

## Prophets and Disciples

I was thinking about the fact that I have now been with you for two years. Time flies when you're having fun! My call to be at Zion comes from the synod council, and I am appointed by Bishop Fidler. I also just attended the ordination of Leslie, the student whom I have supervised during her seminary journey. Both got me thinking about "call."

The prophet Isaiah acknowledged that he was not acceptable before God. A seraph (angel) takes a coal from the altar and puts it to Isaiah's lips to cleanse him from all sin and to make him ready to speak for God. When God calls, "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah responds, "Here I am, send me!" (Isaiah 6) Unlike some of the others called by God, namely Moses and Jeremiah, Isaiah is immediately *willing* to do God's work. Many others who are called have excuses and concerns about their call. We can certainly understand their fears and worries. God calms those fears by letting them know that God will go with them and equip them for this special mission.

The prophets' missions are similar to our lives of discipleship. Is being a disciple a job, or a response, or a call? Yes to all! Our lives of discipleship are rooted in the waters of baptism, where God claims us as children. The ritual of oil announces that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ. Just like the prophets, God chooses us, equips us, and goes with us in mission.

Sometimes the ministry that we are called to do is hard or even scary, like it was for the prophets of old. In my call, I have certainly, at times, bumped up against these feelings. Christ reminds us that we do not do these things alone. Not only is God with us, but God has also given us partners in ministry who help and uphold us. I have witnessed this in Zion's caring and faithful leadership and in the congregation.

Sometimes our mission means that we have to change or adapt in ways that are foreign or uncomfortable. Going to seminary and becoming a pastor was a huge transition in my life. God promises us new life in these moments and journeys of transformation. Perhaps you have experienced something similar as you have taken on a new role, participated in a different ministry, or way of serving. And maybe this has happened outside the church in your daily life. These opportunities stretch us and grow our faith.

Sometimes there is uncertainty about our mission and the ways we are called to be disciples. Zion is the fourth congregation that I have participated in leading. Each place has its own context in which to serve, specific resources and assets, and the opportunities to share the gospel can be met with challenges. The Holy Spirit promises to guide and direct our efforts as disciples. Zion is doing good work, and now you have the opportunity to imagine the future with your next pastor and the possibilities that God is calling you into together.

Being a prophet or disciple is not easy. If it were, we wouldn't need God – and yet we do. Thankfully, it is Christ who has gone before us, showing us what it means to be a witness for God's mission of love for the world. It is Christ who gave us the example of serving others in love and through his death and resurrection; it is Christ who goes with us as individual disciples and a congregation centered on mission; and it is Christ who will stir up the call in your next pastor as you extend it to them.

Grateful for our partnership in ministry,  
Pastor Elizabeth Martin

## Community Meal

Loaded baked potatoes always go over well at the Community Meal. Many of the 54 diners came back for seconds and even thirds. Our guests could choose from the following eight toppings: Butter, nacho cheese, sour cream, chopped broccoli, chili, diced onions, bacon bits and jalapeno peppers. We had plenty of potatoes for everyone, and most of the toppings held out to the end.



It is comforting to know that such a capable group of volunteers show up month after month to make this meal possible. The volunteers at the August meal were: Dawn, Joannie, Judy, Kevin, Larry, Lillian, Linda, Marge, Marilee, Nancy, Patti, Stephanie, and Wayne. This group was in top form and followed all food safety and cleanliness regulations because we passed our annual inspection when the Boone County Health Department showed up that night.

The next Community Meal will be held on Wednesday, September 10. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

John Enright

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## Food Truck

Thank you to the 24 volunteers who helped on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, with our 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Illinois Food Bank event for 2025. The volunteers who helped with approximately 6,000 pounds of food items by packaging the items into bags and loading this food into vehicles including: Gene Berg, Rodney Brandmire, Larry & Nancy Brendum, Dawn Calkins, John Enright, Jeff Ernest, Deana Foley, Eva & Xavier, Charles Foster, Arlyn Groen, Kathy Hansen, Marie Hagen, Russ Kindberg, Keith & Jeanne Marnen, Pastor Elizabeth & Wayne Martin, Terry Miller, Mandy Minson, Brenda Tobin, Gary & Sharon Yunto. These 24 individuals packed and loaded 12 assorted items into vehicles for giveaway, which helped 199 families, including 680 individuals, address their food insecurity in the Boone County area.



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## 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, and personal hygiene items
- New men's socks, knit caps, gloves, and mittens.

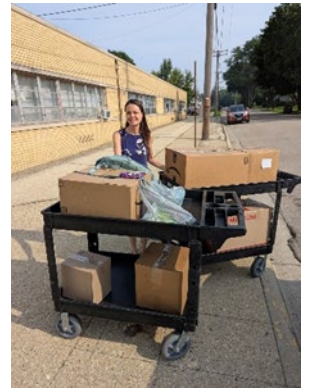
**Please note that expired food items will not be accepted.**

- 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**

Thank you to everyone who provided school supplies for First Step Day Care. Thank you to Donna Brookbank and a Thrivent Grant that allowed us to purchase 30 headsets for the children this year. It always makes the first day of school a little special.



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### **Pioneer News**

We will meet again on Monday, September 8th, with our potluck beginning at noon. It will be nice to get together after our summer time off. Broasted chicken & coffee will be provided for a small donation, and please bring a dish to share. Also, bring your own table service. Our program will be presented by Lisa Paulsen-Rodgers and will be on her Swedish Heritage. She will have a display and lots of interesting things to share. Please come and join us for food and fellowship.



Lyle & Patti Lee

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### **Attention**

Dear members of Zion,

We need your help and your cooperation regarding our Administrative Assistant, Mandy. Please remember that she is a part-time employee with many time-sensitive assignments that must be completed every day. Please be respectful of her time. Social visits are not acceptable. You are welcome to stop in with church-related matters in which Mandy can help you. Please do not be offended if she asks you to leave so that she can complete her daily assignments. Also, there will be some Fridays in the future when she will be at church to complete certain software training and updates. The church office is closed on Fridays, so she will not be answering the telephone or letting people into the church. It is important that we give Mandy time to complete these tasks without interruptions. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,  
David Schumann  
President, Church Council

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### **Call Committee Installation**





## Meal Train



The Meal Train is Zion's newest ministry. We provide supper to a Zion family to make life a little easier during times like after surgery, an illness, or a new baby. Volunteers prepare and deliver supper for your family each evening for a week. Our first Meal Train was very successful, and we are looking forward to providing this love to our Zion family again.

All aboard! Want to volunteer to cook supper for the Meal Train? Just watch for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board! If someone needs a Meal Train, we will let you know in the announcements! Need the Meal Train to stop at your house? Just call the church office and we will get you set up! Don't be offended if someone offers it to you... Food Ministry is Zion's forte!

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## Zion Scholarship Thank Yous!

Members of Zion thank you so much for the generous donation towards my future at Mount Mercy I will try to continue to enlighten many on my way and thank you so much for the support and friends ive made along the way.  
much love,  
Delaney Paulson.

Dear Zion, Thank you for the scholarship, it will truly help me through college. I'm always so excited to play there and always feel so honored and welcomed!

Thanks again!

-Ben

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your generous scholarship given to me! I have had a lot of fun playing at the church and volunteering at many events! I look forward to coming back on my breaks to play!

Thank you all so much!

sincerely, Ryan Woffgram

Dear members of Zion,

Thank you so much for the scholarship that was given to me. It is very much appreciated. I will use it for my needs in basic training.

Thank you also for the continued love and support.

yours in christ,

Kayden Schmidt

## **Zion Storm Damage-August 16, 2025**

### **Two Clean-up Events at Church**

#### **First on Saturday evening-8/16 to open the parking lot.**

Gary & Sharon Yunto with family members: Michelle & Russ; Rhonda & Scott; granddaughter Cailyn, Renters: Rachael & Matt Winkler and daughter Tess, who brought everyone refreshments, Zion members: Bonnie Wangen & grandson Alex & a friend, various neighbors, and Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department with chainsaws.

#### **Second on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**

Volunteers helping included: Kris Beever, Gene Berg, Rodney Brandmire, Dan Druckrey, John Enright, Arlyn Groen, Kathy Hansen, Mel Johnson, Russ Kindberg Jr., Lyle & Patti Lee, Curt & Brenda Tobin, Jim Twyning, Gary & Sharon Yunto

#### **Activities completed:**

Sawing up a portion of a tree; picking up & moving branches; cleaning up after the tree in the street was moved; raking yard; cleaning parking lot; limbs off roof (thank you Arlyn).

#### **Special Thank You!**

Salvation Disaster Management Team and the Belvidere Street Department Volunteers who came Monday night after their shift to clean up the tree debris off our parking lot for the Tuesday night Chuck Crain concert. ComEd for staying and working with Mel Johnson to get the power back on at the church on Monday morning.





# **Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!**



2-Sapphire Watts	6-Linda Zediker	12-Wanda Watts	17-Erik Jonas	21-Jeff Ernest
3-Lois Graves	7-Peyton Jonas	12-Tammy Zastrow	18-Imogene Brandt	22-Judith Fisk
3-Elleney Ogan	7-Kathy Hansen	12-Chelsea Lopez	19-Brenda Tobin	24-Benjamin Zediker
4-Avery Beever	7-Lorraine Carmichael	13-Aarron Minson	21-Tanya Hoemke	24-Beth Hong
4-Brad Ogan	9-Caspian Downey	15-Raven Downey	21-Luke Zediker	29-Kora Wick

## **From the Treasurer:**

### **General Fund**

July/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 22,049.37  
 Total Income \$ 18,757.00  
 Total Expense \$ 20,012.30  
 Balance \$ 20,794.07

### **General Fund Reserve Savings**

July/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 88,882.68  
 Income \$ 18.87  
 Expenses \$  
 Balance \$ 88,901.55

### **Building Fund**

July/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 4,820.92  
 Total Income \$ 3,066.00  
 Total Expense \$ 1,974.90  
 Balance \$ 5,912.02

### **Staff & Leadership**

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](http://www.zionbelvidere.com)

OR

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

Email  
[zionlutheran1300@gmail.com](mailto: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 September**

#### **September 7**

*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*  
*Philemon 1:21*  
*Luke 14:25-33*

#### **September 14**

*Exodus 32:7-14*  
*1 Timothy 1:12-17*  
*Luke 15:1-10*

#### **September 21**

*Amos 8:4-7*  
*1 Timothy 2:1-7*  
*Luke 16:1-13*

#### **September 28**

*Amos 6:1a, 4-7*  
*1 Timothy 6:6-19*  
*Luke 16:19-31*

September 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	2 Special Council Meeting 5pm	3 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am The Baby Bank 4pm-6pm	4 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm  <b>7:00 pm – Service of the Word Worship</b>	5 <b>Office Closed</b>	6
7 <b>Sunday Worship 9am Rally Sunday</b>  God's Work Our Hands Kick-off	8 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm  Worship & Music Meeting 5pm  Witness 6pm	9	10 <b>Council Reports Due by 9am</b> Bible Study 9:30am Community Meal 5pm-6pm	11 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm  <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b>	12 <b>Office Closed</b>	13
14 <b>Sunday Worship 9am Sunday School Resumes</b>	15	16	17  Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am <b>Council Meeting 6pm</b>	18 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm  <b>7pm – Worship</b>	19 <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>WOZ Bake Cookies 9:30am-12pm</b>	20 <b>WOZ Decorating Cookies 9:30am- 11:30am</b>
21 <b>Sunday Worship 9am</b>	22 <b>Tidings Articles Due by 9am</b>	23	24  Bible Study 9:30am	25 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm  Barnabas 6pm  <b>7pm – Holden Sundae Worship</b>	26  <b>Office Closed</b>	27
28 <b>Sunday Worship 9am</b>  Quilt Auction  Christian Nurturing Meeting 10:15am	29 Pack up quilts	30			<b>OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays</b>	

