

The Cross Shows Me the Joy of Jesus

He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterward. —Hebrews 12:2

What joy could Jesus see that enabled him to endure the pain and agony of the Cross? What joy did he know would be his? As Jesus looked ahead, he could see the joy of redemption. By paying the debt for sin, Jesus satisfied justice. It brought him joy to complete the work he was sent to do, which was to pay the price for your sins and my sins. And as he endured the Cross, your face was on his mind, and he was full of joy that the price was now paid, so you could spend eternity with him.

Jesus also anticipated the joy of resurrection. He had told his followers numerous times that he would die and that he would also rise again. But they could not imagine the death, nor could they fathom resurrection. His death was shameful— but not because of his own shame. He had never done anything to be ashamed of. He took the shame of everyone who has ever regretted things they have said or done. Imagine the shame. Yet Jesus could have true joy because he knew he would break the power of shame and death forever and offer abundant life in the place of immobilizing shame.

Occasionally, we see on television the return of soldiers who have been away from their families for months or years at a time. And as we watch them run towards those they love, we can feel this sense of joy and release of their reunion, can't we? Now imagine Jesus, who lived in a perfect fellowship with the Father from before the foundation of the world. Then he was sent to earth and took on human flesh, with work to do. And as Jesus headed toward the Cross, he began to anticipate the joy of reunion with the Father. Can you just imagine the joy? Jesus returned to heaven having endured the Cross and completed the work, and he is now back in the glory he knew before with the one he loves so dearly.

But Jesus is not content to keep this joy to himself. He longs to share his joy with you and me—as we are redeemed, and as we anticipate resurrection, when we will be reunited with him forever.

What joy!

Joyful Jesus, I am amazed at your willingness to bear my shame on the cross. Because of you, I can see the joy ahead in redemption, resurrection, and reunion. And I am humbled that you want to share this joy with me forever.

Submitted by Kris Enright

Taken from The One Year Book of Hope by Nancy Guthrie

Barnabas

We've had some sad departures from our Barnabas team. We have Pastor Elizabeth's retirement, Judy Ernest's illness, and Mandy's departure from Barnabas due to the demands of her job. We also laid to rest two of our dear ladies, Frances Palmer and Helen Huftalin. We will need at least two more volunteers if we are to meet the needs of our members who need our service. Our current number of Barnabas members is two, Marge Olson and me. We will also need to train any new Barnabas team members. If anyone in the congregation is interested in our ministry to our elderly members, please call the office or me at 815-519-9710. Ours is a rewarding mission of God's love and care.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Marnen

Women of Zion

- **April 11, 2026, Saturday - 9:00 AM** - Mark your calendars for some family fun at Zion! The women of Zion are sponsoring a cookie decorating morning. We will begin with light refreshments, and then our very own Kay Boudrau will be helping us decorate flowers, bees, and butterflies. All ages are welcome.
- **May 16, 2026 – Saturday** – Swedish Historical Society Tour of The Nordic Cultural Center and The Erlander Home Museum in Rockford. Cost is \$10 a person. Children 4 and under are free. We will have a sign-up sheet on the WOZ bulletin board. Check out their website at <https://www.swedishhistorical.org>
Here's the timeline: 9:30 AM – we will have coffee and Swedish pastries at the Nordic Cultural Center.
10:00 AM – we will cross the street to The Erlander Home Museum. Please note there is a second floor of the home with no elevator available.
- **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! **The 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's Spring Cleanup!

Thank you to the 15 people who came to help clean up the church on Saturday, March 21. After a light breakfast, everyone got to work. Windows were washed, the altar wiped down, the nursery & toys cleaned, the Sunday school rooms & Linda's lounge wiped down and floors cleaned, and we got a start on the beds outside.

The cleanup crew included: John & Lois, Aryln, Cheryl, Kris B., Tammy & Trish, Marie, Jeff, Eva, Stephanie S., Val & Brady, Dawn, and Jody. The church looks great, Thank you!







Church in the park has been put on hold for this summer.

We have worshipped through heat, unseasonable cold, and thankfully no locust.

We will just stay at church this summer, however.

**This doesn't mean it will never happen
again, just not this summer.**

Zion Youth

Butter Braids - Our youth have been very busy the last month. We kicked off the Butter Braid fundraiser at the beginning of the month. Thanks to everyone who sold and those who purchased, we made \$972.00!

Spaghetti Dinner - Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, bought, cooked, cleaned, and entertained. We made just under \$2000.00 to put towards our mission trip and the weekend at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center.

Palm Sunday - Women of Zion and Zion Youth served brunch after the service on Palm Sunday in the fellowship hall.

Upcoming Youth Events

Monday, April 13 - Culver's night 4pm-8pm at the Belvidere Culver's. No coupon needed, just enjoy a night out and let Jody and the Youth serve your dinner!

Wednesday, April 29 - Red Robin Fundraiser on State Street in Rockford, next to Sam's Club. GO out to eat, **mention the fundraiser**, and the youth will receive 20% of your purchase. The fundraiser goes all day! There will be reminder flyers available at church to show to the waitress.

Sunday, May 10 - Mother's Day Coffee hour. Join us after the worship service, Zion Youth will provide fruit, cheese / crackers, and other treats.

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.

The Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The youth's annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser was a huge success!

One would never know that a blizzard was heading our direction.

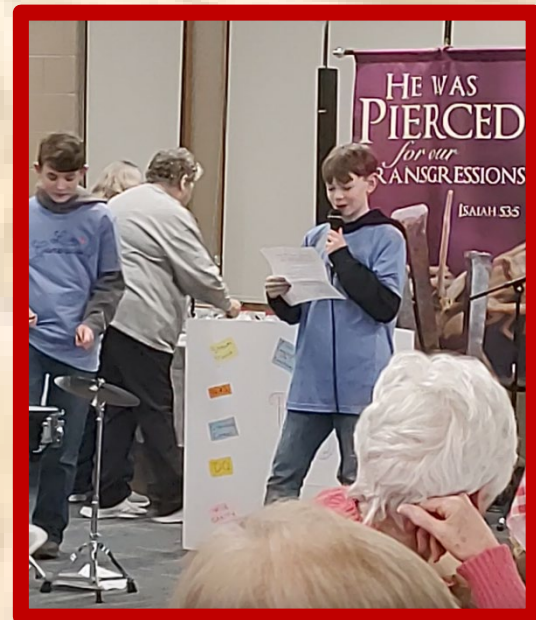
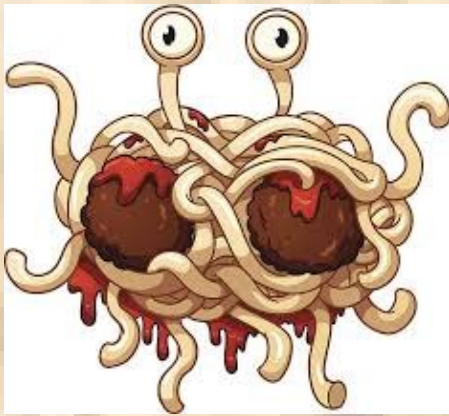
The fellowship hall was packed, and we had many baskets and baked goods to raffle/auction off. Thanks to Kris & Cheryl, Stephanie & Andrew, the food was wonderful!

All of our youth shared their talents.

- Katie sold raffle tickets
- Lilli, Nikolai, Peyton, Milena, and Delilah shared their wonderful talents as they sang "On Top of Spaghetti" and brought the song to life.
- Ian & Jace are quite the comedy duo. They kept everyone laughing.
- Melita and Elleney danced for everyone.
- Eva blessed us with the joyful noise of her flute.
- Alex and Angeline shared a skit
- Elleney shared her angelic voice as she sang, "Your Way is Better"
- The entertainment was wrapped up with all the kids singing, "Jesus Loves Me".

At the end of the night, just under \$2000 was donated to the youth! Thank you to everyone who donated baskets, baked, bought baskets & raffle tickets, cooked, cleaned, and joined us for the dinner. We couldn't have done it without you. Special thanks to Cheryl, Kris, & Thrivent for the wonderful food, to the youth who provided the entertainment, and to all the parents who have such wonderful children.





Christian Nurturing News

SAVE the DATES for Vacation Bible School!

- **June 22-26:** 9-11:30am - Ages: 4 - 11 attend, and all other youth can be helpers. We are doing a wilderness theme this year! Get ready for a “Deep Woods Encounter!” Reach out to Melody or Melita if you have any questions or would like to help!
- **April 5:** There will be NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday.
- **May 17:** Our last day of Sunday School for this school year.

The Spaghetti Dinner was a fun success!

We are so proud of all of the kids showcasing their talents and helping out.



Visiting Pastor

On the fifth Sunday of Lent, visiting Pastor Bob Hansen gave a children’s message on Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Acolyte Eva Foley was a good sport to be wrapped as Lazarus by Pastor Hansen, with Brenda Veit-Shiloh assisting.



Pioneer News

Pioneer's will be meeting on Monday, April 13th, with a potluck beginning at noon.

Ham will be provided for a small donation.

Please bring a dish to share as well and your own dinnerware.

Our program will be presented by Pastor Gary Erickson with a video visit to Vietnam.

Join us for food and fellowship. It's always a good time.

You are always welcome to bring a friend or neighbor.

by Lyle & Patti Lee



Community Meal

136 tacos fed 52 people at the March Community Meal.

Cheese, salsa, sour cream, lettuce, and jalapeno peppers were the available toppings for the tacos. Refried beans and Spanish rice rounded out the meal. The cooks and servers did an excellent job assembling and passing out all those tacos.

Special thanks go out to Dawn for donating the cheese and sour cream. Also, thank you to the following volunteers who worked at the meal: Linda, Marge, Jean, Sandra, Stephanie, Michelle, Patti, Kathy, Marilee, and Nancy.

The next Community Meal will be held on Wednesday, April 8. Be sure to sign the posted volunteer sheet if you would like to help out.

by John Enright





Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



5-Kris Enright	6-Carolyn Poole	7-Preston Watts	8-Lavonne Spangler	9-Joanie Ekberg
9-Anthony Girone	9-Peyton Jonas	10-Anthony Mallegni	11-Michael Pinkston	11-Jordan Lehman
14-Carol Temple	16-Gail Knitter	19-Kevin Ekberg	20-Julie Bredlau	21-Kay Bredlau
22-Nathaniel Brunschon		23-Judy Ernest	24-Riley Sipe	25-Arthur Boudreau
28-Lisa Ahlberg				



After many years of celebrating our church family's special days with personalized birthday cards from our church council, we've made the difficult decision to pause this tradition due to the costs we incur in printing and postage each month, beginning April 1st. We want to assure you that this change in how we celebrate each birthday doesn't diminish honoring and recognizing birthdays—we will continue showcasing and celebrating our birthdays weekly during our Sunday screen announcements before service and sharing them in our newsletter each month. We will even continue to create opportunities when we can sing to our honorees during fellowship time. We remain grateful for the joy of celebrating you through these cards over the years and appreciate your understanding in the council trying to be good stewards of our budget.

Scripture for the Month of April

April 2

Exodus 12:1-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 3

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

April 5

Acts 10:34-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18

April 12

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 19

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

April 26

Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

From the Treasurer:

Feb/2026 Beginning Balance \$ 9,234.63
Total Income \$ 25,597.13
Total Expense \$ 12,918.80
Balance \$ 21,912.96

Feb/2026 Beginning Balance \$ (898.20)
Total Income \$ 3,710.00
Total Expense \$ 3,004.30
Balance \$ (192.50)

General Fund Reserve Savings

Feb/2026 Beginning Balance \$ 89,013.65
Income \$ 17.07
Expenses \$
Balance \$ 89,030.72

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 Marnen
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
Doug & 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
Youth Ministries

Diane Vorndran
Financial Secretary

Sharon Yunto
Treasurer

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am The Baby Bank 4pm-6pm	2 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service 7pm	3 7pm Good Friday Worship	4
5 Easter Sunday Worship 9am NO Sunday School	6 Worship & Music Meeting 5pm	7 Lunch with Ray 11:30am	8 Council Reports Due to office by 9am Bible Study 9:30am Community Meal 5pm-6pm	9 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm Thursday Worship Service 7pm	10 WOZ Bake Cookies	11 WOZ Decorate Cookies 9:30am
12 Sunday Worship 9am Sunday School Baptism	13 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm Witness Meeting 6pm Youth Fundraiser @ Culvers Belvidere 4pm-8pm	14	15 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 6pm	16 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm 7pm –Maundy Thursday Worship	17	18
19 Sunday Worship 9am Sunday School	20	21 Lunch with Ray 11:30am	22 Bible Study 9:30am	23 Choir 5pm/Bells 6pm Barnabas 6pm Holden Sundae Worship Service 7pm	24	25
26 Sunday Worship 9am & Sunday School	27 Tidings Articles Due to office by 9am	28	29 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Youth Fundraiser at Red Robin Time	30 Worship Service 7pm	OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday 9am-1pm	