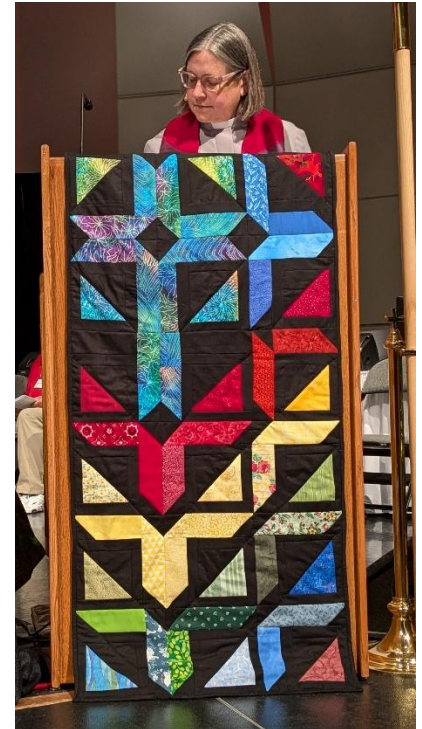


2025 N IL Synod Assembly

"Each of you has a call and gifts for living Jesus' work in the world. And you are given opportunities every day to live that out, to be the body of Jesus to someone else, and to grow as a disciple. Because you, Beloved Child of God, have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. God is with you in the questions." - Bishop Stacie Fidler

On June 13-14, Jeanne Marnen, Terry Miller, and Pastor Elizabeth attended the Synod Assembly as Zion's voting members, and Wayne served as a guest and technical helper. We enjoyed great worship, good food, and fun fellowship with just under 400 people from our synod. Together we

- passed the Fiscal Year 2027 budget
- elected members to serve on the synod council and committees
- heard from guest speaker, Deacon Jessica Noonan, about listening and learning from our neighbors sighting the story in Acts 8 of Philip and the Ethiopian. "An enemy is someone's story you haven't yet heard."
- blessed those who will be voting members at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly
- celebrated congregations with 150 and 175-year anniversaries
- celebrated Rostered Ministers' anniversaries and remembered those who died this past year
- blessed the new synod paraments (see photo) The quilt blocks were assembled by 38 congregations, including Zion (thank you, Bonnie Wangen)
- passed the 2026 Rostered Ministers' compensation guidelines
- watched videos of Mission Moments – great things that congregations are doing to serve their neighbors



Bishop Fidler's address to us was, "What is your Why?" Before we find out what, we must find out why. God has a why for each of us. They are opportunities to be the Body of Jesus for others. She commissioned us to show people how the cross of Christ changes us.

The assembly also adopted two Resolutions.

#1 A National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools

This would be near September 30th. The resolution is based in the Indian day schools and over 520 Indian boarding schools from 1819-1969 where Native children were forcibly taken from their families and communities prohibited all expression of Native language and culture, and required to perform manual labor, with a goal to "Kill the Indian in him, and save the man."

#2 Northern Illinois Synod to Be a Reconciling in Christ Synod

Striving to reflect the expansive diversity of the Body of Christ, we welcome, celebrate, embrace, and uplift people of every race, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, health and mental health status, neurodiversity, and socioeconomic status. We reject any other boundaries humans use that separate us from the body of Christ. Currently, 33 synods of 65 are RIC synods.

If you are interested in being a voting member for Zion, the congregation votes on who will attend assembly at Zion's annual meeting in January.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Elizabeth



Community Meal

The Community Meal would not be possible without the extraordinary efforts put forth by the many volunteers. The June meal was no exception. Stephanie came in early and made 3 or 4 large bowls of pasta salad. Jean, Joanie, and Kevin prepared well over 100 pieces of chicken leg quarters for the ovens. In addition to the chicken and pasta salad, we also served green beans. Providing 65 meals kept the servers and clean-up crew very busy.

In addition to the four people already mentioned, thank you to the following who made this meal possible: Michelle, Linda, Dawn, Judy, Wayne, Larry, Nancy, Nadiya, Patti, and Kathy.

The next meal will be held on Wednesday, July 9th. A volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Worship in the Park

Worship in Spencer Park for 2025 is now a pleasant memory. There were no noisy bugs; the sun was shining, with a lovely 75 degrees, and 53 people enjoyed the morning. The message, music, fellowship, and food were all wonderful. Whether you helped with planning, set up, the service, brought a dish to pass, helped serve the food, or just came to worship, thank you! You helped make everyone's day. Let's look forward to next June in Spencer Park.



Donna Brookbank and the Worship and Music Committee

Zion Scholarships

Zion has a scholarship program to encourage the educational and professional growth of our church family. The awards will be announced at both the July 13 and July 24 services. Join in celebration as we applaud past successes and pray for their continued endeavors.

Anthony Girone	Wartburg College	Secondary Education
Delaney Paulson	Mt. Mercy University	Accounting + Actuarial Science
Kayden Schmidt	Marines	June 3, 2025
Ben Wolfgram	Rock Valley College	Nuclear Medicine
Ryan Wolfgram	Lewis University	Air Traffic Control

Zion's Family Mission Trip

The final count has been turned in, and we have 15 people heading to Wisconsin on July 13 for our Mission trip.

Melita & Ellen Ogan	Melody Johnson	Ken Downey	Eva Foley	Kevin Ekberg
Jody Archer	Brenda Veit-Shiloh	Leo Rodriguez	Katelyn Bishop	
Holden Reininger	Nadiya Reininger	Alex Haugen	Angeline & Jay Ray Kutka	

Special Thanks to everyone who has made it possible for us to attend!

Christian Nurturing Happenings

We want to thank Pat Castro for all of her time and service to the Christian Nurturing program. She did so much for the Sunday School and VBS programs. We celebrated with her on Sunday, May 25th.



Congratulations to all the high school graduates. We wish them the best with their next adventures. On Sunday, June 8th, we celebrated them.



Lava Lava Island Vacation Bible School was a fun week June 16th- 20th. We had 14 kids participate during the week. Three older kids attended and were great helpers all week. During the week, kids learned that Jesus brings hope, Jesus followed God's Word, Jesus gives us courage, Jesus saves us, and Jesus gives us a reason to celebrate. Each day kids participated in a craft, games, snacks, and music related to all of the themes. We closed the week by inviting parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends to our final closing time, and the kids sang songs and received certificates and a goodie bag. We would like to thank Linda Johnson, Pat Castro, Stephanie Skelnik, Marilee Sellers, Mandy Minson, and Pastor Elizabeth for helping with VBS all week. We would also like to thank our congregation members who donated food for our snacks throughout the week. A special thanks to Jeannie Anderson, John Enright, and Walita Johnson for helping serve snacks during VBS. Thank you to all!!



Women of Zion

During our planning meeting luncheon in May – here are the highlights:

- Lunch – made by Chery Sturges as an example of what we could serve for an upcoming event next year. It was delicious!
- Baptismal Blankets – replenishing the supply - blankets were being tied during the meeting, a few were taken home by members for completion.

Dates for your Calendar:

- The Baby Bank Fundraiser – Friday, July 18, 2025, 6 pm-9 pm. It will be held at Wings and Wheels Museum. There will be dinner, a 50/50 raffle, live music, a live auction, and a silent auction. See Mandy or Cheryl for details.
- Diakonia Reception – Saturday, July 19, 2025. Service at 2:00 PM. Reception to follow. Help will be needed.
- ELCA – God’s Work, Our Hands – September 7, 2025. Will send to council for their input and if they are planning anything for this day.
- Fall Cookie Decorating – September 20, 2025. 9:30 to 11:30. Come have some fun and take home your creations.
- “His Story” – Naomi Rogers – tabled until the beginning of 2026. Possibly late February/early March. Watch for more details.

Financial Commitments:

- Clean carpets – up to \$700.00
- New furniture for the Narthex - up to 50% of the cost. Will investigate sharing cost. (50%) with Memorial Money.
- Mission Support for India - \$1300.00

First Step Daycare:

School Supplies: Collection dates: Sunday, July 1, 2025, to Thursday, July 31, 2025. Blessing of the school supplies is scheduled for 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.

Containers will be located by the bulletin board near the back entrance.

- 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

Transition Team Update

Welcome back to our little corner of these pages. Our transition team is diligently working through each section of the MSP (ministry site profile) gathering thoughts, ideas and data from your input throughout this process to make sure not only our team, but all of you, are represented in this final copy that will be considered “Our Story” to those pastors that are interested in becoming part of our mission. This document will be the guiding force for our Call committee to use while interviewing a prospective pastor when the time comes. We are at the critical step of taking all of this work since March 3rd of this year and begin writing the actual MSP. This document will reflect who we are and what we are all about. Our goal is to have the profile completed and ready for the review process after our next 3 meetings, which we plan to meet weekly. Our draft copy will then be given to Pastor Jen from the synod for her review and to offer us feedback. Next, it will go to the congregation council for feedback, edits, and final approval. We hope to have this process completed by mid-August. It will then be put on the ELCA’s portal for Pastor Jen to give to prospective pastoral candidates. Copies of the MSP will be e-blasted to the congregation, and hard copies will be available in the church office. We are excited to be at this point in the process and ready to put the work into a concise and cohesive document that portrays all the wonderful, caring, and faithful things we do, and are, here at Zion. We THANK YOU for your prayers and support over these past 4 months and we ask you to continue to keep us and the Call Committee in your thoughts as we move into this next phase of writing, approvals and calling.

Blessings to Each of You,

Ken, Deana, Marge, Carolyn, Cheryl, and Michelle

Prayer Requests

Linda Brazell, The Family of Gordon Rubeck, Brenda Veit-Shiloh, Craig Zvonar, Clare Coots, The Family of Mary Turner, Jim Casey, Mary Berg, Bill Dunn, Stephanie Rodriguez, The Family of Marty Stumpf, Pastor Bill Nelson, Imogene Brandt, Zion’s Transition Team, The Potter Family, Jason Lehman, 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

The new ***Christ in Our Home*** devotionals



are ready to be picked up in the office.



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



1-Natalie Armstrong	9-Eva Foley	15-Isabelle Bahena	27-Helen Huftalin
1-Tom Zastrow	11-Kim Halper	16-Ian Cordray	28-Mary Albrecht
5-Rhett Pinkston	12-Jill Smuck	20-Arlyn Groen	28-Deno Ventura
5-Gary Erickson	12-Courtney Long	21-Sharon Yunto	30-Jane Schuessler
6-Pat Erickson	13-Heather Wick	21-Patricia Gifford	31-Michaela Downey
6-Pam Romanek	14-Diane Vorndran	24-Kyra Messbarger	31-Rodney Brandmire
7-Curt Gustafson	14-Keith Marnen	26-Dick Beever	

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

May/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 32,205.77

Total Income \$ 12,490.00

Total Expense \$ 21,292.09

Balance \$ 23,403.68

General Fund Reserve Savings

May/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 88,845.55

Income \$ 18.26

Expenses \$

Balance \$ 88,863.81

Building Fund

May/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 5,946.62

Total Income \$ 2,736.00

Total Expense \$ 3,267.55

Balance \$ 5,415.07

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 July

July 6

Isaiah 66:10-14

Galatians 6:1-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Colossians 1 :1-14

Luke 10 :25-37

July 20

Genesis 18:1-10a

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

July 27

Genesis 18:20-32

Colossians 2:6-19

Luke 11:1-13

July 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays		1 Lunch with Ray Study 11:30am	2 Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm	3 7:00 pm – Worship	4 Office Closed	5
6 Sunday Worship 9am	7	8 Lunch with Ray Study 11:30am Transition Team Meeting 3:30pm	9 Council Reports Due by 9am Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Community Meal 5pm-6pm	10 7:00 pm – Worship	11 Office Closed	12
13 Sunday Worship 9am Scholarship Day Zion Mission Trip	14 Witness 6pm Zion Mission Trip	15 Transition Team Meeting 3:30pm Zion Mission Trip	16 Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 6:00pm Zion Mission Trip	17 7:00 pm – Worship Zion Mission Trip	18 Office Closed The Baby Bank Fundraiser at Wings and Wheels Museum 6pm-9pm Zion Mission Trip	19 2pm Diakonia Graduation Service
20 Sunday Worship 9am	21 Tidings Articles Due by 9am	22 Transition Team Meeting 3:30pm	23 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	24 Barnabas 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship Scholarship Day	25 Office Closed	26
27 Sunday Worship 9am	28	29	30 Bible Study 9:30am	31 7:00 pm – Holden Sundae Worship		

