both regular & large print bulletins, with large print being the most requested. To decrease costs and time, moving forward we will print only the large print. Regular print can be found on the Zion's website (zionsluth.org) to download or to follow along online.

❖ We are grateful to everyone who helped make the 2026 Zion's Pride Sunday meaningful and memorable as we celebrated with worship, decor, a potluck luncheon, and ice cream social. See photos at right.

❖ We continue to update the prayer list. Please take time to review changes and request updates. If someone inadvertently was removed from the list and needs to remain there, please let **Pr. Lisa** or **Jo Moss** know. Also please let us know if we need to correct a name spelling or other basic information.



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

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



It's Garage Sale Time

Volunteers & Donations Needed: Will You Help?



It's Garage Sale time! Beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1, the Fellowship Hall will be transformed into garage sale central with furniture, household items, glassware, tools, antiques and collectibles, toys, games, baby items, jewelry, and more. Plan to join us to shop and support this annual fund raiser.

We need volunteers to help with preparations and sales. We also need help with clean up so that we can be ready for worship and potluck on Sunday. If you can help, let Julie Wersal know. Help particularly is needed on

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday before the sale to organize and price items. Volunteers also are needed on sales day --please wear your yellow *God's Work Our Hands* shirts as we did last year (see photo above).

Donations for the sale are welcomed and can be dropped off during July by coordinating with Julie Wersal. Donations can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall beginning Saturday, July 25 (after 5-Loaves deliveries are completed). Please place items on the stage and/or the north side of the Fellowship Hall. If you need assistance unloading or need access to the Fellowship Hall to drop off items, let Julie Wersal or Jo Moss know.

Remember there Zion's cannot accept certain things, including: food, broken items, electronics and computer items, anything containing lithium batteries, or clothing.

This fund raiser supports ongoing ministries of Zion's and with capital improvements.



Lutheran World Relief Focus on Aid to Venezuela

For more than 80 years, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has responded to disasters worldwide, delivering emergency aid, supporting recovery and helping communities build future resilience. LWR currently is supporting emergency response in Venezuela in the wake of twin earthquakes on June 24.

As the scope of the disaster becomes increasingly apparent, humanitarian needs include emergency medical care, shelter, safe water, food, psychosocial support, and assistance for displaced families. The earthquakes struck a country already facing significant humanitarian challenges, including widespread poverty, economic instability, and strained public services.



LWR needs financial support for this vital work. Financial gifts enable Lutheran World Relief to respond quickly as needs evolve and directs assistance where it is needed most. To support earthquake relief efforts donate at lwr.org/Venezuela.

Centering on Worship: Thanksgiving & the Meal

We continue to look at the four parts of Sunday worship, the Ordo (the italicized heading of our Sunday bulletins). We looked at "Gathering" & "Word", now we study the "Meal"...

~Meal~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The "meal" begins with offering our gifts in thanksgiving for our abundance. Through the offering, we give a small portion of our blessings to support the missions of God, through the church. The offering includes the collection of our gifts and the offertory hymn, where we raise our voices in thanksgiving. We formalize our gifts as the offering is brought forward and blessed by the pastor.

Next is Holy Communion. Sharing this meal can be compared to Thanksgiving dinner, when we celebrate those things for which we are grateful. When we break bread together, we also receive "spiritual nutrients" to carry out the mission of the Gospel.

We stand for the communion liturgy beginning with the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving. We focus on our gratitude for all that God has given us:

*The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.***

*Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.***

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ...

Following the dialog, we sing the Holy, Holy, which can be considered the climax of our worship liturgy. Its first part is from Isaiah 6; the prophet sees a vision of angels bowing before God and singing "Holy, Holy, Holy." The second part

represents the gospel accounts of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem when people shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." This reminds us that we are blessed because of the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

As with other Lutheran congregations, the Zion's communion liturgy changes during the church year to reflect seasonal themes (Advent, Lent, Easter) or for traditions or observations (Pride Sunday, RIC, GWOH).

This flexibility is not unilateral for Zion's or the ELCA. Martin Luther established a precedent of retaining the historic structure of the Catholic Latin Mass while ensuring that Communion is understood as a gift of grace from God rather than a "sacrificial work" performed by the priest.

We see that the Eucharist remained rooted in the scriptural accounts of Christ's supper: Jesus "took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it..." Then, he "took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink." Jesus' command after each of these passages is a resounding one, "Do this for the remembrance of me," which is something that has been shared for centuries and is as powerful today as it was in the beginning.

Before coming forward to receive communion, we pray the Lord's prayer as a community.

At Zion's, we celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table where all are welcome. Congregants may come forward for the sacraments or may cross their arms for a blessing. Our bread is homemade and gluten free. Both wine and white grape juice are available

The meal concludes with the communion blessing and the Song of Thanksgiving (nunc dimittis), which recalls the words of Simeon as he held the baby Jesus and proclaimed the joy of the Christ child. At Zion's we traditionally sing, "Thank the Lord and sing his praise... with shouts of Thanksgiving, Alleluia..."

After receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion, we are ready for the Sending, which is the final part of the Ordo, that we will explore next month.



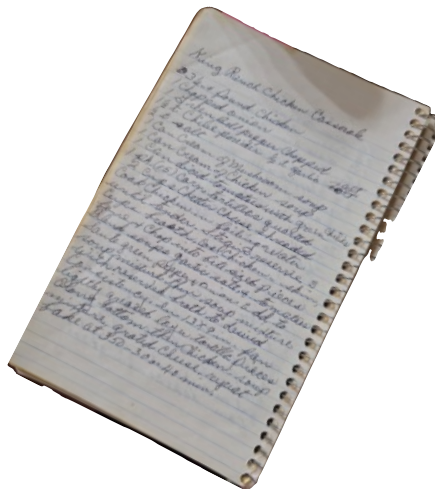
Sharing Our Recipes: King Ranch Casserole

From Tea Compton

I have the honor of being the keeper of my Grandma Moss' handwritten cookbook. It is filled with some of our favorite family recipes, along with happy memories of many family meals.

Ingredients

- 3 to 4 Pounds of Chicken
- 1 Onion (chopped)
- 1 Green Bell Pepper (chopped)
- 1-½ Teaspoons Chili Powder
- ½ Teaspoon Garlic Salt
- ½ Teaspoon Salt
- 1 Can Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1 Can Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 Can Diced Tomatoes with Green Chilies
- 2 Cups Cheddar Cheese (shredded)
- 1 Package of Corn Tortillas (approx. 15-20 torn into pieces)



Directions

- Cook chicken in boiling water until tender. Strain and reserve 3 Cups of broth.
- Cool chicken. Skin and debone. Chop chicken into bite-sized pieces.
- Blend soups, garlic salt, salt and tomatoes.
- Sauté green pepper and onion and add to soup mixture. Thin soup mixture with reserved broth to desired consistence.
- Lightly grease a 13x9 pan.
- Layer half of the pieces of corn tortillas on bottom of pan, then half of chicken and half of soup mixture. Top with grated cheese. Repeat layers, ending with cheese.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes.



Another Piece of Zion's History is on Display

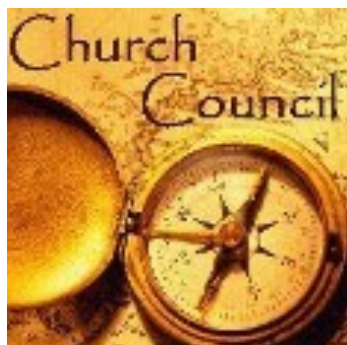
An addition to the Fellowship Hall is a blue "Lutheran Church" shield-sign now hanging inside the hall.

Believed to be from the 1950s, the shield represents a time in the life of Zion's before the ELCA came into being Jan. 1, 1988. The ELCA was a merger of three distinct Lutheran church bodies: the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC).

Zion's is filled with history, take time to look around to see what you can discover.

Council Updates: June

Zion's Lutheran Church Council



Members present

The regular meeting of the Zion's church council was brought to order at 11:32 a.m. by Mike McNeil. All members were present. Opening prayer by Mary McKenna.

- B. The next ministerial alliance meeting will be in August.
- C. Stephen Hanson will preach on July 5th as pastor is out of town. Pulpit fill will be needed for Oct. 11 memorial service for John Rygiel's sister requiring travel to Pennsylvania.
- D. Pastor Rygiel noted the need for updating of her contract.

Reports

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

- A. A transfer of funds between the trust and general accounts was required in May.
- B. The council agreed to establishing "balanced billing" for utilities.
- C. The 5th Sunday offering to World Hunger efforts of the ELCA was excellent, sending \$980.

Food Ministry — The June 5-Loaves menu was reviewed. There are 288 bags for our community delivery. Two, 25 lb. bags of flour and several gallon cans of pork and beans that were given to Zion's will be shared with the soup kitchen.

Pastor —

- A. Summer Supper went well with approximately 20 folks attending. Good food, fellowship and rousing Pictionary games were the highlights. The Hansons will provide art activities for the July 8 supper.

Old Business

- A. Logistics for Fellowship Hall flooring replacement was reviewed.
- B. Council identified other capital improvement projects that are needed, including:
 1. Furnace and grate cleaning in sanctuary – John R. and Terri Watson lead.
 2. The tree by garage and two others alongside the church will require removal. Mike will get the bid for this effort.
 3. Painting and stucco repairs
 4. Concrete path repairs
 5. Sanctuary window repairs due to rotting moulding.

New Business

- A. Council will seek bids for tree removal.
- B. Council decided that we will print worship bulletins in large print version only. This will reduce printing costs by eliminating the other version(s).

The Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

-Submitted by Council Secretary Mary McKenna

Acknowledgements: Contributors — Becky McNeil, Pr. Lisa Rygiel, Julie Wersal, Mary McKenna, Tea Compton.

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

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