

## From the Pastor's Desk

Visit us at [www.zionbelvidere.com](http://www.zionbelvidere.com)

TIDINGS OF ZION

### Characteristics of Generous People in Scripture

This month we will remember all that God has given to and for us and make our commitments for God's work in our church, community, and world through the ministry of Zion. Take a look at all the ornaments on the Minis-tree in the fellowship hall reflecting your generosity of time, resources, talents, passions, and gifts.

#### **Generous people often give more than they are asked to give**

In Exodus 36:1-7, the people are bringing freewill offerings day after day to construct a new tabernacle. At one point the offering so greatly exceeds the need that Moses has to restrain the people from bringing more, because there was already enough to do the work. Generous people go above and beyond making possible great ministry.

#### **Generous people give in response to a great need**

In 2 Corinthians the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> chapters, Paul tells the Corinthians about other churches who gave abundantly to help out the Christians in Jerusalem – people that they never met! I'm reminded of the many collections that are taken for Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA World Hunger.

#### **Generous people give out of their substance no matter the size**

In Luke 21:1-4, rich people are putting their money into the treasury and a widow gives a small amount, compared to the rich, in only a couple of coins. We are all given different opportunities, choices, and circumstances in this life which result in our treasures. Remembering that all we have is a gift from God, we can give proportionately to what we have. All gifts are received by God and the church as important – no matter the size.

#### **Generous people give more than just their money**

In Luke 10:25-37, a Samaritan comes upon a man who has been beaten and robbed. Two other fellow Jewish travelers pass him by, but this foreigner gives the man compassion, tends his wounds, transports him to safety, and pays for his keep as he heals. Generous people give of their time, skills, gifts, and resources.

#### **Generous people give even when there is negativity and divisiveness**

In Genesis chapter 45, we find Joseph who has endured so much in his life. His brothers were jealous and detested him. They almost killed Joseph and then decided to sell him into a life of slavery. He was also thrown into jail in Egypt. At this point in the story Joseph has risen to a place of great importance. When his brothers visit Egypt to ask for grain during the famine, it is Joseph who lovingly forgives them and provides for them. If our generosity is tied to the politics of what goes on in a congregation, then no one benefits. Our offerings are a response to what GOD has first given to us and they are an opportunity to participate in the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ through the church.

#### **Generous people give so that the impossible can become the possible**

In Matthew 14:14-21 (as well as the other gospels), Jesus is teaching a crowd of 5,000. As the day gets late they need to be fed. A boy comes forward with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Certainly not enough to feed everyone! As Jesus gives thanks, breaks the bread, and it is distributed, all are fed with an abundance left over. The work of the church can sometimes seem impossible. There

are so many needs both inside and outside the church walls. Generous people trust that God can use their gifts to do great things, beyond our comprehension.

Scripture witnesses to us the generosity of so many. Our Lord, Jesus Christ gave us the greatest gift in his death and resurrection witnessing to us the deep love of God for the world. It is our joy to share in faithful generosity.

In Christ,  
Pastor Elizabeth Martin

## Women of Zion

### **First Step Daycare Social Ministry Events (2):**



- Thanksgiving Meal Collection - October 15, 2023, to November 11, 2023
- Name the baby chick (turkey) for a \$25.00 donation. Zion will match the first \$500.00 donated. So, get together with friends to make a \$25.00 donation and you can name a chick. We will again use the funds collected to purchase cases of food items and \$30.00 gift cards for meat purchases for each family. Let's fill the nest with chicks. For the last couple years, we have provided 40+ meals for families of First Step Daycare.

### **Angel Tree – November 25, 2023, to December 15, 2023**

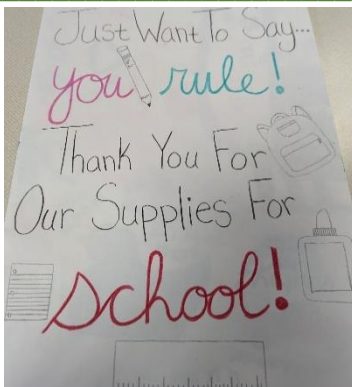
We want to make sure every child has a present to open at Christmas and this is a great way to help with this endeavor. Just take a name from the “angel tree”, purchase clothing for the child based on the sizes listed on the angel and return wrapped present to the tree by the date listed above. Presents will be delivered to First Step Daycare on Monday, December 16, 2023.



**Baby Bank Update –** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month distribution continues to be very well attended by the public. We have set the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month for sorting clothes, cleanup the shelves and restocking materials in the baby bank from 9:00 AM to Noon in order to be set-up for the next month. Please consider being a part of this important service to our community.

### **Mark your calendar with the following dates for WOZ Events in 2024:**

1. Saturday, February 10, 2024 – Cookie decorating. Bring your creativity and decorate some Valentine's Day cookies. No baking involved – just decorating.
2. Saturday, April 6, 204 – April Fool's Event – Watch for more details in future newsletters.
3. Saturday, June 1, 2024 – Lunch and tour of the Rockton Auto Museum. Lunch at 11:00 AM in Rockton; tour following.



### **First Step School Supply Donations**





## Youth Update

Please join us Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> in the youth room, immediately following church service. We will have a blessing and dedication of “Linda's Lounge”, a room for youth of all ages. We will have jelly filled donut holes in memory of Linda. A special thanks to Dave Schumann for helping make the room so special and wonderful!



The painting and pizza party was great. We have very talented youth. We had 7 kids and 5 adults attend the party. The stained-glass cross was painted by all the kids, and each received a canvas to paint their own design. Even our “youth at heart” moms painted. All the pictures along with the game board collage will be hung in the youth room. We have more canvases and will meet again for the people who were not able to attend. Special thanks to Jill Mosbach, retired art teacher, for helping with the event!



### Upcoming events:

Food Truck Saturday, September 30, 8:45-11:00

Sunday, October 15, Dedication/blessing of Linda's Lounge - a room for you of all ages.

Road cleanup October 21, meet at 8:30 for breakfast we will hit the road at 9:00.

More painting fun... I will send an email to find a day that works for everyone!

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## Celebrations



Lorraine Carmichael  
celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!!!



## Pastor Elizabeth's Welcome Breakfast!!!





## Sunday School News

### Let Your Life's Light be a Window to Christ



#### Sand Art Pictures

We had 6 kids and 3 adults make sand art-stained glass pictures. They turned out great. You can see them on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall.



#### First Bibles

Attention 3<sup>rd</sup> graders there will be a class, **Bible Underlining**, in October. Pastor Elizabeth will be leading the class. It will take place on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am to noon, for the Old Testament. The second class will be on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am to 11:30am, for the New Testament. Bibles will be presented on Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>, Reformation Sunday. Parent(s) please plan on attending with your child.

If you know of any 3<sup>rd</sup> graders or other students that haven't yet received their bibles or if you have any questions, please let either Pat Castro or the office know. We don't want to miss anybody!

#### Linda's Lounge for Youth of all Ages

There will be a dedication of Linda's Lounge on October 15<sup>th</sup> immediately after church. Come on down and see the new youth room.

#### 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 October 22 at 11:15am. Come Join Us!

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#### Pioneer Luncheon

Our next Pioneer Lunch will be Monday October 9th. Potluck lunch beginning at 12pm Sharp! Chicken provided for a small donation. Program will be Pat Delaney, Owner of Belvidere Collectible Coins & Jewelry. Please come and hear about his business & some funny incidents he has experienced. All are welcome and we would love to see more coming. Always a great time of food & fellowship.

Patti Lee

#### **Pioneer Club**



## Community Meal

13 is often a sign of bad luck, but September 13<sup>th</sup> was a very lucky day for the 79 people who had dinner at the Community Meal. Zion had the good fortune of receiving some incredible food donations allowing us to provide one of the best meals yet. A 15-pound prime rib was donated (thank you Yvonne), as well as some pork chops from the Salvation Army. Through our affiliation with the Northern Illinois Food Bank, we received 40 pounds of chicken, 50 pounds of potatoes and 100 ears of corn, all at no cost. No one left hungry, as all the food was consumed by our guests. Incredible desserts were also donated, with a bunch of cookies (thanks Linda) and three quarts of Baskin-Robbins ice cream (thanks to our daughter Katie).

Putting this meal together was quite the undertaking, and the following volunteers once again made it happen: Dawn, Joanne, Kris, Larry, Linda, Marge, Nancy, Patti, Sharon, Terry, Wanda, and Yvonne.

The next Community Meal is on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

John Enright



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## Fall Stewardship Campaign, a Celebration of Ministry

October is the beginning of our “Fall Stewardship Campaign”. Sometime during the week of October 16<sup>th</sup>, you will be receiving a letter and a pledge card. The pledge card can be mailed back to church or dropped off at church. What we are encouraging is for you to bring it to church on November 12, Commitment Sunday, as part of a “Celebration of Ministry”. The campaign wrap-up will be on November 19<sup>th</sup> with results and cake in the Fellowship Hall. (I hope both are sweet!) Our generosity is a response to all God has first given to us. It is our opportunity and joy to participate in Good’s work in this world.

There are two branches of ministry that we financially support. Both *Share Christ’s Love*. One is outside of our local community. It includes benevolence to support the ELCA and World Hunger, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries, Lutheran World Relief, and the Arcot Lutheran Church in India.

The second branch is local, supporting congregation life and community outreach. Worship, Bible studies, Sunday school, food ministries, AA, and Shiloh are part of an incomplete list.

Ministry has a second component, participation: The opportunity to attend a small group ministry and/or to serve using our God given skills and time.

Near the altar in the Fellowship Hall, there is a decorated tree called, *God’s Ministree*. Each of the 56 ornaments identifies a specific ministry that is active here at Zion. There are other ministries that exist within some of the 56 that do not have an ornament. That is a lot of **MINISTRIES!**

You are invited to read each ornament. Were you aware of all the ways we *Share Christ’s Love*? As you ponder each ornament, maybe, just maybe, the Holy Spirit will inspire you to consider participating for the first time or maybe in a new way.

**Thank you everyone for supporting God’s ministry here at Zion!**





We have been busy working on getting our Zion Prayer Ministry established. We have been receiving prayer requests in our mailboxes and have responded to them with prayers, with cards expressing support, and with email and text prayers. We pray that those in need will be strengthened through prayers for help and healing and will feel God's presence and the support of fellow Christians. We hope our congregants and their friends and loved ones have found comfort and support through these messages. If

you have a need, please fill out a card and leave it in the mailbox near the back entrance to church. If you would like a card sent to a recipient, please leave an address. If you would like a text message prayer sent leave a phone number. We will also send an email prayer if an email address is provided. You can also get in contact with us using the information below.

We will continue sending out the Monday Devotional. Hopefully, you have had an opportunity to read them and that they have been helpful. Again, if you have a devotional that you have read that has been meaningful send it to us and we will share it with our congregation.

As another way to reflect and bring thought and prayer into your day, a short video link will be forthcoming on random Mondays in place of the written devotionals that you are already receiving each week in your email. God provides thought and reflection in many different opportunities, and we hope you find some meaning in these special emails each Monday!

Finally, we are very excited that so many of you took a copy of the Holy Moments book. We even had to order more copies! We hope you are finding it a meaningful read. As indicated in an earlier Temple Talk, we would like to get people together for a Book Talk to discuss and reflect on the book. We are planning on meeting on Monday, October 23rd at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to hearing all viewpoints and reflections while enjoying some Christian fellowship. Friends in Christ,

Kris Enright and Michelle Ernest

Kris – [klenright@hotmail.com](mailto:klenright@hotmail.com) 815-985-1794

Michelle – [erne67@gmail.com](mailto:erne67@gmail.com) 815-543-2143



### Altar Guild

Looking for a way to serve Zion without weekly meetings? The Altar Guild is in need of additional members. Responsibilities include preparing the sanctuary weekly and assisting with seasonal decorations. Anyone interested would be working with a group of talented and devoted ladies, who would be happy to train you for the tasks. If you are interested, or want more information, please contact Carolyn Jurisch. Thanks!

The new Christ in Our Home Daily Devotional Books are ready for pick up.



# Thank You!

Dear Zion friends, thank you for all the prayers, cards, text messages and phone calls that I received during my recent surgery and recovery. They were all greatly appreciated. A special "Thank You" to Zion's new prayer team and Pastor Elizabeth for their special connections during this time.

Gary Yunto

Dear friends at Zion,  
Thank you so much for your generous Scholarship. Your scholarship will go into my continued education at University of Wisconsin-White water. Thank you again for this scholarship opportunity and providing me with an outstanding community for me to grow up with.  
Thank you ♥ Emma Cordray

Zion Church,  
Thank you so much for the scholarship, it is truly appreciated!  
God Bless YOU All!  
-Sapphire

To Zion Council:  
John and I are so proud to wear our famous Z shirts at the fair. And we are happy to represent our church doing fair work along with many other dedicated Zion workers. A lot of youth participated which makes us happy that they helped & served the Lord. Thank you so much for the beautiful edible fruit, we love fruit so it was perfect

The Ladies of Zion  
Blessings on all  
for church council  
for their thoughtful  
meas.  
Love Bless  
Thank you again  
John & Dawn

8/24/23

# Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



1-Khloe Minson	9-Jason Lehman	17-Marilyn Smaha
1-Renee Balabuszko	10-Isaac Pearson	19-Patti Lee
2-Jean Twyning	11-Rhonda Hutter	20-Lee Bierman
2-Keith Ballweg	12-Lillianna Ogan	21-Marge Olson
2-Tyler Downey	13-Paisley Katzel	21-Stephanie Skelnik
4-Katie Ernest	15-Chloe Nogacz	22-Jeff Hall
5-Xavier Downey	15-Larry Schultz	24-Walita Johnson
6-Mel Johnson	15-Kelly Kotajarvi	24-Jon Huffman
		26-Pat Castro



## From the Treasurer:

### General Fund

08/2023	Beginning Balance	\$ 17,095.54
	Total Income	\$ 16,313.00
	Total Expense	\$ 15,640.58
	Balance	\$ 17,767.96

### General Fund Reserve Savings (new Account)

Aug/2023	Beginning Balance	\$100,036.83
	Income (interest)	63.47
	Expenses	0.00
	Balance	\$100,100.30

### Building Fund

08/2023	Beginning Balance	\$ 13,889.64
	Total Income	\$ 2,623.00
	Total Expense	\$ 3,066.36
	Balance	\$13,446.28

### 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](http://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 October

### October 1

*Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32*

*Philippians 2:1-13*

*Matthew 21:23-32*

### October 8

*Isaiah 5:1-7*

*Philippians 3:4b-14*

*Matthew 21:33-46*

### October 15

*Isaiah 25:1-9*

*Philippians 4:1-9*

*Matthew 22:1-14*

### October 22

*Isaiah 45:1-7*

*1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*

*Matthew 22:15-22*

### October 29

*Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18*

*1 Thessalonians 2:1-8*

*Matthew 22:34-46*

## October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>Sunday Worship @ 9am</b>	2 Worship/Music 5pm  AA Meeting 5pm  Shiloh 6pm	3	4 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	5 <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b>	6	7
8 <b>Sunday Worship @ 9am</b>  Confirmation 10:20am	9 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm  Witness 6pm	10 <b>Council Reports Due</b>	11 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm Community Meal 5pm-6:00pm	12 <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b>	13	14  WOZ Painting Event 9am-11:30am
15 <b>Sunday Worship @ 9am</b>  <b>Youth Room Blessing</b>	16 Baby Bank Restock  AA Meeting 5pm  Shiloh 6pm  Pledge Cards Mailed Out	17	18 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am  <b>Council Meeting:7:00pm</b>	19 <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b>	20	21  Road Clean Up 9am
22 <b>Sunday Worship @ 9am</b>  <b>First Responders</b>  Confirmation 10:20am	23  <b>Tidings Articles Due</b>  <b>Book Talk 6pm</b>	24	25 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	26 Barnabas 6pm <b>7:00 pm – Worship</b> <b>Holden Sundae</b>	27	28
29 <b>Sunday Worship @ 9am</b>  <b>Reformation Sunday</b>	30	31			<b>OFFICE HOURS</b> <b>Monday-Friday</b> <b>9am-1pm</b>	