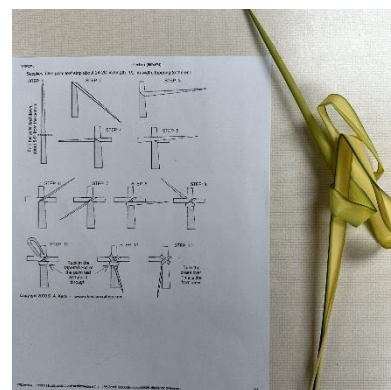




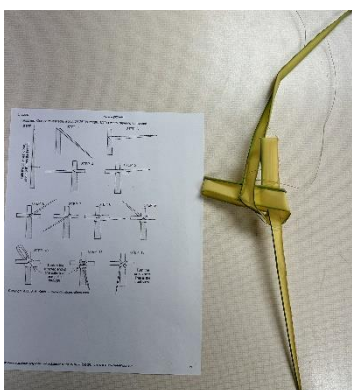
## From the Pastor's Desk

After worship on Palm/Passion Sunday, I was tidying up in the office before heading home. I saw some leftover palm fronds on the counter, along with the instructions for how to make a cross out of the palm leaf. I was inspired. Over the years, I have never been able to successfully create a cross out of the palm frond, without cheating by using some glue or duct tape to complete the task.

With the easy to follow instructions, I thought, surely this would be the year of my first palm cross. As I set off to fold the palm frond per the instructions, this was the first result.



Failure.

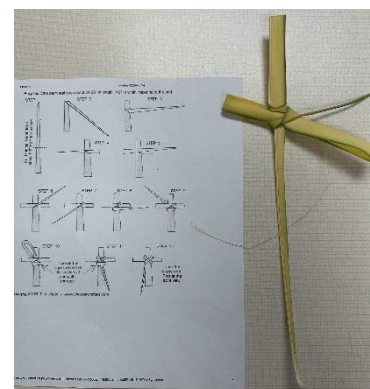


The next attempt, seen in *image #2*, was a bit closer to something resembling a cross, ..... but not by much.

Failure.

With intentionality and determination, I had a clear vision of my goal that would surely lead to success. As I struggled toward completion, I was hopeful for perfection.

As I completed the cross, image #3. I thought, pretty close....not bad.....but far from perfect. As I lined up the three palm crosses, I thought isn't that like us? We have instructions: in the Scriptures, the Commandments, in the teachings of Jesus, and in our doctrinal writings, all of which should lead us to live in accordance with God and with one another. In the end, try as we might, we will always fall short of perfection. In the Cross of Christ, the **only** perfect cross, we find grace: unmerited love and forgiveness for our failings.



As we walk through the many wildernesses of our lives, striving to follow the instructions, we find divine grace in the Cross of Christ. While our crosses may be riddled with imperfection, that brokenness is met by Jesus with the grace-filled reconciliation of the resurrection of our crucified Lord. His Cross is perfect.

Pastor David Petersen

## **Witness Committee**

Stewardship is.....

Stewardship is much, much more than the annual pledge drive. Stewardship is the responsible care and use of all that God has provided.

Stewardship is the Property Committee maintaining the church building so that it is structurally sound, clean and safe for our use.

Stewardship is a half a dozen people spending a Friday afternoon picking up downed branches and raking up ten bags of brush on our church grounds.

Stewardship is a dozen people spending a Saturday morning filling over twenty bags of litter over a two mile stretch of Genoa Road as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program.

Those are just a few examples of Zion members practicing stewardship by taking care of God's creation. Thank you to all the committees and individuals that honor God by practicing stewardship year-round by sharing their time, abilities and assets both here at Zion and in their daily lives.

Stewardship is something that occurs every day.

I Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

The Witness Committee

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## **Community Meal**

Our "Breakfast at Night" meal was such a success last summer we thought we would try it again. Once again it was a huge hit. 77 people enjoyed a hearty breakfast at the April Community Meal. That is a record number of meals served up in Fellowship Hall. (The all-time record was 109 meals served via the drive-through method during COVID.)

What a team! Our cooks and servers were very busy dishing out 8 dozen eggs, roughly 200 sausages, about 50 servings of biscuits & gravy, and massive amounts of hash browns and pancakes. Special mention goes out to Patti and Dawn who each stood at a hot griddle and made pancakes for over an hour straight.

Thank you to the following people who volunteered their time and talents to make this meal possible: Marge, Wanda, Dawn, Patti, Judy, Sharon, Arlyn, Kathy, Nancy, Larry, Linda, Judy, Delaney, and Jeremy. And thank you to the Zion congregation for supporting this ministry.

The next Community Meal is Wednesday, May 10. Join the fun. It is a lot of work, but we all have a good time and it is very rewarding.

John Enright

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## **Confirmation Mentors**

Attention confirmation mentors!

We are still creating a list of individuals interested in mentoring a confirmand. You will give them support and encouragement in writing their faith statement, while building a lifelong friendship!

Please contact the church office if you are interested.



## **WOZ Updates** **Upcoming Events:**



- May 6, 2023 – 9:00 to 11:30. Spring craft day – We will be making rainbow craft door hangers for residents of a Nursing Home located in Boone County. As we work on these items – let's have a discussion about rainbows. Please come to the event with a rainbow item that is special to you, a verse from the bible that mentions a rainbow, a story about a rainbow, etc. You never know where the conversation will lead us! Coffee and snacks will be served.

- **Footloose the Musical – Starlight Theatre**

**See the stars, feel the beat, enjoy an evening out with the girls!!!**

June 7, 2023 (Wednesday evening; 8:00 PM) – WOZ has purchased 20 group rate tickets for this evening performance. Tickets need to be paid for in the church office when you sign up for this performance - \$24.00 per ticket. This is a first come, first serve event. The last day to sign up is May 21, 2023. After the May date we will offer them to individuals outside of Zion to ensure that the 20 tickets are used. We can carpool from the church for those that are interested.

- October – Looking ahead we will be hosting a Fall/winter fun painting morning on a Saturday. More information to come as the arrangements are finalized.

### **Baby Bank News:**

- **A Big Thank You!!!!** -----Fundraiser event recap – WOW!! The members of Zion have come through again with their generosity to support the Women of Zion and the Baby Bank. Our total for the baby bottles and the breakfast was \$1,322.95.

- **Diaper distribution:**

Wednesday diaper distribution will continue to happen from 4-6 PM; in conjunction with the Community Meal monthly (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month). We could certainly use a few more workers on Wednesday evening. As they say, "Many hands make light work!" If this works into your schedule; please consider stopping by to help.

- Saturday diaper distribution dates: 9:00 AM to Noon

Work shifts: 8:45 AM to 10:30 and 10:30 to 12:15 – this will allow for time to set-up and clean-up. Or you can sign up for the entire distribution timeframe. Sign-up sheets will be on the bulletin board in the narthex.

#### DATES:

- -June 10, 2023
- -September 9, 2023
- -November 4, 2023

### **Social Ministry (WOZ)**

We will be providing planting pots and flowers for the First Step Day care children. They will have them ready for Mother's Day gifts.

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### **Sacramental Ministry**

**Thanks to our recent Sacramental Ministers, re-stocking the earthly elements for Holy Communion:**

**Wine:** Dawn Calkins and David Schumann

**Bread:** Bonnie Wagen, Sharon Yunto, Carolyn Jurisch, Joanie Ekberg, and Patti Lee

### Youth Room Update



Plans are underway to purchase items for our youth room! Jody Archer, Dave Schumann, Pastor Petersen, Heather Wick, Brenda Shiloh, Cheryl Sturges, and Gary Yunto met with 10 youth (6 members and 4 friends) to get ideas on how to proceed. Many ideas were discussed. The youth room, which will be dedicated in honor of Linda Schumann, will be a wonderful addition to our church. Our youth will have a place to gather, explore their faith, and get to know others.

### Youth Outing

Attention ALL Youth - Please join us on Friday, May 26 at River's Edge Recreation Center, 1151 W Locust St, Belvidere, for an afternoon of Rock Climbing. "The wall has the look and feel of real rock and has three climbing routes set to challenge all types of climbers." We will meet at 4:20 and climb from 4:30-5:30. We will order pizza and be done by 6:00. Come join the fun!



### Food Truck

Thank You to the 26 volunteers that helped on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Northern Illinois Food Bank truck of 2023. This truck was supported by a grant that Zion received from the Boone County Community Foundation.



The volunteers who helped to unload, package and load into vehicles included: Jody Archer, Kris Beever, Rodney Brandmire and his grandson Cody, Larry & Nancy Brendum, Dawn Calkins, Jen Downey, John Enright, Jim Gallagher, Arlyn Groen, Kathy Hansen, Sarah Hansen, Russ Kindberg, Lyle & Patti Lee, Anne McCoy, Terry Miller, Marge Olson, Amy Oritz, Pastor Petersen, Holden & Nadiya Reininger, Brenda Veit-Shiloh, and Gary & Sharon Yunto. These 26 individuals packed 19 items for giveaway that helped 200 families with 723 individuals with their food insecurity from the Boone County and surrounding area.

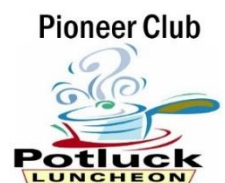
Our next food truck is scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are interested in helping and have not helped in the past, please let Mandy know.

Thank You! To the 6 volunteers who helped cleanup storm damage around our 6<sup>th</sup> Street rental party on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The volunteers who hauled broken limbs, branches, cutup pieces of large limbs to the street area for the city wide cleanup, and racked up many bags of smaller debris included: Ken Anderson, Gene Berg, John Enright, Kathy Hansen, and Gary & Sharon Yunto.

Gary Yunto  
Property Chairperson

### Pioneer Lunch

The next Pioneer Lunch will be on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table setting. The program to be announced.





# Grounded in grace

Living  
Lutheran



Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!  
Alleluia! Happy Easter, Beloveds-or  
should I say "Mary" Easter? I often think  
about Mary on that first Easter morning.  
I think about all the divergent feelings  
she must have wrestled with as she  
journeyed to the tomb. Like Mary, I find  
myself holding disparate feelings in  
tension this Easter season; joy and pain,  
hope and despair, longing and

fulfillment, peace and anxiety. There is a poignant hymn in *All Creation Sings*, the new worship supplement, titled "Woman, Weeping in the Garden" (935). The song illustrates Mary's Easter encounter through John's Gospel account. The author's lyrics invite us to embark on a grace-worn path from hopelessness to Siblings of faith, be encouraged in these perplexing times. Grief is real, tombs are real and the resurrection is real. Like Mary, we have been transformed by God's power and love. Throughout this Easter season and always-in times of confusion, joy, fear, loss or abundance-remember who you are. You are a beloved child of God, called by name. Just like Mary.

By Angela T. Khabeb (<https://www.livinglutheran.org/author/angela-khabeb/>) April 18, 2022

## Thank You!



Thank you all so much for the beautiful flowers  
for Administrative Professionals Day! It is truly  
a blessing to be a part of the Zion Family.  
Much Love,  
Mandy Minson

I am so blessed to be a  
member of Zion Lutheran.  
Thank you to everyone who  
had part in making my 100th  
birthday celebration so heart  
warming. Thank you for the  
many cards - the flowers and  
the lovely cake. I don't get  
to Sunday service much  
now because my body  
doesn't move too well that early.  
I miss all of you. It was  
lovely. I thank to all. I  
love you.

Frances Palmer

### Scholarship Committee

The Zion Scholarship Committee invites Zion members to apply for a scholarship through our church. We would also like to remind all members of our church of the recent changes made to the scholarship process. The new guidelines now include not only colleges and universities, but also vocational-trade schools, the various branches of the armed forces, and other professions including entrepreneurial and apprentice opportunities.

The committee will also entertain an application for a second scholarship from a member of Zion who has previously received a financial scholarship from the church if the individual has been accepted at an ELCA seminary school or if the individual has plans for an advanced learning opportunity.

Applications may be picked up in the church office or an email version may be requested from Jean Twyning at [twyning@hotmail.com](mailto:twyning@hotmail.com)

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity as we support you in your future endeavors. Deadline to turn in applications is May 26<sup>th</sup>.

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### A Note From the Endowment Fund Committee

In January of this year, the Endowment Committee met and voted to spend \$15,000.00 of earnings from the Endowment Fund. These funds have all been dispersed and we are proud to let you know how Zion has helped to meet the needs of the community and around the world.

1. **Community Outreach** - Good Samaritan Fund \$2,000, Community Meals \$1,500, Helping Hands of Belvidere \$1,000 and Baby Bank \$500.
2. **Missions around the world** – Ukraine Relief \$1,000, Disaster relief, specifically the Mississippi tornado \$1000, ALC Church in India and the Widowed women and children \$1500.  
**ELCA Good Gifts** \$2000. ELCA Good Gifts purchased: 2 goats and 2 flocks of chicks, 1 herd of goats, 1 share of a safe water project, school fees and uniform for 2 girls, 1 community vegetable garden, 10 weeks of supplies for a clinic and vaccinations for 10 children.
3. **Capital Expenditures at Zion** \$4500.

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A Time for Reverence: the Cross of Christ on Good Friday, Zion Lutheran Church



# MAY BIRTHDAYS

1-Pastor Petersen	7-Emma Rittschof	16-Wyatt Hulstedt
3-Butch Hagen III	10-Phyllis Cullison	19-Nancy Brendum
5-David Schumann	10-Skyler Schmidt	22-Jace Cordray
6-Emily Ernest	13-Bentley Mallegni	22-Thomas Thompson
6-Melvina Haskins	13-Carly Pearson	23-Emma Cordray
6-Terry King	14-Janet Schultz	23-David Sipe
6-Jody Archer	15-Justin Downey	24-Dan Ortiz
		25-Deana Foley



## From the Treasurer:

### General Fund

03/2023	Beginning Balance	\$ 64,229.19
	Total Income	\$ 11,566.79
	Total Expenses	<u>\$ 20,501.98</u>
	Balance	\$ 55,294.00

### Building Fund

03/2023	Beginning Balance	\$ 7,416.46
	Total Income	\$ 2,707.00
	Total Expenses	<u>\$ 2,977.42</u>
	Balance	\$ 7,146.04

#### Staff

Rev. David J. Petersen  
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  
Thursday's at 7:00pm

Find Worship Videos at  
[www.zionbelvidere.com](http://www.zionbelvidere.com)

OR

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

#### Council Members

##### Term Through January 2024

Ken Anderson  
Kris Beever  
Rodney Brandmire  
Jen Downey  
Jeff Ernest  
Deana Foley

##### Term Through January 2025

Jody Archer  
Doug Shiloh  
Gary Yunto

##### Term Through January 2026

Gretel Baird  
Melody Johnson  
David Schumann

## Texts for the Month of April

### May 7<sup>th</sup>

**Acts 7:55-60**

**1 Peter 2:2-10**

**John 14:1-14**

### May 14<sup>th</sup>

**Acts 17:22-31**

**1 Peter 3:13-22**

**John 14:15-21**

### May 21<sup>st</sup>

**Acts 1:6-14**

**1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11**

**John 17:1-11**

### May 28<sup>th</sup>

**Acts 2:1-21**

**1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

**John 20:19-23**

Pastor Petersen's open office hours: Tuesday mornings: 10:00 am-12 noon. Thursday afternoons: 1:00 pm-2:30pm  
It is best to call first because ministry and meetings happen! Pastor Petersen is always available by cell, 24/7.



## PENTECOST GERANIUMS

On the day of **Pentecost, June 5th**, we will display red geraniums in the sanctuary.

**Red** is the liturgical color for this day. **Red** recalls the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the first Pentecost.

You may give these plants in honor or in memory of someone. Please remember that all geraniums need to be picked up by June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Cost of each plant is **\$5.40**

Please fill out this form and return with payment to Mandy in the church office by **May 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Given in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
DONORS NAME

Number of Geraniums



# MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Shiloh Meeting 7pm-9pm (FH)	2 Worship/Music 5pm	3 Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank Organization 10:30am-12:30pm Confirmation 6pm	4 Choir Practice 5pm Bell Practice 6pm  <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b>	5	6 <b>WOZ</b> <b>Spring Craft Day</b> <b>9am-11:30am</b> First Communion Class 10:30am-12:30pm
7 <b>Sunday Worship @ 9am</b>	8 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm  Witness 6pm	9 <b>Council Reports Due</b>	10 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm Community Meal 5pm-6:30pm First Communion Class Confirmation 6pm	11 Choir Practice 5pm Bell Practice 6pm  <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b>	12	13
14 <b>Sunday Worship @ 9am</b>  <b>First Communion</b>  Happy Mother's Day	15 <b>Geranium Orders Due</b>  Shiloh Meeting 7pm-9pm (FH)	16	17 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am <b>Council Meeting 7pm</b>	18 Choir Practice 5pm Bell Practice 6pm  <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b>	19	20
21 <b>Sunday Worship @ 9am</b>  Last Day of Sunday School	22 <b>Tidings Articles Due</b>	23	24 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Confirmation 6pm	25 Choir Practice 5pm Bell Practice 6pm Barnabas 6pm  <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b> <b>Holden Sundae</b>	26	27
28 <b>Sunday Worship @ 9am</b>	29 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	30	31 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Confirmation 6pm	<b>OFFICE HOURS</b> <b>Monday-Friday</b> <b>9am-1pm</b>	<b>Pastor Petersen Cell:</b> <b>815-408-0242</b>	