

Faithfulness, Traditions, and Change

Some years back, Wayne and I attended the wedding of the son of long-time family friends. They celebrated the weddings of both our sons with us, and we were excited to do the same with them. It was a Roman Catholic mass at an impressive, ornate Catholic cathedral. Everything was beautiful, and the service, including their vows and exchange of rings, went off effortlessly until...the unity candle.

At the beginning of the service, each of their mothers took a long wax wick, lit them from the tea light at the back side, and put a flame to each of the side candles. The stage was set. The bride and groom walked over behind the candles, looked lovingly into each other's eyes, picked up their lit tapers, and bowed them simultaneously into the center of the large unity candle. They backed them out and realized there was yet no flame. Again, they tried to light this candle a second and third time. The groom even tried to light it with just his candle.

The priest came over to lend a hand. He picked up the candle and poured out the liquid wax. Then he lit one of the wax wicks from their candles and tried, to no avail, to light this unity candle. He repeated, dump wax, try to light, two times. Well, by now, there are giggles and murmurings in the assembly. One person said, "Well, this isn't a good sign for their marriage." The priest was determined, and now his fingers were down inside, fiddling with the wick. He tried one more time – no light. The groom picked up the tea light from behind and set it on top of the candle, and voila! It looked as though it was lit. Everyone laughed and clapped.

The bride and groom worked hard to light this candle the traditional way. It has meaning—the two coming together into one. The priest tried an innovation, still faithful in using their flames, to light this candle. Finally, a complete change in how this candle has always been lit gave way to the symbolism of the unity of their marriage, represented in the flame of the tea light sitting on top of the candle.

I believe this is a reflection of how we are in the church. We try hard to be faithful to the traditional ways of ministry. This is how it has always been done, or this is the right and the only way to do this or that. Making a change is hard and sometimes doesn't seem faithful, righteous, or obedient. Perhaps it's just that change can be scary, hard work, and means learning anew.

I think the word here is faithful. We can worship, learn, serve, fellowship, and give in different ways. We hold onto some traditions, and we also embrace changes that give us new experiences and encounters with God and the people of God. We are faithful if we do these things with the love of Christ at the center. We are devoted and caring when we think of what is best for others over ourselves. We are faithful when we do something in a new way, and it still reflects the love of Christ for us and in us.

This month, Zion will celebrate its 130th anniversary. There is much to celebrate, honor, and cherish. It is also never too late to consider innovations and changes that will help us encounter the Good News in fresh ways, express our love for others even more, and experience our shared life in Christ grounded in the faith of generations.

Serving with you in faith,
Pastor Elizabeth Martin

Community Meal

It was a little disappointing when we only had 77 diners at the July Community Meal. That was 20 less than the previous month. However, as guest Pastor Arlyn Tolzmann said during his sermon on July 14th, “.....don’t count the sheep, feed the sheep.” And feed them we did. We had plenty of meatball subs, mac & cheese, and chicken nuggets for the kids.

Serving less meals than anticipated meant that our hard-working volunteers were rewarded by getting to take home some of the excess meatball subs, so no food was wasted. One of the highlights of the evening was that Dawn Calkins ate her FIRST EVER meatball sub. She gave it a big two thumbs up.



Thank you to our kitchen crew of Marge, Sharon, Kathy, Linda, Jean, Ronnie, Terry, Larry, Wayne, and Dawn. Special thanks to those that stayed late to help set the room up for the Thursday worship service.

The next Community Meal will be on Wednesday, August 14th. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Directory Update

Thank you to everyone who had their pictures taken or sent one in! If you had your picture taken with Jamie, please remember to email her and let her know what picture you would like in the directory. The photos have an 8-digit number above them with .JPG. Please get this sent as soon as possible so we can complete the directory!



kjamie2008@gmail.com

If you did not get your photo taken and would like to, it’s not too late. Jamie is taking photos in her in-house studio (still no charge). You can call Jody Archer 815-978-1691 or Contact Jamie at the above email and let her know you are with Zion.

Growing in Faith with
the Grace of God
For 130 years
You are invited
Zion Lutheran’s 130th Birthday Dinner Kickoff Celebration

Sunday, August 25, 2024

9:00 AM Church Service
Message by Pastor Josh Ebener
Bishop Assistant & Director of Evangelical Missions
Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA

10:30 Program
Share reflections from the past - outline the year's celebration
11:30 Fellowship Meal served
\$8 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under

Please sign up with a committee member after services or call the office 815-547-6102

Women of Zion

First Step Daycare:

School Supplies: Blessing of the school supplies is scheduled for Sunday, August 4, 2024. After the service, we would appreciate help with loading the boxes of school supplies in a vehicle so we can deliver them to First Step Daycare on Monday.

Thanksgiving Meal – Fill the Cornucopia! For each \$25.00 collected a piece will be added to the cornucopia on the back bulletin board. This year's goal is 35 meals.

Christmas Presents – Angel Tree – We will receive the list of children (names and sizes) and will have the tree up in late November.

Dates for your Calendar:

ELCA - Day of Service is scheduled for September 8, 2024. God's work. Our hands.

As a group, we will be completing this activity on Saturday, September 21, 2024. The Women of Zion will visit the residents at Heritage Woods. We will have a snack with them and then complete a fall scarecrow decoration. We will meet at Heritage Woods at 10:00 AM. Come make a decoration. We invite kids, confirmation students, and adults to attend and make a scarecrow with the residents. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex by Sunday, September 8, 2024.

October 19, 2024 – “Pounds Off Before Pounds On”. Saturday, October 19, 2024 @ 9:30 AM. Paul Kempson, Certified Instructor, will show us gentle standing and seated exercises. More information to follow. Look for a sign-up sheet to be placed on the bulletin board in late September.

New Video Bible Study Open to Everyone

A new Bible study opened to everyone, using the video resources of Ray Vander Laan.

- Vander Laan takes small groups of people to specific places in the Holy Lands that relate to verses of scripture.
- He explains the verses while the group is at the possible, or similar place, giving a better visual understanding of what took place.
- Each video is a complete lesson, about 20 minutes long.
- Discussion ideas come with each lesson.
- Our initial thought is to meet twice a month, the first Wednesday and the third Monday of each month from 7 to 8PM.
- **The first meeting, October 2nd at 7PM**, will be at church in Linda's Lounge and will include watching a video followed by a “What's your opinion discussion,” of the video? Should we meet on the days suggested? Maybe a potluck lunch group? Or small groups in members' homes? Other thoughts?

The videos are very informative. **Plan to attend!**

For more information contact Terry Miller: (815) 544-3188 or jmt66.1@att.net

******The Congregation council calls a congregational meeting on Sunday, August 4, 2024, after worship. The one agenda item is to replace the parking lot. Information and questions will be discussed after worship on Sundays July 21 & 28, and Thursdays July 25 & August 1.******

Zion Lutheran Scholarships

Johanna Jacqueline Miralrio was awarded a Zion scholarship. She will continue her education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign pursuing a degree in engineering.

During her 'growing-up' years at Zion, she was an acolyte, served at chili suppers, and packed orders for our clients of the Baby Bank.

Johanna graduated from Belvidere High School where she served on the Student Council and was treasurer of both her junior and senior class. She was on the track team for 3 years and played tennis in 11th and 12th grade. As a member of the Scholastic Bowl, she competed on WREX Ch 39 TV defeating Auburn Academy to reach the finals against the Belvidere North team. Belvidere beat North in the final match to clinch the 2024 title.

Johanna achieved the honor of being named an AP Scholar, an Illinois State Scholar, and was named to a board for Hispanic recognition.



Zion prays that Johanna will be blessed with continued success as she embarks on her educational journey.

Blessing of Labors

Join us in worship on Sunday, September 1st for a Blessing of the Labors. You are invited to wear or bring anything that is a sign of your current or past labor. Children are invited to wear or bring something that signifies what they would like to do when they grow up. One of the ways that we live into our baptismal vocation is shared through our daily work and interactions with others. Come and be blessed!

More Blessings

On Sunday, August 4th, we will bless the school supplies that were gathered by Zion to support the children at First Step Daycare.

On Sunday, August 18th, during worship we will bless all those going back to school. Students, teachers, aides, cafeteria, janitorial, bus drivers, administrators, and all who will be going back to school are invited to come and be blessed for the coming school year.

Altar Flowers

Thank you for sponsoring altar flowers to grace our worship space. You are welcome to take them home after worship. If you are coming later in the week, you can pick them up in the back of the sanctuary on the stand near the narthex doors.

Grief Books

As a way to come alongside those who are grieving, Zion is starting a ministry to send a series of grief books throughout the first year after a loved one's death. Stephen's Ministry puts these out. Those in our congregation whose funeral pastor does will automatically begin receiving these books. If you experience the death of a loved one who is not part of our Zion community and would like to receive this resource, please speak with Pastor Elizabeth. We will also put a set in the library that you can read and return.

Food Truck



Thank You to the 27 volunteers who helped on Saturday, June 29th with our 3rd Northern Illinois Food Bank truck of 2024.



The volunteers who helped to unload from the truck, package into bags and load this 7,500 pounds of food into vehicles included: Ken & Jean Anderson, Rodney Brandmire & Cody, Larry Brendum, Dawn Calkins, Ken & Jen Downey, Joanie Ekberg, Charles & Cindy Foster, Arlyn Groen, Marie Hagen, Kathy & Sarah Hansen, Russ Kindberg,



Kelly Kotajarvi, Pastor Elizabeth, Wayne Martin, Anne McCoy, Terry Miller, Marge Olson, Amy Ortiz, Delaney Paulson, Nadiya Reininger, Gary & Sharon Yunto. These 27 individuals packed 13 items for giveaway that helped 165 families with 603 individuals with their food insecurity from the Boone County and surrounding area.

Our next food truck is scheduled for Saturday, September 28th. If you have not helped with this important Zion food ministry to the community and are interested, please let Mandy know.

Prayer Requests

Wanda Watts, Emily Enright, Matthew Faust, Tammy Zastrow, Charles Lane, Gordon Rubeck, Cindy Smaha, Ron Nelson, Vicky Harley, Pat Huff, Bill Batterton, Wally Brown, Bob Kantner, Diane Vorndran, Guy and Pat Landmeier, Pat Melton, John Olson, Frances Palmer, Felix Ring, Juan Castro Jr, Harold Heeren, Olivia Rubeck, Michelle Marks, Todd and Lois Graves, Marilyn Urban, Stephanie Skelnik, Terry and Joanne Miller, Debbie DeWitt, Paula Crone, Helen Huftalin, Kendal Schmidt, Linda Johnson, Marcia Ellingburg, Dwaine Smith, Jim Johnson, Keira Kozlowski, The People of Ukraine, ALC Resurrection Church of India, Trinity Lutheran Church in Harvard

In Service to our Nation:

John Kozlowski, Justin Kozlowski, Rob Zediker



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



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

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

06/2024	Beginning Balance	\$ 10,546.34
	Total Income	\$ 19,729.74
	Total Expense	<u>\$ 14,641.43</u>
	Balance	\$ 15,634.65

Building Fund

06/2024	Beginning Balance	\$13,907.77
	Total Income	\$ 4,560.00
	Total Expense	<u>\$ 2,646.85</u>
	Balance	\$ 15,820.92

General Fund Reserve Savings (new Account)

June/2024	Beginning Balance	\$100,712.51	
	Income (interest)	80.94	
	CD cashed out	94,577.35	anticipated to be used towards the church parking lot.
	Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	
	Balance	\$195,370.80	

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 July

August 4

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 11

1 Kings 19:4-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

August 18

Proverbs 9:1-6
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 25

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays				1 7:00 pm – Worship Holden Sundaes Congregational Meeting	2 Office Closed	3
4 Sunday Worship 9am First Step School Supplies Blessing Congregational Meeting After Service	5 Shiloh 6pm	6 Fair	7 Sewing/Quilting 9am Fair	8 7:00 pm – Worship Fair	9 Office Closed Fair	10 Fair
11 Sunday Worship 9am New Member Informational Meeting 10:15am Fair	12 Witness 6pm	13 Council Reports Due	14 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm Community Meal 5pm-6pm	15 7:00 pm – Worship	16 Office Closed	17
18 Sunday Worship 9am Back to School Blessing	19 Meals on Wheels	20 Meals on Wheels	21 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Meals on Wheels Council Meeting 7:00pm	22 Meals on Wheels Barnabas 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship	23 Meals on Wheels Office Closed	24 Meal set up in Fellowship Hall
25 Sunday Worship 9am 130 th Anniversary Celebration, Program & Luncheon	26 Tidings Articles Due	27	28 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	29 7:00 pm – Worship Zion's 130 th Anniversary!	30 Office Closed	31