

Connections

A Reconciling in Christ Community



Good Seeds & Weeds

By Julie Morris

I am a retired Public Health Nurse. I worked with doctors, nurses, epidemiologists, environmental health specialists, and disease investigation specialists. For 30 years, we quietly prevented diseases and treated patients to prevent the spread of illness to others.

We inspected health and food facilities and helped them to correct problems before anyone got sick. We investigated and interviewed clusters of food-borne illness patient to find the common item they all ate.

In those 30 years, we never saw a case of measles, though we investigated many rash illnesses looking for measles. My point is, when the public health system works, no one notices! No epidemics of "explosive diarrhea", no deaths and hospitalizations from Legionnaires Disease, and no dead kids from measles.

But, unlike the good seed infested with weeds, the public health "seed" has been replaced by weeds. Epidemics sweep across states with none of the proven measures or messages to stop them.

Anti-vaccine "advice" is causing new parents to refuse the Vitamin K shot for their newborns. As a result, babies are bleeding out from their belly buttons and having massive strokes.

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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 Aug. 12.

5-Loaves

Our food ministry delivers meals to the community the last Saturday of each month. That's Aug. 28 & 29 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 2. If you have questions, talk to Julie Wersal.

Seeds...

Continued from Page 1

Hospitals today are reopening the meningitis wards they closed when the HIB vaccine eliminated HIB disease.

And, measles, the most contagious disease known to humankind, continues to spread with hardly a word about the vaccine that prevents it. Do we have Ebola or Dengue Fever in the U.S.? Who knows! Is anyone doing surveillance to warn us if it's here? Don't know.

The weeds have taken over our field. It's up to the good seeds to try to save this harvest...and the next.

Zion's Annual Garage Sale is Aug. 1



It's Garage Sale time, and Zion's Fellowship Hall has been transformed into garage sale center.

Throughout the month of July members of the congregation and of the community have donated items for sale. In addition, a cadre of

volunteers gathered the week before the sale to move items from storage to the Fellowship Hall. We are grateful to Julie Wersal for again coordinating this monumental effort.



Funds from the sale help cover costs for Zion's ongoing ministries, including helping the Soup Kitchen replace one of its freezers.

The sale begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1, and features an assortment of furniture, household items, glassware, tools, antiques and collectibles, toys, games, linens, décor baby items, jewelry, and more.

We also will sell hotdogs, beverages, and snacks.

If you can help on sale day, volunteers are needed to help with final set up, work the sale area, and clean up. Clean up assistance is particularly important as we need to be ready for Sunday worship and our first Sunday potluck.

And, as usual, on Sunday there will be some good discounts on items remaining from the sale.

Whether donating, buying, volunteering, or just checking in, your support is welcomed and appreciated.

We do ask our volunteers to wear their yellow God's Work Our Hands shirts.

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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August

2026

	ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHER	COMMUNION
2	Julie Wersal	Charlotte Strecker-Baseler	John Rygiel & Terri Watson	T.M. Garner & Julie Morris
9	Jo Moss	Coralie Lashbrook	Steve Hanson & Mark Moss	Carol Hanson & Jo Moss
16	Mike McNeil	Cheryl Leef	Jody Alford & Cheryl Leef	Lisa & John Rygiel
23	Becky McNeil	Erin Ogletree	T.M. Garner & Tracy Wahl	Mary McKenna & Erin Ogletree
30	Steve Hanson	Carol Hanson	Mary McKenna & Jo Moss	Carol Hanson & Julie Morris

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

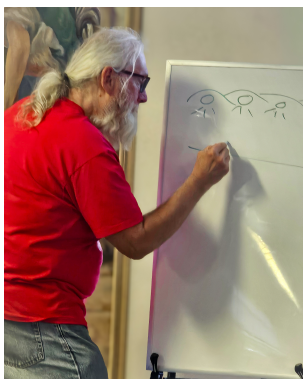
Birthday Wishes

6 —Melanie Moss

16 —Keilley O'Hara

24 — Diane Hagen

What's Happening in Zion's Lutheran Family?



John Strecker-Baseler demonstrates his Pictionary abilities at the Summer Supper.

- ❖ Special thanks again to **Carol & Steve Hanson** for leading the art activity at the July Summer Supper and to **Lisa Rygiel** for the art supplies. Also, thanks to **John & Lisa** for providing pizza, when unforeseen circumstances changed the menu. We will have hamburgers at our Summer Supper on Wednesday, Aug. 12. Also, with a game night and great music.
- ❖ Congratulations to **Tracy Wahl** who, in July, received the people's choice award at Corazon Gallery for a painting (photo at right) that she based upon a 1948 photo that her Grandma Jesse took at harvest time.
- ❖ Thank you to **Julia Gilreath**, **Becky McNeil's** long-time friend, for joining Becky as lead singer at worship July 12, making beautiful music together.
- ❖ Thank you to **Kathy Humphries** for providing our second sanctuary air conditioning unit.



- ❖ On July 18, Zion's was host to Boy Scout Troop 440 from Kinsman Lutheran Church in Houston (photo at right). The 12 scouts and their adult sponsors were returning from a campout at Yellowstone and stayed overnight in the Fellowship Hall. In exchange for the stay, they helped take down extra chairs and reset tables for Zion's fellowship on July 19.



- ❖ Outdoor changes: The pine tree behind the Fellowship Hall (near the garage) had to be removed. Also, the city and college made improvements to the property between the sanctuary and parking lot. The city repaired potholes, and the college removed a large juniper at the edge of the property, which had become a receptacle for trash and blocked clear view for drivers.
- ❖ Thank you to **Jeff Morris** for his excellent work to clean the Fellowship Hall carpet in preparation for the celebration of life for **Pr. Lisa's** mother **Carolyn Schatzman**, who passed away on July 9.
- ❖ God's Work Our Hands Sunday worship for Zion's will be in September, not August. Watch E-formation, the Zion's website, and the bulletins for more details. If you have suggestions for GWOH projects, please let **Pr. Lisa** or a church council member know.

Acknowledgements: Contributors — Julie Morris, Pr. Lisa Rygiel, Julie Wersal, Coralie Lashbrook, Mary McKenna, ACTS.

Photos/Images — Jo Moss, Pg. 1 image by rawpixel.com on Magnific, Tracy Wahl, Scout Troop 440, ELCA, RIC, Google Images.

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

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Congregational Meeting Aug. 2**Special Meeting will Consider Flooring Replacement for Fellowship Hall**

Zion's church council has called a special meeting for Sunday, Aug. 2, to authorize the council to withdraw money from the Zion's Lutheran's trust fund to pay for materials and labor to replace the Fellowship Hall's carpeting with skid-resistant commercial grade luxury vinyl plank flooring & trim.

The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following Sunday's service. During discussion, all points of view, whether for, against, or neutral, will be provided an opportunity to be heard.

As defined in our constitution (Chapter 8), voting members are confirmed members of Zion's who, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record.

ACTS Assistance Program Will End Effective Aug. 1

Almost a decade ago, the Trinidad Ministerial Alliance identified a need to help to better coordinate financial assistance for individuals in the community or passing through who needed help with rent, utilities, food, and fuel.

From that discussion ACTS (Assisting our Community Through Service) came into being with a goal of providing a central point of contact for people to seek help. The goal was not to provide ongoing assistance, but to help people through tough times.

Funding for ACTS came from area churches and community donations.

The majority of donations were from five or six churches, with the largest regular donations from Zion's, which budgets \$375 per month for ACTS.

In July, the associates of ACTS notified area churches, the Trinidad Ministerial Alliance, and the City of Trinidad that it would cease operations effective Aug. 1. They cited dwindling donations and repetitive requests for assistance for the decision. "Although we have tried to limit the amounts and frequency per person/family, we find by mid-month our funds are gone."

In closing, ACTS noted, "To summarize, after careful consideration and with deep regret, we have come to the following conclusion: with limited churches financially supporting the program, limited volunteers to administer the program and that the program has become a supplement to monthly income verses one-time emergency aid, the responding associates of ACTS have decided to suspend the ministry effective Aug. 1, 2026."

ACTS associates said that they will be advising anyone who calls for assistance to instead reach out to their families, friends, and affiliated churches.

The notice concluded, "As with most ministries, it has been a joy and blessing to serve and we appreciate the opportunity God has given to us."

Centering on Worship: *Sending* is the Beginning

We conclude our look at the four parts of our Sunday worship, the Ordo (the italicized heading of our Sunday bulletins) with a look at the Sending.

~Sending~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Worshipping together stands at the center of our lives of faith. Through God's word, water, bread, and prayer we are nurtured in faith and sent into the world.

Connected with and central to everything we do, worship unites us in celebration, centers us in prayer, and forms us in our faith. It grounds us in our Christian and Lutheran roots, equipping us to experience the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

For some, the sending is that last thing on the checklist for worship — one more step and then we go home. The liturgy is not a checklist, it is a celebration, a gift from God. It is not a chore we check off at the beginning of each week.

And, the sending is no less important than the gathering, word, or meal, although it presents as the shortest of the four parts of the Ordo.

While "sending" implies a conclusion — "That's All Folks" — it really is a beginning. Through worship, we prepare to be sent out, reminded as we go that "Christ is with you."

When worship becomes an obligation or a chore it no longer is worship; the joy-filled celebration is gone. Pastor Diane Day, at Zion Lutheran Church in Middletown, Maryland, reminds us that, "Worship is a gift. It is something that God gives us so that we can experience a glimmer of the future kingdom that awaits us... What we do in this space is a gift from God."

Our worship liturgy prepares us to be sent out. Through the Sending, we are blessed during the benediction with the words of the Trinity and words of encouragement and empowerment.

Next, we share the sending hymn to help us retain the messages of the day and to give thanks for the saving word of God for all creation.

Lastly, we receive the dismissal (not to be confused with being *dismissed* at the end of a school day).

The dismissal can call us to many things, such as: *Go in Peace, Serve the Lord, Christ is With You, or Remember the Poor*. The point of worship is to prepare us for this moment — to be sent out.

Our mission lies in going out into the world strengthened by the word of God and fed by the sacraments. We leave full of hope and courage. And we know that even though the world may reject the good news we bring, we have a place where we can return each Sunday to be renewed and to again receive the precious gifts of our Lord.

We have a place where we can

gather from different backgrounds, creeds, classes, and races in order to worship God. We participate in proclaiming the word of God. We are fed physically on the Word made flesh and we behold our salvation. Then, we again are sent into the world so that we can be the church of God's Work Our Hands.

We **gather** as God's people.

We encounter God's **word** in scripture, preaching and song.

We share a **meal** at Christ's table.

And we are **sent** into the world for mission and service in daily life.

~ ~ ~

"Go in Peace, serve the Lord."

"Thanks be to God!"



Sharing Our Recipes: Mediterranean Bean Salad

From Coralie Lashbrook

Yields: 15, 1-cup servings

Dressing

(Whisk together & adjust amounts to taste. I typically add more lemon juice.)

1/3 cup olive oil
 3 Tbs fresh lemon juice (from 1 big lemon)
 3 Tbs red wine vinegar
 2 tsp Dijon mustard
 2 cloves garlic, crushed
 1/2 tsp dried oregano
 1/2 tsp kosher salt or sea salt
 pepper to taste



Bean Salad

(Mix together in a large bowl. Be sure to rinse canned beans well first.)

1, 16-oz can of kidney beans, well rinsed and blotted dry in a colander
 1, 16-oz can of cannellini beans (white kidneys), well rinsed and blotted dry
 1, 16-oz can of garbanzo beans (chickpeas), well rinsed and blotted dry
 1, 16-oz can of any white beans (like great northern or butter beans), well rinsed and blotted
 1 English cucumber (quartered lengthwise and then sliced thin across) - about 2 cups
 1/2 cup red onion; small-diced
 1 cup cherry tomatoes, sliced cross-wise
 1 diced bell pepper (red/yellow/orange bell pepper or a mix of colors — 1 cup total)
 1/2 cup pitted Kalamata olives, thin sliced or chopped
 1/2 cup chopped parsley
 2 tsp dried basil
 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese (*see note to add last, after salad is initially mixed with dressing)

Directions

- After mixing the salad ingredients together, add the amount of salad dressing you think is correct for the time being (I use about 2/3 and refrigerate the rest) and toss together.
- Lastly, add 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese to the bean salad and gently toss again. Refrigerate.

Notes

- I make this a day ahead to let the flavors blend. It lasts at least four days in the refrigerator.
- I add more saved dressing the day of serving if I think it needs it. Sometimes after draining off the extra dressing already on the bottom of the bowl.
- Leaving out the feta cheese makes it vegan.
- I think the long oval Marzano cherry tomatoes at Walmart are great: lots of slices per cherry.
- Bush's brand canned beans are consistently more tender than Safeway or Walmart brands.
- Volumes are approximate. Add more or less of the ingredients as you prefer.

Council Updates: July

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. on July 12 by Mike McNeil. All members, except Kathy Broman, were present.

Opening prayer was offered by Mark Moss.

Reports

Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Trust Fund — All reports were reviewed and approved. Including payment of bills, and a notation of a \$3,000 capital improvement donation. A special Sunday offering was approved to benefit the Trinidad Soup Kitchen to help offset replacement of one of its commercial freezers.

Food Ministry — The July 5-Loaves menu was reviewed. Julie Wersal and Norine Hazen are working on grant applications from both Safeway and from the Las Animas County Commissioners.

Pastor —

- A. Current membership was reviewed with one person leaving Zion's.
- B. Worship and Music Committee has completed planning through Aug. 2.
- C. Summer Suppers are a great success. There is discussion about having similar activities each month, varying those in charge of the event.
- D. The "First Call" Retreat (for Pr. Lisa) will be October 1-3 in Park City, Utah. Pr. Lisa also will be out of town Oct. 11 to attend her sister-in-law's memorial service in Pennsylvania.



Old Business

- A. Council reviewed the Fellowship Hall flooring project costs and approved the bid processes needed. The next steps include a congregational meeting to secure funding from the Trust Account.
- B. Council reviewed other capital improvement project options. Those projects are impacted by the Zion's National Historical designation. As such, there are only four contractors certified to work on repairs needed as related to this designation. Those projects include work on the entry doors and sanctuary exterior.



New Business

- A. J.Q. Tree Contractors completed removal of dead trees on the Zion's property.
- B. Council agreed to support replacement of the two failed commercial freezers at the Trinidad Soup connection.
- C. Mark Moss presented a comprehensive look at church insurance options. Noted are facts of 1,000 churches dropped in Texas and Louisiana. Fires in many areas may also had an impact on the future options. Our insurance has increased by \$4,000 this year. Council plans to discuss our concerns with Synod resource people for help in researching this potential issue. We will continue to proceed with due diligence in all aspects of our church campus.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

-Submitted by Council Secretary Mary McKenna