

Heads Stuck in the Fence

A few weeks ago, on my way to church, I passed a pasture where many goats were grazing. As I turned on the road, I was going slowly, and so I noticed a baby goat with its head through the fence. It's a fence that has square holes in it. I've watched the goats put their heads through before so that they can eat the grass and weeds on the other side. I guess that "it's greener on the other side" also applies to goats. What was different this day was that the young goat was trying to get his head back into the pasture. It was pulling and tugging and twisting its head to get his antlers free from the fence maze. Standing next to the baby goat was a large ewe. I guessed that it might be his mother. All the other goats were farther out in the pasture and, weirdly, were walking in that direction as a group. Maybe the mother was calling to alert them about the situation with her kid.

Perhaps it was the mother in me, as I was sick in the pit of my stomach for that little goat, trying so hard to free himself, and the mother standing by with no way to help. So, I traveled down the road a bit and pulled into the driveway of the goat owners. The front door didn't look like it was used, so I headed toward the back of the house. A large dog jumped up on the deck fence and barked at me. I wasn't going in that way. I went back around to the front door. No doorbell, so I knocked. I noticed that the window next to the door was open, with a screen on it. So, I started shouting, "Hello, is anyone home? One of your goats is in trouble!" I knocked again with no answer. I then went toward the back of the house and yelled over the barking dog, "You have a goat that is stuck!" Still no answer.

Now what? Well, I thought about just leaving, but I knew I would be troubled by this all day. What if it couldn't get out and needed water? It was a hot day. And other scenarios played through my mind. So, I got back out of my car and walked quite a way down the side of the road. Sure enough, the kid was still stuck, and Mama was right beside him. I slowly approached with a soft voice as I made my way down the ditch. The ewe took off running. Then the little one started tugging and pulling really hard. I thought that he was going to hurt his neck on the fence. I got close enough to push on his antlers, and at that moment, he freed himself. Maybe scaring him gave him enough umph to get free. I don't know. What I do know is that I was relieved for the goat, the mother, and me. It would be a better day for all of us. I meditated on what had happened on my drive back to church.

To be clear, I did not see myself as a God or Jesus figure in this story, and yet it reminded me of the head-stuck situations we get into in life. In whatever ways we are hurting, Christ comes alongside us and helps us through to the other side. I witness this again and again in the life of this congregation. Hungry people are fed. Babies are diapered. Monetary help goes to victims of fires and floods. Grieving people are given a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on. Those who are judged and oppressed are given your voices of solidarity. Our sick are prayed for and supported. Veterans receive toiletries, socks, and food. Children in need are given school supplies and Christmas gifts. And the list goes on. Thank you for following our Lord, Jesus Christ, and helping others who, in so many ways, have their antlers stuck in the fence.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. (John 10:14-15)

Walking with you,
Pastor Elizabeth

Our Visitors from India

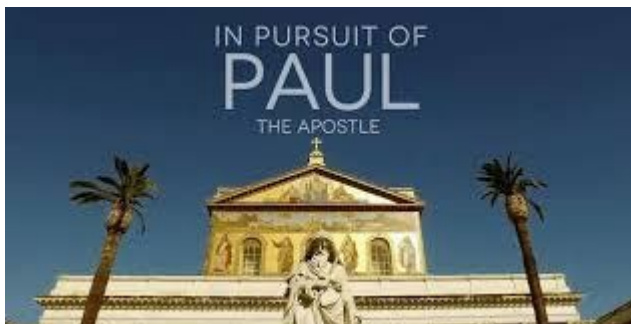
Zion is in partnership with a congregation from the Arcot Lutheran Church in India, named Resurrection Lutheran Church. Their new bishop, Bishop Peter Paul Thomas, along with his treasurer, Pastor D., and his pastor who provides pastoral care, Pastor Theo, were our guests on Monday, September 29th. The council gave them a tour and shared a meal. Then many from the congregation joined in for dessert and a program. What we didn't realize until partway through our time together is that Pastor Theo has been the pastor for only a few months at our partner congregation, Resurrection. This made the evening extra special as we made that connection!

The evening with our brothers from India was really great! Thank you, Michelle, for putting together the excellent PowerPoint presentation of our church and ministries. Thank you to Cheryl for organizing the dinner and to those who helped prepare, serve, and clean up. Thank you to Kris B., who found and suggested the gifts we gave them: a chalice that matches one of ours, red paraments that duplicate ours, and Zion mugs with goodies in them. We sent some candy for them to share with the children. They were greatly appreciated. Thank you to Dan and the Bells, you were wonderful! The bishop and Pastor D. enjoyed playing along with them. We look forward to nurturing our relationship between our congregations going forward.



In Pursuit of Paul Study

During the Season of Advent, Pastor Elizabeth is offering a study on the Apostle Paul. It is not Adventish, and yet it will still be a nice time of learning and interaction. Our focus will be on a video series by Dr. Constantine Campbell called, *In Pursuit of Paul the Apostle*. Campbell is a New Testament and Pauline scholar. He presents it in a travelogue style, like Rick Steves, taking us to the places that Paul traveled. We will hear scripture and reflect on what we experience in the videos.



We will meet on six Tuesdays (Lunch with Ray will take a break) beginning on November 11th and going through December 16th. We gather first to share a soup lunch and then engage in our study. Each week, two volunteers from the group will provide our soup. We begin at 11:30 a.m. and probably finish by 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to any and all of our program times.

Advent & Christmas Decorating

All are welcome to join the Altar Guild and Worship Committee to make our worship space festive for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. If you can lend a hand, we will be decorating on Saturday, November 29th, at 9:30 a.m. Many hands make light work. Come join the fun!

All Aboard the Generosity Express

Whoo, whoo! Our generosity appeal is underway. Have you seen the train on the back wall that opens up all kinds of ways that we can be generous in our lives? Are you enjoying the children's messages where God moves people in scripture from "I don't think I can" to "I think I can with God's help"?

The letters and commitment cards for 2026 have gone out. Please prayerfully discern how you will joyfully give back to God and support the ministry of Zion through your gifts. You can mail or drop off your card in the office or bring it with you to worship on November 9th for Commitment Sunday (November 6th for Thursday worship). Then, Celebration Sunday is on December 14th, where we will reveal the generosity of the congregation for the coming year.



Community Meal

Mostaccioli, salad, and bread were on the menu for the October Community Meal. Sixty-six meals were served. Thank you to the Anderson family for donating most of the food.

The willingness of people to volunteer at the Community Meal has been overwhelming. A total of 20 people helped at the October meal. They were Dawn, Jean, Jerry, Joanie, Judy E, Judy F, Kathy, Kris, Larry, Linda, Marge, Marilee, Michelle, Nancy, Patti, Sandra, Stephanie, Terry, and Wayne.

The November 12th meal will not need as many volunteers. We will be serving soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. So that people are not carrying hot bowls of soup across the room, our cooks will serve our guests at their tables. Also, dishes and clean-up will be minimal and will require fewer people. It is



VERY important that you PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE sign up on the posted volunteer sheet. Whereas the willingness of people to help is much appreciated, should the available positions be filled, then please sign up for another month. We are trying to avoid a "Too many cooks in the kitchen" situation. Thank you for your understanding.

John Enright

Pioneer News

Pioneer Lunch will be on November 10th with a potluck at noon. The program will be Pastor Gary Erickson giving a talk and slide presentation on his trip to Normandy in remembrance of D Day.



Women of Zion

First Step Daycare - Thanksgiving Meal Drive

Support for First Step Daycare families and those in need during this holiday season.

Each \$25.00 collected, we will add a feather to Tom Turkey, symbolizing contributions to the drive. As we did last year, The Women of Zion will match up to \$500 of the donations collected.



Donations will be accepted from Thursday, October 30, 2025, through Sunday, November 16, 2025. If you know a Zion member or someone who may need a Thanksgiving meal, contact Pastor Elizabeth at the church office.

First Step Daycare-Angel Tree



Christmas presents – Angel Tree – Narthex - November 30, 2025.

When you take a STAR – which has a designation of boy or girl with sizes for that child; remember to write your name next to that number on the clipboard near the tree. Return wrapped gifts with the star securely attached by Sunday, December 14, 2025. The gifts will be blessed at the altar on December 14th and delivered on Monday, December 15, 2025, to the daycare. If you have any

questions, please contact Kris Beever or Cheryl Sturges.

Christian Nurturing Corner

Our noisy offering from VBS and our congregation this summer raised \$315 for Operation Kid to Kid through World Vision. Thank you to all who donated! Our first craft Sunday was October 19th, after church at 10:15. The kids had a blast making ornaments with Ms. Pat. Our next craft Sunday will be Sunday, November 16th, after church at 10:15.

REMINDER TO ALL: our annual ornament making party for ALL ages will be on Monday, November 17th 5:30-6:30 pm! Dessert will also be served!

Upcoming dates to remember:

Saturday, December 20th- Christmas Program Practice- more information will be given soon.

Sunday, December 21st- Christmas Program during the service.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL- Craft Day after church 10:15-11:15am

Sunday, December 28th- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - (Christmas Break)



Mark your calendars for the

3rd Annual

All Congregation

Ornament Making Party

Monday, November 17, 5:30 – 6:30pm

In Linda's Lounge

Desserts and Beverages provided

Ornaments are for the Zion Hometown

Christmas Tree.

This year our theme is hearts.

Zion's Youth

We have had a busy month!

Rock Climbing at River's Edge - Yes, Eva makes it look easy! Thanks to Jim & Jean Twynning for sponsoring the event!



Time to power wash the chairs! Special thanks to Charlie Foster, James Foley, Melody Johnson, Andy Conro, Adam Archer and everyone who helped after the funeral and coffee hour!



A day helping our members! Thanks to Carolyn for letting us come to her house and for the pizza! Eva, Alex, David, and Jody spent the day cleaning out flower beds.

Mark your calendars-Youth Lock In (overnight)

Friday, November 7, 7 pm - 10am

Bring your blow-up mattresses and sleeping bags for a night of fun! We will have snacks and breakfast. You are welcome to bring a friend. After breakfast, we will make sandwiches and pack lunches for the people working on the Habitat for Humanity house. Please let Jody know if you will be able to join us!

Poinsettias

Though it is hard to believe, Christmas, 2025, is just around the corner. We will be meeting at church on Saturday, November 29th at 9:30 to decorate the church for the season. Advent begins on November 30th. Again, this year Poinsettia orders will be taken. The colors available are red, white, pink and a bicolor, formerly marbled. The price is \$12.60. Your order must be submitted by December 1st. Order forms will be available in Tidings and November bulletins.

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Please note all orders are due **no later than Monday, December 1st**. Cost is \$12.60 per plant.

Color Choices are: RED _____ WHITE _____ PINK _____ BICOLOR _____

Number of plants you want to order total _____ Your Name: _____

Given in honor of: _____

Given in memory of: _____

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



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



1-Anthony Castro
4-Laurie Swenson
6-Donna Hall
10-Stella Foley
11-Jim Sellers

13-Kyle Kozlowski
13-Conrad Castro
15-Ashley Sipe
15-Keira Kozlowski
15-Grant Magnuson

16-Dorothy Kemp
17-Michelle Hulstedt
18-Marilyn Smith
21-Vincent Sinople
22-Sara Beever

23-Gene Berg
27-Alan Anderson
27-Eric Jacobson
27-Max Pinkston
28-Alex Ortiz Jr.

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

Sep/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 28,191.04
Total Income \$ 18,676.05
Total Expense \$ 26,187.70
Balance \$ 20,679.39

Building Fund

Sep/2025 Beginning Balance \$(2,815.15)
Total Income \$ 2,051.00
Total Expense \$ 7,339.05
Balance * \$ (8,103.20)
* expenses come from the storm damage on August 16th.

General Fund Reserve Savings

Sep/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 88,919.21
Income \$ 19.49
Expenses \$
Balance \$ 88,938.70

Council Members

Term Through January 2026

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

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:00 am
Thursday at 7:00 pm

Find Worship Videos at
www.zionbelvidere.com

OR

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

Email
zionlutheran1300@gmail.com

Staff & Leadership

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

Jody Archer
Director of Children and Youth
Ministries

Diane Vorndran
Financial Secretary

Texts for the Month of November

November 2

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

November 9

Job 19:23-27a
2 Thess 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 16

Malachi 4:1-2a
2 Thess 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

November 23

Christ the King Sunday
special readings

November 30

Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

November 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays						1
2 Sunday Worship 9am Jonas' Baptisms Confirmation Class 10:20am	3 Worship & Music Meeting 5pm Shiloh 6pm	4	5 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm	6 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Service of the Word Worship	7 Office Closed Youth overnight 7pm-10am	8 Youth make lunches for Habitat for Humanity
9 Sunday Worship 9am Generosity & Commitment Sunday Blessing of Veteran's Supplies Christian Nurturing Meeting after service	10 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm Witness 6pm	11 In Pursuit of Paul Study and Soup Lunch 11:30am	12 Council Reports Due by 9am Bible Study 9:30am Community Meal 5pm-6pm	13 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship Service of the Word	14 Office Closed	15
16 Sunday Worship 9am	17 Ornament Making 5:30pm-6:30pm	18 In Pursuit of Paul Study and Soup Lunch 11:30am	19 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 6pm	20 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7:00 pm –Holden Sundae Worship	21 Office Closed	22
23 Sunday Worship 9am Christ the King Sunday Confirmation Class 10:20am	24 Tiding Articles Due by 9am	25 In Pursuit of Paul Study and Soup Lunch 11:30am	26 Bible Study 9:30am Thanksgiving Eve Service 7pm	27 Thanksgiving Day NO Worship Service Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29 Decorating the Church 9:30 am
30 Sunday Worship 9am						