

The Cross Keeps Me From Giving Up

Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful me, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. —Hebrews 12:3 (NIV)

Come and linger with me at the Cross. As we linger and see Jesus there, we find what we need to persevere when things get hard so that we won't grow weary and lose heart. Consider Him...

When you feel sorry for yourself because your life is hard and you want the easy way out... consider Him. Consider the difficulty of His life of poverty, never having a home of His own, depending on the kindness of others. See the pain of rejection as those who welcomed Him with palm branches later called for His crucifixion. Consider Him and do not lose heart.

When you feel forgotten by God and by those you thought cared about you, when you long for the closeness of someone who cares... consider Him. Consider what it must have been like in those moments on the cross when His Father turned away, and He was forsaken. Consider what it was like to be rejected and ridiculed by His own family and the people of His hometown. Consider Him and do not lose heart.

When you feel tired, and you want to give up... consider Him. Consider how He spent the whole night in prayer, agonizing over the path He was about to walk. See Him sweating drops of blood. Watch Him endure the trials and torture after a night of no sleep. Consider Him and do not grow weary.

When you feel abused, and you want to fight back... consider Him. Consider His humble responses to those who lied about Him and spat on him, ridiculed Him, and beat Him. Consider Him and do not grow weary.

When you feel fearful about the future, and you want to find hope... consider Him, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross. Whenever you are tempted to give up, look to the cross and see the price Jesus paid so that He might call you His very own.

Faithful, enduring Jesus, in my weariness and discouragement, I often just want to rest and have the hurt and difficulty disappear. But I see you on the cross, and as I consider your courage and commitment in the face of difficulty and even death, You encourage me to never give up.

Taken from The One Year Book of Hope by Nancy Guthrie

Greetings Friends at Zion,

We are still reeling in the love that was showered on us on our last Sunday at Zion. The brunch was wonderful! We were humbled by the program's content. We have always felt your love and appreciation, and yet, that day, we felt it in our core.

Thank you for the many cards and your loving sentiments. The crystal vase is beautiful. Thank you for the planter box - they are still alive!

Know that we continue to hold you in our hearts and pray for your ministry going forward, especially as you seek to call your next pastor.

We love you, siblings in Christ,
Pastor Elizabeth & Wayne

Women of Zion

I realize this is a lot of information, but we have something planned for each of the next 4 months. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask someone!!!!

- March 29, 2026 – Palm Sunday Breakfast – Everyone is invited to join us for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall after the service. We will have a sign-up sheet on the WOZ bulletin board with areas where help is needed. Remember – Many Hands Make Light Work.

- April 11, 2026, Saturday- 9:30 AM - Spring cookie decorating with Kay – Learn a new trick or just perfect your skills! We will be making the cookies on Friday, April 10th. If you're available to help.

The next 2 events are open to all – men, women, and children!

- May 16, 2026 – Saturday – Swedish Historical Society Tour of The Nordic Cultural Center and The Erlander Home Museum in Rockford. Cost is \$10.00. Children 4 and under are free. We will have a sign-up sheet on the WOZ bulletin board. Check out their website at [-swedishhistorical.org](http://swedishhistorical.org).

9:30 AM – first, we will have coffee and Swedish pastries at the Nordic Cultural Center

10:00 AM – next we will cross the street to The Erlander Home Museum. Please note there is a second floor of the home – no elevator is available.

The Erlander Home Museum is located at 404 S. Third Street, Rockford, IL 61104

The Nordic Cultural Center is located at 327 S. Third Street, Rockford, IL 61104

We can discuss carpooling from the church as it gets closer to the event date.

- June 24, 2026 – Wednesday Evening – RVC Starlight Theater – The theater is always better when shared with friends! Who can forget the antics of Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin in the comedy 9 to 5! Come join us for the fun! Sign up sheet will be on the WOZ bulletin board until May 17th – so we can get tickets ordered. Cost for most will be \$26.00 (65+, military, teacher, employee of RVC).



The Zion Scholarship is a resource for our members as they strive to realize their educational potential. Traditionally, these awards have gone to Zion's graduating high school seniors as they enter a college or university, technical or trade school, or as they join the military. Zion has expanded this program to those seeking apprentice or entrepreneur opportunities, and to those who seek a second certification or degree, such as a master's or ordination from a seminary. In addition, congregation members may recommend non-members who participate in the life and ministries of the church and who are deemed worthy of such an award. If you would like an application or if you would like to recommend an individual, please contact the office or Jean Twyning at twyning@hotmail.com or 815-988-4385. Applications are due in May. Selections are in June. Scholarships will be awarded during a July service.

Zion Youth



Spaghetti Dinner Youth Fundraiser
Sunday, March 15 4:30 - 6:30
Cost \$9.00 a person Under 12 Free



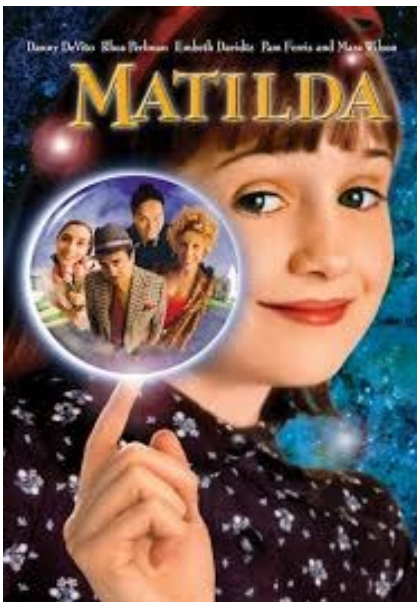
Please sign-up in advance to help us plan on the amount to prepare, bring your friends. All are welcome even if you don't get signed up!

Help us celebrate our youth as we join with the *Women of Zion* to raise money for our youth program. Along with dinner and dessert, the youth will be entertaining us with their talents.

There will be baked goods, a silent auction, and raffle items.

If you would like to donate baked goods, such as a pie or a fresh loaf of bread to auction off, please let Jody or Cheryl know

The youth have many activities planned, including two big trips: Please see Upcoming Youth Events for the two big trips planned in June and July

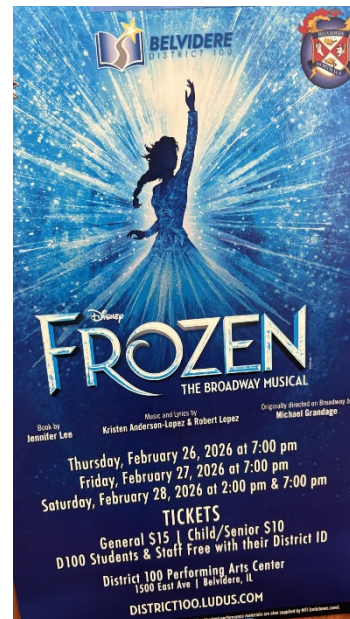


Need a night out? Come see our youth on stage!

Leo Rodriguez will be performing in Frozen, February 26, 27, and 28 at 7:00pm at the Performing Arts Center at Belvidere High School. There is also a 2:00pm performance on Saturday, Feb. 28. Tickets \$15 for adult, \$10 for Child/Senior

Eva Foley will be performing in Matilda, March 13 & 14 at 6:00pm at the Performing Arts Center at Belvidere High School. \$10 adults \$5 kids BCMS staff and students are free with school ID.

Stella Foley is also performing in Matilda, March 6 & 7 at 7:00. March 8th at 2pm. Roscoe Middle School cost is \$5 at the door.



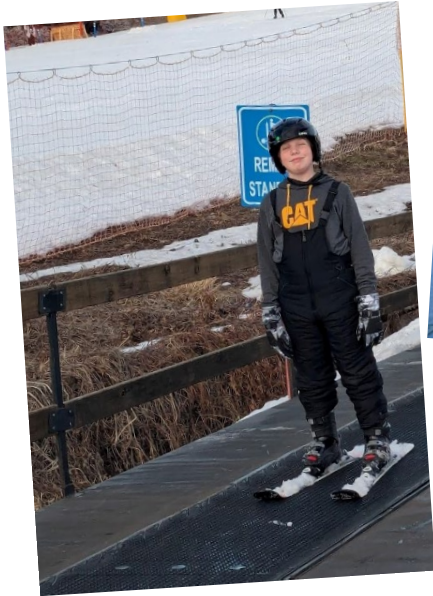
Wisconsin Dells We went to Wisconsin Dells for a weekend at the Wilderness Waterpark. None of the boys were able to attend. They were missed, but the 10 girls had a lot of fun. Along with the waterparks, we had a ropes course, go karts, climbing walls, laser tag, mini golf, a big “dry” playground and a lot of bonding time! Special thanks to Lyle and Patti Lee for donating money for food, and John Enright for some snacks! We all had a great time.

Katie Bishop, Eva Folley, Elleney, Lilli, & Melita Ogan, Courtney & Delilah Long, Angeline & Jadelyn Kutka, and Jody.



Zion's Ski/Snowboard Trip to Cascade Mountain, Wisconsin

Who would have thought that we would end up with a 60° day for a ski trip? It was a great day! Eva Folley & Alex Haugen both learned how to ski, then joined Angeline & Jadelyn on the slopes. The Fosters: Brock, Milena, and Chad, along with Brian Hagen, all snowboarded while Cindy Foster took lots of pictures!



Upcoming Youth Events

- Feb. 15 to March 2 - Butter Braids Fundraiser
Orders must be turned in by March 3. For your convenience, you can drop your money off at the office Monday – Friday from 9am – 1pm.
The Butter Braids will be delivered on March 14. The youth can pick up their orders from 11am-1pm.
The congregation will get their order on Sunday, March 15.
 - Sunday, March 1 - Youth Coffee hour.
 - Sunday, March 15 - Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser 4:30pm.
 - Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday Breakfast, after the service.
 - Wednesday, April 29 - Red Robin Fundraiser. GO out to eat, mention the fundraiser, and the youth will receive 20% of your purchase.
 - Friday-Sunday, June 5-7 LOMC (Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center) in Oregon, IL. Team building, Canoeing, campfires, and fun!
 - Sunday, July 12-Friday, July 17 Mission Trip to Crandon, WI
Camp Wasmogishek with the children from the reservations.
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Pioneer News

Pioneer's will be meeting on Monday, March 9th, with a potluck beginning at noon. Meat will be provided for a small donation.

We will be entertained by John Enright and his rendition of "Name That Tune"! Join us for food and fellowship. It's always a good time. You are always welcome to bring a friend or neighbor.

Lyle & Patti Lee



Community Meal



It was like Thanksgiving in February. Six turkeys and loads of dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, and corn fed 56 people at the Community Meal. A great effort was put forth by the entire crew that made this meal possible. Special thanks go out to Wanda and Bonnie. They came earlier in the day to prepare the six turkeys and got them started in the roasters. They then sat down and peeled 20 pounds of potatoes. Also, special thanks to Lyle for carving all six turkeys. In addition to Wanda, Bonnie, and Lyle, the following people

helped cook, serve, and wash dishes: Patti, Jean, Linda, Judy, Kathy, Marge, Nancy, and Rodney. The next meal will be held on Wednesday, March 11. A volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

John Enright

“Soup”-er Bowl

Thank you to those who voted for their favorite team in Zion’s “Soup”-er Bowl fundraiser. Lutheran World Relief will be receiving the 179 dollars that were raised. Much like the Super Bowl itself, the Seattle Seahawks outpaced the New England Patriots \$110 to \$69. Thank you again for your generosity.

John Enright



God’s Peace

It is with sadness and our confident trust in the resurrection that we laid to rest, Frances Palmer on February 21st.



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



From the Treasurer:

1-Jean Anderson	1-Jen Downey	2-Maggie-Lyn Rodriguez	3-James Johnson
9-Karen Durley	9-Shirley Smith	10-Terry Miller	13-Holden Reininger
17-Dan Druckrey	19-Jan Balabusko	20-Barb Quigley	22-Gabi Butler
22-Mike Knitter	23-Dan Albrecht	27-Brenda Veit-Shiloh	29-Amy Ortiz

General Fund

Jan/2026 Beginning Balance \$ 4,211.13
Total Income \$ 22,641.60
Total Expense \$ 17,618.10
Balance \$ 9,234.63

Building Fund

Jan/2026 Beginning Balance \$ 1,299.10
Total Income \$ 2,763.44
Total Expense \$ 4,960.74
Balance \$ (898.20)

General Fund Reserve Savings

Jan/2026 Beginning Balance \$ 88,994.75
Income \$ 18.90
Expenses \$
Balance \$ 89,013.65

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

Nominating Committee

Nancy Brendum
Marilee Sellers
Cherly Sturges

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

Worship Leader
David Schumann
Dough & Brenda Shiloh

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

Scripture for the Month of March

March 1

Genesis 12:1-4a
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 8

Exodus 17:1-7
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 15

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 22

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School Butter Braid Sale Ends	2 Worship & Music Meeting 5pm	3	4 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am The Baby Bank 4pm-6pm	5 Choir 5pm /Bells 6om Thursday Worship Service 7pm	6	7
8 Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School	9 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm Witness Meeting 6pm	10 Lunch with Ray 11:30am	11 Council Reports Due To office by 9am Bible Study 9:30am Community Meal 5pm-6pm	12 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm Thursday Worship Service 7pm	13	14
15 Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School Spaghetti Dinner 4:30pm Easter Flower Order Due	16	17	18 Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 6pm	19 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm Thursday Worship Service 7pm	20	21
22 Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School	23 Tidings Articles Due by 9am Baby Bank Restock 9:30am	24 Lunch with Ray 11:30am	25 Bible Study 9:30am	26 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm Barnabas 6pm Holden Sundae Worship Service 7pm	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Worship 9am Sunday School WOZ Breakfast after Service	30	31			OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday 9am-1pm	