

But Now...

Last year at Synod Assembly, our keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Charlene Cox. I was very intrigued and moved by one of her addresses to the assembly. I am basing this article on what she shared with us. Let's begin by reading Isaiah 43:1-3

¹**But now** thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I read this passage to one who is ill earlier this week, as I have read it many times. At the end of chapter 42, God rebukes the people for the reasons that they end up living in exile. And in an about-face, God sees and hears their suffering and says, "But now—" This is a new and different word to them. It is not accusing or a rebuke. The past is now behind them, and the future is unknown. They are wallowing in the space in between. They wonder about the promises of God.

Into this, God says, "But now—" God speaks to them with intimate tender care. The people don't know what will unfold in front of them. God assures them that they are called, named, and claimed for God's purposes in the world ("he who created you, formed you, I have called you by name, you are mine.").

Is this still not true for God's people today? For Zion Lutheran Church? Whether we are talking in general about the past of the church that is gone, and the future that is not yet determined, or the transition taking place now – the Lord says, "But now--Do not fear, you are mine." You have a holy calling to be the body of Christ in this time and place. The whole of the future can be overwhelming, so we lean into God's calling for today. We can do this because God says to the exiles, "But now—. "

When we long for the past and fear or wonder about the future, God proclaims, "But now—I will be with you." When we question if we can do what the Lord calls us to, God says, "But now—I created, formed, and called you by name; you are mine." Our calling is to be the body of Christ in this world *today*. Will the metaphorical waters rise and rivers run quickly? Will there be the threat of fire? Yes, and God promises when we go through the hard stuff - the wandering, waiting, and wondering, God will not let the waters overwhelm us, and the fire consume us.

But now, good people of Zion, know that as your future unfolds, you are God's beloved – created, called, and claimed for God's good purposes in this world. And if we are God's, as God promises, our futures will also be held by God.

God's grace and peace,
Pastor Elizabeth Martin

Community Meal

The week of the eclipse we eclipsed the century mark for meals served in Fellowship Hall. Nearly 50 pounds of ham was consumed by 101 diners. Along with the ham we served plenty of green beans and nearly enough potatoes, which ran out near the end of the meal. In recognition of that week's eclipse, our guests enjoyed 100 Moon Pies for dessert.



A big thank you to the following who helped with this meal, as every hand was needed for this busy night: Marge, Linda, Judy, Jean, Nancy, Michelle, Dawn, Judy, Larry, Kathy, and Donna.

John Enright



Pioneer Luncheon

Our Next Pioneer Lunch is Monday, May 13th at 12pm. We will have Barb Wych, a Master Gardener coming to give us some planting and pruning tips. We are going to pot a plant to take home. The pots, plants, and potting soil will be provided. One per household. Ham & meatloaf will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table setting.

Women of Zion

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and serve breakfast for Palm Sunday. Thank you Worship and Music Team for baking treats. Thank you to everyone who supported our breakfast.



First Step

A picture speaks a thousand words. Your generosity will make it possible for the children to give their mother, grandmother, or that special mother-figure in their life a gift. Thank you so much.

Women of Zion/Social Team



Dan Holmes Concert

Thank you to everyone who came and listened to Dan Holmes as he shared his gift of music. A big thanks to those who baked, served, and cleaned up the pie and ice cream treats.



Youth Game Night

We had 10 kids come to the Zion Game night! We had fun playing board games, cards, twister, and a little XBox at the end. Special Thanks to Jane Schuessler for helping plan the fun and donating the pizza, to Melody Johnson and Courtney Long who played games with the kids, and also to John Enright for the beautiful chess set he made for the room. We are planning another activity in June.



A Change in a Pentecost Tradition

Something new has been decided this year by the Worship and Music Committee. Over the years it has been a tradition to order and replant red geraniums outside after Pentecost. However, it is almost impossible to replant the geraniums in the new landscaping around the church, and someone needs to keep them watered. It has been decided this year to forego ordering individual plants. Instead, a generous member has offered to purchase some appropriate flowers from the Flower Bin for everyone to enjoy on Pentecost.

Faith Medical Response Team



Did you know we have an Automate External Defibrillator? Watch for a June date to learn how to use the AED!

Haven't heard of the Faith Medical Response Team? We are a multidisciplinary group of volunteers promoting health and wellness at Zion! Other churches have a parish nurse. We have a whole team! We are always looking for new perspectives. Are you a nurse, physician, pharmacist, social worker, EMT, firefighter, police officer, or school teacher? We would love to have you join our quarterly VIRTUAL meetings. This is the perfect opportunity for our working members to get involved at Zion without having to leave the house!

Historic Auto Museum

Get those calendars out because you are invited to join Zion as we take a day trip to **Roscoe's Historic Auto Museum** on **Saturday, June 1st from 10:00am-3:00pm.**

Tour and Italian Lunch will be provided (just bring your own drink). Cost is \$20.00 per ticket, money and signups are due no later than **May 24th**. Carpool from the church at 9:30am or meet us there at 10:00am. The address of the museum is 13825 Metric Road in Roscoe. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards at both entrances and on the Thursday night service table. Please make checks out to Zion or cash is accepted as well. You can give this to Michelle Ernest or put in the offering plate and the office will be sure Michelle gets it. We do need 20 people signed up or we will have to cancel the event.



Everyone is Welcome!

Food Truck

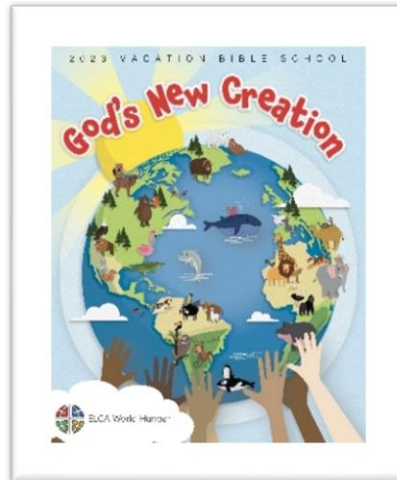
The next Food Truck will be on May 18th from 10am-11:30am. Volunteers are needed starting at 9am to bag the food. Please let Mandy or Gary know if you are able to help.



Sunday School News



Let Your Life's Light be a Window to Christ



Vacation Bible School

Our theme for VBS is *God's New Creation*. VBS will be June 17 – 21 from 9:00 to 11:30am for ages 3 to 12. There will be snacks, skits, lessons, crafts, games, and singing!!!

Pre-registration will start June 1st or you can register on the first day.

We are looking for volunteers. Some of the areas we need are group leaders, snacks, storytelling, opening (including taking pictures), and registration.

Confirmation kids this is a great way to get service hours!

If you are interested contact the church office or Pat Castro

Sunday School Update

We only have 3 Sundays left in this year's Sunday School Year, May 5, 12, and 19.

We will be doing crafts on May 5th, regular Sunday School on the 12th, and end-of-year fun on the 19th.

Come join us!

We meet about 10:15 downstairs in the Sunday School Room.

Come join us for our next Christian Nurturing Meeting May 5th at 11:15.

Quilting Circle

The quilters are looking for sheets, pillowcases, and tablecloths! You can drop them off in the office.

It's time for a new church directory! We will be working with Jaime Kirk of JKirk Photography to have the new directory ready for our 130th birthday celebration! Hopefully one of these dates will work for you and your family. Jaime will be at church on the following days to take photos:

- Sign up for your “photo shoot” after worship on Sunday, May 12 & 19 and Thursday, May 16**

[illegible]

Worship in the Park



Pack up your lawn chairs and picnic baskets. It's time for church in the park. Zion will be worshipping God in His great outdoors at Spencer Park on June 23rd. We will be in the pavilion, gathering for coffee, baked goods, and fellowship at 9:30, worshipping at 10:00, and enjoying a meal following the service. Pulled chicken and pork (sauce available), and buns will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and table service. See you at the park!

Thank you!

What a beautiful and meaningful Holy Week and Easter we shared here at Zion. Thank you to the Women of Zion and committees for a delicious Palm Sunday brunch. I so appreciate all those who made our services possible and were involved: altar guild, choirs, musicians, Mandy, Michelle and office volunteers, acolytes, ushers, all the extra readers, the behind the scenes people that took care of the lights and other details, and those who provided flowers. For all who participated in these worship services, I pray that our Holy Week and Easter experiences blessed you deeply.

With gratitude,
Pastor Elizabeth

*Thank
You*



Prayer Requests

The Family of Mary Verken, Diane Vorndran, Guy and Pat Landmeier, Pat Melton, Miles Magnuson, Kathy Bender, John Olson, Frances Palmer, Kevin Ekberg, Bob Brockway, Felix Ring, Juan Castro Jr, Harold Heeren, Ed Dotzler, Olivia Rubeck, Michelle Marks, Todd and Lois Graves, Marilyn Urban, Stephanie Skelnik, Terry and Joanne Miller, Debbie DeWitt, Imogene Brandt, Paula Crone, Helen Huftalin, Kendal Schmidt, Linda Johnson, Brenda Veit Shiloh, Marcia Ellingburg, Vera Sandberg, 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!



3-Butch Hagen III	6-Melivna Haskins	13-Bentley Mallegni	23-David Sipe
5-David Schumann	7-Emma Rittschof	15-Justin Downey	24-Dan Ortiz
6-Terry King	10-Phyllis Cullison	19-Nancy Brendum	24-Carolyn Jurisch
6-Emily Ernest	10-Skyler Schmidt	22-Jace Cordray	25-Deana Foley
6-Jody Archer	13-Carly Pearson	23-Emma Cordray	31-Griffin Ahlberg

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

03/2024	Beginning Balance	\$ 23,559.14	03/2024
	Total Income	\$ 19,841.32	
	Total Expense	\$ <u>24,592.61</u>	
	Balance	\$ 18,807.85	

Building Fund

Beginning Balance	\$17,500.49
Total Income	\$ 2,337.00
Total Expense	\$ <u>6,266.93</u>
Balance	\$ 13,570.56

General Fund Reserve Savings (new Account)

March/2024	Beginning Balance	\$100,523.12
	Income (interest)	59.66
	Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
	Balance	\$100,582.78

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 May

May 5

Acts 10:44-48
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:6-17

May 12

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 19

Acts 2:1-21
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Romans 8:22-27

May 26

Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

May 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays			1 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	2 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship	3 Office Closed	4
5 Sunday Worship 9am Christian Nurturing 11:15am	6 Worship & Music 5pm Shiloh 6pm	7 Council Reports Due	8 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm Community Meal 5pm-6pm	9 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship	10 Office Closed	11
12 Sunday Worship 9am Photo Directory Signups	13 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm Witness 6pm	14	15 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 7:00pm	16 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm Photo Directory Signups 7:00 pm – Worship	17 Office Closed	18 Food Truck 10am-11:30am
19 Sunday Worship 9am Pentecost Photo Directory Signups Last day of Sunday School	20 Tidings Articles Due	21 130th Anniversary Planning Meeting 6pm	22 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	23 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship Barnabas 6pm	24 Office Closed	25
26 Sunday Worship 9am	27	28	29 Bible Study 9:30am	30 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship Holden Sundae	31 Office Closed	