



But Jesus said "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."

Matthew 19:4 (New Living Translation)

The fourth week of June saw the 3 levels of Zion Lutheran Church and the outside grounds, filled with the excitable energy of 16 children, in our Vacation Bible School.

After missing last year due to the pandemic shut-down, the Holy Spirit breathed enough life into these kids, aged 4 to 11 yrs old, to make up for lost time.

The theme was "*God's Good Creation*"

Not only did we open and close with the mantra chant of:

God is Good! **All the time!!**
All the time! **God is Good!!**

We also learned that God's good creative force created enough food so that no child should ever go hungry.

We learned of the importance of goats, chicks, honeybees and pigs in the circle of life and how all contribute to feeding the Body of Christ.

Through skits, music, Bible class, snacks, outside games and activities (including a hamstring injury!) we learned the importance of God's Good Creation in **community**.

As community, the Body of Christ can pull together to provide spiritual and nourishing food for everyone!

Thanks to Pat Castro, our Christian Nurturing team leader, and all the adult volunteers, all the teen and senior high helpers, everyone who contributed snacks, craft materials and prayerful support, together all worked to make this a memorable Vacation Bible School!

We give thanks to the children who attended, and thanked their parents for encouraging this Christian Nurturing in their kids.

If you know someone: a neighbor, a friend, a relative who might like to enroll in our Christian Nurturing program, have them call Pat or myself.

*Then God said "I've given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth
And every kind of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food.
To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes,
I give whatever grows out of the ground for food."
And there it was."*

Genesis 1:30

Pastor David Petersen



~ PRAYER WORKS ~

Please see the names of those currently on our prayer list below. We ask you to provide continued daily prayers for each.

Your prayers of healing, wellness, sympathy and even gratitude are needed and appreciated daily to strengthen those

that are most in need. And through prayer you may find a sense of compassion and resolve in knowing you have helped someone else become better.

Carol Verken, Archie Poole, Barb Quigley, Chris Butler, Chris Hensley, David Fehrle, Marilyn Smith, Arnie Conner, Toni Dice, Sandy and Loren, Luanne Carlton, Jean Kovarik, Terry and Joanne Miller, Jacki Kuharich, Mickey Johnson, Bill Ahlberg, Reynold Johnson, Kendal Schmidt, Wanda Adamson, Julie Adamson, Marie Anderson, Linda Johnson, Otha Bland, Penny Roe, Jesus and Yvonne Miralio, Curt Gustafson, June Morgensen, the Kozlowski Family, Kahlan Hensley, Mary Lou Bender, Anthony DeWitt, Jim Managlia, Craig Zovnar, Donna Smith, Connie (Elmae West's daughter), Pat Udell, the Wennmacher Family, David Schumann on the death of his sister, Heidi,
The ALC Resurrection Church of India



BOONE COUNTY FAIR IS COMING!!

After a year of quarantine - it is exciting to know our community will be having our 2021

Boone County Fair go on as planned the week of August 10-15th!!! Be on the lookout for signup sheets soon in the narthex to work the grandstands once again this summer during the Boone County Fair taking tickets and monitoring the seating as necessary. We will need all hands on-board for this service that we provide our community, showing and displaying our commitment to sharing Christ's love with others. There will be a golf cart available to provide rides to and from your cars to the gates of the grandstand anytime you may need. And water will also be available as you need. Please consider helping us throughout this week of fun! Any questions - please see our amazing leader in this mission, John Bender.



Worship Service Updates and Changes



With the State relaxing COVID-19 restrictions, your church council at their June meeting decided on the following worship changes. The council will continue to monitor CDC and State IDPH recom-

mendations and guidance for the next several months for changes that might impact how we conduct worship at Zion. We will keep you posted on any and all changes through e-blast and through these articles in the monthly Tidings.

The council has determined that the following procedures can be put in place as of June 16, 2021:

*Updated signage on doors regarding mask usage. If vaccinated, no masks are necessary, but feel free to wear one if you feel more comfortable.

*Cushions will be placed back in all pews.

*Hymnals, bibles and hand sanitizer will be placed back in all pews.

*Children's sermon – children will be invited to come to the steps for the message once again.

*Sharing of the Peace will resume and you may participate with your chosen "twist". Shake hands, fist bump, elbow bump, flash the peace sign, sign language, etc.

*Ushers will resume "normal" roles and responsibilities for services.

*Friendship pads will remain at the back-entrance door for people to sign in each week as they enter church.

*Offering plate will remain on the back table and be taken to the altar at the appropriate time during the service by an usher.

*Communion will continue using kits at this time.

We are asking for your help in areas of worship and need your support in keeping our church events active and viable. Your support would allow all of us to keep and be a part of what makes Zion so special. By taking a turn, helps spread the work out and keeps all our volunteers fresh and wanting more. God teaches us to serve and spread the word, and in doing so, we are rewarded through our service of others. So please consider helping Zion through volunteering just a small amount of your time.

Many Hands - Make Light Work!

Please see the bulletin board in the Narthex for many opportunities to sign up to serve.



Examples:

Lay Reader
Altar Flower signups
Coffee Servers
Altar Guild
Usher
Plant Watering
Mowing/Trimming
Pioneer Club
Bible Study
Food Truck
Join a Committee
Choir/Bells
Barnabus
Join the Council
Community Meals
Sound Tech/Video Tech
Sunday School, etc.



WOMEN of ZION

**Did you miss us?
WE ARE BACK!!**

Thank you to all the ladies that attended the planning meeting and came up with some **GREAT** events for the women of Zion.

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- August 28, 2021 – Rolling Back Together Again
- October 23, 2021 – Take Away Bingo and More
- February 26, 2022 – Easter Blessings
- April 30, 2022 – Paint a Flag

All events will be on Saturday mornings from 9:00-11:00am
with coffee and a light snack served.

(There will be sign-up sheets for each event for planning of supplies and snacks.)

Come!! Be a part of the fun and fellowship!!

PIONEERS Will Be Back in the Fall



The Pioneer Luncheon has been cancelled for this month. We will be returning in September. Please mark your calendars for September 13th and the second Monday of each month thereafter. Until then...

Have a wonderful and restful summer!

See you in the Fall!!



Zion encourages her members to grow in mind as well as in spirit. Zion scholarships will help one achieve their goals.

If your future plans include additional education such as offered by a college or university, vocational-trade schools, the armed forces or another continuing form of education, then we invite you to apply for the Zion scholarship. The pursuit of a profession involving entrepreneurship or an apprentice position qualifies as continuing education.

Those members who have received a Zion Scholarship in the past and who wish to pursue another degree, a new certification, or an apprentice position are eligible to apply for a second scholarship. Please call the Zion office or contact Jean Twyning directly at twyning@hotmail.com. Jean may also be reached at 815-988-4385. An email address or a postal address is required to send the application.

SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE:

GETTING CLOSER



Thanks To All of You and Your Willingness to Step Up and Help Zion Gain a New and Up-To-Date Sound System. The New Equipment Has Been Ordered and Will Take Several Weeks for It to Arrive and Be Installed. We Did Have to Order a Couple of Additional Pieces of Equipment Which Has Increased the Project Cost a Bit.

Your Donations Have Come in at Almost \$7,500.00 to Improve Our Sound Technology in The Sanctuary as well as In the Fellowship Hall. We Are So Close and Ask You to Prayerfully Consider Donating to this Sound Solution for Our Church If You Are Able to Do So in Any Way Possible. Just Mark an Envelope with The Word “Sound”, and Place It in The Offering Plate - We Will Be Sure to Apply It to this Much-Needed Improvement to our In-Person and Video Worship Experience. THANK YOU so Very Much!!



It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon, it's just me, 2 dogs and a cat. I am sitting here and pondering what I should do, now that its late afternoon, or early evening as some of you might call it, when it came upon me to light a fire. So, I put some newspaper and sticks in the fire pit, and once the fire was going, I threw some logs on. And as I sat and watched the flames climb towards the heaven, my eyes grew heavy, and the next thing I knew, my journey had started. There before me are the pearly gates of heaven, the gates are so beautiful that they are indescribable, that's when I hear this voice say to me “Rod – what are you doing here? Your name is not on the list.” And all of a sudden, my heart starts beating really fast thinking I was in trouble, then St. Peter said “Wait, let me check the guest list - yes, here's your name and you must know that you can only stay a short time”. The gates started to open slowly. St. Peter said “your guest is waiting for you.” As I came through the gates, there was my mother, more beautiful than ever. We both opened our arms and gave each other hugs like we never gave hugs before. And we had tears running down our cheeks. Then, I told her how much I loved her and missed her, and she said “son, take my hand, I have something to show you.” We went a short distance, and she said “look down there”. As I looked down, I saw myself by the fire. Then she says “follow me over here, look down”. As I looked down, I saw my brother sitting by the fire. And she says “you two are so much alike” and then she had me follow her another short distance, when we looked down, we saw my two sisters. And that's when I said “mom, I don't want to leave.” And she said, “I have work to do on earth and it's not my time.” All of a sudden, this big bell starts ringing. Any my mom says “son, it's time for you to go.” Then we gave each other one last hug. And then an angel came up to me and said “it's time for you to go home”. When my eyes opened – the fire that was before me earlier was just hot coals. I looked up into the heavens and one star seemed to wink at me. And I said “Good night mom, I love you.”



You Give to Yourself – By Giving to Others!

A member of our congregation is in need of a smaller bed and chair due to a smaller apartment. Please contact our church office at 815-547-6102, if you should have a twin bed with frame and/or a comfortable chair that you are willing to donate and give to help this person out?

Your kindness and giving heart is greatly appreciated!!



The women of Zion are excited to sponsor “The Baby Bank”, a non-profit organization that helps young families with diapers and other needed supplies to care for their infants. They will be moving into and working out of two of our rooms, that have been remodeled, in the basement on August 1, 2021. Watch for more opportunities coming up that we can do to help with this ministry!!

Thank You

To all those that attended the Congregational Meeting on June 13th. Your council members are very grateful for those that took the time to help complete the business of the church!

~ In Sympathy ~

*Thoughts and prayers are with Patricia Rehn Forrest as she is enduring the loss of her husband, Stephen Paul to brain cancer. She is the daughter of Dorothy and Ken Rehn. For those of you that remember the Rehn family and Patricia, her address is:
1610 East Ludlow Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85022*

On Sunday, September 29th at 4:00pm, we will be celebrating all of our volunteers that are always here doing the work of Zion!! Especially those who stepped up during the Covid-19 pandemic to do special projects and continued the work needed for our church to stay alive during this difficult time.

A dinner will be served to honor and thank those volunteers. If you and your teams had projects, please provide Cheryl Sturges with a brief description of the work, along with any “before” and “after” pictures at framsturges4@gmail.com.

No job is too big or too small for our members at Zion. We know that “Many Hands - Make God’s Work Possible”. And we are most grateful for those hands as we walked through this terrible pandemic together.





Northern Illinois Synod Assembly took place on June 18-19 (via Zoom)

Affected by Covid-19, like everything else for the past year-and-half, this year the Synod Assembly was not held person-to-person. Zoom was the video platform used to “bring everyone together”. This required two devices: a form of computer with a screen for viewing

and a smartphone to communicate election interaction via email. 327 voting members from across the Northern Illinois Synod attended.

There are advantages to meeting this way. Staying at home meant the accommodations were comfortable, the food was excellent and there were no long lines for the restrooms. Also, as Pastor Petersen pointed out, no one knew what you had in your coffee cup. Conversely, there are disadvantages. The omission of workshops and, the biggest of which, the absence of meeting and interacting with other members.

We worshiped together. Bishop Clements led the opening worship Friday evening focusing on love, grace, outreach, and reformatting. Saturday morning, worship was led by Pastor Janet Hunt from DeKalb focusing on the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women. A Bible study of Luke 24 was led by Rev. Dr. David Lose, senior pastor of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and former president of Luther Seminary. He noted that all four Gospels point out that when the news of the resurrection was (and still is) first heard, it was not believed. Being physical beings, we (think) we need the physical resurrection. We learned about committees, agencies, and institutions via videos.

The usual housekeeping duties of accepting previous minutes, rules, reports, etc., was accomplished without incident before undertaking the constitution, two resolutions and elections. Video forums were held during the week examining each of those items. The constitution was approved, 98% - 2%, with two amendments. One limits a person to be elected to the same office no more than two consecutive terms. The other allows for the sharing of ministry between congregations who reside in different conferences of the Northern Illinois Synod.

The first resolution, “Addressing Anti-Semitism in Lectionary Readings”, was approved, 96% -4%. This resolution deals with the confusing use of the word “Jew” and other words referring to a group of people or a religious belief, in the New Testament. Sometimes it is unclear of its use. This resolution requires a more appropriate word to be used when reading the scripture in public. A complete list of suggested substitutions will be compiled by the end of August.

The second resolution, “Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act”, was approved 89% - 11%. This resolution adds the support of Northern Illinois Synod and its congregations as an advocate for this act in a non-political manner. Elections were held for 53 positions. Only four were contested.

Our church-wide representative is Ms. Victoria Flood, Director for Mission Support, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Jenny Lind Chapel and museum supported by the Northern Illinois Synod, “is a historic church located at the southwest corner of 6th and Oak Streets in Andover, Illinois. Completed in 1851 for a congregation founded the previous year, the church was the first built by the Augustana Synod, the main Swedish Lutheran church in America.” (Wikipedia)

I wish to thank the congregation for allowing me to represent you and Zion. It is an honor and responsibility I do not take lightly. When voting, I considered what I thought would be the expression of this congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Miller



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Our children will be going back to school IN-PERSON this August!! We have been a partner with the First Step Day Care for many years, helping families with meals and Christmas gifts. Even though they are no longer in our building, we continue to help them with this needed ministry. During July, we will be collecting colorful backpacks, (no logos please), just plain book bags or

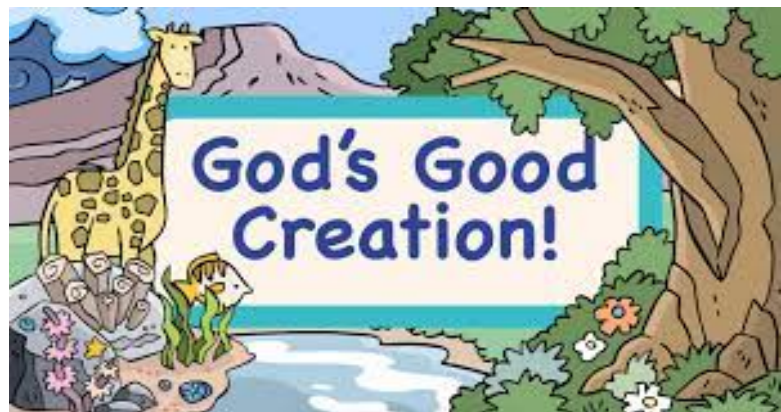
backpacks. Other supplies that can be donated are: Crayons (24 count), Dry Erase Marker (black-low odor), yellow highlighters, No 2 pencils, glue sticks, and washable markers. There will be a bin placed in the entry for any of your donations. We plan to bless the backpacks in August before they are given to the children to start their new school year.



Wednesday morning Bible Study is finishing up the book on 12 Extraordinary Women of the Bible. We will be looking at a new book shortly, if you would like to join us on Zoom at 9:30am

Wednesday mornings - please contact framsturges4@gmail.com. We would love for you to be with us and help in ordering our next book.

Thank You to Pat Castro and her many volunteers and helpers for a wonderful VBS program this past week!



GOD IS GOOD - ALL THE TIME!!

JULY BIRTHDAY'S

2 Fred Smith	12 Mary Lightfoot	25 Kirsten Larson
2 Gary Erickson	13 Heather Wick	26 Jeanie Huffman
6 Pam Romanek	14 Diane Vorndran	26 Richard Beever
6 Pat Erickson	15 Isabelle Bahena	27 Helen Huftalin
7 Curt Gustafson	16 Ian Cordray	30 Jane Schuessler
9 Eva Gass	20 Arlyn Groen	31 Rodney Brandmire
12 Jill Smuck	21 Sharon Yunto	
12 Courtney Long		



From the Treasurer:

General Fund

05/2021	Beginning Balance	\$64,251.60
	Total Income	\$65,241.03
	Total Expenses	<u>\$11,574.80</u>
	Balance	\$117,917.83

Building Fund

05/2021	Beginning Balance	\$17,216.49
	Total Income	\$ 5,641.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$ 7,143.74</u>
	Balance	\$15,713.75

Zion Lutheran Church
1300 Pearl Street
Belvidere, IL 61008

Phone: 815-547-6102
Fax: 815-544-0590

Office Hours:
Monday & Wednesday
10:00 - 1:00pm

Website Address: www.zionbelvidere.com
Email: zionoffice@zionbelvidere.org
Facebook: ZionBelvidere+

Staff

Rev. David J. Petersen
Pastor

Jeff Ernest
Council President

Dan Albrecht
Choir Director

Pat Castro
Sunday School Director

Diane Vorndran
Financial Secretary

Sharon Yunto
Treasurer

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:00am
Thursday's at 7:00pm

Find Worship Videos at
www.zionbelvidere.com

OR

On Facebook at
[ZionBelvidere+](https://www.facebook.com/ZionBelvidere+)

Council Members

Term Through January 2022

Kris Beever
John Bender
Pat Scherf
Rod Brandmire
Jen Downey
Marge Olson
Donna Brookbank
Tanya Hoemke

Term Through January 2023

Cheryl Sturges
Kris Enright
Gail Walsh Knitter

Term Through January 2024

Jeff Ernest

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Pastor Petersen Cell Phone #: 815-408-0242		1 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor) 7:00 pm – Worship	2 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor)	3
4 Sunday Worship @ 9am **Happy 4th of July** 	5 Office Hours: 10-1 Witness Meeting: 7:00pm	6 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor) Worship/Music Mtg-5pm	7 Office Hours: 10-1 Sewing/Quilting - 9:00am Zoom Bible Study-9:30am	8 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor) Bell Choir Meet - 6:00 7:00 pm – Worship	9 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor)	10
11 Sunday Worship @ 9am Bells perform	12 Office Hours: 10-1 Finance Meeting: 5:30pm	13 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor) Christian Nurturing Meeting: 7:00pm	14 Office Hours: 10-1 Sewing/Quilting - 9:00am Zoom Bible Study-9:30am 1st Drive thru Meal Planned	15 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor) Choir Practice – 5:30 7:00 pm – Worship	16 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor) Council Reports Due	17
18 Sunday Worship @ 9am Choir sings	19 Office Hours: 10-1 Witness Meeting: 7:00pm	20 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor)	21 Office Hours: 10-1 Sewing/Quilting - 9:00am Zoom Bible Study-9:30am Council Mtg - 7:00 pm	22 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor) 7:00 pm – Worship	23 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor)	24
25 Sunday Worship @ 9am	26 Office Hours: 10-1	27 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor)	28 Office Hours: 10-1 Sewing/Quilting - 9:00am Zoom Bible Study-9:30am	29 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor) 7:00 pm - Worship	30 Office-by Appointment (Contact Pastor)	31