

Faithfulness

Last month, I presided at the wedding of Riley and Paige. There were no problems and everything went off famously. Not so for the wedding Wayne and I attended some years ago for the son of long-time family friends. They celebrated with us the weddings of both our sons, and we were excited to do the same with them. It was a Roman Catholic mass at an amazing, 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, and put flame to each of the side candles. The stage was set. The bride and groom walked over to behind the candles, looked lovingly into each other's eyes, picked up their tapers, and bowed them, at the same time, into the center of the large unity candle. They backed them out and realized there was yet no flame. Again, a second and third time, they tried to light this candle. 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. I'm wondering how much the ritual would have meant had he succeeded. The priest repeated, dump wax, try to light, two times. Well, by now, there are giggles and murmurings in the assembly. I heard one person say, "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 unity candle, and Voila! it looked as though it was lit. Everyone laughed and clapped.

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

I think this is a reflection of how we are in the church. We try hard to be faithful to the ministry that has been given to us to tend. Sometimes it requires that we change course and do it in a different way, and maybe we discern to stop doing a certain ministry altogether. To make a change is hard and at times doesn't seem faithful, righteous, or obedient. Perhaps it's just that change can be scary and hard work. It requires collaboration, consensus, and compromise.

I think the word here is faithful. We can worship, learn, serve, fellowship, and give in all sorts of different ways. Some traditions we hold onto, 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 God in Christ Jesus at the center. We are faithful 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.

Our faithfulness comes from God's faithfulness. The One who gave us our faith and the Church. God is with us in all things, encouraging us and giving us creativity and wisdom by the Spirit. I am reminded of the flames on that first Pentecost that moved and motivated the new Church.

Serving with you in faith,
Pastor Elizabeth Martin

New Email

Just a reminder the new church email is zionlutheran1300@gmail.com

I do not have access to the previous Zion email anymore. Please make sure to use the new email when sending correspondence to the church office.

Community Meal

At the May Community Meal we had an abundance of food and an abundance of volunteers. Unfortunately, we DID NOT have an abundance of diners, as we only served 51 meals. That was the lowest total since October of 2022. Those who attended were treated to pork loin, scalloped potatoes with ham, and a vegetable. Chocolate chip cookies were for dessert.



Special thanks to Tammy and Trish who came that morning and baked over 250 chocolate chip cookies. Also, thank you to Charlie who came early and made the scalloped potatoes. In addition to those mentioned, the following also helped with the meal: Kevin, Joanie, Arlyn, Marge, Stephanie, Linda, Larry, Kathy, Dawn, Patti, Pastor Elizabeth, Wayne, Marilee, Lillian, and Deana.

The next meal will be on Wednesday, June 11th. A volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.



Food Truck

Thank You to the 33 volunteers that helped on Saturday, May 17th with our 2nd Northern Illinois Food Bank event for 2025 which was sponsored by a grant received from the Boone County Community Foundation.

The volunteers who helped to unload from the truck, package into bags and load approximately 7,400 pounds of food into vehicles included: Gene Berg, Katelyn Bishop, Rodney & Lily Brandmire, Dawn Calkins, Jen Downey, John Enright, Jeff Ernest, Charles Foster, Arlyn Groen, Marie Hagen, Kathy & Sarah Hansen, Russ Kindberg, Pastor Elizabeth, Darel & Connie Magnuson, Terry Miller, Mandy & Henry Minson, Marge Olson, Amy Ortiz, Julie & Rhett Pinkston, Brenda Veit-Shiloh and Leo, Curt & Brenda Tobin and Grant, Gary & Sharon Yunto, Tammy & Trish Zastrow. These 33 individuals packed and loaded into vehicles 12 assorted items for giveaway that helped 175 families with 584 individuals with their food insecurity from the Boone County and surrounding area.



Our next food truck will be on a Wednesday, June 25th from 4:00 to 5:30 pm with volunteers coming around 2:45 to 3:00 pm to unload the truck and to start bagging items for this event. If you have not helped with this important Zion food ministry to the community and are interested, please let Mandy know.



Vacation Bible School

Lava Lava Island Theme!
Where: Zion Lutheran Church
1300 Pearl St.
Belvidere, IL 61008
When: June 16th-June 20th
9:00am-11:30am
Register by calling: 815-547-6102



Adults of all ages, are you interested in helping out at VBS?

Contact Melita Ogan: melitaj2002@yahoo.com or Melody Johnson: melodylj24@gmail.com

We also have a signup sheet posted in the Narthex. Want to bring snacks for VBS? We have a list of items posted in the Narthex too.



Worship in the Park

Grab your lawn chairs and picnic baskets and head for Spencer Park for Worship in the Park on June 15th at 10:00. It will be in the Pavilion as in the past. Following the service there will be a picnic potluck. Pulled pork, chicken, buns, and water will be furnished. Please bring your favorite dish to share, as well as your own table service. There will be no coffee, donuts, or cookies before the service this year. Last June God blessed us with good weather and no cicadas. We are looking forward to worship, fellowship, and fun again this year. Please put it on your calendars.

Have Lunch with Ray

On Tuesdays at 11:30 AM in Linda's Lounge, beginning May 27th, bring a "brown-bag-lunch" and enjoy lunch with your friends of Zion. After lunch, we will watch and discuss videos by Ray Vander Laan. Laan is the founder of That the World May Know Ministries and creator of the "That the World My Know" video series. In each stand-alone video, he takes a small group of people to the Holy Lands. Each trip is to a very specific place that corresponds to a scripture passage. They study the scripture while observing where it took place creating a clearer understanding of what it looked like and what was happening at that time. We will have a discussion after watching each video. For more information contact Terry Miller at 815-355-6518.

Backpacks for First Step

School is just getting out, but Women of Zion are planning to once again collect school supplies for First Step Children. Watch for the supply list to be posted and a collection tub under our bulletin board. We will be blessing these supplies at the end of July. Thanks to a Thrivent Grant that was received we have an additional \$250.00 to spend towards our project.

Altar Guild

We are in need of communion wine and juice. The Altar Guild prefers the Mogen David Concord bottles over the jugs because they are easier to handle and pour. The juice we use is Welch's Sparkling White Grape Juice. Thanks for all your help!

Altar Flowers Instructions

Please review the following altar flower instructions.

1. Only put your name on the altar flower calendar next to the date you want flowers for.
2. Fill out the altar flower envelope like the example below. Please put an * on the amount line if you want to take your flowers home with you. If there is no * then we will assume you want to donate them.
3. Turn the envelope with the payment into the office one week before the date you have altar flowers.
4. Any envelopes not received before the bulletins are printed will say 'In honor of God's Glory.'

Flower Offering
In memory of Honor Our Admin's Awesomeness
To be used for 6-3-24
Given by Mandy Minson
Amount \$30 *
CC7-526125

Pioneer Luncheon

Hello Zion Pioneers,

Please know that we will be taking the summer months off as usual. Pioneer potluck lunches will begin again starting in September. And also, I would like to thank all the many hands (and minds) that have helped me over the past several months. I would not be able to continue without all of your help.

Patti Lee



Prayer Requests

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, Gordon Rubeck, 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 Redelscheimer

Thank You!

This is a big thank you to everyone who helped make the church festive for Easter Sunday. Thanks to those who ordered flowers; the Easter Garden seemed especially lovely this year. Thanks to those who helped: Mandy Minson, Kris and John Enright, Dawn Calkins, Gretel Baird, Carolyn Jurisch, Kris Beever, Jane Schuessler, Marilee and Jim Sellers. If anyone's name was omitted, please accept my apology.

In Jesus' name,
Donna Brookbank



Zion Family- 5/17/25.
Thank you for your
overwhelming love and
support to Anthony!
You helped him raise an
impressive amount of
money to secure his trip
to Japan. Performing
internationally is the
opportunity of a lifetime.
We are forever grateful!
On behalf of Anthony Grone, God
Bless you all! ♥ James & Deana
Foley

Friends of Zion,
Thank you for all of your
prayers, cards, phone calls,
text messages and flowers
following my surgery. A special
thank you to Pastor Elizabeth
for her visits, scripture
readings and prayers. All of
the wonderful prayer warriors
of Zion Lutheran Church are
truly appreciated.

Sincerely, Mary Berg

Dear members of Zion,

Thank you for all the wonderful cards, wishes, treats, flowers and the flower pot the kids signed that you presented to me on May 25th. It was a wonderful way to end my many years with Sunday School both as a teacher and later as director. It has been a joy to work with so many wonderful kids, parents, teachers, and members over the years. The congregation has always supported Sunday School, VBS and all our youth programs and for this I am truly grateful. Thanks again for all the support over the years and I look forward to being a support person for youth programs or other ministries.

God's blessings to you all,

Pat Castro



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



1-Bob Brunschon
3-Mandy Minson
4-Jeff Rednour
7-Chuck Foster
8-Justin Kozlowski
8-John Kozlowski
9-Gretchen Mallegni
12-Brittany Bender

13-Burton Sandberg
14-Doug Shiloh
16-Brianna Brunschon
16-Valerie Kotajarvi
17-Olivia Bahena
17-Clark Pinkston
18-Pastor Elizabeth
18-Melissa Bahena

18-Jared Wick
18-Evan Wick
22-Racy Zediker
22-Katelyn Bishop
23-Sam Larson
23-Lois Bender
25-Jeremy Nogacz
29-Linda Kozlowski

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

Apr/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 31,327.38
Total Income \$ 22,989.76
Total Expense \$ 22,111.37
Balance \$ 32,205.77

General Fund Reserve Savings

Apr/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 88,827.30
Income \$ 18.25
Expenses \$
Balance \$ 88,845.55

Building Fund

Apr/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 7,165.32
Total Income \$ 2,686.00
Total Expense \$ 3,904.70
Balance \$ 5,946.62

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 June

June 1

Acts 16:16-34
Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

June 8

Acts 2:1-21
Rom 8:14-17
John 14:8-17, 25-27

June 15

Prov 8:1-4, 22-31
Rom 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

June 22

Isa 65:1-9
Gal 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 29

Acts 12:1-11
2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18
John 21:15-19

June 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Worship 9am	2 Shiloh 6pm	3 Lunch with Ray Study 11:30am Transition Team Meeting 3:30pm Dine in at Red Robin Fundraiser	4 Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm	5 7:00 pm – Worship	6 Office Closed	7
8 Sunday Worship 9am Receive New Members/Blessing Graduates Pentecost Cookie Dough Pick Up	9 Baby Bank Restock 9am-12pm Worship & Music 5pm Witness 6pm	10 Scholarship Meeting 9:30am Lunch with Ray Study 11:30am	11 Council Reports Due by 9am Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Community Meal 5pm-6pm	12 7:00 pm – Worship	13 Office Closed Synod Assembly	14 Synod assembly
15 Sunday Worship in the Park 10am at Spencer Conservation District	16 VBS 9am-11:30am Transition Team Meeting 3:30pm	17 VBS 9am-11:30am Lunch with Ray Study 11:30am	18 VBS 9am-11:30am Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 6:00pm	19 VBS 9am-11:30am 7:00 pm – Worship	20 VBS 9am-11:30am Office Open	21
22 Sunday Worship 9am Campfirmation	23 Tidings Articles Due by 9am Baby Bank Restock 9am-12pm Transition Team Zoom Meeting 6:30pm Campfirmation	24 Lunch with Ray Study 11:30am Campfirmation	25 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Food Truck 4pm-5:30pm Campfirmation	26 Barnabas 6pm 7:00 pm –Worship Campfirmation	27 Office Closed Campfirmation	28 Dine in at Applebees Fundraiser 11am- 11pm
29 Sunday Worship 9am	30 Transition Team Meeting 3:30pm				OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays	

