

**On Eagle's Wings**

Bald Eagles are our national bird. They are majestic and striking in their color. I've seen eagles at Starved Rock State Park, in Minnesota, Alaska, and occasionally around here. I watched some of the live feed of the eagles on their nest and taking care of the eggs. One time, the eagle was covered in snow, sheltering the eggs.

Maybe it's the "church freak" in me (a label my daughter gave me when she was 12) that always brings to mind the song in our hymnal, *On Eagle's Wings* when I see an eagle. It is a favorite for a lot of people and has been sung at many of the funerals over which I have presided. This is the refrain: "And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand."<sup>1</sup>

I invite you to read Psalm 91. The verses to the song are taken from this psalm. At the end of the psalm, it is God's angels that God will command to guard and raise up. The whole psalm is full of promise. In the midst of harsh situations – persecution, war, and disease – God promises to deliver. "When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them." (Psalm 91:15 NRSV).

Now, consider reading Isaiah 40. It is written at the time when God's people, Israel, are in exile. There is comfort and reassurance that they will return home by God's hand. The words at the beginning of the chapter are heard during the season of Advent. "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low...'" These are words of hope and promise.

Fast forward to the end, "The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:28b-31 NRSV)

*On Eagle's Wings* and these two Old Testament readings witness a compassionate, forgiving God, a rescuer, a promise keeper, devoted and redeeming. Indeed, in times of trouble, we can trust in and call out to our God and know that God in Christ Jesus will attend us. In these times, we are also, like our ancestors in the faith, experiencing trouble, hardships, despair, and illness. God does not desert us; rather, God accompanies us through the struggles, "raising us up on eagle's wings and holding us in the palm of his hand." Even in death, our trust is in God, who grants us eternal life and will raise us up as God has resurrected Jesus Christ, which is our Easter celebration and confident hope.

I am keeping you all in prayer and asking God to hold you, raise you up, and tend your broken places.

Trusting in God's grace,  
Pastor Elizabeth Martin

<sup>1</sup> Michael Joncas, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis: 2014), *On Eagle's Wings* #787.

## **Community Meal**



Dreary, gloomy weather and a somber mood best describes the April Community Meal. Though a relatively low number of spaghetti meals were served, 72, our great volunteers really stepped up that night when providing this service to our guests. A special thank you to the following: Michelle, Wayne, Patti, Nancy, Terry, Larry, Dawn, Kathy, Marilee, Linda, Stephanie, and Sam. The next Community Meal will be held on Wednesday, May 14th. A volunteer sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

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## **Food Truck**

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

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## **Transition Team Feedback Sunday**

Please join us in the fellowship hall for coffee and treats on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, after service to hear the progress of your Transition Team! Our team will have a short talk of the process that has taken place thus far. We will be displaying our work for review and asking for your input! We will have our charts displayed for at least 2 weeks and ask the congregation to take any time they wish to look through them and provide feedback or additions to be included at any time that works for you. There will be pink sticky notes in an envelope next to the charts that can be stuck onto any chart, to which you would like to add your thoughts. We welcome your thoughts, ideas, or questions at any time and invite you to make them known with those colored sticky notes as well on any chart. We look forward to talking with you and hope to see you after church on May 4<sup>th</sup> for some FEEDback!!

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## **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](mailto:twyning@hotmail.com). Applications are in the church office or contact Jean Twyning at 815-988-4385. The deadline to submit applications is May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks,  
Jean Twyning

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## **Pioneer Club**

Our next Pioneer potluck lunch will be on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have broasted chicken as our main course. Please bring a dish to share and your own table setting. Our entertainment for the day will be A Classic Chorale of which Dawn Calkins is a member. Please come in and join in the fun. We serve promptly at noon.

Thanks,  
Patti Lee

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Mark your calendars for Worship in the Park on Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am.



## Thank you!

Easter Sunday was such a joy for me as well as the season of Lent and Holy Week that preceded it. I appreciate those who gathered with me for a Lenten Soup & Study each week. Your insights and sharing were meaningful to our Lenten journey and building community. Mandy and Dan were great to work with in planning all of our services. Thank you for your extra hard work! Jane Schuessler and Kris Beever gave us beautiful and meaningful decorations throughout the church for the seasons. Your gifts are appreciated. Thank you, altar guild and worship committee, for setting up our worship space with banners, paraments, and flowers. The stripping of the altar was a moving part of Maundy Thursday. Our choirs (voice, bells, and soloists) and instrumentalists were outstanding! Your gifts for music gave our services deeper meaning. To all who read for Palm Sunday and Good Friday, you enriched our worship experience. Thank you to all who served in our worship in any way and to those who attended. Your presence and participation added to our joy. It blesses me to serve in a congregation where people gladly use their gifts and participate in so many ways.

With deep appreciation,  
Pastor Elizabeth

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## Women of Zion

### Upcoming Events

- **May 3, 2025 @ 10:00 AM** - Heritage Woods - We will be assisting the residents in making a butterfly door hanger for their door and provide a snack for them as well. We will meet at Heritage Woods located at 4730 Squaw Prairie Rd, Belvidere at 9:45 AM. Come be a part of the fun!
- **May 4, 2025**, is the last day to sign up for the performance at Starlight Theatre – The Wedding Singer – on Wednesday June 25 @ 8:00 PM. Tickets will be ordered on Monday, May 5, 2025. Please see Kris Beever for your ticket and pay her at that time.
- **May 28, 2025** – Planning and Work Luncheon at 12:30 PM. We will be discussing and planning the remainder of the year. A chicken salad luncheon will be provided. There will be an opportunity to help tie baptismal blankets, as we need to replenish our supply. Please sign up on the list located on the WOZ bulletin board near the back entrance so we can know how many to plan for.

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## First Communion Class

One of our Faith Stepping Stones is for children receiving their First Communion. Five young people and their special adult attended a class in March: Emsley Foley, Eva Foley, Henry Minson, Elleney Ogan, and Alex Haugen Jr. They had loads of fun learning from pastor, getting their own book on communion, watching DVD clips, baking communion bread, and painting their wine glasses. These young people received their First Communion on Sunday, April 27. We rejoice with them in this faith milestone.



## Newcomers Gathering

I have had interest from a couple of people who would like to consider becoming members of Zion. If you are also interested and would like to hear a little more about Zion, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the denomination that we are a part of), and ask your questions, you are invited to attend a Newcomers Informational Gathering. We will meet after worship on May 11<sup>th</sup>, in the library, for about 45 minutes. Feel free to get some refreshments upstairs and bring them to the library, which is near the bathrooms in the gathering space. If you decide that you would like to become a member of Zion, we will receive you in worship on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Please let the office or me know if you would like to attend so that we have enough materials.

Pastor Elizabeth

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## Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday is June 8. Once again, the altar area will be adorned with red—red geraniums and red candles. The cost of a geranium will be \$6.00. Since they cannot be planted around the church as before, the plants must be taken home to a beautiful pot on your deck or into your yard. Please consider ordering one or two. Orders must be placed by Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please use the order form below or one from the bulletin. Let's celebrate Pentecost!

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## PENTECOST GERANIUMS

On the day of **Pentecost, June 8**, 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. Cost of each plant is **\$6.00**. Please fill out this form and return it with payment to Mandy in the church office by **May 18**.

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

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

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Geraniums: \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer Requests

Stephanie Rodriguez, Marty Stumpf, Imogene Brandt, Zion's Transition Team, 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, Karl Redelscheimer



# Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



5-David Schumann  
 6-Emily Ernest  
 6-Melvina Haskins  
 6-Jody Archer  
 9-Emelisse Downey  
 13-Carly Pearson

13-Bentley Mallegni  
 15-Justin Downey  
 19-Nancy Brendum  
 20-Bonnie Wangen  
 22-Jace Cordray  
 23-David Sipe

23-Emma Cordray  
 24-Carolyn Jurisch  
 25-Nikolai Jonas  
 25-Deana Foley  
 26-James Foley  
 28-Sally Holmes

## From the Treasurer:

### General Fund

Mar/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 27,787.78  
 Total Income \$ 21,260.86  
 Total Expense \$ 17,721.26  
 Balance \$ 31,327.38

### Building Fund

Mar/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 15,136.58  
 Total Income \$ 2,975.00  
 Total Expense \$ 10,946.26  
 Balance \$ 7,165.32

### General Fund Reserve Savings

Mar/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 88,808.44  
 Income \$ 18.86  
 Expenses \$  
 Balance \$ 88,827.30

### 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](http://www.zionbelvidere.com)

OR

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

Email  
[zionlutheran1300@gmail.com](mailto: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 May

#### May 4

*Acts 9:1-20*  
*Rev 5:11-10*  
*John 21:1-19*

#### May 11

*Acts 9:36-43*  
*Rev 7:9-17*  
*John 10:22-30*

#### May 18

*Acts 11:1-18*  
*Rev 21:1-6*  
*John 13:31-35*

#### May 25

*Acts 16:9-15*  
*Rev 21:10, 22-22:5*  
*John 14:23-29*

**May 2025**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>OFFICE HOURS</b> Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays				1 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm  <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b>	2  <b>Office Closed</b>	3  <b>WOZ @ Heritage Woods 9:45am</b>
4 <b>Sunday Worship 9am &amp; Sunday School</b> Transition Team “Feed”Back Confirmation Class 10:20am	5 Worship & Music 5pm  Shiloh 6pm	6	7 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am  Baby Bank 4pm-6pm	8 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm  <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b>	9  <b>Office Closed</b>	10
11 <b>Sunday Worship 9am &amp; Sunday School</b>  <b>New Member Class</b>  <b>Mother’s Day</b>  <b>Geranium Orders Due</b>	12 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm  Witness 6pm	13	14 <b>Council Reports Due by 9am</b>  Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am  Community Meal 5pm-6pm	15 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm  <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b>	16  <b>Office Closed</b>	17 <b>Food Tuck 9am-11am</b>  <b>Armed Forces Day</b>
18 <b>Sunday Worship 9am &amp; Sunday School</b>  <b>Minson Baptism</b>	19 Transition Team Meeting 3:30pm	20	21 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am  <b>Council Meeting 6pm</b>	22 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm  Barnabas 6pm  <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b>	23  <b>Office Closed</b>	24
25 <b>Sunday Worship 9am &amp; Sunday School</b>	26 <b>MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	27 <b>Tidings Articles Due by 9am</b>	28 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Scholarship Applications Due	29 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm  <b>7:00 pm – Holden Sundaes Worship</b>	30  <b>Office Closed</b>	31