

Connecting
through Grace
ZION
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

THE HERALD

Volume 17, Issue 9 | September 2019

On Sunday, September 15, Paul Sanchez will be baptized. In our baptismal liturgy, we will welcome him, the newly baptized, saying:

***We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.***

But this time, it feels like our roles are reversed. Even before his baptism, Paul is inviting and welcoming family and friends to Zion. In giving thanks and praise to God, he has enhanced our worship by including "The One Voice Community Choir" to sing in the worship. He has helped me to look anew at our baptized community of faith through the lens of joy. I asked Paul to share a comment about baptism for this article. Instead, he sent this beautiful confession of faith:

"As an openly gay man, the journey back to Church came with some serious hesitation. Some might argue that because of my sexuality I have no business attending Zion, or any other credible religious institution. But I had come to a point in my life where I needed, even craved change, and I felt the only impactful place to do that would be in a Church setting.

A quick Google search led me to a few other Churches in the valley, but when I came across Zion's message of inclusiveness I felt like this could be the right place for me. Zion has made me feel valued as a person, and what I've learned on Sundays at Church has spilled over to daily scripture study and prayer throughout the week. Which in turn has allowed me to become a better version of myself that allows me to treat myself, and others better.

Because of this newfound joy and purpose in my life, there have been many transformative daily miracles in my life. I am now more at peace, I am calmer, my anxiety levels have dropped, I feel safe and protected, and am a much happier and content person. There was a deep-seated level of worthlessness that has all but disappeared. I feel connected to the source of abundance that I have never experienced before. Professing love and appreciation for the teachings of Christ isn't anything I expected to be doing in this lifetime... especially for someone with my background.

The impact of what is happening at Zion is truly remarkable, and something I didn't expect to see in my lifetime from any Religious Institution...when Pastor Steve says all are welcome he means it by his words and actions. I hope that others in my community, circle of friends and family are open to hear the words of hope I am gifted daily. I am excited to share with others that there is a safe place regardless of your sexual orientation where you can be lovingly welcomed in a community of faith in Jesus Christ.

Thank you so much for setting the stage where I would want to become baptized, for creating an environment where I can connect with God, and for the opportunity to join a Church that promotes messages of tolerance and acceptance. I thank God daily for Zion Lutheran Church."

Paul, it is my privilege to be your pastor, even as it is my highest privilege to serve as the Pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In and through Christ,


Pastor Steve Krenz
+

How can you be of service at Zion?

There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work done at Zion and right now we need additional volunteers for Altar Guild, Counters, and Chancel Choir. Wait! Don't stop reading now!

We get it. You're tired and busy and on the weekend you just want to relax a bit. Church volunteering is just one thing too much.

But, can you reconsider? There are a number of ways you can help the congregational life at Zion. Not one of them requires a total lifelong commitment, and there are a number of reasons to serve, following Jesus' example in Philippians, "taking the form of a servant."

First, the simple reward of being helpful. It's a nice feeling to know that things went smoothly in part because of your help.

Passing on tradition of service to your children. It's not "do as I say, not as I do" but rather "do as I do." There's no better role model for your kids and others than to see you pitching in.

Just because you are a Christian your entire life doesn't mean you have to serve in one role for your entire life. There are a variety of opportunities where you can use your skills or learn new ones. You can volunteer for a schedule that matches your needs. And if you're not sure, check with one of the contact people below, who can tell you more about what the volunteer position entails, or arrange for you to shadow a current volunteer to get a better sense of how it works. Training is provided so don't worry if it all seems a mystery to you right now.

The most important point is for you to find a volunteer spot at Zion that suits YOU. Remember that we all have specific gifts, talents, and even preferences—you just need to find yours! And on a practical note, a list of more volunteers means each person can be scheduled less frequently.

All part of the body of Christ. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. -1 Corinthians 12:15-16

And finally, keep in mind Zion's mission: Connecting through Grace. In addition to the many opportunities for service at Zion, go out into the world, too! There are important opportunities for service everywhere, just find your niche!

Current Opportunities

Altar Guild. This group prepares the Altar for worship, sets up communion each weekend and cleans up after the services. Training is available and anyone may serve: women, men, or couples. Scheduling is done in pairs: one person or couple sets up, usually on Saturday; the second cleans up after the service, washing and drying communion ware. Contact: Ann Marie Mogren

Counters. This group counts and records the weekly offerings. Usually this is done after church on Sundays, but you can arrange with your partner to count on a weekday if that suits your schedule better. Contact: Jane Erdahl, Ann Marie Mogren

Chancel Choir. The choir is a non-audition group of singers who love to sing and enjoy contributing to the worship service. Practice is at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. Contact the church office.

Youth News

RMS Youth Gathering

Calling all youth 6th-12th graders, if you are interested in attending the Rocky Mountain Youth Gathering, please let Lisa know by October 15, 2019.



RMS Middle and High School Youth Gathering!

January 18-20, 2020

YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado

Cost: \$180 per person

Registration opens Sept 1

Come join with other youth as we explore what it means to be transformed by the amazing love of God and to take that transformative love home into everyday life!

Faith Formation Disciples

Faith Coaches met their Faith Formation Disciples at the Promise Sunday BBQ (8/25/19) at Murray Park. What a great way to start off the school year knowing that we all have someone to pray for during our days.

Thank you to everyone who came out to join in the celebration.



A Vicar's Voice

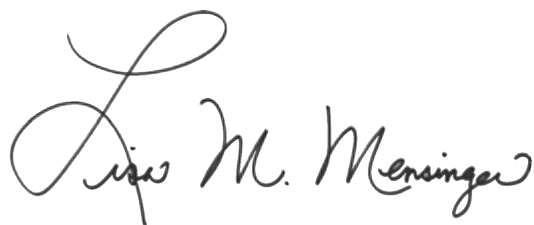
As a Vicar (aka, pastor-in-training), I thought that I should begin to understand who else uses the church building at Elim during the week, and so I met the people who attend Alcohol Anonymous Monday through Friday at noon. Acts 2:42 came to mind as I sat on a metal chair and read from the Big Book. "They devoted themselves to the apostle's teachings fellowship (greek, koinonia), to the breaking of bread and prayers." I was amazed with the ways that God shows up in among the people.

On Thursdays, I experience koinonia (fellowship) in a deep and profound way. In the basement of the church, God is there in the painful stories of loss, broken relationships, and every day struggles of fighting addiction. Koinonia is alive when we say each other's name out loud in unison. Hearing a group of strangers, say my name "Vicar Lisa" made me feel like I belong and that I was among the fellowship of believers that truly know that to surrender to our powerlessness is to win against the resistance that keeps us from being truly happy. We all have some form of addiction (work, fame, substance, praise, wealth, power, you fill in the blank), and to admit that we are powerless is the beginning of truly allowing God, the Almighty Creator, to shape our lives in the way God intended us to be. We need koinonia to help remind us that we are all made in God's image.

Richard Rohr in his book, *Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps*, summarizes the connection between Jesus and the Twelve Steps in this way:

"We suffer to get well.
We surrender to win.
We die to live.
We give it away to keep it."

Koinonia creates this truth, and God is in the "We." God is the mercy, compassion and grace that we yearn for to fill the "God-hole" in our daily lives. Please join me in praying for all who suffer from addictions and mental illness.



Vicar Lisa Preaching
Schedule at Zion:

- September 1 & 29
- October 20
- December 1 & 29

What does becoming a sanctuary denomination mean for the ELCA?

•In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the highest legislative authority of the ELCA, declared that when we preach on Sunday that Jesus told us to welcome, we will use our hands and voices on Monday to make sure it happens.

•Being a sanctuary denomination does not call for any person, congregation or synod to engage in any illegal actions.

•We have a broken system regarding immigration, refugees and asylum seekers. To declare ourselves a sanctuary church body is to say that we seek to provide concrete resources to assist the most vulnerable who are feeling the sharp edges of this broken system.

•Being a sanctuary denomination is about loving our neighbors. While we may have different ideas about how to fix this broken system and may have different ways of loving our neighbors, our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith.

•Being a sanctuary denomination will look different in different contexts. It may mean providing space for people to live; providing financial and legal support to those who are working through the immigration system; or supporting other congregations and service providers. We cannot mandate or direct our congregations and ministries to respond in specific ways. Each must work out what this means for them in their context.

•While we don't yet know the full scope of the work that this declaration will open for the church, we do know that our faith communities are already doing sanctuary work. Sanctuary for a congregation may mean hosting English as a second Language (ESL) classes; marching as people of faith against the detention of children and families; providing housing for a community member facing deportation; or, in some of our congregations, having thoughtful conversations about what our faith says about immigration. All of these are a step closer to sanctuary in our faith communities and sanctuary in our world for people who must leave their homes.

•Except for our members whose ancestors were here before European settlement or others who were forced to come to the U.S. against their will, the ELCA is an immigrant church. Our decadeslong work with immigrants and refugees is how we practice our faith in the world. Lutherans started Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, one of the nine refugee resettlement agencies in the U.S.

•At our last churchwide assembly, we also committed to walking alongside Central American children and families fleeing their communities by passing the AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).

•Through the AMMPARO strategy, we are also working through our global partners in Central America to alleviate the conditions that cause people to migrate. We support organizations and faith communities that work with deported migrants in Central America and advocate for the humane treatment of immigrants in Mexico. In the U.S., we have a network of 151 welcoming and sanctuary congregations that are committed to working on migration issues and a welcome for immigrant communities. The church also has five sanctuary synods (our regional structures), all of which do work with immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

•In baptism, we are brought into a covenantal relationship with Jesus Christ that commits us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Following the example of Martin Luther, we believe that advocacy is a crucial expression of baptismal identity. As a church, we have advocated for stopping the detention of children and families for decades. We have spoken out against family separation, sought a pathway to citizenship for community members who have lived in the U.S. for many years, and have taken steps to address the root causes of migration in a way that honors the humanity in people who must flee.

•Being a sanctuary denomination means that we, as church together, want to be public and vocal about this work. At the same time, we will have conversations about what sanctuary means with many of our members and discern future action and direction. Welcoming people is not a political issue for us, it is a matter of faith.





2019 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY
AUGUST 5-10, 2019 • MILWAUKEE

2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Summary

Gathering under the theme, “We are church,” voting members made a number of key decision to further the mission and ministry of the church. Here are some of the highlights:

- Reelected the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton as presiding bishop.
- Approved social statement, “Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action.”
- Adopted a memorial that affirms the ELCA’s long-standing commitment to migrants and refugees and declares the ELCA a sanctuary church body.
- Adopted a resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance in the ELCA for the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people who were shot and killed June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.
- Adopted a memorial that affirms the ELCA’s long-standing commitment to migrants and refugees and declares the ELCA a sanctuary church body.
- Adopted a resolution to condemn white supremacy, calling all ELCA congregations to engage in a “study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God.”
- Adopted a memorial to encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA’s ordination of women in 2020.

Go to elca.org/News-and-Events/8003 for a full summary.

(Courtesy of ELCA.org)

Bright Minds Daycare — Sunday School Offerings

Pastor Steve writes: *“I recently visited Bright Minds Daycare Center and saw the world. The center primarily serves refugee families, about 80% who come from Somalia. But the Director, Haji Mawie, says there are about six other languages spoken at the center. Most of the African families are large and almost all of them are in need. “Please, we will receive any gift you can offer,” said Haji, “and all of the donations help the families of the children.” This year’s Sunday School offerings will go to Bright Minds, in West Valley. And, there is more that we can offer and receive. Haji has invited us to the center, to interact with the children, and to develop relationships with the families. Please pray for our new mission partners and look for announcements/invitations about the ways we can visit the children. Until then, please bring your donations to church.”*

Items welcomed include pencils, crayons, folders, lunchboxes, backpacks, and more.

Child Detention, What Can We Do?

On June 6, 2019, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and other faith leaders issued a statement on children in detention:

Our houses of worship and agencies have welcomed, engaged and served many migrant families that have recently arrived in the U.S. These migrants have left their communities to provide safety for their children and protect them from harm. Sadly, as a nation we have denied them safety, instead placing them in detention facilities, sometimes long after the mandated 72-hour limit. Many detention centers are overcrowded and lack sanitation, further elevating the risk of serious health issues for migrants already stressed and weakened by their journeys.

We believe our nation and its leaders have both the moral and legal responsibility on behalf of those who seek safety in our land." (Read full statement)

In the weeks following Bishop Eaton's statement, many more stories have emerged about this ongoing humanitarian crisis. As awful details about the conditions in detention centers have filtered into public consciousness, many people of faith are rightly filled with sadness and anger, as well as a determination to take action. Just as God has shown grace and mercy to God's people, we also seek to reflect that grace and mercy into the world, reaching out with hope to those suffering in our midst. Below are several ways in which you can respond in faith to this crisis:

- 1) Our border and immigration ministries are continuing to offer temporary hospitality to families released from detention. Support the on-going work of Border Servant Corps, Peace Las Cruces, Trinity Las Cruces, Cristo Rey El Paso, and Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains through financial gifts. Volunteer through Border Servant Corps.
- 2) Follow ELCA AMMPARO, ELCA Advocacy, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service on social media for updates and action alerts. Respond to action alerts and share in your networks.
- 3) Contact your elected officials in Congress and ask them to end child detention by exercising legal oversight. <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>
- 4) Know Your Rights. Learn what rights you have when you interact with immigration agents or the police. Share and post this information openly in your buildings.
- 5) Connect with organizations in your community supporting immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs" (Matthew 19:14).

God of love, we give thanks for the people and communities opening their doors to welcome refugees and asylum seekers. Sustain them in their work. God of comfort be present to the children living in detention centers crying out for justice. Let them know your peace. Stir up compassion in the employees and administrators in charge of their care. God of mercy, help us find the courage and compassion to end child detention and bring about a system rooted in your love for all humanity. We offer prayers that come in the form of tears, with sighs too deep for words, Amen



Here are some photos taken just last week, showing five of the six ranks of pipes inside the swell box.

This view looks through the Great division, so the camera was held just a few feet behind the façade pipes in the third case segment ("box") from the left as you face the organ. Pipes of the Great division are in the foreground, and Swell pipes can be seen through the open swell shades (vertical louvers) in the background.

Photos below show the upper octaves of the five ranks currently installed and the bass octaves (12 largest pipes each) of three ranks.



View Through Great Division

This view looks through the Great division, so the camera was held just a few feet behind the façade pipes in the third case segment ("box") from the left as you face the organ. Pipes of the Great division are in the foreground, and Swell pipes can be seen through the open swell shades (vertical louvers) in the background.

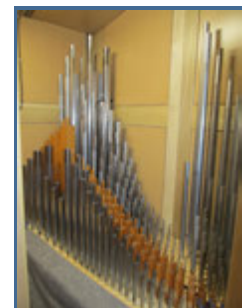
Photos below show the upper octaves of the five ranks currently installed and the bass octaves (12 largest pipes each) of three ranks.

Bigelow is getting close to completion of Phase Two of the project. Five of the six ranks of the new Swell division are installed and playable. And the first octave (12 largest pipes) of the sixth rank ("Oboe") was installed after these photos were taken. Once Bigelow's work is done (musical and mechanical aspects) David and volunteers will work some more "behind the scenes" to wrap things up (thermal insulation, bracing, etc.). David is looking forward to the organ's expanded versatility, just in time for the start of choir season.

Completing Phase 2 will be an exciting milestone in this project. We continue to be grateful to everyone who continues to support this project with ongoing contributions or via one-time donations. If you would like to add your support, see the giving links on the Zion web page, or give via cash, check, PayPal, or direct deposit, noting it as a donation to the organ fund. Thank you!



Bass octave pipes



Upper octave pipes

Child Care Needed

We are in great need of a nursery attendant for the school year during worship. Please contact the church office for specific information. We are actively looking and scheduling interviews but if you have any interest please reach out and please share this offer with your networks and friends where appropriate. This is a paid position (\$30/Sunday) and requires a background check.

Welcome and greetings as we begin a new school year! It was great to see the school full of life on Back to School Night and Meet the Teacher Day and I'm so excited for our first days of school. I've been anticipating the sounds of children in the halls, seeing familiar faces, and new faces too! The classrooms look bright and cheerful once again! God continues to bless Let Me Shine as we begin our 18th year of serving our community. We have wonderful families, an outstanding staff and a great Board of Trustees!

May God bless you and our school year.

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." - Mark 10:14

Barb



Worship Volunteers

Altar Guild

- September 1: Jan Heins + Marsha Gilford
- September 8: Marci Hall + Holly Graham
- September 15: Ann Marie Mogren + Bruce & Lois Stewart
- September 22: Steve & Marie Newton + Holly Graham
- September 29: Ann Marie Mogren + Marsha Gilford

Counters

- September 1: Jan Heins + Diane Teece
- September 8: Bob Hackworth + Paul Mogren
- September 15: Jane Erdahl + Sandra Kragthorpe
- September 22: Marci Hall + Fred Strohacker
- September 29: Ann Marie Mogren + Janice Ruggles

Assisting Ministers

- September 1: Volunteers Needed
- September 8: Volunteers Needed
- September 15: Volunteers Needed
- September 22: Volunteers Needed
- September 29: Volunteers Needed

If you'd like to volunteer to be a greeter, an usher, or host coffee hour, please sign up in the Narthex or contact the church office.

Director

Barb Balliff

Assistant Director

Holly Graham

18 Month

Denet Barnitz

2 Year Old

Cherry Squires

Laken Watts

Preschool

Lezlie Hargrave

Adair Watts

Pre-Kindergarten

Sabrina Bell

Christina Farden

Kristina Obermark

Music

Alia Gonzales

Aides

Kristina Schwartz

Janel Trapp

Malissa Hazel

Gabrielle Khokhar

Media

Nicole Caldwell



Calling all Let Me Shine families - let's get to know each other as the new school year begins! Join us on Friday, September 13 at 4:30 pm at Let Me Shine for an ice cream social. See you then!

Dear Church — A Group Discussion

Pastor Steve wants to facilitate a group discussion on the new book by ELCA Pastor Lenny Duncan, *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* Please email pastor@zelc.org so that he can schedule a time and place for the discussion.

Here is one summary.

Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work—drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological. But so are the answers.

Again, all are welcome. Please contact Pr. Steve to arrange the discussion.

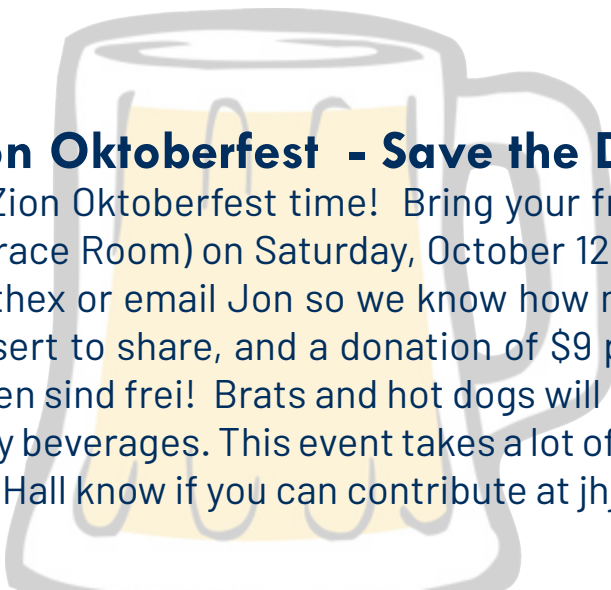
Sunday School Rally Day

On September 8 we will have our annual Sunday School Rally Day between services from 9:15-10:30 am. This kicks off our Sunday School year. Beginning this day, we will switch to our Fall worship schedule. Awakening Worship will be at 8:15 am and Traditional Worship will be at 10:30 am. We look forward to a great year!

Rally Day!

Zion Oktoberfest - Save the Date – October 12

It's Zion Oktoberfest time! Bring your friends, bring your family to the Zion Rathskeller (Terrace Room) on Saturday, October 12 at 4:30 pm. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or email Jon so we know how much food to purchase. Bring a pot-luck dish or dessert to share, and a donation of \$9 per adult, \$4 per child ages 4-12; kinder unter 4 jahren sind frei! Brats and hot dogs will be provided, and Jon will be bringing a variety of tasty beverages. This event takes a lot of help before, during, and afterward, so please let Jon Hall know if you can contribute at jhjh87@gmail.com. Prost!



Please follow Zion on social media. There you'll find news from and about Zion, pictures from events, worship, the grounds, and more!

Facebook.com/zionslc

Twitter.com/zelcslc

Instagram.com/zelcslc



**To be featured in the Herald
submit events or news to
office@zelc.org**

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