

# CONNECTIONS

Website: [ZionsLuth.org](http://ZionsLuth.org) | [zionsluth@gmail.com](mailto:zionsluth@gmail.com)

## Worship Services

Zion's worship services are at 10 a.m. each Sunday at 510 Pine St. We return to worship in the sanctuary Sept. 3. After a summer of outdoor worship. The first Sunday of each month is potluck time. In September, the potluck will be Sunday, Sept. 3. Sunday morning Bible Study and Friday Women's Bible Study, resume as well. Watch for updates in worship bulletins, e-formation, and on Zion's newsletter.

## GWOH Sunday and Zion's Anniversary Need Volunteers

If you can help by providing food or giving some of your time to these two important events in our the life of our congregation, please sign up using the sheets in the Fellowship Hall, or by contact the church via email or phone. Details of both celebrations are found elsewhere in the newsletter.

## History Lessons, Blessings, and More

By Pamela Nelson-Serafini



History has always been one of my favorite subjects and I used to imagine traveling back in time to see it in the making. But then I realize how spoiled I am with all the modern conveniences, and I change my mind.

However, that doesn't keep me from envisioning what it must have been like,

walking with Jesus or, being part of the making of our beloved Zion's. When I worked for Pastor Andrea, sometimes I would sit in the sanctuary by myself and envision all the souls that have gone before me.

We are coming up on 135 years of history folks! It is a history that is filled with changes and diversity, a history that is filled with ecumenical friendships.

In 2019, I was honored to speak in place of Pastor Andrea, (who had prior engagements) at the dedication of the cornerstone of the Temple Aaron. Some of you know the history.

You see, the connection between Temple Aaron and Zion's Lutheran church began back in 1888. There was a large population of German speaking Lutherans that wanted to start a church; however, they had no building and no minister.

(continued on page 2)

## Serving Zion's

### Church Council:

Kathy Broman  
Peggy Gustafson  
Norine Hazen  
Cherie Holder  
Paula Little  
Mike McNeil  
Carol Schulzkump  
Jeff Smith  
Julie Wersal

### Staff:

Lisa Rygiel, Vicar  
Jo Moss, Assistant to the  
Pastor/Vicar

### Standing Committees:

5 Loaves/Thanksgiving —  
Norine Hazen, lead  
Altar Preparation —  
Kathy Nicolai, lead  
Angels in Aprons/  
Birthday Cards — Lynn  
Chase, lead  
Building & Grounds —  
Julie Wersal, oversight  
Communications/Social  
Media — Lisa Rygiel, lead  
Communion Bread —  
Cherie Holder  
Flower Guild — Lynn  
Chase, lead  
Prayer List/Warriors —  
Carol Smith, coordinator  
Safety & Security — Jeff  
Smith, lead  
Worship & Music — Lisa  
Rygiel, lead  
Worship Assistants —  
JoAnn Karspeck,  
coordinator

*Contact these people via  
Zion's email or by  
personal email/phone  
listed in the church  
directory.*

## History Lessons and More...cont.

(continued from page 1)

*Once a month a German-speaking Presbyterian minister traveled down from Denver and the other weeks, Rabbi Gluck traveled from Las Vegas, NM to conduct worship services, sacraments, burials, etc. He also spoke German. For two years the Rabbi and the Presbyterian minister organized regular meetings, helped to choose the land that Zion's sits on today and met with Mr. Rapp, the same architect who designed Temple Aaron.*

They had written to the Missouri Synod for a pastor, but it took time to find one that spoke fluent German. In the meantime, Temple Aaron accepted a permanent Rabbi by the name of Leopold Frudenthal.

The Lutheran pastor arrived and arrangements were made for the cornerstone to be laid for Zion's. Unfortunately, the Lutheran pastor raised a fuss about the Rabbi and his congregation being present for the ceremony and was adamant about not letting them be there.

However, the Fraumeisters (Women's group) stood their ground, and the Lutheran pastor was forced to resign without ever having stepped foot inside the church! The cornerstone was laid with Rabbi Gluck, Rabbi Frudenthal and Temple Aaron's congregation fully present!

It was two more years before Zion's received a permanent pastor so, Rabbi Leopold continued to deliver the Word and Sacrament to the Lutheran people of Zion's. He performed weddings, funerals, baptisms, and Holy Communion. He ministered to the needs of the people of Zion's as well as his own Temple.

An article from the Trinidad Chronicle News, January 30, 2023: *In 1939, a celebration of the church's fiftieth anniversary was held, hosted by the Methodist congregation in Trinidad. "Half a century in the life of a pioneer church organization of Trinidad was unreeled to some 200 people gathered at the First Methodist church last night to commemorate with pastor and congregation the golden anniversary of Zion's Lutheran Church. Several pastors representing other churches of Trinidad joined with the worshipers of Zion's and guests to make the occasion a memorable one."*

So, as you read about this wonderful history, from the beginning in 1889 to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1939 to the 130<sup>th</sup> in 2018 to the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary this September, I pray you remember the significance and importance of being ecumenical, welcoming all, helping all. This is the teachings of Jesus after all.

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## History Lessons and More...cont.

(continued from page 2)

*My favorite part about the stories of Jesus is that He didn't hang out with kings and the rich, no, he hung out with the lowly, he taught to the prostitutes and the poor, and the lepers! He loved them ALL, no matter where they came from. WE are all broken and in need of the healing of Jesus, to help us remember we are all on this journey together, trying to make our way home!*

*"Why is ecumenism important to Christians? — Many Christians try to follow Jesus' example by working for reconciliation in the world. Ecumenism is a form of reconciliation that aims to bring the different denominations of Christianity together."*

As many of you know, David and I sold our farm and are moving to Washington State, in fact, by the time you read this, we will be there or at least near our destination.

We certainly will miss our church family at Zion's and all the wonderful memories created there and in Trinidad. We were so surprised to feel the amount of love and huge welcoming when we first started coming to church. For that, I really must thank our sister in Christ, our beloved Pastor Andrea. Without the Holy Spirit working through her and that one chance phone call with me saying that if she ever needed help that I always wanted to work for a church. That was the new beginning for me.

Through Andrea's faith in me, she showed me that I AM worthy of God's love. She showed me I have a voice and without her kindness, mentorship, and love, I would not know all of you wonderful souls!

So, thank you Andrea. Thank you, Julie, Vicar Lisa, Jo, and Pastor Kate, for all you have given us in love and friendship, indeed, thank you all.

We will keep in touch and think of you often with fondness and love.

## Garage Sale Proceeds Help Many Ministries

By Julie Wersal

A great big "Thank-You" to all of you who donated items, helped pick-up and deliver furniture, organized and arranged sale items, helped people as they shopped, and helped clean up after our Annual Garage Sale.

Most specifically Jo and Mark Moss, JoAnn Karspeck, Mike McNeil, Kathy Nicolai, Mike McMillan, Carol Smith, Mike Nipps, David Serafini, Ruthie Culpepper, Kathy Humphries, Tea & Chad Compton, Beth Willson, Vicar Lisa & John Rygiel, Norine Hazen, Tami Hix, Paula Little and Ena Sroat.



We collected more than \$3500 which will enable us to continue to help with our local and global mission work. In addition, we were able to bless Holy Trinity Academy with a donation of more than 30 backpacks given to us for our sale, the Sayre Senior Center with 2 pieces of exercise equipment, household items for the Church of Christ, Noah's Ark Thrift Shop with the "leftover" books, and the remaining items that did not sell went to PALS (Pet Assistance League Store).

**Acknowledgements:** Contributors — Pamela Nelson-Serafini, Julie Wersal, Vicar Lisa, Norine Hazen, Ali England, Carol Smith, Paula Little, Sherry Gartside, Lutheran Disaster Response, Temple Aaron, U.S. Department of Interior, and ELCA. Photos/Images — Jo Moss, Paula Little, Chad Compton, and historycolorado.org. Editorial Assistance — Lynn Chase. Editor — Jo Moss.

**Spotlight On:****Zion's GWOH Helps with The Way on Sept. 10**

By Vicar Lisa Rygiel & Jo Moss

Five years ago, Pastor Clay Mason and his wife Mary started "The Way" ministry in Trinidad, serving the underserved – the unhoused, people dealing with addiction, and as Pastor Clay once described "those who our society deems of lesser value." In August 2018, The Way prepared and served their first Sunday lunch in Cimino Park, a routine that has continued (weather permitting, and sometimes when it doesn't) ever since.

Through the years, Pastor Clay and Mary, along with Lana Geier and ACTS, not only feed people in the community, but also work to help people find homes, jobs, and a future. They help get people to court for hearings, take them for addiction rehab, support them with clothing, and assist in many other ways. In the process, they also spread the word of God through both their ministries and their actions.

Pastor Clay presides at weddings and funerals, conducts worship services, has been guest preacher (including at Zion's), and regularly baptizes people often in the waters of the Purgatoire River.

He and Mary work closely with Zion's to manage a warming shelter for the unhoused when temperatures dip into the teens or lower.

When Pastor Clay greeted people at that first lunch in the park, he noted that, "It felt good to once again be in the presence of God and those whom our society deems of lesser value. I saw His face many times today. Many times. And I heard his voice as I listened to the stories of those we have been called to minister too."

Zion's partnership with The Way has included not only the warming shelter, but also making monetary donations as part of our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday and God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) offerings as well as collecting coats and other winter clothing to donate.



Zion's has helped with the feeding ministry providing food for the Sunday luncheons.

For Zion's 2023 GWOH project, we will give Pastor Clay and Mary a well-deserved Sunday off. "We will provide and serve the food, lead a short devotional, and administer communion to those who gather at Cimino Park after worship on Sunday, Sept. 10," said Vicar Lisa, noting that sign up sheets are on the table in the Fellowship Hall that give people several options as to how to help.

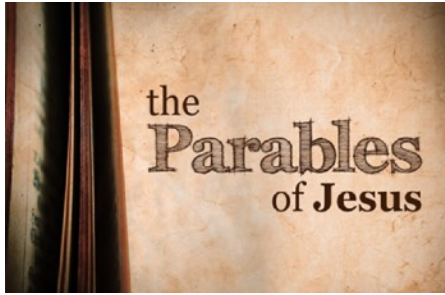
This is the ten-year anniversary for the GWOH project. It is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America -- one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

"We know that the gospel changes lives and that God's power and grace are real and at work today. We live out our purpose through worship and service, in our congregations and communities, through our individual vocations and our collective work as church together. God's work Our hands Sunday offers a special opportunity to be church together and to share Jesus' love," according to the ELCA.

"Please use the gifts that God has blessed you with to share in this event," said the vicar. "We know that many hands make light work so please plan on participating if you are able. It is a good opportunity to be a blessing to others. You will see God's face reflected in the faces of others. And you will leave blessed."



## Women's Bible Study Resumes with the Parables



Women's Bible Study ends its summer hiatus in September with a study of "The Parables of Jesus". It will be lead by Carol Smith who said, "I have decided to lead a study on 'The Parables of Jesus' using various helpful books and studies from the Internet. I will prepare ahead and let you know what to read before the study and perhaps (I will) have questions to think about before we gather."

The first study will focus on:

- 1) What is a parable?
- 2) Why did Jesus use parables in the first place?
- 3) Why not just reveal everything plainly, without hyperbole?

The Bible Study resumes its regular schedule every other Friday, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 8, in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs in the blue room). The studies usually conclude by 11:30 a.m. Carol will send study details via email as Sept. 8 approaches. Everyone is invited said Carol noting, "Please invite others who I may not have on this email list."

### Church Council Bits Pieces — Aug. 2023

Zion's monthly church council meeting was held Aug. 17, (moved Sunday to Thursday to accommodate schedules).

- Vicar Lisa, Jo Moss, Mike McNeil and Kathy Broman are part of a committee to work on the Mission & Vision Statement.
- The Council discussed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws as proposed by a committee of Vicar Lisa, Julie Wersal, Carol Schulzkump and Kathy Broman.
- The council will vote on the constitution changes at the next meeting and then seek approval from both the congregation and the Synod. The congregational meeting to review the changes should be in October.

*You are cordially invited to  
Celebrate Zion's Lutheran Church  
on the occasion of its  
135th Anniversary.*

*Our Celebratory Worship is at 10 a.m.  
September 24, 2023, in the Sanctuary.*

*Fellowship, a barbecue and ice cream social  
will follow, with music by Sam & Jeff Montoya*

*If you cannot attend in person, please  
remember Zion's in your prayers.*



Please RSVP via e-mail – [zionsluth@gmail.com](mailto:zionsluth@gmail.com)

By phone – (719) 846-7765

Or by mail – 510 Pine Street, Trinidad CO 81082

## ELCA Update

# Renewed Lutheran Church Commission Begins Work with Summer 2025 Deadline

When the 2022 Church-wide Assembly voted last summer to form the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) to recommend how to restructure the ELCA's governing process, it reached back four decades for a name.

The original Commission for a New Lutheran Church, which met between 1982 and 1987, was a mammoth research project that held forums across the country, reviewed more than 12,000 letters from Lutheran faithful, and processed responses from synod, district and national conventions of three Lutheran denominations hoping to merge. That work led to the creation of the ELCA. Branding the new commission feels nothing less than epochal.

The current group of 35 rostered ministers and laypeople from across the church will conduct a more condensed version of the original group's investigation, examining "statements of purpose" and "principles of organization" for all three expressions and conducting nationwide research and listening forums.

"Church itself has changed," said Carla Christopher, assistant to the bishop for justice ministries in the Lower Susquehanna Synod. "The people coming to church have changed and the systems necessary to support the work (that) the church is doing have changed."

When the next church-wide assembly convenes, in summer 2025, the CRLC will present its findings and recommend whether the church should mount a special reconstituting convention without delay.

(Information adapted from *Living Lutheran*, *Inside the Commission that Could Restructure ELCA*, by J.R. Jones, Aug. 2, 2023. For more information, read the full article at: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2023/08/inside-the-commission-that-could-restructure-the-elca/>.)

## Lutheran Disaster Response Begins Maui Wildfire Relief

Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian islands with the Island of Maui, most affected. Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed more than 100 lives and have destroyed homes, businesses, and lines of communication.

Thousands of people have evacuated and have no homes to which to return. Wildfires have also affected the Big Island of Hawaii, and all of the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season.



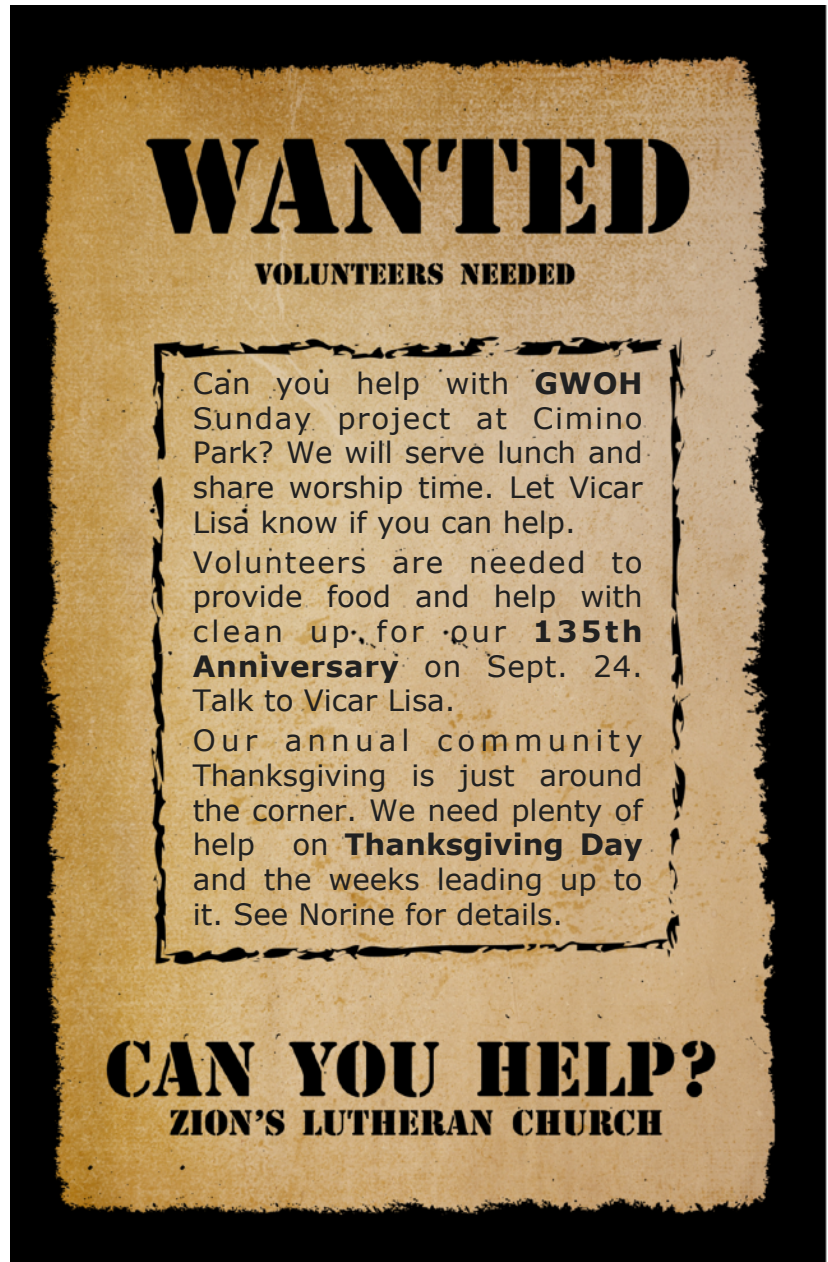
Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. LDR will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction and is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.



Gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response equip recovery teams to respond to this, and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be used in full for those affected by the wildfires. Use this QR code to donate (scan it and go to the LDR site):

## What's Happening in Zion's Lutheran Family?

- ★ Save the Date: Saturday, Sept. 17 will be Zion's Fall Clean Up Day. This effort is being coordinated by **Julie Wersal** and will begin at 8:30 a.m. The project goal is to have the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and grounds looking good for our 135th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, Sept. 25. If you can help, please let **Julie** or **Vicar Lisa** know.
- ★ Congratulations to **Doris & Terry Blalock** who on Aug. 20 renewed their wedding vows after Sunday worship
- ★ Special thanks to **Lana Geier** who helped launch our *Temple Talk* series on Aug. 13, discussing the ACTS and Samaritan Clinic services. Our next *Temple Talk* will be Sunday, Oct. 1.
- ★ On Sunday, Aug. 27, Zion's bid farewell to **David & Pamela Nelson Serafini**, who are moving to Washington State.
- ★ We found a box of the yellow *God's Work Our Hands* shirts. If you need one please contact **Julie Wersal** or **Jo Moss**.
- ★ Congratulations to our Zion's members and friends for a job well done during Main Street Live's presentation of *Sound of Music*. And, special thanks to the members of Zion's and friends, including **Pastor Kate Schlechter**, who attended the play both for the amazing entertainment and to support our members. The performers from Zion's were: **David Lamb, Melodie Lanosga, Becky McNeil, Ernie Parker, Lisa Rygiel**, and **Sharon Sorenson**.
- ★ Church Council meets after worship on Sunday, Sept. 17, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome, you do not need to be a council member to attend.
- ★ Special thanks to our cooks for August 5 Loaves who helped bake more than 225 potatoes for our meals. Thank you **Paula Little, Ruthie Culpepper, Joni Jones, Peggy Gustafson, Norine Hazen**. And to the best watermelon cutter **T.M. Garner**.





## Congregation Aaron Observes 140th Anniversary



The most historic synagogue in the Mountain West (that portion of the country between the Dakotas and the West Coast) sits on South Maple Street, here in Trinidad. Temple Aaron is considered to be one of the most historically significant synagogues in the Mountain West.

Founded in 1883, Congregation Aaron officially observed the anniversary of its founding on July 24, but will celebrate its 140th Anniversary this fall, when the synagogue officially is added to the National Registry of Historic Places.

The congregation built its stately red brick synagogue in 1889, at an approximate cost of \$12,000. The building was designed by the same architects credited with the design of Zion's sanctuary (more about the architects' contribution to Trinidad's houses of worship is on page 10 of the newsletter.

The synagogue has numerous stained-glass windows in a color scheme of red, blue and yellow, a 200-person, second-floor sanctuary with an elevated wooden bimah (platform in a synagogue from which the Torah and Prophets are read), and an enormous pipe organ on a balcony above the sanctuary.

The building, at 407 South Maple Street, has been recognized as being of tremendous historical importance to the state of Colorado.

Temple Aaron is one of fewer than two dozen original structures that have continuously been synagogues in the U.S. since the 19th century, and the third oldest such structure west of the Mississippi River.

Zion's Lutheran and Temple Aaron have maintained a closely linked relationship throughout their histories, beginning in the late 1880s when Rabbis Gluck and Leopold Freudenthal helped Trinidad's German Lutherans establish Zion's congregation and build the sanctuary.

*For more information, follow this link: <https://www.templeaaron.org/history-of-temple-aaron>.*

### Congratulatory Letter from Zion's to Congregation Aaron

Dear Congregation of Temple Aaron,

On behalf of the congregation of Zion's Lutheran Church, we would like to congratulate you on the 140th anniversary of the founding of Congregation Aaron.

As the congregations of Temple Aaron and Zion's Lutheran have been part of the rich heritage of Trinidad and Las Animas County, we remain proud of our shared history. Indeed, the congregation of Temple Aaron played an integral part in the early days of Zion's Lutheran Church and we are grateful that relationship has continued through the years.

We thank God for those who founded the Temple Aaron community of believers and for the signs of God's presence in your congregation. May God continue to increase in all of us the spirit of faith and love, that makes Temple Aaron and our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations of the power of God in our lives and our community.

Blessings,

Vicar Lisa Rygiel

Julie Wersal

Church Council President







# September

## 2023

## Birthdays:

2 — Hal Burton	25 — Jan Leckenby
2 — Clayton Nelson	26 — Breann Hass
6 — T.M. Garner	28 — Teresa Larson
10 — Margaret Gumke	29 — Skylar Rose Jones
15 — Bethany Pierce	30 — Jo Moss

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ushers: 3 — Steve & JoAnn Karspeck 10 — Tracy Wahl & John Rygiel 17 — Cherie Holder & Mike McNeil 24 — Sharon Sorenson & T.M. Garner					1	2
Lector: 3 — David Lamb 10 — John Rygiel 17 — Mike McNeil 24 — T.M. Garner					1 pm Women Support Group	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 am Worship 11:30 am Potluck	5:30 pm AA (FH)	5 pm Dementia Support Group (FH)			9:30 am Women's Bible Study 1 pm Women Support Group	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 am GWOH Worship 11:30 GWOH Project	5:30 pm AA (FH)				1 pm Women Support Group	<b>8:30 am Fall Clean Up: Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, Grounds</b>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 am Worship 11:30 am Church Council	11:30 am PEO (FH) 5:30 pm AA (FH)				9:30 am Women's Bible Study 1 pm Women Support Group	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10 am Worship 135th Anniversary Celebration	5:30 pm AA (FH)	Newsletter Deadline 			5-Loaves Prep/Delivery (FH) 1 pm Women Support Group	

## From Our History Books:

### **Zion's Lutheran & Temple Aaron Share Much History**

Zion's Lutheran and Temple Aaron have maintained a close relationship through the years, beginning in the late 1880s when Rabbis Gluck and Leopold Freudenthal helped German Lutherans establish Zion's Lutheran and then when prominent Trinidad architects designed houses of worship for both congregations.



The congregation of Temple Aaron celebrates the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding this year, which also sees its Temple building (photo at right), dedicated in December 1889, added to the National Registry of Historic Places. It joins several structures in Trinidad, including Zion's Lutheran, which in 2006 received the registry designation.

Both Temple Aaron and Zion's sanctuary are significant as the work of the prominent, albeit short-lived, Trinidad architectural firm of Bulger & Rapp. The partnership, which only lasted from 1888-91, designed four houses of worship, three of which are listed in the National Register. In March 1889, Bulger and Rapp drew up plans for their first religious building in Trinidad — Temple Aaron. It is one of the oldest Jewish temples in the state. The firm received their second commission for Zion's German Lutheran Church (April 1889), which was dedicated February 23, 1890.

Plans for their third church came into being in late 1889. The First Baptist Church, dedicated in 1891, is a Romanesque-inspired sandstone building. The First Baptist Church (aka United Presbyterian Church) was listed in the National Register in 2000. The fourth religious commission was the Congregational Church. This was the firm's smallest church and the only one built of wood. The frame construction with a pedimented gable and gabled hood has undergone moderate alterations. However, it retains enough physical integrity to be a contributing element to Trinidad's historic district.

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*Zion's Lutheran Church  
510 Pine Street  
Trinidad CO 81082*

*ADDRESS:*