ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Connections

A Reconciling in Christ Community

Remembering the Faithful

By Steve Hanson

Each autumn, Halloween decorations appear alongside the church's observance of All Saints' Day on November 1. These two occasions are connected by history, but they carry different meanings. I remember as a child dressing up in some sort of costume many years ago.

On one occasion, I remember putting on a gorilla mask and then looking in the mirror at myself and ending up scaring myself. Many children continue to wear costumes with many of them depicting evil or scary things. Some people regard Halloween as a fun time to dress-up and to go about their neighborhood collecting candy from neighbors and friends. In some ways this occasion personifies an aspect of the macabre and evil, but many forget its history.

From the earliest centuries, Christians would gather to remember people who had died for their faith, especially martyrs. As the church grew, it became too difficult to give each faithful witness a separate day, so a common celebration developed to honor all the saints—known and unknown.

By the eighth century, November 1 had become an important date for this observance in the Western church. The word *saint* means "holy one"; in Lutheran understanding, our holiness rests not in our own achievements, but rather, in God's grace through Jesus Christ.

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Zion's Worship

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

Bible Book Club

Join us at 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall as Pr. Lisa leads our Bible Book Club and Study: *What if Jesus was Serious…About Prayer*.

Thanksgiving Dinner

This month, instead of 5-Loaves we will offer Thanksgiving Dinner. All are welcome — details on page 5.

Church Council

Council meets at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10, upstairs in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Reconciling in Christ

Reconciling in Christ

Zion's Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Community. We are a church with heart, all are welcome!

Advent Season

Advent begins Sunday, Nov. 29. We will have special Advent worship, as well as Wednesday Advent Soup Suppers

All Saints…

Continued from Page 1

The evening before All Saints' Day was called *All Hallows' Eve* — "hallow" being an old word for holy. Over time, the name was shortened to *Halloween*. November 2 later on became All Souls' Day in the medieval church, a day especially associated with remembering the departed. Many of the customs varied across different regions. Some of this also included in attending worship and visiting graves.

There is a lot of history that is connected with Halloween. The ancient Celtic festival of Samhain marked the transition from harvest and summer toward winter. Some of these included customs and beliefs which were associated with spirits and the dead. Over many centuries, Christian observances and local folk traditions influenced one another. Historians have a difference of opinion on exactly how particular Halloween customs developed, so it is too simple to say that Halloween is only a renamed pagan festival—or that every modern custom came directly from Samhain. Its name, at least, clearly comes from the Christian calendar.

For Lutherans, these days also meet in a significant moment of church history. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther made public his Ninety-Five Theses challenging the sale of indulgences. He had chosen to do this on the eve of All Saints' Day. Many people would be gathering at the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Reformation Day and All Saints' Day thus stand close together. We then see the Gospel's promise that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ; the other gives thanks for all who have lived and died trusting in that promise.

Today, congregations may observe All Saints' Day by reading the names of members who have died, lighting candles, singing hymns such as "For All the Saints," and hearing Scripture's promise of resurrection. We remember loved ones with gratitude and grief, while giving thanks to God for the whole communion of saints — the faithful across generations and around the world.

All Saints' Day does not ask us to trust in human greatness. Rather it points us to Christ, whose death and resurrection gives us hope beyond death.

ELCA Bishop Yehiel Discusses November 3 Election

As part of his All Together in One Faith series of missives, ELCA Bishop Yehiel on Oct. 28 addressed the upcoming elections. The full text is found at: https://www.elca.org/news/all-together-in-one-place-a-healthy-patriotism.

Bishop Yehiel, cited the ELCA social statement *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All,* which includes that "Patriotism is to love one's country, to pray for its well-being, to be committed to its success, to have a sense of pride in it, to criticize it, and to work for its reform when necessary…"

The Bishop wrote, "Healthy patriotism celebrates what is good and beautiful in our common life while remaining committed to tending to what is wounded and broken. Healthy patriotism fosters a sense of shared belonging because the strength of our nation lies in our ability to live together as diverse people who share a common future."As Lutherans, we can live out healthy patriotism. We understand the government is called to serve and protect the common good. We exercise patriotism in part by holding public leaders accountable to serve the common good….

"As Election Day approaches, we can approach this responsibility with prayerful hearts and a commitment to the flourishing of all people…May we care for one another and our country enough to serve faithfully, speak truthfully and seek our common good."

November

2026

	ASSISTANT	LECTOR	USHER	COMMUNION
1	Becky McNeil	John Strecker-Baseler	Mary McKenna & Jo Moss	Steve Hanson & Mark Moss
8	Mary McKenna	Jody Alford	Jody Alford & Lorna Hassard	Rosa Golla & Mark Moss
15	Jo Moss	Carol Hanson	Steve Hanson & Mark Moss	Carol Hanson & Julie Morris
22	Steve Hanson	Charlotte Strecker-Baseler	Mark Lara & John Rygiel	Crystal Hulet & Jo Moss
29	Julie Wersal	T.M. Garner	T.M. Garner & Terri Watson	John & Lisa Rygiel

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10 am All-Saints Worship 11:30 am First Sunday Potluck		9-10:30 am Office Hours 10:30 am Book Club 5:30 pm Dementia Group				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10 am Worship 11:30 am First Sunday Potluck	Noon PEO 5:30 pm AA	9-10:30 am Office Hours 10:30 am Book Club 1 pm Church Council				*1 pm Memorial Service for Jan Ratliff (First Methodist Church)*
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	5:30 pm AA	9-10:30 am Office Hours10:30 am Book Club		Newsletter Deadline for December		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship Thanksgiving Prep Week →	5:30 pm AA	1 pm "Pie Day"		**Zion's Community Thanksgiving**		
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
10 am Advent Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	5:30 pm AA					

Birthday Wishes

3 – Melodie Lanosga
6 – Sharon Sorenson
10 – Diana Sansom
11 – Danielle Hix
14 – Hailey Bearden
15 – Chad Compton
19 -- Crystal Hulet
26 – Mike McNeil
28 – Shelly Jones

What's Happening in Zion's Lutheran Family?

- **Time to "Fall Back":** Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday morning, Nov. 1, be sure to set your clocks back and we'll see you at 10 a.m. (MST) for worship.
- On All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1, people can bring photos or mementos of loved ones — the Saints in Heaven and the Saints on Earth — for a special blessing.
- Memorial Service for **Jan Ratliff** will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the First United Methodist Church, 216 Broom Street, in Trinidad.
- We thank **Bill McKenna** for his work to fix the Sanctuary sound system including elimination of a long-time squeal in the speakers. We also are grateful to **Julie Wersal** and **John Rygiel** for troubleshooting our telephone problems.
- Thank you to **John & Charlotte Strecker-Baseler** for serving as supply pastors on Sunday, Oct. 11, while **Pr. Lisa & John Rygiel** attended a memorial service in Pennsylvania.
- Thank you to **John Rygiel** (with an assist from **Terri Watson**) who again put his amazing woodworking skills to use to redesign another pew to make the Sanctuary more wheelchair accessible. **Pr. Lisa** has challenged the people of Zion's to identify ways to make our facilities and ourselves more accessible. Share your suggestions with the church council or with her.

Advent 2026 will Focus upon the Music of Christmas

Advent season at Zion's will focus upon carols – familiar and new – as we pause to consider their messages in fresh ways. As we have done in the past, Zion's will use materials selected by Pr. Lisa from the *Worship Design Studio* that are intended to blend music the familiar Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Advent begins Nov. 29.

The *Worship Design Studio* materials are familiar to many at Zion's as we've used the programs created by Marcia McFee for past Advent and Lenten seasons. According to McFee, this series of Advent and Christmas materials that will be included in our worship this year are "like notes on a music staff" to focus upon those times when music speaks where words fail.

"Song poets – people who write carols – have long helped us 'speak' when our own words fail in the face of our human struggle," McFee writes. "The promise of the coming Christ is that our hearts can hold the world and that the songs in our hearts can heal our weariness." In addition to Sunday Advent worship, Zion's will offer Advent soup suppers where the focus will be upon the music of Christmas using a "Study Your Own Carol" guide. Advent soup suppers will be at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday in Advent – Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23 – in the Fellowship Hall. We need volunteers to bring soup, bread, and light desserts.

Changes Come to Zion's 2026 Thanksgiving Dinner

This year the Zion's Thanksgiving dinner preparations will look different. Instead of cooking the turkey and ham ourselves, Zion's will be working with Thanksgiving partner Safeway to cook and slice the meats.

This allows our volunteers to focus on the preparation of side dishes, and upon set up, delivery, and clean up. The change was necessary, in part, due to the ever-increasing number of people that Zion's serves each Thanksgiving Day. It allows us to use our volunteer resources as efficiently as possible and better ensures consistency and safety in the meals we provide. Realize that, in 2025, we served almost 1,000 meals. This included a record number of people, more than 200, who chose to dine with us in the Fellowship Hall.

There's work to do….

Even with the changes, we have an extensive to do list. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are needed. As always, Norine Hazen is overseeing the meal operations, but she needs volunteers to help in so many areas. We are seeking volunteers to coordinate specific tasks. A task coordinator **does not** have to do all of the work but they do ensure that assignments are covered. Many "tasks" are done in advance of Thanksgiving, and are good volunteer opportunities for those who are not available Thanksgiving Day. Other tasks are essential for Thanksgiving Day itself.

Is there a place that you can help?

Several people helping to coordinate menu items. Please reach out to them if you can help: Coralie Lashbrook (Gravy), Sandy Cole (Potatoes), Cheryl Leef (Yams), Lisa Rygiel (Cranberries), Norine Hazen (Pies). We still need a volunteer to coordinate vegetables. Also, if you can help with other important tasks, please let Terri Watson (Logistics), Jo Moss (Deliveries), Carol Hanson (Dining In), or Lisa Rygiel (Clean Up).

We are grateful for everyone who shares their time and talents to make this event possible each year.

A special side note!!!

Instead of "turkey fry-day" this year, we will have "pie day", at 1 p.m., the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 24, to help package not only pies, but also cranberries and perhaps rolls. Watch the bulletin and E-formation for details.

Do you know someone who needs a meal?

If you know someone who would like Thanksgiving meal(s) delivered, we will need their name, physical address for delivery, phone number (for questions), and number of meals. Information can be shared by phone, email to 5loaveszions@gmail.com, Facebook messenger, or verbal request.

We do not deliver more than five meals per address. For larger orders, people can come by for curbside pick up or to join us for an in-person meal.

(These photos are from Thanksgiving 2025)

Awesome October

Time of Sharing, Fellowship, Blessings & Thanks at Zion's

October was a busy month at Zion's as we supported Open Doors Trinidad on Oct. 3, allowing Zion's to share its history and welcoming message with the community.

Oct. 3 also was a beautiful day for our annual Blessing of the Animals. Officiated by Pr. Robert Hoenike, people brought pets or photos and mementos of their pets for individual blessings. We also collected $50, as well as pet supplies for PALS.

Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25, saw the congregation recognize the four-year anniversary of Pr. Lisa's installation as vicar on her way to her 2025 ordination as pastor at Zion's.

That Sunday, we also recognized the retired clergy in our midst who regularly share spiritual gifts, talents, and skills with the people of Zion's. We are grateful to those individuals: Pastors Jan Everhart, Robert Hoenike, Becky McNeil, and Charlotte & John Strecker-Baseler.

Then, Oct. 28 was a special time of fellowship and sharing as part of an evening of Dinner and a Movie, as we gathered to watch *The Shack*.

Thank you to everyone who made these activities possible.

- Open Doors Trinidad: Jody Alford, Tea Compton, Steve Hanson, Norine Hazen, & Diane Sansom.
- Blessing of the Animals: Robert Hoenike, Coralie Lashbrook, T.M. Garner, Melanie Moss, and Elizabeth Reilley (who read the Bible verse).
- Clergy Recognition: Jody Alford, Tea Compton, Jo Moss, and Steve Hanson.

Sharing Our Recipes: Chocolate Peanut Butter Haystacks

From Jody Alford

Ingredients

1 cup chocolate chips
1 cup butterscotch chips
1 cup creamy peanut butter
4 cups chow mein noodles
1 cup salted peanuts
1/4 Pound of Butter

Directions

- Line a baking tray with wax paper.
- In a microwave-safe bowl, combine the butterscotch chips and peanut butter. Microwave the mixture in 30-second intervals, stirring after each interval, until smooth.
- Melt the chocolate separately via microwave using same method.
- Add the chow mein noodles and salted peanuts to the melted mixture, stirring until everything is well coated.
- Drop spoonfuls of the mixture onto the prepared waxed paper. Drizzle chocolate on top.
- Allow the haystacks to cool and set until firm, about 30-60 minutes.

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

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Council Updates: October

Zion's Lutheran Church Council

Members present

The regular meeting of the Zion's church council was brought to order at 1 p.m. on Tuesday Oct. 13 by council vice president Mark Moss. All members were present except Mike McNeil and Pr. Lisa Rygiel. Julie Wersal joined online.

Opening prayer was offered by Steve Hanson.

Reports

Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Trust Fund — All reports were reviewed and approved.

Food Ministry — The October 5-Loaves menu was reviewed. Approximately 280 meals were delivered in September.

There will be a Thanksgiving planning meeting on Thursday, Oct. 15, to organize assignments and identify other tasks. Food for the Thanksgiving includes turkey, ham, yams, green beans, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls, pies. All have been ordered or already purchased. The meats will be outsourced for preparation and carving.

The freezer ordered for the soup kitchen will finally arrive in October. The vendor was changed to Al's Gas due to continued delays. Payment has been made.

Pastor — (read by Mary McKenna in Pr. Lisa's absence and unanimously approved by council)

A. The worship and music committee met. Sharon Sorenson has resigned as she is moving to Texas. Charlotte Strecker-Baseler has agreed to join the committee. Plans have been finalized through Nov. 22 completed.
B. God's Work Our Hands resulted in 50 personal hygiene kits and 20 feminine hygiene kits being given to "Keep Trinidad Safe". Members also volunteered to have a hymn sing at the Legacy, which was welcomed by the residents.
C. The next TMA/Coalition for the Unhoused meeting is Oct. 23. Coalition mail address is: Las Animas Coalition for the Unhoused at 403 E. 7th Street Trinidad.
D. Thank you to Robert Hoenike for leading the Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 3.

Old Business

A. Council approved the redistribution of funds formally designated to ACTS (which dissolved). Funds will be split between the Soup Kitchen and Coalition for the Unhoused.
B. The Council Covenant was distributed for review prior to the next meeting, with discussion and a vote to follow at that time.
C. Council also will revisit the time and date for future council meetings recognizing concerns of council members.

New Business

A. Kitchen accessibility and enhancements were discussed. While options are reviewed, alternative measures will be tested to enhance accessibility for all people attending events as well as for those helping with communion preparation.
B. Concerns regarding sound mitigation in the Fellowship Hall were discussed. Bill McKenna has offered to consult and bring to the council ideas for resolving the echoing.
C. Updated chime systems need more research and will be considered at future meetings.
D. Snow removal was discussed including that de-icing options are pet/animal friendly. Lawn maintenance agreements will be extended to include snow removal.

The Meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

-Submitted by Council Secretary Mary McKenna