

Gratitude and Generosity

I attended a seminar put on by our synod as continuing education for pastors. The guest presenter was Dr. Rolf Jacobson from Luther Seminary. These were some things that really stood out for me.

He was saying how resentment and entitlement are the most corrosive things to attack our faith. Resentment he defined as looking at our neighbor and saying that they don't deserve what they have – their possessions, money, happiness, etc. Dr. Jacobson heard this said about how resentment acts on us. "It is like swallowing poison and waiting for the enemy to die." Not a very comforting thought! Then, he offered the antidote or cure for resentment as *Gratitude*.

Gratitude opens a window in the soul to the kingdom of God. Dr. Jacobson shared his own spiritual practice with us. Each morning, his prayer is in the form of a list of things for which he is thankful. Simple! The act of being grateful builds our inner well-being.

Entitlement he defined as looking at ourselves and saying that we have earned and deserve all that we have and even more. Remember the Grinch? He was resentful of all that the Whos in Whoville had, and when he took their stuff (thinking that would include their happiness), he felt entitled to it. Thankfully, he had a change of heart. Jacobson posits that the cure for entitlement is *Generosity*.

He talked about a study that showed the happiest people are the most generous. Often, in the church, when stewardship rolls around, we can get edgy about asking people to commit, be generous, or that really scary word, tithe. A pastor once said to me, "Never apologize for inviting people to be generous; it is an act that leads to great joy." My personal witness wholeheartedly agrees.

I would go so far as to say that Gratitude produces Generosity. When we are thankful for what has been given to us, how can we not want to share it and be generous? We are grateful for the love of God given to us in Jesus Christ, and that love produces love in all the ways that we have been gifted to do so - our relationships, our serving, our offerings, and more.

Zion's Mission and Ministry are made possible by our Gratitude and Generosity. I invite you to prayerfully discern how God is calling you to be Generous in ways that will bring you great joy and will serve to build up the Kingdom of God.

Together in Christ's service,
Pastor Elizabeth Martin

Community Meal

There were several uncertainties surrounding the October Community Meal. Would the gravel parking lot keep people away? Would having it a week early affect attendance? With the Baby Bank not open, would the numbers be down? All those concerns were unfounded as we had a great turnout. For the third month in a row, over 100 meals were served. It was a great group effort by our amazing team of volunteers. Many thanks go out to them.

Thank you to our doorman, who greeted and counted all 115 people who had dinner that night.

Thank you to the four young ladies who peeled 50 pounds of potatoes earlier in the day. Real mashed potatoes are far better than instant potatoes.

Thank you to the person who prepared over 100 sets of silverware and set the tables.

Thank you to the four cooks who sliced up 38 pounds of pork loin, mashed the potatoes, and cooked the green beans.

Thank you to the person who made the best pork gravy anyone has ever tasted and made enough to fill two crockpots.

Thank you to the four people who served the meal to our guests.

Thank you to the person who poured countless glasses of milk, water, and lemonade for our guests.

Thank you to the people who continued making more lemonade so we never ran out.

Thank you to the three people who washed three broasters, numerous pans, over 100 plates, and lots of silverware.

Thank you to the three people who stayed late to put away tables and chairs and set the room up for the Thursday worship service.

Thank you to the person who took all the dirty towels home to be washed.

And most importantly to me, thank you to the person who told me to CALM DOWN when I thought something might go wrong because, as I was told, Plan B will work just as well as Plan A.

All those people know who they are. Read these names, and now you'll know who they are too: Bonnie, Dawn, Donna, Pastor Elizabeth, Gary, Judy, Laurie, Linda, Marge, Marilee, Michelle, Sandra, Sharon, Wanda, and Wayne.

John Enright



Pioneer Club



Pioneer Club

Pioneers will meet a week later this month on November 18th at noon. The guest speaker will be Mary Brubach, speaking about the Veterans and Wreaths Across America program. Ham and Lyle's famous sweet potatoes will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and your own table settings. We hope to see you there!



Food Truck

The next food truck ministry is on Saturday, November 9th from 10 am-11:30 am. If you are able to help, please let Gary know at 815-547-7312, and arrive by 9am to help bag the food items.



Advent/Christmas

Ready or not, the Advent and Christmas seasons are nearly here. Of course we at Zion want to be prepared. On Saturday, November 30, we will gather at 9am to decorate the church in celebration of the coming of Jesus' birth. (We will meet again on Saturday, January 4, at 9am for removal.)

Women of Zion



Angel Tree – The Angel Tree will be in the narthex on Sunday November 24th; so that you can take advantage of the sales during Thanksgiving weekend. Pick an ornament and then have fun shopping for the kids of First Step Daycare. Remember to wrap the gift, secure the ornament to the package and return it to the tree no later than Sunday, December 15th.

Thanksgiving Meal Drive – Fill the Cornucopia! For every \$25 collected, we will add another piece to the cornucopia. The Women of Zion will match up to \$500.00 for the meals. Our goal is to give 35 or more meals away this year to First Step Daycare, Zion members, and others in need. Collection dates are from

Thursday, October 31st, to Sunday, November 17th.



Advent Soup & Study



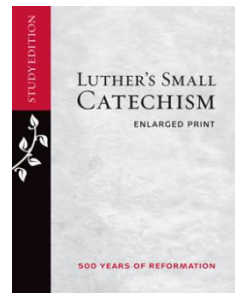
Pastor Elizabeth will lead a three-week study using Adam Hamilton's *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* material. Hamilton is the senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Hamilton is accessible and engaging in the video segments. Pastor Elizabeth will add to the material, and we will have group discussions.

We meet on three Tuesdays in Advent: December 3, 10, and 17, at noon for a soup and bread lunch and then our study time. Group participants will take turns offering to bring soup and bread. Each session is stand-alone, so please join in when you can.

Catechism Review or Introduction

Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* has been a source of instruction in the Christian faith for centuries. Luther wrote it so that parents could teach their children the faith. He wrote the *Large Catechism* for pastors. Do you remember going through a confirmation program and probably memorizing the Catechism? Perhaps you have never heard of it.

Many years ago, during weekly worship, Zion spoke one portion of the Catechism until all parts – the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments were covered. Beginning on October 27th, Zion will again edify and enlighten the congregation with a review of or introduction to *Luther's Small Catechism* during worship.



Hymnals

Do you have a book lying around your home that is about 2x5x8 with a red cover? Inside can be found settings for services and responsive readings and hymns. It might have wandered into your home during Covid when the church building was closed or when services were being held in the parking lot. New hymnals were purchased not too long ago; there should be enough for all to use, but that isn't the case. There seem to be quite a few missing. Please check to see if you have one of the missing hymnals. If so, please bring it back to church with you. No questions asked! Thank you!



Parking Lot Construction



Thank You!

Greetings, Dear People of Zion. Thank you for your kind words, cards, and the dinner gift card in honor of Clergy Appreciation Day. Wayne and I consider it a privilege to be in ministry with you, and we are enjoying this faith community.

Gratefully,
Pastor Elizabeth

Dear Zion Family,

Thank you to each and every one of you for all of the prayers for me and my family when I was stranded in Florida for Hurricane Milton. I praise God and thank Him for His mighty hand of protection. Tom and Jessica had VERY minor damage--a few lost shingles, some wet carpet that was dry before I left, and finally, the contents of the refrigerator were lost. However, in a nearby neighborhood, there was storm damage from Hurricane Helene piled along the streets--mattresses, furniture, drywall. I did not have an opportunity to drive there after Hurricane Milton. I can only imagine. If you have not yet donated to Lutheran World Relief, please consider doing something.

In Christ,
Beth Hong



Prayer Requests

The Stumpf Family, Bill Hathaway, Georgia Ruggles, Pastor Gary Erickson, Terry Miller, Sam & Mazie Ruzic, Ardys Brockway, Dennis Flemming, 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, Pat Melton, 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, Trinity Lutheran Church in Harvard

In Service to our Nation:
John Kozlowski, Justin Kozlowski, Rob Zediker

Poinsettias

Do you know the story of the poor Mexican girl who felt sad because she had no gift to place at Jesus' manger in her church? On her way to Christmas Eve service, she was met by an old lady who told her to gather some big weeds beside the road and offer those as her gift. It seemed a strange directive, but she did as she was told. The next morning, when she returned to the church for Christmas morning, she saw the weeds had become beautiful red flowers. That is a legend of how poinsettias came to be. We, too, will be decorating our church with poinsettias. If you would like to order one (or more), there will be order forms in Tidings and bulletins. Once again, they will be ordered from Pepper Creek in the same colors as last year: red, white, pink, or marble. Best of all, the price of \$12.00 is the same. Your order must be in by Sunday, December 8. You may take your plant home after the Christmas Eve service or on Sunday, December 29. The church will not be open Dec. 25-28.



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Cost is \$12.00 per plant.

Please note all orders are due **no later than Sunday, December 8th**.



Color Choices are: RED WHITE PINK MARBLE

Number of plants you want to order_____

Given in honor of:_____

Given in memory of:_____

Your Name:_____

You can pick up your plants on Sunday, December 24th after the Christmas Eve service or the following week during office hours.



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



1-Ardys Brockway
4-Laurie Swenson
10-Stella Foley
11-Jim Sellars
13-Kyle Kozlowski

13-Conrad Castro
15-Ashley Sipe
15-Keira Kozlowski
16-Dorothy Kemp
17-Michelle Hulstedt

17-Alice Lane
18-Marilyn Smith
22-Sara Beever
23-Gene Berg
27-Max Pinkston

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

09/2024	Beginning Balance	\$ 12,873.73	09/2024
	Total Income	\$ 32,101.00	
	Total Expense	<u>\$ 38,007.73</u>	
	Balance	\$ 6,967.00	

Building Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 5,885.79
Total Income	\$ 13,880.00
Total Expense	<u>\$ 2,188.59</u>
Balance	\$ 17,577.20

General Fund Reserve Savings (new Account)

September/2024	Beginning Balance	\$152,346.23
	Income (interest)	56.06
	Expenses	
	Balance	\$152,402.29

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 November

November 3

Isaiah 25:6-9
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

November 10

1 Kings 17:8-16
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 17

Daniel 12:1-3
Hebrews 10:11-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 24

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

November 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays					1 Office Closed	2
3 Sunday Worship 9am All Saints Day Confirmation Class 10:20am	4 Worship & Music 5pm Shiloh 6pm	5	6 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	7 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship Holden Sundae	8 Office Closed	9 Food Truck 10am-11:30am
10 Sunday Worship 9am Guest: Bishop Fidler Breakfast New Members Commitment Sunday Kids Craft Sunday	11 Witness 6pm	12	13 Council Reports Due by 9am Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm Community Meal 5pm-6pm	14 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship	15 Office Closed	16
17 Sunday Worship 9am Confirmation Class 10:20am	18 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm	19	20 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Church Ornament Decorating in Linda's Lounge 6pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	21 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm Barnabas 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship Holden Sundae	22 Office Closed	23
24 Sunday Worship 9am	25	26 Tidings Articles Due by 9am	27 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service 7pm	28 Thanksgiving Day No Worship Service Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Decorating the Church 9am

