



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## May 2021 Newsletter

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### May SERVANT SCHEDULE:

	USHER	LECTOR	COMM. ASST.
<u>2</u>	Jim Fredrickson	Pat Fredrickson	Pat, Kent & Nina Yunker
<u>9</u>	Doug Arntzen	Gayle Arntzen	Gayle, Karen Combs, Laurie Bentley
<u>16</u>	Sharon Nordahl	Bob Giese	Bob & Cindy Giese
<u>23</u>	Monte Solberg	Linda Robinson	Linda, Starla & Emma Solberg
<u>30</u>	Bill Cowen	Vickey Cowen	Vickey & Rylee Cowen, Cameryn Aanenson



### *May Social Concern is...*

#### Katie's House

Katie's House is a transitional living house for women who have graduated or completed a rehabilitation program. We are located in Lewistown, Montana. The purpose of this program is to provide an environment for women to find their full potential through Jesus Christ and to become role models through their faith that will continue on in their homes, churches and communities. While living at Katie's House we expect each woman to have full time employment, attend classes and studies at house, attend church, and volunteer at church and community efforts. We will ensure that each woman is able to find full-time employment and receives help fulfilling the other requirements of this program.





“Change is hard, even the change you want.” I used to tell my kids that, and they’ve told me it’s one of the things they remember from their growing up years so I must have said it a lot! It’s true, but that doesn’t make the change any easier. We are living in a time of expectant change as Eric and I prepare to leave Zion and Lewistown very soon.

It is hard to leave people and a congregation we have come to love, even as we are leaning into the anticipation of meeting and learning to love a new church family and community. I could list all the things we will miss, but perhaps we should rejoice together in all that we have experienced over these past six years.

- We explored and committed to Stephen Ministry, training two Stephen Leaders and seven Stephen Ministers. Through them we have touched the lives of probably a dozen people with God’s love through compassionate listening and care.
- We have journeyed with many of our elders as they have aged, and guided them and their families through their dying, commending them into God’s eternal care and keeping.
- In Holy Baptism we have welcomed people into God’s family, from newborns to 90 year-olds!
- Young families have been drawn to Zion, and I know some of you will give me credit for that, but they came and stayed because this congregation welcomes and values the presence and gifts of young people. You have learned their names, attended their teas, helped with VBS, and joined in on cross-generational events. Kids know they are loved here—and so do the parents!
- We have explored what it means to see our ministry through the lens of Faith Formation. We grow in love for God and one another through respectful relationships, guided learning, spiritual practices, and acts of faith-filled service.
- We support so many partner ministries in this community and around the world, serving both the practical and spiritual needs of others. Zion Lutheran knows what it means to do God’s work with our hands.
- We pray fervently for one another in our times of need.
- We embraced the digital world when the pandemic hit, drawing in online worshipers while others worship in person, and supporting the necessary technology.
- And we have shared lots and lots of meals! Breakfasts, receptions, dinners—and you always remembered to put the water on so I could have some tea!

There is so much more we have done together and that you will continue to do as God’s people here in Central Montana. Your reach is long and generous, because you know that it is by the power of God’s Spirit that you are gifted to love and serve.

I am deeply grateful for the ways you have formed me as a pastor. As I said in my letter, a piece of our hearts will stay here, even as we carry you with us wherever we go.

God be with you,

Pastor Lynne and Eric Ogren

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## Update on COVID Protocols for Worship

In light of the diminishing number of Covid-19 cases in Montana, Zion Lutheran Church Council formed a committee to review and modify our current COVID policies. Our goal is to eliminate all covid policies by the first of July, assuming cases in our area continue to decline. Regardless of the changes, members are encouraged to take precautions as they see fit.

### **Starting in May:**

1. Members will not be asked to sign in upon entering the church as we are no longer contact tracing.
2. We ask that members continue to arrive and leave wearing their masks.
3. We will continue to have every other pew seating.
4. Members will no longer need to wear a mask during the service.
5. We will come to the altar area for communion. Although a mask is not required, we ask everyone to maintain a respectable distance (3 feet) apart, as we approach the altar.

These changes will be in effect the month of May and we plan to relax our policies even more in the month of June. Hymns are coming again!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Zion Lutheran Covid policy committee member Stan Olson at 406-374-2510.

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## Updates to Zion Directory

We are getting ready to reprint another church directory. We know that many people have dropped their landlines and we need to be sure we have the correct numbers in our database.

If you have any changes to your phone, address, or family members please contact Falan in the church office, 538-5082 or [zionelca@midrivers.com](mailto:zionelca@midrivers.com).



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## **Growing in Faith**

Zion Lutheran Church has many ways to grow in faith all while getting to know the people in our church family. Weekly worship services take place on Sundays at 9:30 am. For even more ways to make connections & grow in faith take look at what's happening at Zion every week!

- **ZLCW Circle Bible Studies:**

**ZLCW Circles will hold a joint study on May 13, at 1:30 pm, using the May devotional from the Gather magazine. Pastor Lynne and Meryl McKenna, LPA, will lead our time together.**

*Hosanna Circle – Bible study meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 4 pm in the Fireside room. Contact person: Lynette Sallee 406-535-5236*

*Rachel Circle – Bible study meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room. Contact person: Debby Shobe 406-535-5864*

*Ruth Circle – Bible study meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Contact person: Kathy Trask 406-535-5601*


- **Women's Podcast group**— The Podcast group meets the first Wednesday of the month from 12:00 – 1:00pm. Check the calendar for where they will be meeting next.
- **Men over Lunch**—Join this lively men's group each Wednesday at 12:00 pm for good food and good company! Men Over Lunch meet at the Elks
- **Men's Bible Study** – Meeting's are the first and third Thursday of the month at 6:45am at Zion
- **B.L.A.S.T.** – Stands for Believe, Learn, and Seek Truth. 2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade kids meet Wednesdays after school at 3:30. The last BLAST meeting will be May 5<sup>th</sup>. We will start back up in September.


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## **Have you found our worship services online?**

The easiest way to find our online worship videos is to go to our website: [www.zionlewistownelca.com](http://www.zionlewistownelca.com)

On the front page of the website are two icons:

 **YouTube** will take you directly to our YouTube channel where you can watch at the same time as an in-church service. Previous services are also available here. Check out Playlists to find funerals and Children's Time videos.

 **facebook** will take you directly to the Zion Facebook page. Click on the More tab and scroll down to Videos to find some of our past worship videos.

On our website you can also point to the Worship tab and a drop-down menu will show Video Worship Services. These videos are from previous services along with access to a bulletin for each service.





# B.L.A.S.T.



Our B.L.A.S.T. year is coming to an end. I have had a BLAST teaching all of these kids. They really are a great group.

The fun does not end here though. Vacation Bible School starts June 14 – 17. We are also planning a couple fun outings for the summer. Like hiking to the Cascades. So keep an eye on our webpage for more information.



## Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School

We are hosting VBS this summer, and are looking for volunteers to be Crew Leaders (chaperone a small group of kids) and Station Leaders (teaching a guided lesson). If you are interested in helping in any way, please let Falan know by calling the church office or e-mail. Go to [www.zionlewisownelca.com](http://www.zionlewisownelca.com) and click on B.L.A.S.T. On the BLAST page you will find the VBS logo that will take you to the sign-up page, to register kids and to volunteer.

VBS will be June 14- 17 from 8:30am-12:00pm.





# SCHEDULE

Friday, 5:30-6:00pm

Registration, dinner and childcare check-in

Friday, 6:00-8:00pm

Module 1: An introduction to Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)

Saturday, 8:45-9:00am

Registration and childcare check-in

Saturday, 9:00-12:30pm

Module 3: Empowering Principles  
Module 4: Correcting Principles

Saturday, 12:30-2:00pm

Lunch & breakouts

Brought to you by...  
Heart of Montana  
  
Love INC  
and our partner churches

**\$10 TICKETS**

includes registration fee, meals and childcare

For more information call 535-LDVE



Mary Beth & Steven Curtis Chapman



Daren Jones



Amanda Purvis

SHOW  HOPE

# HOPE

for the Journey

## CONFERENCE

# MAY 7TH & 8TH

First Christian Church 103 12th Ave. South Lewistown, MT

The Hope for the Journey Conference will equip parents and caregivers meeting the everyday needs of children who have experienced trauma. This simulcast conference will further resource individuals who would like to support and encourage these families and children.

**This conference is for..**

Adoptive/Foster Parents  
Kinship Families

Teachers  
Youth Leaders

Childcare workers ...or anyone  
who cares about children!

**Register at: [heartofmontanaloveinc.org/life-inc-conference](http://heartofmontanaloveinc.org/life-inc-conference)**

April 21, 2021



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

To the Zion Lutheran Congregation

A huge thank you goes to all of you from the leadership of Zion Lutheran Church, including the Church Council, the Stewardship Committee, the Finance Committee and the ZLC staff.

Your faithful giving over the past 14 months has been phenomenal considering the challenges we all have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of remote services, limitations on in-person attendance and the reduction of programs, your continued support has enabled Zion Lutheran Church to continue to operate in a manner as normal as possible.

During 2020, ZLC has been able to do the following:

- We have been able to retain all staff members and have not had to cut or reduce any salaries.
- We have not applied for nor received any assistance from government programs, such as the PPP loans.
- All of our expenses have been paid on time and are current.
- We have been able to update our electronics for audio and video to be able to provide the best quality streaming of our services.
- Repairs and maintenance of our buildings, grounds and equipment has been on-going and up to date.
- We have maintained as many programs as possible, even though some have had to be completed remotely.
- Our operating budget has remained positive.

All of this is the result of all of you, the Zion Lutheran Church congregation, continuing your faithful giving in spite of the many challenges we all have faced over the past year.

We want you to know how much we appreciate the efforts you have put forth for your church. We could not have come through 2020 without this effort on your part. Our sincere thanks go out to each and every one of you.

Zion Lutheran Church Council

ZLC Stewardship Committee

ZLC finance Committee







From time to time, letters arrive in our office with a seemingly simple request – *Would you please forward this to my child?* If we are fortunate, the sender shares a bit about their adoption story – often with a hiccup of joy and grief in their voice – as they wonder about their child. They send the letters with faith that someday... Sometimes, the letter we send on their behalf returns to us without a forwarding address so we file for safekeeping "just in case."

Many of us have experienced grief, anxiety, and worry during this global pandemic as we consider our relationships and wonder about the future. For those impacted by adoption, especially in closed adoptions or those whose communication exchange has dwindled, I think these past months have heightened these feelings. And so we hear from a birth grandparent seeking to connect with their (now adult) grandchild, perhaps for the first and last time. We hear from an adoptee with dark hair, lovingly raised in a family full of redheads, who has decided to reach out to their birth family. We hear from birth parents bravely saying that they are ready to meet their child and their adoptive family.

St. John's United Family Services adoption counselors answer the phone, respond to the emails, and treasure the letters as we hear stories of loss and hope. We provide this ministry thanks to the faithful support of donors like you who recognize the lifelong complexity of adoption. Because of your financial support, we meet adoptees, birth families, and adoptive families where they are regardless of their worries and fears. We hold their hands as they remember the goodbye at the hospital. We help them compose the letter inviting a reunion. We facilitate gatherings of nervous parties meeting again years after the placement. All of this is possible thanks to your generosity.

As spring emerges with signs of new life, renewal, and promise, I invite you to help us keep the faith by offering your financial support for those impacted by adoption as they wonder about their past and face their future.

With gratitude,

Trudi Paulson  
Director of Family Services

**District 6 HRDC office will be closed  
9am to 2pm  
Monday May 10th for Food Distribution  
Food boxes provided by Share Farm  
Each family will receive similar to April 15th food distribution  
We have not received the list of items yet Go to our Facebook site for updates  
<https://www.facebook.com/hrdc6/>  
Food Boxes available at the Fairgrounds Monday May 10th 10:30am until gone  
FOR EVERYONE NO RESTRICTIONS OR REQUIREMENTS**



Do you ever wonder the kind of impacts we have as a congregation on the community and the world around us? It's true that sometimes it may be hard to give a visual report on our impact as it is difficult to document things like volunteer time and community support that members here at Zion give to the Central Montana community. Things like driving for Meals on Wheels, readers in our school system who take time to offer their gift of time to children, volunteers at places like Love Inc., the Community Cupboard, ROWL or the Council on Aging. Our quilters spend hours and hours every year to create and share wonderful quilts with people the world over. And let's not forget donations of things like clothing or furniture to support second hand stores like Saves or Our Neighbor in Need. One way that we can tangibly track our contributions to this community and beyond is to look at our monetary giving through our offering and designated giving. Each month, in addition to our regular giving, Caring Ministry designates a special social concern of the month for the congregation to support at their own discretion. So far this year, our congregation has designated benevolent giving to the following social concern recipient organizations.

Russian Missionary Bradn Buerkle - \$970.00

Fergus County Council on Aging - \$1,550.00

Intermountain - \$ 1,281.42

The social concern of the month for April is Farm in the Dell. At the time of this report, we have already received \$825.00 to benefit Farm in the Dell. Add to that contributions designated to disaster relief (\$130.00), world hunger (\$250.00), Katie's house (\$200.00), Community cupboard (\$200.00), and the elevator fund (\$400.00) it is easy to see that through prayers, dedication and diligent giving of time and donations Zion really does have a powerful and positive impact on the world around us! Thank you Zion Lutheran for your continued benevolence and generosity!

Zion Lutheran Church  
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