

From the Pastor's Desk

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TIDINGS OF ZION

Questions and Answers

In the time I have been a pastor, including here at Zion, I have received some questions on a host of different topics. Some of these have been asked many times. I am devoting this newsletter article to some of those questions and how I answer them.

Q: Pastor, why do we say that “we believe in the holy catholic church” in the Apostles’ Creed, when we’re not Catholic?

A: In the Creed the word “catholic” is written with a lower case ‘c’ and not a capital ‘C’. When the word is capitalized it is referring to the Roman Catholic tradition. When it is in the smaller case, the word simply means the whole Christian church on earth.

Q: Pastor, on banners and paraments sometimes I see the letters INRI. What do they mean?

A: These letters are the acronym for the Latin phrase “Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudeorum” which means “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” This was the phrase that Pilate ordered to be written over the head of Jesus on the cross. *Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”* (John 19:21-22)

Q: Pastor, I often notice you cross yourself and so do some others in our congregation. I always thought that doing that was a Roman Catholic gesture and not a Lutheran one?

A: Making the sign of the cross from head to heart and side to side is an ancient practice. It is a gesture that is very Roman Catholic, and it is also embraced by other denominations to a lesser extent. The act of crossing is often done when the words, “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” are said. This is the name of God and the crossing is a physical way to enact God’s name. We are all baptized in this same name. Crossing one’s self is also then, a reminder of our baptism and to whom we belong. Many times people will cross themselves just before or after receiving Holy Communion which is a great tie between the two sacraments.

Q: Pastor, why do you break the bread at communion after the Lord’s Prayer and not when you say the words of institution - that Jesus, gave thanks, *broke*, and gave the bread?

A: The practice of breaking the bread during Holy Communion is done both ways in our denomination. Sometimes it depends on what seminary a pastor attended, but I noticed professors at my seminary doing it both ways. My understanding of those who break it when they say that “Jesus broke the bread,” is to put emphasis on those words that are being spoken in the moment. For those that do it after the Lord’s Prayer there are other considerations. First, we are saying that Jesus is “on the table” in the bread and wine, so for me to then act out being Jesus in the words, might take away from the focus of Christ’s presence in the bread and wine. Secondly, breaking the bread – which is called the fracture – is done at the end of the communion liturgy as a sign that all things are now ready and an invitation is extended to come to the table. It is really a pastor’s preference and what they want to theologically emphasize in the breaking of the bread. There is no wrong way.

Q: Pastor, back in the day we all said the Prayer of the Day together. Why do only you say it?

A: The Prayer of the Day is expected to be said by the pastor, not on *behalf* of the congregation, rather *for* the congregation. It lifts up themes of the day and centers us on our worship. This prayer is a gift for the congregation from the speaking of the pastor.

In Christ’s service,
Pastor Elizabeth Martin



Sunday School News

Let Your Life's Light be a Window to Christ

Mark Your Calendar for Sunday School Christmas Program

Our Sunday School Christmas Program: *No Fuss All Congregation*



Christmas Program is scheduled for December 17th during service. In addition to the Sunday School kids, all members of the Congregation are welcome to participate. Most parts are non-speaking. There will also be a pizza party/practice for the program for Sunday School kids on Saturday Dec. 16th from 10:00am to 12:30pm.

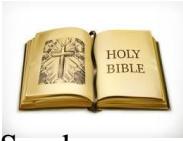


All Congregation Ornament Making Party – Make One and Take One.



The Sunday School Kids are making ornaments for a Hometown Christmas Tree. The kids picked the theme of hearts, so most of the ornaments will be heart themed. We started making ornaments on Oct. 15th but because we don't have a lot of kids in Sunday School the Christian Nurturing Committee decided to host an **All Congregation Ornament Making Party – Make One and Take One.**

It will be **November 15th** from 5:30 – 7:30pm in Linda's Lounge. A light supper of hot dogs, chips and dessert will be provided. Participants can make an ornaments for the Hometown Christmas Tree and make one to take home. You can stop in for a short while or stay the whole time. Come join us for fun and fellowship while helping to make some ornaments!



First Bibles

First Bibles will be presented to 3rd graders on October 29th, Reformation Sunday.

Leader Needed

We are still in need of a Sunday School Leader for the older kids. You would be working with students in third – sixth grades. They are a great group of kids!! Become part of the Sunday School team. We will work with all schedules. If you have any questions contact Pat Castro at 815-520-5660.

Next Meeting of Christian Nurturing Committee will be on November 12 at 11:15am. Come Join Us!



Community Meal

Spaghetti, salad, French bread, and brownies for dessert were on the menu for the October Community Meal. Many of the guests having dinner that night came back for second helpings, and a few for thirds. With the 74 people attending the October meal, we have already exceeded the total number of those served all of last year. Thank you for the continued support of this important and increasingly necessary ministry.

The kitchen crew for the night included Marilee, Kris, Linda, Dawn, JoAnne, Sharon, Kathy, Terry and Larry. Those who helped with the dishwashing deserve special thanks, as we were running out of plates midway through the meal, and there were many, many pots and pans to wash.

The next meal is on Wednesday, November 8th. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board.

John Enright

Food Truck



Thank You to the 35 volunteers that helped on Saturday, September 30th with our 6th Northern Illinois Food Bank truck of 2023.

The volunteers who helped to unload, package and load into vehicles included: Dan Albrecht, Jean Anderson, Jody Archer, Katelyn Bishop, Rodney Brandmire, Dawn Calkins, John Enright, Jeff & Michelle Ernest, Deana Foley, Stella Foley, Evamarie Foley, Emsley Foley, Charles Foster, Arlyn Groen, Marie Hagen, Kathy Hansen, Sarah Hansen, Cody Heinzman, Lance Howell, Russ Kindberg, Kelly Kotajarvi, Pastor Elizabeth Martin, Jeanne & Keith Marnen, Anne McCoy, Terry Miller, Mandy Minson, Marge Olson, Amy Ortiz, Holden Reininger, Emilio Rodrigues, Brenda Veit Shiloh, and Gary &

Sharon Yunto.

These 35



individuals packed 13 items for giveaway that helped 202 families with 717 individuals including 242 children and 132 elderly with their food insecurity from the Boone County and surrounding area. Our next food truck and the last one for 2023 is scheduled for November 11th. If you are interested in helping and have not helped in the past, please let Mandy know.



Pioneer Club



Our next Pioneer Luncheon will be held Monday, November 13th. We will be serving ham & mashed potatoes, gravy instead of broasted chicken for a small donation as usual. It will still be potluck if you can bring a dish to share it would be appreciated. Please be there and ready to eat at noon if at all possible so we will have time for our program.

We have a great program in store for you! Pastor Elizabeth has offered to be our presenter. She visited Greece in October of 2022 on an Apostle Paul pilgrimage tour. She will share with us the most impressive part of her travels, the Monasteries of Meteora. At one time there were 21 monasteries built on the top of rock pinnacles.

Come and join us for lunch and stay for this interesting presentation! New faces always welcome and feel free to bring a guest!

Patti Lee

Commitment Sunday

November 12th, Commitment Sunday, is rapidly approaching. Hopefully, you have received the letter and commitment card. On Sunday the 12th, you will be invited to place your card into the offering plate. For privacy you can put your card into an envelope. If you would like, you can drop off your card at church or mail it in using the enclosed stamped envelope. On Sunday December 3rd, you are invited for coffee and cake, hosted by the Witness Committee, in the Fellowship Hall after service to celebrate the completion of a successful Stewardship campaign. Thank you for your participation and support!

Road Clean Up

Stewardship can be defined as “Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation.” On Saturday, October 21st seven Zion members practiced stewardship by collecting trash and litter along a nearly two mile stretch of Genoa Road. This is part of Boone County’s Adopt-A-Highway program. Their reward for this effort was the satisfaction of a job well done, and for some, a well deserved nap that afternoon.



Sharing Christs Love

HELLO, MY NAME IS.....I DON'T THINK WE HAVE MET.

Visitors need to feel welcomed, more like guests. The best way for that to happen is for them to meet someone, to shake a hand, have a conversation. Being a welcoming congregation is the responsibility of everyone.

Do you know the names of the other people sitting in the pew? Maybe they are members of Zion that you have not met. Maybe they usually attend the other service or view the service online. Or maybe this is the first time they have been to Zion. Whatever the situation, introducing yourself is the first step in hospitality.

The next step depends on the result of the first. If they are new, do they need help understanding the service or shown where it is in the hymnal to follow along? Would they like to meet Pastor Elizabeth or see the rest of the church? Do they know where the restrooms are located? How about inviting them to the Fellowship Hall after the service for refreshments and introducing them to other members?

The holidays are fast approaching. A time when we will have more visitors. This is an opportunity to share the love of Christ in our hospitality.

Terry Miller



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Cost is \$12.00 per plant.

Please note all orders are due **no later than Sunday, December 3rd.**



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.



Women of Zion

First Step Daycare - Thanksgiving Meal Collection
Timeframe - October 22, 2023, to November 11, 2023. Don't forget you can name a chick for a

\$25.00 donation and remember that Zion will match the first \$500.00 donated. Be thinking about those "unique" names for your chick!!

thanks

Hello everyone!

Sorry this took so long, with Halloween right around the corner I am busier than ever! Also, I am not particularly good with thank yous. I spent most of my life alone and doing things on my own. Seeing people go out of their way to do things for me is still an alien concept in my eyes. I'm not sure I will ever be used to it to be honest. I'm still a bit speechless about the whole ordeal and I don't believe I'll ever find the right words to describe how much I truly appreciate every single one of you. It's astounding to me that I've been welcomed into such a large and diverse family of people with so many stories and from all different walks of life. I never thought I would get so close to so many of you, given some of my personal issues and quirks.

Every single one of you is a blessing and I hope I can one day learn to cherish every soul in the Zion family the way they deserve. Thank you all for being there. You are all a gift from God.

Ronnie

Dear Zion family, with grateful hearts, Sharon and I would like to thank you for all the outpouring of love, friendship and sympathy we received through your prayers, cards, phone calls and text messages received during the recent passing of my father. They were all greatly appreciated.

Love and blessings to all of you.

Gary & Sharon Yunto

A huge thank you to John and Arlyn for making and installing the clothing rod for The Baby Bank! It functions so much better than the individual clothing racks we had before.



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!

1-Anthony Castro	15-Grant Magnuson	22-Sara Beever
1-Ardys Brockway	15-Ashley Sipe	23-Gene Berg
4-Laurie Swenson	16-Dorothy Kemp	27-Jennifer Lehman
6-Donna Hall	17-Alice Lane	27-Alan Anderson
11-Jim Sellers	17-Mchelle Hulstedt	27-Eric Jacobson
13-Kyle Kozlowski	18-Marilyn Smith	28-Alex Ortiz Jr.
13-Conrad Castro	21-Clint Schultz	28-Kyle Larson
15-Keira Kozlowski	21-Vincent Sinople	

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

09/2023	Beginning Balance	\$ 17,767.96
	Total Income	\$ 11,218.05
	Total Expense	<u>\$ 18,515.14</u>
	Balance	\$ 10,470.87

Building Fund

09/2023	Beginning Balance	\$ 13,446.28
	Total Income	\$ 2,645.95
	Total Expense	<u>\$ 21,028.40</u>
	Balance	\$ (4,936.17)

General Fund Reserve Savings (new Account)

Sept/2023	Beginning Balance	\$100,100.30
	Income (interest)	63.51
	Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
	Balance	\$100,163.81

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
Thursday's 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 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 November

November 5

Revelation 7:9-17
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 12

Amos 5:18-24
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 19

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday 9am-1pm			1 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	2 7:00 pm – Worship	3 Council Retreat 5:30pm-9pm	4
5 Sunday Worship @ 9am All Saints Day Confirmation 10:20am	6 Worship/Music 5pm AA Meeting 5pm Shiloh 6pm-8pm	7 Council Reports Due	8 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm Community Meal 5pm-6:30pm	9 7:00 pm – Worship	10	11 Food Truck 10am-11:30am
12 Sunday Worship @ 9am Commitment Sunday Confirmation 10:20am Christian Nurturing 11:15am	13 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm Witness 6pm	14	15 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Ornament Making Party 5:30pm-7:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm	16 7:00 pm – Worship Holden Sundae	17	18
19 Sunday Worship @ 9am	20 Tidings Articles Due Baby Bank Restock 9am-12pm AA Meeting 5pm Shiloh 6pm-8pm	21	22 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am 6:00pm-Worship	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 Sunday Worship @ 9am Christ the King	27	28	29 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	30 7:00 pm – Worship		