

The Holiest of Weeks

We are most of the way through the season of Lent now and headed again with our Lord, Jesus Christ, to his cross and resurrection. We turn to the holiest of weeks. It begins with Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday, because it tells the story of the passion of our Lord. The ritual of palms goes back as early as the fourth century and wholly in the Christian church from the eighth century. We wave our palms on this special Sunday because they were waved in adoration of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem that last week of his life. Our worship service will include these palms and a blessing of them. Our gospel reading and sermon time will be exchanged with a reader's theater-style presentation of the Passion Narrative according to the Gospel of Luke. There are even parts for the congregation's participation. Reflecting on these words prepares our hearts and minds for the week to come.

Next, we move to the Triduum, which means "the three days." These holy days are Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter. The Triduum is one continuous long worship service, so when we leave on Thursday night, we then pick up where we left off, on Friday evening - in silence. We will observe the Thursday and Friday parts of the Triduum.

Maundy Thursday gets its name from the Latin word, *mandatum*, meaning "commandment." On this night, we hear the story from the Gospel of John, where Jesus serves the disciples by washing their feet and commands us to "love one another" (John 13:34). This is also the time of Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death. So on this night, we celebrate a shared meal and an embodied symbol of serving. If you have never experienced Maundy Thursday, I urge you to come. It ends powerfully with the ritual of "stripping the altar," which means that all things are removed from the space as darkness sets in.

Good Friday begins in silence and meditation. Even though we gather around remembering our Lord's crucifixion, we do so as people of the resurrection. Since we know how the story ends, it is *Good* Friday for us. We will hold a service of Tenebrae in which candles are extinguished slowly between readings and songs. Tenebrae comes from the Latin meaning "darkness." On this night, we hear the Passion Narrative according to the Gospel of John. This gospel connects most to Jesus' divine nature and so we combine the emphasis on his divinity as we remember his human nature in death. We will not have Holy Communion because that is connected to a celebration of resurrection. The service ends with our attention drawn to the cross.

On the third day, he rose from the dead. Easter Sunday is a service in celebration of Christ's resurrection. We will sing our praises! We will again shout our "Alleluia's" that have been dormant this Lent. Celebrating all that God in Jesus has done for us will be a glorious morning. This service of resurrection gets its power from the days of the Triduum. We can sing our praises with such joy in our hearts because we have journeyed remembering Christ's last meal, suffering, and death in the days leading up to Easter. I encourage you to bring your families to as many of these services as possible. They are a gift to our ever-growing faith and life in the Christian community.

A blessed Holy Week and Easter,
Pastor Elizabeth Martin

Community Meal

With the Baby Bank no longer operating on the same night we wondered if the Community Meal would still attract a large crowd. Attendance remained high, as 96 people had dinner that night. Hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and potato chips were on the menu. 120 burgers were grilled, and at the end of the night, only 2 burgers remained. That meant that about a fourth of our guests were able to have a second hamburger. No one left hungry, and that is our goal.

Special mention goes out to Joanie who did an awesome job grilling all those burgers. Any burger place in town would be happy to have her. Also thank you to Sandra and Tammy who came earlier in the day and baked four trays of brownies and a few dozen cupcakes. We very much appreciated the 100 single serve bags of potato chips that were donated by Mrs. Fisher's Chips of Rockford.

In addition to Joanie, Sandra, and Tammy who were already mentioned, the following people contributed their time and talents to make this meal possible: Dawn, Donna, Jean, Judy, Kathy, Larry, Linda, Marilee, Michelle, Nadiya, Nancy, Stephanie, Terry and Wayne.

The next Community Meal will be on Wednesday, April 9th. A volunteer sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

John Enright



Food Truck



Thank you to the 35 volunteers that helped on Saturday, March 15th with our first Northern Illinois Food Bank event for 2025.

The volunteers who helped to unload from the truck, package into bags and load approximately 7,500 pounds of food into vehicles included: Dan Albrecht, Jody Archer, Gene Berg, Katelyn Bishop, Rodney & Emma Brandmire, Larry & Nancy Brendum, Dawn Calkins, Jen Downey, John Enright, Jeff & Michelle Ernest, Charles & Cindy Foster, Arlyn Groen, Marie Hagen, Kathy & Sarah Hansen, Erik Jonas, Russ Kindberg, Kelly Kotajarvi, Lyle & Patti Lee, Wayne Martin, Terry Miller, Mandy & Henry Minson, Amy Ortiz, Holden & Nadiya Reininger, Brenda Veit-Shiloh, Gary Yunto, Tammy & Trish Zastrow. These 35 individuals packed and loaded into vehicles 16 assorted items for giveaway that helped 204 families including 712 individuals with their food insecurity from Boone County and the surrounding area.



Our next food truck will be on May 17th. If you have not helped with this important Zion food ministry to the community and are interested, please let Mandy know.

C O R N E R

T R A N S I T I O N

A Time of Transition

*Delight yourself also in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of your heart.
Psalm 37:4*

The time has come for us to begin the call process for a new pastor. With notice of Pastor Elizabeth's retirement, Council has appointed a team of church members who will, in faith and with grace, paint a literary picture of Zion Lutheran Church. We will be answering questions like, What does Zion look like to you? What is our purpose? Why are we here? Why do we exist? How do we serve the community? How do we wish to grow in the future?

The transition team is meeting regularly, and with guidance, creating a Ministry Site Profile (MSP). This group of six members want your input and will be reaching out to you in the small groups you attend, individually, during services, or at events to hear your thoughts. This step-by-step process approaches various aspects of Zion. We want your involvement every step of the way!

In the near future, council will be appointing a Call Committee. Once the MSP is completed, it will be provided to candidates for the pastoral position. The Call Committee will begin the interviewing process. The call committee will be individuals other than those on the transition team. The role of the transition team is simply to put your voice into the MSP.

If you have questions or want to discuss anything, please reach out to any one of the transition team members. We thank Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Jen Beamsley for their advice, instruction, and support in our effort.

Blessings,
Ken Anderson, Deana Foley, Marge Olson
Michelle Ernest, Cheryl Sturges, Carolyn Jurisch

Thank you, dear friends. I am overwhelmed with all of the many prayers, phone calls, texts, gifts and food and beautiful cards following my recent surgery.

Thank you, Pastor Elizabeth for praying with me on the day of my surgery and checking in on me at home.

I am truly blessed to be part of this wonderful, caring Zion family.

With all of my heart, thank you,

Sharon Yunto

Please bear with us as we navigate the new phone system!

The April-June *Christ in Our Homes* devotionals are ready for pick up.

Thank you for the cards. You all brought a smile to my face. 90 years, thanks for reminding me. God blessed me with a loving family and many wonderful friends. I guess people will come to me for words of wisdom. I should have some. All I can say to them is you are going to pass but once through this world, any good and kindness you can give to any human being do it now for you shall never pass this way again, and above all keep God in your life. I'm in God's hands more than ever before. Say a prayer at least once a day. Walk with God and talk to him. Again, Joanne and I thank you so very much. God bless and keep you all safe. God is always with you in good times and bad, he will carry you through it all.

Jim and Joanne Krupka

Zion Scholarship

The Scholarship committee is looking for Zion members who are Class of 2025 graduates and who plan to attend college or trade school, enter the military, or who have an entrepreneurial dream they would like to pursue. In addition, Zion members seeking a second degree or level of certification are encouraged to apply. Note: a new category of opportunity is now available. If you know of a student who is not a member but who fulfills the requirement of participating in the life and ministry of Zion, please take the time to write a letter of support for the individual. Give the recommendation to the office or email twyning@hotmail.com Applications are in the church office or contact Jean Twyning at 815-988-4385.

Thanks,
Jean Twyning

Concert

Just as a reminder, there will be a solo recital by Anthony Girone on Weds, April 23rd at 7:00pm in our sanctuary. Anthony is a third-year student at Wartburg College and the son of Deana Foley. He is also a member of Wartburg's International Tour for the Wind Ensemble and this year they will be going to Japan. Zion has agreed to host this recital as a fundraiser for Anthony to help with the cost of this tour. There will be an ice cream reception afterward in our Fellowship Hall hosted by his family. This will be a wonderful opportunity to show our love and support for Anthony. Hope to see all of you there.



Pioneer Club

Our next Pioneer Lunch will be on Monday, April 14th, with a noon potluck. Ham will be the meat served for the meal (donations accepted). Lyle and Patti will be bringing candied sweet potatoes. Our activity afterward will be bingo, by request.

Thanks,
Patti

Zion's 2025 Family Mission Trip

The plans are falling in place for our Family Mission Trip to Crandon, Wisconsin -July 13-18. We are excited and looking forward to spending time with the Potawatomi and Chippewa people. We have 15 or 16 Zion members going and 2 non-members. (Jody's great nieces).

Melita & Elleney Ogan, Melody Johnson, Ken Downey, Brenda Shiloh, Leo Rodriguez, Katelyn Bishop, Nadiya Reininger, Holden Reininger, Alex Haugen, Eva Foley, Emmy Foley, Foley Family members, Kevin Ekberg, Jody Archer, Angeline & JayRay Kutka.



A special thank-you to the Women of Zion and the 130th committee for helping us raise money for the trip, we could not do this without them. We appreciate their wonderful cooking and are thankful to them for picking up some of the cost. Also thank you to Thrivent for our shirts and the cash grant to help pay for the meals. A BIG shoutout to all the people who attended/supported the Spaghetti Dinner and donated/purchased baskets. So far, we have raised around \$3000.00, which does not include the Butter Braids. For those who ordered Butter Braids, they can be picked up on Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday, which is also when we will be serving up breakfast after church. This is another fundraiser sponsored by the Women of Zion and Thrivent.



If you are interested in donating directly to the Mission Trip go to [Zion Lutheran Church - Group Trip - Native American - Potawatomi and Chippewa - 25F0713PC - Donate - Adventures in Missions \(powered by ServiceReef\)](#)

If you would like your donation to go toward sponsoring a member, please let Jody know, and she will make sure it happens. Thanks again to everyone. We appreciate your support.

Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who helped cook our Legacy/fundraiser breakfast, especially Dick Beaver and Mike Beaver, they really can scramble some eggs. We had an extra blessing of eggs donated to us by Pastor's Mom, Judith Heeren. What pretty colors they were before breaking them. The youth and parents were great. Thank you to everyone who took the time to begin filling their legacy file here at Zion, you will be contacted to continue your stories. Thank you to Thrivent for providing some of the funds.



Mission 130 Team

Prayer Requests

Imogene Brandt, The Family of Sam Ruzic, Zion's Transition Team, Jim Krupka, Sharon Yunto, The Potter Family, Jason Lehman, The Hardt Family, The Stumpf Family, Bill Hathaway, Georgia Ruggles, Ardys Brockway, Wanda Watts, Matthew Faust, Charles Lane, Gordon Rubeck, Cindy Smaha, Ron Nelson, Vicky Harley, Pat Huff, Bill Batterton, Wally Brown, Bob Kantner, Diane Vorndran, 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



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



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

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

Feb/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 16,718.81
 Total Income \$ 34,915.91
 Total Expense \$ 23,846.94
 Balance \$ 27,787.78

General Fund Reserve Savings

Feb/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 89,891.28
 Income \$ 17.16
 Expenses \$ 1,100.00
 Balance \$ 88,808.44

Building Fund

Feb/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 14,868.37
 Total Income \$ 3,986.00
 Total Expense \$ 3,717.79
 Balance \$ 15,136.58

Staff

Rev. Elizabeth Martin
 Intentional Interim Pastor

Mandy Minson
 Administrative Assistant

David Schumann
 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 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 April

<u>April 6</u>	<u>April 13</u>	<u>April 17</u>	<u>April 18</u>	<u>April 20</u>	<u>April 27</u>
<i>Isa 43:16-21</i>	<i>Isa 50:4-9a</i>	<i>Exod 12:1-14</i>	<i>Isa 52:13-53:12</i>	<i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	<i>Acts 5:27-32</i>
<i>Phil 3:4b-14</i>	<i>Phil 2:5-11</i>	<i>1 Cor 11:23-26</i>	<i>Heb 10:16-25</i>	<i>1 Cor 15:19-26</i>	<i>Rev 1:4-8</i>
<i>John 12:1-8</i>	<i>Luke 22:14-23:56</i>	<i>John 13:1-17, 31b-35</i>	<i>John 18:1-19:42</i>	<i>Luke 24:1-12</i>	<i>John 20:19-31</i>

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays		1 Lent Soup & Study 11:30am Transition Team Meeting 3:30pm	2 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am The Baby Bank 4pm-6pm	3 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7pm – Worship	4 Office Closed	5
6 Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School Confirmation Class 10:20am	7 Worship & Music 5pm Shiloh 6pm	8 Lent Soup & Study 11:30am	9 Council Reports Due by 9am Bible Study 9:30am Community Meal 5pm-6pm	10 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7pm – Holden Sundae Worship	11 Office Closed	12 Breakfast set-up Ruzic Visitation 10am/Funeral 11am Butter Braid pick-up for the sellers 11am-1:30pm
13 Palm Sunday Worship 9am Mission Trip Breakfast & butter braid pick up for congregation	14 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm Witness 6pm	15 Lent Soup & Study 11:30am	16 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 6pm	17 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7pm –Maundy Thursday Worship	18 Office Closed 7pm Good Friday Worship	19
20 Easter Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School	21 Tidings Articles Due by 9am Transition Team Meeting 3:30pm	22	23 Bible Study 9:30am Girone Concert 7pm	24 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm Barnabas 6pm 7pm – Worship Baptism	25 Office Closed Wedding Rehearsal 4pm	26 WOZ @ Heritage Woods Magnuson/Ellsworth Wedding 3:30pm
27 Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School First Communion Confirmation Class 10:20am	28	29	30 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am		Office Closed	

