

Our Jewish Neighbors

A few Synod Assemblies ago, a resolution was passed addressing Anti-Semitism in our Lectionary Readings (the 3-year cycle of scripture readings we hear each Sunday). It focuses on this Greek word, Ἰουδαῖοι (ee-oo-DIE-oy), which occurs over 200 times in the New Testament and is usually translated as “Jews.” Pastor Brant Clements gave some background and reasoning for addressing this issue. Much of what follows is his commentary.

Ἰουδαῖοι (ee-oo-DIE-oy), like many words, has a range of meanings. The basic definition refers to the people of Judea, also known as Judeans, and their associated religion. It is the context that determines the meaning of the word. Sometimes, especially in Paul's letters, *ioudaioi* means the Jewish people as a whole—whether they live in Judea, Galilee, Egypt, Babylon, or Rome. *Ioudaioi* *can* mean “all the Jewish people.”

And yet, sometimes, the word refers specifically to the Judeans, as opposed to any other nation. When the Romans mocked Jesus hanging on the cross as the “King of the Jews” (*Ioudaioi*), Pastor Brant notes that this specifically meant the “King of Judea.”

Sometimes *ioudaioi* refers to a subset of the Judeans, such as the political and religious leaders of Judea. Pastor Brant claims that this is the case in John 20, where the disciples are hiding in a locked room. They're hiding because they are afraid of the *ioudaioi*. They're not hiding from the Jews. They themselves *are* Jews. They are Galilean Jews hiding from Judean Jews, specifically the religious authorities who participated in Christ's crucifixion. When we talk about the *ioudaioi*, context determines meaning.

And here's an example of why it matters. A few years ago, on the first day of Hanukkah, Temple Emanuel in Davenport, IA, was vandalized. “John 8:44” was spray-painted on the building. If you look up the verse, it says that Jesus told the *ioudaioi*, “Your father is the devil.” Who did Jesus mean when he said that? Certainly, not all of the Jews, as Jesus was himself Jewish. He was a Galilean Jew arguing with Judean Jews and certainly not our Jewish neighbors who worship and pray at Temple Emanuel or any other Jewish house of worship. This is how the New Testament can be translated, interpreted, and used in harmful ways—anti-Jewish or anti-Semitic.

The resolution encourages preachers and teachers to address the issues of anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish theology (such as the teaching that the Jewish people are responsible for the death of Jesus and/or the idea that God has rejected the Jews). It also urges that when reading in public, substitute a more appropriate translation of Ἰουδαῖοι where the English translation uses the word “Jews” if it is contextually appropriate. Examples include “Judeans,” “Religious Leaders,” and “locals.” In the long reading from the Gospel of John on Good Friday, I ensure that the words translated as “Jews” are defined more accurately using a translation that takes this into account.

Our namesake and reformer in the Church, Martin Luther, contributed to anti-Semitic bigotry. He wrote a tract in 1543 entitled “On the Jews and their Lies.” Nazis even used his very harsh words in the 1930s to justify their abuses against the Jewish people. We lament that these un-Christian actions continue today.

In 1994, the ELCA made a declaration to the Jewish community with an apology recognizing anti-Semitism as “a contradiction and an affront to the Gospel, a violation of our hope and calling,” and also issued a commitment to go forward, “we pledge this church to oppose the deadly working of such bigotry, both within our own circles and in the society around us.” Helping those who receive scripture understand what is meant by the term *ioudaioi* is a step in that direction.

In Christ,
Pastor Elizabeth Martin

Community Meal



Nearly 200 tacos and over 50 trays of cheesy nachos were prepared and served to our guests at the July Community Meal. Refried beans and Mexican rice were served as sides. The number of guests was down a bit, as only 60 people had dinner that night.

Zion's food ministry received a \$125 grant from COSTCO. This grant provided hamburger, cheese, sour cream, and milk for this meal, as well as some supplies for future meals. Thank you, COSTCO!

As usual, a talented group of people showed up and made this meal possible. Thank you to Charlie, Stephanie, Linda, Sandra, Dawn, Michelle, Terry, Nancy, Kathy, Marge, and Larry. If you'd like to be part of this fun group of volunteers, a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. The next meal is on Wednesday, August 13.

John Enright

Food Truck

Thank you to the 24 volunteers who helped on the hot and humid Wednesday, June 25th, with our 3rd Northern Illinois Food Bank event for 2025.

The volunteers who helped to unload over 10,000 pounds of food items from the truck case by case since the trucks liftgate did not work, package into bags and loaded this food into vehicles included:

Ken & Jean Anderson, Nancy Brendum, Dawn Calkins, John Enright, Michelle Ernest & Aaron, Charles & Cindi Foster, Arlyn Groen, Kathy Hansen, Russ Kindberg, Kelly Kotajarvi & Nadiya, Patti Lee with Angie & Brock, Wayne Martin, Terry Miller, Marge Olson, Pam Siwek, Curt Tobin, Gary & Sharon Yunto. These 24 individuals packed and loaded into vehicles 12 assorted items for giveaway that helped 205 families with 720 individuals with their food insecurity from the Boone County area.

Our next food truck will be on a Saturday, August 23rd, from 10:00 to 11:30 am, with volunteers coming around 8:45 to 9:00 am to unload the truck and to start bagging items for this event. If you have not helped with this important Zion food ministry to the community and are interested, please let Mandy know.



God's Work Our Hands

Zion's Church Council is working with the Veterans Assistance Commission of Boone County in Belvidere in collecting donations of non-perishable items to help support veterans and their families. The Veterans Assistance Commission, a 501c (19) organization, operates a veteran food pantry in Belvidere. For the month of September, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable items:

- Paper towels, toilet paper
- New men's socks, knit caps, gloves, and mittens.

Please note that expired food items will not be accepted.

- Canned goods: Fruits, vegetables, beans, soups, stews
- Dried goods: Rice, pasta, beans, lentils, and grains
- Packaged foods: Cereal, crackers, granola bars, nut butters: peanut butter, almond butter, etc.

Women of Zion

First Step Daycare:

The school supply collection is in full swing! We are thankful for the grant we received through Thrivent and used the money for headphones that are also needed as part of the school supplies. Thanks to everyone that has already contributed to this initiative for the children of First Step Daycare.

- Collection of School Supplies will end - Thursday July 31, 2025.
- Blessing of the school supplies will be on Sunday, August 3, 2025.
- After the service, we would appreciate help with loading the boxes of school supplies into a vehicle, so we can deliver them to First Step Daycare on Monday.

2025-2026 School Supply List

- Backpacks – no wheels, please
- Crayons – 24 count
- Colored pencils – 12 count
- Pink erasers – latex free
- Washable Markers – classic, 10 count, broad tip
- Low odor dry erase markers – chisel tip, black
- Highlighters
- 12-inch rulers – with inches and centimeters
- Plain 2-pocket folders – assorted colors (red, blue, green, purple, yellow)
- Plain spiral notebooks – wide ruled, assorted colors
- Composition notebooks – wide rule – all colors
- Kids scissors – rounded (Kinder & 1st grade)/ - pointed (2nd grade)
- Washable school glue – 8 oz.
- Washable disappearing purple school glue sticks
- Watercolor paints
- Play-Doh – 3 pack, assorted colors

Ready for the play!!!!



Starlight Theater was a warm evening, but thank goodness, there was no rain. For some of us, we had no idea what the play was about, but as the evening continued, we became aware of the significance of the

title: “The Wedding Singer.” A good time was had by all!!

Diakonia Reception: Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Diakonia Reception on Friday and Saturday, July 18th & 19th. These types of events could not happen without your continued support and help. Thanks again to everyone that was there to: set up the fellowship hall, prepare the goodies, help serve or clean up. As we say: “Many Hands Make Light Work!”

****Mark Your Calendar** – If you enjoyed decorating Valentine cut-out cookies, come try your hand at some fall cut-out cookies. Saturday, September 20, 2025. 9:30 to 11:30. Come have some fun and take home your creations. Help will be needed on Friday, September 19, 2025, to bake the cookies prior to the event.

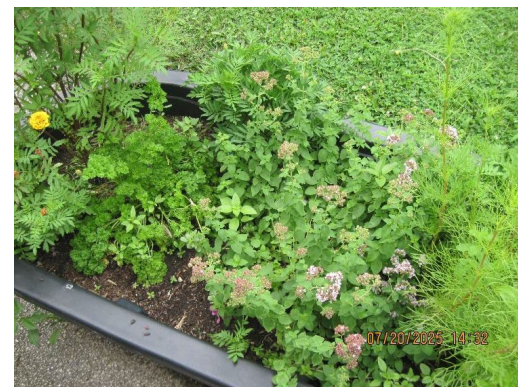
Diakonia Graduation

On July 19th, Brenda Viet-Shiloh graduated from the Synod's Diakonia program in a worship service at Zion. We congratulate Brenda on completing these studies, which included topics such as Church History, the Bible, Christian Doctrine, Christian Ethics, Lutheran Creeds/Confession, Worship, and more, within this 2-year program. Please pray for Brenda as she discerns the new ways that God might be calling her into ministry.



Sunday School Pollinator Garden

If you haven't walked over to see the Sunday School Pollinator Garden, you should check it out. Come cut some fresh flowers or herbs. There are marigolds, zinnias, cosmos, bachelor buttons, dianthus, milkweed (although no monarch butterflies yet), coneflowers, and yarrow. For herbs, there are basil, thyme, parsley, and oregano. All the plants will grow better if some of the flowers or herbs are cut. So come and help yourself, after all, one of the Zinnias is called Cut and Come Again.



Meals on Wheels



Sadly, the council made the decision to discontinue our support to the Keen Age Center with their "Meals on Wheels" program due to the lack of interest or help from our church in meeting their needs in delivering those meals. We unfortunately are unable to fully support them properly any longer due to the excess time used in scheduling and the difficulty in finding any volunteers for them. Thank you to all those who have stepped up in the past with this ministry. Please know your time and efforts did not go unnoticed and were very much appreciated by Zion and the Keen Age Center.

Lutheran Disaster Response

We will be taking up a collection for the Texas Flood Victims. Any money donated will be sent to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response where 100% of our collection will go directly to their immediate needs on the ground. Zion will match any monies collected up to our already budgeted \$2000.00 disaster fund. If you are able to help in any way, please write Texas Flood on your giving envelope and place in the offering tray. We will have a collection basket for the flood victims on the table at the back of the church after each service during the month of August for your convenience as well.



Lutheran
Disaster Response

Transition Team Update

The transition team is quickly approaching the end of our process in writing Zion's MSP. After 4 months of meeting and working towards a complete and concise document that will reflect who we are and what we are looking for in our next pastor, we can report to you that next week we will be sending our DRAFT copy to Pastor Jen Beamsley, from our Northern Illinois Synod to review and offer us feedback. Once we receive her thoughts and suggestions, we will email the MSP to our church council for their review and final approval. We pray to have these approvals wrapped up with a final vote to approve by mid-August. The MSP will then be put on the ELCA's portal for any prospective pastoral candidates. Copies of the MSP will be e-blasted to the congregation, and hard copies will be available in the church office for your convenience.

Once again, we THANK YOU for your prayers, patience and support over these past 4 ½ months and we ask you to continue to keep the approval process and the Call committee in your thoughts as we transition into handing over the reins to our newly established Call committee within the next couple of weeks.

Blessings to Each of You,
Ken, Deana, Marge, Carolyn, Cheryl, and Michelle

Campfirmation Thank You's!!!!

Dear People of Zion,
I got your mail, and I appreciate the messages in the cards. My experience was amazing and I ate some good food, went swimming, made some friends, and got to play the drum (djembe) at worship. I can't wait to tell you all more about Campfirmation.
Leo

Dear People of Zion,
Thank you everyone for your prayers and gifts. I really enjoyed some of the games we played and the lessons we learned. We learned that God is always with us and loves us even when we think he doesn't.
Katelyn

Dear People of Zion,
Thank you for sending us with your prayers and the encouraging notes you sent for me and the kids. Your notes were a connection to home in a new place. The treats were also great! It is wonderful to be part of a congregation that supports its youth and pastor in caring ways.
Pastor Elizabeth

Scholarship Presentations



New Church Staff Position

We are blessed to have more children in worship; we had a great Sunday School and VBS year; confirmation kids went to camp; we are excited about the intergenerational mission trip; and there have been many events for kids and their families this past year. We aim to keep the momentum going and continue nurturing the faith of our young people, involving them in the life and ministry of Zion.

This year's budget includes money for a part-time Director of Children & Youth Ministries. Below is the job description. If you are interested in interviewing for this position, please tell Pastor Elizabeth, Melody Johnson, or Melita Ogan. You can also direct your questions to them.

Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Job Description

Position Purpose: The Director of our Children and Youth Ministries is responsible for providing an environment of Christian fellowship, learning, and service for youth of all ages, their families, and our community.

Hours & Pay: 5 hours/week, flexible time at \$20/hr.

Accountability: Zion Lutheran Congregation

Reports to: Senior Pastor

Supported by: the Christian Nurturing Committee and the Senior Pastor

Specific Duties:

- 1) Work with Zion youth in community outreach
- 2) Coordinate with the pastor on ways to involve children and youth in worship
- 3) Attend the Christian Nurturing Committee meetings
- 4) Work with the C.N. committee to plan outings, service opportunities, and activities for the children and youth and their families
- 5) Assist with Vacation Bible School and Christian Nurturing ministries
- 6) Plan and supervise Mission Trips, Youth Conventions, and camps
- 7) Encourage and recommend youth to serve on the congregation council
- 8) Encourage children and youth, as appropriate, to attend Zion's service opportunities (i.e., Baby Bank, Community Meal, Food Truck)
- 9) Report monthly to the church council and attend meetings as requested
- 10) Work with the Scholarship Committee, encourage students to apply, and be willing to write letters of recommendation
- 11) Attend staff meetings as scheduled
- 12) Be available on Sunday mornings as the program needs to dictate
- 13) Other duties as requested by the Senior Pastor

Mission Trip Blessing



Lorraine Carmichael's Trivia!!!!

1. Who loves to swim?
2. Who decides skirt lengths?
3. Who loves to do laundry?
4. Who's the most sincere family?
5. Who has to pass every lady driver she sees?
6. What does this person yell at her chauffeur?
7. Where does Brenda put Curt's socks?
8. Who has the most squirrels in their backyard?
9. How do you pass along a Berg gene?
10. Who never wears slippers?
11. Who is good with a bow and arrow?
12. Who did Gretel really marry?
13. Who gets up really early?
14. Who's our high-voltage couple?
15. Who is "Sam" Larson?
16. Who loves to build dams?
17. Who is Linda really?
18. Where does Donna catch all her fish?

Answer Key

1. Carolyn "Pool"
2. Tanya "Hem Key"
3. The "Downys"
4. The "Ernests" of course
5. "Passed her" Martin
6. "Car-Michael"
7. In his "toe bin"
8. Gerry "Tree-lof"
9. "Marry a Berg"
10. David "Shoe Man"
11. The Archers
12. Rocco, not Hansel
13. Dawn Calkins
14. The Watts
15. A Lovely LADY
16. The Beevers of course
17. Not "John's son" but Carol's daughter
18. Sitting on the "bank by the brook"

Prayer Requests

The Family of Keith Bakken, Stacey & Bob, Julie Byers, Rob Depenbrok, The Family of Jason Lehman, Dick Durley, Eric Gifford, Linda Brazell, Brenda Veit-Shiloh, Craig Zvonar, Jim Casey, Mary Berg, Bill Dunn, Stephanie Rodriguez, Pastor Bill Nelson, Imogene Brandt, Zion's Transition Team, The Hardt Family, Bill Hathaway, Georgia Ruggles, Ardys Brockway, Charles Lane, Cindy Smaha, Ron Nelson, Vicky Harley, Pat Huff, Bill Batterton, Wally Brown, Bob Kantner, Guy and Pat Landmeier, Frances Palmer, Felix Ring, Juan Castro Jr, Olivia Rubeck, Michelle Marks, Todd and Lois Graves, Marilyn Urban, Paula Crone, Helen Huftalin, Kendal Schmidt, Linda Johnson, Marcia Ellingburg, Dwaine Smith, Jim Johnson, Keira Kozlowski, The People of Ukraine, The People of Israel, The People living in Gaza, ALC Resurrection Church of India

In Service to our Nation:

John Kozlowski, Justin Kozlowski, Rob Zediker,
Karl Redelsheimer, Kayden Schmidt



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



1-Max Beever	13-Gary Yunto	22-Ken Meyers
4-Alex Mallegni	14-Mike Mallegni	23-Alicia Downey
5-Johanna Miralrio	15-Kyle Magnuson	25-Dawn Calkins
10-Mazie Ruzic	15-Curt Tobin	26-Paul Watts
11-Nadiya Reininger	18-Kalin Bahena	28-Marilee Sellers
11-Mary Berg	18-Pat Melton	28-Sandra Dotzler
11-Jeanne Marnen	19-Rob Zediker	29-Elizabeth Balabuszko
13-Jerry Hall	22-Jonah Brunschon	30-Cheryl Sturges

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

June/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 23,403.68
 Total Income \$ 14,469.46
 Total Expense \$ 15,823.77
 Balance \$ 22,049.37

General Fund Reserve Savings

June/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 88,863.81
 Income \$ 18.87
 Expenses \$
 Balance \$ 88,882.68

Building Fund

June/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 5,415.07
 Total Income \$ 3,078.00
 Total Expense \$ 3,672.15
 Balance \$ 4,820.92

Staff

Rev. Elizabeth Martin
 Intentional Interim Pastor

Mandy Minson
 Administrative Assistant

David Schumann
 Council President

Dan Albrecht
 Choir Director

Melody Johnson
 Melita Ogan
 Sunday School Directors

Diane Vorndran
 Financial Secretary

Sharon Yunto
 Treasurer

Worship Schedule

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

Find Worship Videos at
www.zionbelvidere.com

OR

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

Email
zionlutheran1300@gmail.com

Council Members

Term Through January 2026

Gretel Barid
 Melody Johnson
 David Schumann
 Gary Yunto

Term Through January 2027

Kris Enright
 Michelle Ernest
 Kelly Kotajarvi
 Terry Miller

Term Through January 2028

Jody Archer
 Dawn Calkins
 Jeanne Marnen
 Stephanie Skelnik

Texts for the Month of August

August 3

Eccles 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23
Col 3:1-11
Luke 11:1-13

August 10

Gen 15:1-6
Col 2:6-19
Luke 11:1-13

August 17

Jer 23:23-29
Heb 11:19-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 24

Isa 58:9b-17
Heb 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 31

Prov 25:6-7
Heb 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

August 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays					1 Office Closed	2
3 Sunday Worship 9am	4 Worship & Music 5pm	5 Boone County Fair	6 Boone County Fair Sewing/Quilting 9am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm	7 Boone County Fair 7:00 pm – Worship	8 Boone County Fair Office Closed	9 Boone County Fair
10 Boone County Fair Sunday Worship 9am	11 Witness Meeting 6pm	12	13 Council Reports Due by 9am Bible Study 9:30am Community Meal 5pm-6pm	14 7:00 pm – Service of the Word Worship	15 Office Closed	16
17 Sunday Worship 9am Service of the Word	18	19	20 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 6pm	21 7:00 pm – Worship	22 Office Closed	23 Food Truck 10am-11:30am
24 Sunday Worship 9am Call Committee Installation	25 Tidings Articles Due by 9am	26	27 Bible Study 9:30am	28 Barnabas 6pm 7:00 pm –Holden Sundae Worship	29 Office Closed	30
31 Sunday Worship 9am						