

Resurrection and Relationships

On the Sunday after Easter, we hear the reading from the Gospel of John, where Jesus appears to the disciples, all but Thomas. He's known for doubting and not believing. Doubts are part of our faith journey, and that is another article. Believing, in the Gospel of John, is not so much about head knowledge, a doctrine or a creed, as it is about an abiding relationship. That is what Thomas is missing and what he longs to be rekindled, and we hear his joy in that relationship when he sees Jesus and exclaims, "My Lord and my God!" Resurrection has a power that bleeds into our relationships – with God, each other, and the created world.

I read a blog by Deb Koester on the power of resurrection in our relationships. She helped flesh some of this out, and I'll cite her comments in quotations.

Lives Transformed

Martin Luther asserts that in Christ's cross and resurrection, we are freed *from* the power of sin and brokenness in our lives and freed *for* lives of purpose living in God's kingdom on earth. "Our lives experience the ripples of transformative grace. We love because God first loved us." *We become ambassadors of God's grace to comfort others in ways we have received comfort.* (2 Cor 1:3-5)

Staying Connected to God

Without the lifeline of God's love in our lives, we are not able to propagate that love in our relationships. *Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.* (John 15:4-5) "As we abide with the Spirit, our lives bear fruit that blesses our lives and also impacts the lives of others."

Lead with Grace

"As we begin to live as people who are transformed by the resurrection of Jesus, God's grace will leak out into all of our interactions." Maybe it's a conversation at work or with a stranger in the grocery store. Perhaps it is deeper as we work through forgiveness. God's grace seeps into our generous, caring, and helpful actions. Grace is the basis of our mission statement, *Sharing Christ's Love*.

Commit to Praying – Give it up to God

Relationships with others are not one-sided, and we alone are not in control. The Apostle Paul reminds us, *If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.* (Romans 12:18) "We cannot change the actions of others, and yet we are called to be responsible for our own actions." And so, we turn to God in prayer and trust these relationships to the nurture of God's grace. "Because of the resurrection, Jesus sits at the right hand of our Father in Heaven interceding on our behalf."

Trust God

The resurrection witnesses God's character and deep love for us. "Not only does God love us enough, but God is capable of doing what is beyond our power." And so, we trust God to lead us into healthy relationships, to restore broken ones, and by the Spirit kindle in us the desire to abide with others in their life situations because, in Christ's death and resurrection, he abides in us.

A blessed Easter season to you,
Pastor Elizabeth Martin

Community Meal

Tacos, refried beans, and Spanish rice were served at the March Community Meal. This proved to be a popular menu as 89 people consumed 238 tacos. It was a busy and rewarding night for these faithful volunteers: Wanda, Marilee, Dawn, Sharon, Tammy, Linda, Jean, Larry, and Kathy. Special thanks to the Northern Illinois Food Bank for providing the ground beef, cheese, and taco shells for this meal.

The next Community Meal will be on Wednesday, April 10. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you are willing and able to help. It is EXTREMELY helpful to know who and how many will be there.



John Enright

Food Truck

Thank You to the 34 volunteers that helped on Saturday, March 16th with our 1st Northern Illinois Food Bank truck of 2024.

The volunteers who helped to unload, package and load into vehicles included: Jody Archer, Kris Beever, Gene Berg, Larry & Nancy Brendum, Dawn Calkins, Jen Downey, John Enright, Jeff & Michelle Ernest, Charles & Brock Foster, Arlyn Groen, Marie Hagen, Kathy Hansen, Sarah Hansen, Russ Kindberg, Lyle & Patti Lee, Wayne Martin, Terry Miller, Mandy Minson, Jeremy Nogacz, Marge Olson, Amy Ortiz, Julie, Rhett & Max Pinkston, Heather & Kora Wick, Gary & Sharon Yunto and Tammy & Trish Zastrow. These 34 individuals bagged 13 food items for giveaway that helped 208 families with 743 individuals including 267 children 166 elderly with their food insecurity from the Boone County and surrounding area.



Our next food truck is scheduled for May 18th. If you are interested in helping and have not helped in the past, please let Mandy know.

Pioneer Luncheon

Our next Pioneer luncheon will be on April 8th at 12pm. We will be providing chicken. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table setting. Program to be announced.



Attention Youth of all ages!

Join us Friday, April 5th in Linda's Lounge for Pizza and Games from 5:30-7:30pm. We will provide the pizza & drinks, you bring a friend for extra fun!



Women of Zion

We are still collecting items for the First Step children to choose from for their mothers as a gift on Mother's Day. We already have some jewelry donated and are looking for other personal items such as: candles, trinkets, artificial flower arrangements, perfume, or anything else you feel would be appropriate. There are about 60 children in their care. We could also use gift bags and cards. Look for our collection bins by the back entrance. The last day for collecting will be April 30th.

MRT Update

FMRT would like to share this website to learn more about resources in the county.

https://www.boonecountyil.gov/government/departments/health_department/index.php

A Renewed Opportunity

Do you enjoy reading out loud and/or singing? You are invited to participate in worship as an Assisting Minister.

What ways will I be leading?

- Chant the Kyrie (if you don't sing, no problem, pastor will chant it)
- Read the Intercessory Prayers (after the Creed)
- Read the Offertory Prayer and the Prayer after Communion
- Give the final Sending
- It may or may not involve serving communion. We want to make sure that those who enjoy doing that alone will still be able to participate.
- Assist with baptisms

If you are interested or have questions, please let either Pastor Elizabeth or Mandy in the office know. Once we have a list we will begin scheduling and offer training.

Sunday School News

Let Your Life's Light be a Window to Christ



Moving Forward in Faith



First Communion

Do you know a fifth grader? We will be having a one day class for First Communion for all fifth graders on April 27th. All fifth graders are welcome. The class will include instruction with Pastor Elizabeth and bread making with Heather Wick. It will be in the morning from 9:00am - noon. It is important that we know who is attending by April 11th so that we have enough materials and the kids know what to bring to class.

First Communion will be on April 28th during service.

Vacation Bible School

It's never too early to mark your calendar for Vacation Bible school. VBS will be June 17 – 21 from 9:00 to 11:30am. We are still working on what theme we will use. We will need volunteers in several areas such as group leaders, snacks, storytelling, opening (including taking pictures), and registration. If you are interested contact the church office or Pat Castro.



Earth Day Activities



Earth Day is April 22nd and we will have some special activities in Sunday School on April 21st. We will be doing several Earth Day crafts and weather permitting, working on the pollinator beds and planting more seeds in our mini greenhouses. The seeds we are planting will be transplanted to the pollinator beds in May.

October 27, 2024 Confirmation & Confirmation Reunion

We are planning a Confirmation Reunion on Sunday, October 27, 2024 after worship. Please reach out to family and friends and let them know we would love to see them. If you have children/siblings not in the area that were confirmed at Zion, please send their address or email to Mandy so we can contact them!

Calling all Knitters!

Zion has started a prayer shawl ministry. Anyone interested, please contact Dawn Calkins at 520-262-7504

Christ in Our Home April-June devotionals are now available for pick up.

Building Use Policy change

The Building Use Policy is being changed to require any individual or group that would like to use the Fellowship Hall and / or other areas of the church to contact Mandy for the new form and complete it and turn it into her at least 4 weeks prior to the event or activity. There are additional requirements in the new Policy that Mandy will give you.

This 4 week notice also applies to any church group wanting to schedule use of the building primarily the Fellowship Hall for an activity or event.

As an example, groups such as Pioneers or Community Meals need to verify dates with Mandy for monthly gatherings utilizing the Fellowship Hall. Do not assume any reoccurring event is being taken care of on office calendar. Verify your dates and time with Mandy.

Adopt-A-Highway

Zion Lutheran Church is part of Boone County's Adopt-A-Highway program. We are responsible for a section of Genoa Road starting at Hwy 20 and going south to Huber Road.

Our spring clean-up of Genoa Road is scheduled for Saturday, April 20 with a rain date of April 27. Plan on arriving at Zion at 8:30. You will be assigned a section of Genoa Road, given safety vests and trash bags and sent on your way. The more help we have the shorter section of road you will be assigned. Parents, bring your kids. Kids, bring your parents.

With the excitement the auto industry is bringing to Belvidere, we want to welcome first time visitors to our town to clean streets. Their first impression when exiting Hwy 90 should be a good one, not a trash filled road. We need to be reminded that stewardship is the responsible care and management of what God has provided. Let's make a difference.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please include your phone number so you can be notified if inclement weather causes a postponement.



Shiloh Journey to New Beginnings will start back up Monday, April 1st at 6pm.

Future of the Bells



Delilah Long baptized, child of God, on Sunday March 17th, 2024

We welcome Delilah Long to the life of Zion and a future bell choir ringer.

No experience necessary. The Zion bell choir welcomes all those who would like to ring.

Church Directory

It's time for a new church directory! We will be working with Jaime Kirk of JKirk Photography to have the new directory ready for our 130th birthday celebration! Hopefully one of these dates will work for you and your family. Jaime will be at church on the following days to take photos:

- Wednesday, June 19 from 3pm-7pm
- Thursday, June 27 from 3pm-7pm
- Saturday, June 29 morning time to be determined
- Sunday, June 30 after worship

The Baby Bank

Calling all hands!! On April 5th from 9:30am-12:30pm we will be switching fall/winter clothes to spring clothes and restocking the baby bank. Please save the date and come even if only for an hour or so.

Zion Lutheran Scholarships

Zion Lutheran members are encouraged to apply for a scholarship from the church. The application asks about past and current involvement at Zion. There is also a section for school activities and community service efforts.

Applicant's future plans may involve colleges and universities, vocational-trade schools, the various branches of the armed forces, and other professions including entrepreneurial and apprentice opportunities.

A member of Zion who has previously received a financial scholarship from the church may apply for a second scholarship if the individual has been accepted at an ELCA seminary school or if the individual has plans for an advanced learning opportunity. Applications are available in the church office, or an email version may be requested from Jean Twyning. twyning@hotmail.com

Applications are due May 28, 2024 to Jean Twyning or to the church office. Recipients will be announced in July. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity as we support you in your future endeavors.

Members of Zion,

Thank you for your support, prayers, and presence during the Wartburg College student visit. Thanks to you they were able to complete multiple service projects and performances in Belvidere and Rockford during their Spring Break Tour. Thank you for continuing to support the ELCA's next generation. God Bless! Deana Foley & Anthony Girone



Historic Auto Museum

Get those calendars out because you are invited to join Zion as we take a day trip to **Roscoe's Historic Auto Museum** on **Saturday, June 1st** from **10:00am-3:00pm**. Tour and Italian Lunch will be provided (just bring your own drink). Cost is \$20.00 per ticket, money and signups are due no later than May 24th. Carpool from the church at 9:30am or meet us there at 10:00am. The address of the museum is 13825 Metric Road in Roscoe. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards at both entrances and on the Thursday night service table. Please make checks out to Zion or cash is accepted as well. You can give this to Michelle Ernest (chair of event) or put in the offering plate and the office will be sure Michelle gets it. **Everyone is Welcome!**



Dan Holmes Concert

Mark your calendars! On April 21st at 2:00 p.m., we welcome back musician Daniel Holmes. The people of Zion have greatly appreciated his music in the past. After the hour-long concert, stay for a pie fest! Bring your friends; all are welcome.





Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



5-Kris Enright	8-Lavonne Spangler	11-Michael Pinkston	19-Kevin Ekberg	23-Judy Ernest
6-Carolyn Poole	9-Joanie Ekberg	14-Carol Temple	20-Julie Bredlau	24-Rilely Sipe
6-Rocco Baird	9-Anthony Girone	14-Wesley Amans	21-Kay Boudreau	24-Gretel Baird
7-Preston Watts	10-Anthony Mallegni	16-Gail Knitter	21-Marvin Johnson	25-Arthur Boudreau
7-Joanne Miller	11-Jordan Lehman	18-Dick Durley	22-Nathaniel Brunschon	28-Lisa Ahlberg

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

02/2024	Beginning Balance	\$ 18,846.61	02/2024
	Total Income	\$ 19,522.45	
	Total Expense	<u>\$ 14,809.92</u>	
	Balance	\$ 23,559.14	

General Fund Reserve Savings (new Account)

Feb/2024	Beginning Balance	\$100,463.49
	Income (interest)	59.63
	Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
	Balance	\$100,523.12

Building Fund

02/2024	Beginning Balance	\$18,683.38
	Total Income	\$ 2,769.00
	Total Expense	<u>\$ 3,951.89</u>
	Balance	\$ 17,500.49

Staff

Rev. Elizabeth Martin
Intentional Interim Pastor

Mandy Minson
Administrative Assistant

Ken Anderson
Council President

Dan Albrecht
Choir Director

Pat Castro
Sunday School Director

Diane Vorndran
Financial Secretary

Sharon Yunto
Treasurer

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:00am
Thursdays 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 2025

Ken Anderson
Jody Archer
Rodney Brandmire
Dawn Calkins
Doug Shiloh
Gary Yunto

Term Through January 2026

Gretel Baird
Melody Johnson
David Schumann

Term Through January 2027

Kris Enright
Michelle Ernest
Kelly Kotajarvi

Texts for the Month of April

April 7

Acts 4:32-35
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 14

Acts 3:12-19
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 34:36b-48

April 21

Acts 4:5-12
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

April 28

Acts 8:26-40
1 John 4:7-11
John 15:1-8

April 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Worship & Music 5pm Shiloh 6pm	2 Lent Soup and Bible Study 11:30am	3 Sewing/Quilting 9am	4 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship	5 Office Closed Baby Bank Restock 9am-12pm Youth Pizza/Game Night 5:30pm-7:30pm	6
7 Sunday Worship 9am Confirmation 10:20am	8 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm	9 Council Reports Due	10 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm Community Meal 5pm-6pm	11 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship Holden Sundae	12 Office Closed	13
14 Sunday Worship 9am	15 Witness 6pm	16	17 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 7:00pm	18 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship	19 Office Closed	20 Road Clean Up
21 Sunday Worship 9am Confirmation 10:20am Dan Homes Concert/Pie Fest 2pm	22 Tidings Articles Due	23	24 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	25 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship Barnabas 6pm	26 Office Closed	27 Baby Bank 9am-12pm First Communion Class 9am-12pm
28 Sunday Worship 9am First Communion Confirmation 10:20am	29	30			OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays	