Sure signs that summer is over and autumn is around the corner:

- kids and teachers back in school
- mums in the flower shops
- pumpkin spice everything!
- Busy church calendar

Autumn is a time of transformation. In nature, leaves change colors and fall to the ground waiting to be raked up. Autumn winds scatters the seeds that will bring new growth in the spring. We pick the last of the vegetables and fruit from the gardens, and roto-till to prepare for next year’s garden.

We prepare for growth.

We long for a return to a busy calendar. Lingering effects of the pandemic may or may not affect that.

The church calendar shows signs of a return to a busy routine. See page 13.

Liturgically, our lectionary leaves behind the Gospel of John, and settles almost exclusively into Mark for the remainder of the church year. As we immerse ourselves into the Gospel of Mark, we are reminded of the teachings and ministry of Jesus the Messiah. Mark calls us to the actions of Jesus which proclaim the Kingdom of God is NOW. In Mark, we also see the humanity of Jesus, as He shows hunger, fatigue, anger and love. We share the disciples perplexity with Jesus who do not always know what He is talking about. In spite of our brokenness, we celebrate the free gift of grace in Christ, as we are called to show grace to those around us.

People of Zion, this fall, let us embrace the teachings of Christ, proclaim His grace for all the world to see, and continue with our faith active in love, as we love our neighbor, Sharing Christ’s Love.

Pastor David J. Petersen
Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the August 21st food truck!!!!!

REMINDER

Zion Food Truck Is Back!!
Saturday, October 23rd from 9:00-11:30am
IF you are able to help with this important ministry, please contact Gary Yunto

Your good deeds will be celebrated in God’s Kingdom!

VOLUNTEER SUNDAY MEAL
September 26th at 4:00pm
We are having a free will pork chop dinner to celebrate all that has been done during our Covid Lockdown for the past 18 months.

NO JOB WAS TOO BIG!
NO JOB WAS TOO SMALL!
OUR VOLUNTEERS CONQUERED THEM ALL!

God has blessed Zion, our volunteers donating their time and talent and our church members continued financial support for these projects along the way.
Watch for a signup!!!
I want to thank the Zion family for all the support and love shared at Janice’s Celebration of life.

I would especially like to thank Pastor for the opening prayer and words of encouragement; I’m sure Jan was smiling when you mentioned she owned the Jeep. Thank you Dan for playing her favorite hymn. it was beautiful and I’m sure Jan was listening and singing with you. Thanks to the Women of Zion: Cheryl, Marge, Amy, and Nancy for all your hard work serving coffee and cake. Finally, thanks Gary for setting up the computer and large screen so we could enjoy watching the video of Jan.

Thanking everyone,

Don Sell

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Thank you to the members of Zion who have recently donated Mogen David Concord wine and Welch’s sparkling white and red juice for when we return to communion without pre-packaged materials. For safety reasons, council has decided to continue using the pre-packaged materials a bit longer. But we will certainly be ready with wine and juice for when that time comes again.

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Confirmation is Back!!

Calling all Confirmands and parents of Confirmands!

We will have a parent/confirmand meeting on September 19, 11:00 a.m. to discuss the Confirmation year ahead, give a sneak peek at plans, discuss the Affirmation of Baptism, and basically just get back into the swing of things.

Of course there will be snacks/donuts!

Confirmation class time will begin the following week, Sunday, September 26, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30.
It was almost 16 years ago when Jesus led me to Zion, and he said “Look at all these people. This is your church family. If you open your arms and your heart, they’ll embrace you forever.”

At this point in my life I was a shy young man. I sat at the back of the pews closest to the doors. My faith flame was burning low.

Then one Sunday a gentleman named Dan put his hand on my shoulder and said to me “Would you like to help me usher?” When I looked up at him I believe he could see in my eyes that I had my doubts. So then he said to me “Don’t worry, I’ll teach you everything you need to know.”

My faith flame started growing inside me, and over time Dan taught me everything I needed to know, but also during that time, Dan and his wife Mona became dear friends not just to me but to my wife Deborah. So all I can say for myself is that if Dan had not asked me to usher with him I might not be here today. So if your faith flame is burning low like mine was hopefully maybe someone here at Zion could help get your faith flame burning as bright as mine.

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Scholarship Opportunity

The July newsletter announced the expansion of the Zion Scholarship guidelines. In addition to those with plans for a specific certification, degree, or career goal; Zion encourages applicants seeking entrepreneurial and apprentice opportunities.

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. However, this is not intended to be an application for renewal of a previous award.

To apply, please call the Zion office or contact Jean Twyning at twyning@hotmail.com or 815-988-4385. We will need an email address or a postal address to send the application.

The due date for these applications have been extended to September 15, 2021.
Zion Lutheran’s Military Heroes

We remember the Kozlowski family as John has been deployed since February, and Justin is active duty.

We remember the Zediker family as Rob has been recently deployed.

We remember Pastor Redelsheimer’s son Karl as he returns to active duty as Brigade Chaplain.

We lift these brave children of Zion in prayer asking for Almighty God to keep them safe. We pray peace for their families as they hold vigil for their safe return. We pray for all men and women who serve in our armed forces, that they may know the abiding presence of God’s power and gracious care.

We pray for peace for our world.

*If you have a loved one in the military and would like to include him or her on our prayer page, contact Pastor Petersen.*

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**Wednesday Bible Study**

Starting in September, we are excited to share our new Bible Study book, “*Hoping for Something Better*”, by Nancy Guthrie. She has written an excellent book, as a guide into Hebrews. “Nancy speaks to those of us who yearn for more out of life, but have trained ourselves to expect very little. Join her as she applies the ancient truths of Hebrews to our very real needs of today – the needs for significance, security, and hope for the future, and encourages us to refuse to settle for anything less than the something better we’ve been hoping for all along.”

We are a Zoom class, so if you are interested in joining us, please send your email address to Cheryl Sturges at framsturges4@gmail.com and you will get an invitation to join on your electronic device. The book is available on Amazon or Kris Enright has offered to purchase one for anyone interested in joining.
Women of Zion

Thank you to everyone that helped with our first out of Covid funeral. Changes were made for the safety of all, but we were able to provide the family with a meal and fellowship time. We want to also thank those that helped with a Celebration of Life. “Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted”

Our new mission, The Baby Bank, will be moving into the lower level of our Fellowship Hall on September 11, 2021. We need to clean up the area a little and they need help with the move. We are looking for about 6-8 individuals that can help unload the truck of diapers and supplies at 10 A. M.

Women’s Day Project!!!!!

[Images of women engaged in activities and handmade items]
ATTENTION ALL ZION HIGH SCHOOLERS:

This event will be a sneak peak of the ELCA Youth Gathering, Boundless, July 24th-28th, 2022. Join Pastor Petersen and area high-school kids September 12th, at this Rachel Kurtz concert at St. Mark Lutheran, 675 Mulford Road, Rockford.

Please contact Pastor Petersen if interested in attending this event at St. Mark.

And.....start thinking about the Youth Gathering in 2022!!!!
Together WE Stick to the Scriptures

Unlike this lonely cactus, we will be sticking together and sharing our favorite scriptures. For Sunday, our Church members are asked to bring the book, chapter, and verses of your favorite scripture. We will be creating a bulletin board with all our readings.

Our Sunday School will be using this theme for the year as we begin reintroducing our Moving Forward In Faith Program.

Our Witness Team will be using scripture to convey their messages leading up to Stewardship Sunday.

Our Choir will be singing songs that relate to scripture and that it can be put to music and that we, together, are the church.

The Wednesday morning zoom Bible Study will focus on the message from Hebrew scripture and Sunday morning Bible Study will focus on scriptures surrounding the parables.
COVID UPDATE

At our August 18th Zion Council meeting, it was discussed at-length the issue of the recent Covid-19 virus spread in Boone County. Because of the rising numbers in our area, the council discussed that although most of our members are vaccinated, we agree with the CDC, the IDPH, and the Office of the Bishop from the Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA that everyone would be safer when wearing a mask in public indoor spaces. The council strongly encourages all to wear masks while participating in services and functions within the church beginning Sunday, August 22 until further notice. Although we were planning to return to full communion in September, we have reconsidered, and for the time being, we will continue using the prepackaged communion. All services and scheduled church activities will continue as planned. We thank you for your understanding and patience during these trying times.

Zion Church Council

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Healthy Congregation Workshop

Saturday, October 16, 2021

7:30am – 4:30pm

The difficult year we have experienced with the pandemic has amplified some currents of disconnect, and exposed some hairline fractures in the surface of our congregation and church leadership. Because of these stresses, the church council has explored options to help us move forward as a healthy congregation. We have contacted Lombard Mennonite Peace Center to come and present a workshop to guide us in this effort. We are happy to welcome Jay Whitmeyer, Executive Director of LMPC to Zion on October 16th to facilitate this meeting and to provide us tools to build stronger relationships. There are no costs to attend. If you would like more information, there will be copies of the workshop details in the back entrance for your convenience or you can go to the following link at LMPeaceCenter.org

If you have further questions, you can speak with any of our council members.

We are accepting a maximum of 40 people, including council, for this all-day workshop. If you are interested in attending, please contact Mandy, in our church office at 815-547-6102, to add your name to the list of guests.

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Tuesday Afternoon Hang Out with Pastor . . . . . . .Come In and Chat

Tuesday afternoons into the early evening, one person, couple or family unit at a time for scheduled half hour interval visits. BYOB, and we can chat, safely distanced, wherever you like: in the sanctuary, in the narthex, in the choir loft, down in the basement, outside on the picnic table, ..... wherever! If Tuesdays don’t work….call Pastor Petersen for another day!

Call Pastor’s cell 815-408-0242 to schedule your time, or see the signup in the entryway on the bulletin board. I look forward to our time together!
Sunday School News

Coming Soon

Rally Sunday is September 12th

‘Together we STICK to the scriptures!’

Come join us after church on September 12th for snacks, games, crafts and register for Sunday School.

Sunday School starts on September 19th at 10:15, after church.

Meeting

There will be a Christian Nurturing Meeting on Tues., September 7, at 7:00pm. It will be at church or you will be able to zoom.

We will be discussing the fall schedule. Come join us, everyone is welcome.
Dear Zion friends,

The family of Julianne Adamson is thankful for your prayers and support through our loss and for you help at the luncheon, the delicious desserts, cards, and generous donations to mom’s memorial.

A thousand thanks,

Bill & Diane
Sharon
Margaret & Dennis
Dan & Hollis
Dawn & Allen

It’s that time again!!!!!

- **Wednesday, September 22nd** we will be hanging the quilts on the pews at 9am. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated!
- **Sunday, September 26th** is the silent auction for the quilts. All quilts will have a starting bid of $40.
- **Monday, September 27th** at 9am volunteers are needed to help pack the quilts up.
1-Savannah Hensley          7-Kathy Hansen          19-Brenda Tobin
2-Sapphire Watts            8-Otha Bland II         21-Jeff Ernest
3-Lois Graves              10-Janet Truitt          23-Avery Baird
3-Elleney Ogan              11-Joyce Johnson        24-Beth Hong
4-Brad Ogan                 12-Wanda Watts          28-Tyler Bruno
4-Avery Beever              12-Chelsea Ahlberg       29-Gordon Rubeck
6-Adrienne Mallegni         16-William Ahlberg       29-Koralyn Wick
6-Linda Zediker             17-Kaitlyn Brandt        29-Koralyn Wick
7-Lorraine Carmichael       18-Imogene Brandt

From the Treasurer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Building Fund</th>
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<tr>
<td>07/2021 Beginning Balance: $69,313.18</td>
<td>07/2021 Beginning Balance: $(1,316.79)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correction from Prior Month (270.77)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income: $15,807.33</td>
<td>Total Income: $3,508.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses: $21,657.51</td>
<td>Total Expenses: $1,719.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance: $63,192.23</td>
<td>Balance: $417.52</td>
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</tbody>
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Zion Lutheran Church
1300 Pearl Street
Belvidere, 61008

Phone: 815-547-6102
Fax: 815-544-0590
Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00am - 1:00pm
Website Address: www.zionbelvidere.com
Email: zionoffice@zionbelvidere.org
Facebook: ZionBelvidere+

Staff
Rev. David J. Petersen Pastor
Mandy Minson Administrative Assistant
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+

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
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| 5   |     |     | Office Hours: 9-1  
Sewing/Quilting-9:00am  
Zoom Bible Study-9:30am | Office Hours: 9-1  
7:00pm-Worship |  Office Hours: 9-1 | |
| 6   |     | OFFICE CLOSED | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 12  |     |     | Office Hours: 9-1  
Worship/Music Mtg-5pm  
Christian Nurturing Mtg-7:00pm  
Zoom Witness Mtg-7pm | Office Hours: 9-1  
Sewing/Quilting-9am  
Zoom Bible Study-9:30am | Office Hours: 9-1  
7:00 pm – Worship |  Council Reports Due |
| 13  |     |     | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 19  |     |     | Office Hours: 9-1  
Pioneer Lunch-11:30am  
Finance Mtg-5:30pm | Office Hours: 9-1  
Sewing/Quilting-9am  
Zoom Bible Study-9:30am  
Council Meeting:7:00pm | Office Hours: 9-1  
Choir Practice-5pm  
Bells Practice-6pm |  Office Hours: 9-1 |
| 26  |     |     | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 27  |     |     | Office Hours: 9-1  
Tidings Articles Due*  
Hanging of the quilts 9am  
Zoom Bible Study-9:30am | Office Hours: 9-1  
*Hanging of the quilts 9am*  
Zoom Bible Study-9:30am | Office Hours: 9-1  
Choir Practice-5pm  
Bells Practice-6pm  
Barnabas Mtg-6pm |  Office Hours: 9-1 |
| 28  |     |     | 29  | 30  |     |     |
| 35  |     |     | Office Hours: 9-1  
Sewing/Quilting-9am  
Zoom Bible Study-9:30am | Office Hours: 9-1  
Choir Practice-5pm  
Bells Practice-6pm  
7:00 pm – Worship |  Office Hours: 9-1  
7:00 pm – Worship |  Pastor Petersen Cell: 815-408-0242 |

*Pastor Petersen Cell: 815-408-0242*