

For those of you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, let me introduce myself. My name is Cynthia, your new Administrative Assistant.

I am an Illinois native, born and raised in Rock Falls. The same week I graduated from high school, I moved to Rockford and began my adult life of living to work and working to live.

It was here I met my husband, Dennis, and the course of my life would change. We've been married for 21 years and have 5 children, including 2 grandsons. My husband served 31+ years in the Army, and no matter where the Army stationed us, Texas, Germany, or Florida, I always found myself either serving or working at our church.

After our first retirement era, we bought a small ranch in central Texas. We had the typical things on the ranch. Cows, chickens, working dogs and cats, a donkey, horses, rattlers and scorpions, with the horses being my favorite livestock, they're so majestic. For 7 years, we enjoyed this lifestyle all the while working a 9-5 job, but we started to miss the travels the military life allowed us. So, we decided to retire again and sell the ranch, sell everything that didn't fit into our bougie 5th wheel. 6 months later, we hit the road to travel the U.S.. It was a bittersweet time in our lives. Although we knew this was what we wanted to do, we were leaving behind in Texas, my mom, sister, daughter, son-in-law, and the 2 grandsons.

After a 6-week trip to France, Spain, and Italy to visit friends we met while living in Germany, we traveled for a year in our 5th wheel. We mainly traveled throughout the Southern states and the Midwest during the summer months, then Texas and Arizona during the winter months. We enjoyed our time seeing the sights, hiking with our Silver Lab, camping, learning to cook and bake over an open campfire, meeting new people, and even learning to play pickleball.

After a year of traveling, it was placed on my heart to buy my husband's childhood home in New Milford and move back to Illinois. After much prayer and many conversations, that's exactly what we did.

My husband is still in retirement mode, as he should be, but I began my hybrid retirement mode. I began working in the office on January 2, 2026. I am grateful for the opportunity to work at this church and look forward to continuing to support your ministries.



Worship Leader News

Over the past year or so, both David Schumann and Doug Shiloh have filled in by leading worship and preaching. Both have also taken a preaching course offered by our synod. When Pastor Elizabeth is absent; they do not preside at Holy Communion, and we have a Service of the Word.

David Schumann has completed the process to become a supply preacher for our synod, meaning he can go to other congregations to fill in by leading worship and preaching, but not serving Communion.

Recently, Bishop Stacie Fidler licensed David to serve this congregation's Word and Sacrament ministries. He can preside at Holy Communion, funerals, baptisms, and weddings. David will provide Holy Communion on Sundays when we do not have a supply pastor, and he will also preside at Communion at many Thursday services.

David's authorization to do these things is only for our congregation. David is licensed until the end of April, and these privileges may be renewed then. When a new pastor is called to Zion, his privileges will end.

We give thanks to Doug and David, who will be preaching and leading worship during this interim time until Zion calls a new pastor. The Holy Spirit has given them the gifts to lead in worship, and we appreciate the time and dedication they are giving to Zion.

Pastoral Support Process

Starting on February 1 st if you for any reason require pastoral support or care for yourself or a family member until Zion gets a new pastor, this is what you will need to do.

a. During the week from Monday through Friday during the hours of 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, you may call the office and talk with Cynthia, and she will contact a pastoral support person on our call list and have them contact you.

b. Outside of the above office hours, you may contact one of the individuals listed below for pastoral support needs in the order in which they are listed. They will reach out to a pastor on our call list have them get in contact with you.

1. Jody Archer – Council Vice-president at (815) 978-1691
2. David Schumann – Council President at (847) 229-1686
3. Gary Yunto – Council Secretary at (815) 547-7312

c. Once we have a new pastor, the process will return to contacting the office and new pastor as we have been doing in the past.

Congregational Meeting Highlights

Below are a few highlights from our congregational meeting on Sunday, January 25th.

a. The 2026 General and Building Fund budgets were approved as presented.

b. The changes to Zion's constitution were approved.

c. All the council members up for election were voted in:

1. Three-year term were – Rodney Brandmire, Melody Johnson and David Schumann.
2. One year term – Gary Yunto

d. Mission Support Committee members up for election were voted in:

1. Pat Castro, Brad Ogan and Jim Twyning
2. All are on for a three-year term

- e. Synod Assembly attendees for this coming June will be Keith & Jeanee Marnen
f. Nominating Committee for next year will be Cheryl Sturges, Marilee Sellers and Nancy Brendum.
g. During the meeting a short talk on Zion's rental property took place with a decision to ask council to set up a committee to look at selling the property and an estimated selling price. Once this committee completes its tasks, their recommendations will be brought back to the congregation. If you are interested in working with this new committee, please let David Schumann know.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming events:

Friday, February 6 - Sunday, February 8

The Wilderness in Wisconsin Dells

We have six girls signed up to go.
Thanks to Melita for going along to chaperone.
We will share pictures when we get back!

Ski Trip planned for Monday, February 16 (No school)

Cascade Mountain in Wisconsin

We will meet at the church at 12:00 and leave by 12:15.

We will ski from 3 - 8 pm.

Adults (13 and above) \$60 lift ticket

Ski Rental, \$42

Kids under 13 are FREE with adult rental.

Those wanting to snow tub it is \$45 for 7 years and above, \$25 for 6 years and younger.

We will need to get tickets ahead of time as they only allow so many on the mountain.

Sign up by February 10th if you are interested. All church members & friends are welcome

Butter Braids Fundraiser

We will sell Feb. 15 - March 2.

Orders turned in by March 3.

They will be delivered on March 14.

Pick up from 11-1.

The congregation will get them on Sunday, March 15.

Sunday, February 22 - Youth coffee hour. (Butterbraids and other goodies)

Sunday, March 15

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at 4:30

We will do raffles and maybe an auction. More info to come.

Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday Breakfast

Women of Zion



Thank you to everyone who cooked, served, cleaner-up after our funerals in January – Cheryl

Zion Youth

Ice skating - We had 10 people show up at the park. Seven of us skated, one watched & made a hot chocolate run, and two decided to go to a movie where it was warmer. The five kids had a lot of fun and their skating improved as the night went on. The good news is that Jody managed to stay upright! After we got the last three off of the ice, we went to Sips & Sprinkles where our families met us and we had food, hot chocolate and ice cream. **Thanks to Jean and Jim Twyning** for paying for the rentals and skating. We all had a great time!



Chili Cook Off

The annual Chili Cook-Off will be held on Thursday, February 5 from 5:00 - 6:30. All proceeds from this fundraiser go to Lutheran World Relief. If you plan on bringing chili or soup it is important that you sign up so we know how many tables to set up.

Funds raised at the Chili Cook-Off will be added to Super Bowl Sunday's Souper Bowl event. On Sunday, February 8, two soup pans labeled Seattle Seahawks and New England Patriots will be at the back of the church. Vote with your dollars for the team that you hope wins the Super Bowl

Community Meal



Despite the nasty weather we had a pretty good turnout at the January Community Meal. We served 52 meals consisting of spaghetti & meatballs, bread and salad. Special thanks go out to Wanda Watts who came in the day before and baked four cakes for our dessert.

In addition to Wanda, the following people helped make this meal possible: Linda, Sandra, Patti, Lyle, Dawn, Kathy, Stephanie, Wayne, and Michelle.

The next Community Meal will be held on Wednesday, February 11. A volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. It is extremely helpful knowing that we have enough help.
John Enright

New Members



We celebrate the reception of our new members.

They are Vickii McMahon and
Gary & Linda Prater.

Welcome to the Zion family and our Ministry together!

God's Peace

It is with sadness and our confident trust in the resurrection that we laid to rest,

Erin Davidson-1.10.26

Helen Huftalin-1.17.26

Beverly Kingery-1.24.26

Our prayers accompany their loved one's grief, and we ask God to hold and comfort them.



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



2-Dale Temple	10-Henry Minson	19-Patricia Scherf	23-Lyle Lee
3-Michelle Ernest	15-Mike Beever	19-Mason Guarino	24-Julie Pinkston
3-Alex Haugen	16-Donna Brookbank	20-Karen Ballweg	27-John Enright
4-Sloane Ortiz	18-Sandra Gustafson	22-Robert Kozlowski	28-Michelle Kottman
5-Gavin Sipe	19-Todd Graves	22-Eric Gifford	

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

Dec/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 8,403.75
 Total Income \$ 19,936.45
 Total Expense \$ 24,129.07
Balance \$ 4,211.13

Building Fund

Dec/2025 Beginning Balance \$4,310.28
 Total Income \$ 17,294.50
 Total Expense \$ 20,305.68
Balance \$ 1,299.10

General Fund Reserve Savings

Dec/2025 Beginning Balance \$ 88,975
 Income \$ 18.89
 Expenses \$0.00
Balance \$ 88,994.75

Council Members

Term Through January 2027

Kris Enright
 Michelle Ernest
 Kelly Kotajarvi
 Terry Miller
 Gary Yunto

Term Through January 2028

Jody Archer
 Dawn Calkins
 Jeanne Maren
 Stephanie Skelnik

Term Through January 2029

Rodney Brandmire
 Melody Johnson
 David Schumann

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

Nominating Committee

Nancy Brendum
 Marilee Sellers
 Cherly Sturges

Staff & Leadership

Worship Leader
 David Schumann

Administrative Assistant
 Cynthia Reynolds

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

Sharon Yunto
 Treasurer

Scripture for the Month of February

February 1

Micah 6:1-8
 1Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 5:1-12

February 8

Isaiah 58:1-9a
 1Corinthians 2:1-12
 Matthew 5:13-20

February 15

Exodus 24:12-18
 2 Peter 1:16-21
 Matthew 17:1-9

February 22

Genesis 2 :15-17, 3 :1-7
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Martin Farewell Brunch</p>	<p>2 Worship/Music Meeting 5 pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm</p>	<p>5 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chili Cookoff 5-6:30</p> <p>Thursday Worship 7pm</p>	<p>6 Youth Wisconsin Dells Waterpark</p>	<p>7 Youth Wisconsin Dells Waterpark</p>
<p>8 Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School Souper Bowl Youth Wisconsin Dells Waterpark back at 2pm</p>	<p>9 Pioneer Lunch 12pm</p> <p>Witness Meeting 6pm</p>	<p>10 Lunch with Ray 11:30am</p>	<p>11 Bible Study 9:30am Community Meal 5pm-6pm</p>	<p>12 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holden Sundae Thursday Worship 7pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School</p>	<p>16 Youth Ski Trip 12pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Council Pkt. Due by 9am Bible Study 9:30am Ash Wednesday Service 7pm</p>	<p>19 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm</p> <p>Thursday Worship 7pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School</p>	<p>23 Tidings Articles Due by 9am</p>	<p>24 Lunch with Ray 11:30am</p>	<p>25 Bible Study 9:30am</p> <p>Council Meeting 6pm</p>	<p>26 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm Barnabas Meeting 6pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holden Sundae Thursday Worship 7pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
					<p>OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday 9am-1pm</p>	