

A note of gratitude from David Schumann

August 2026

A reading from 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone, it is the same God at work.”

Dear fellow members of Zion,

Our church continues to be a strong and active community of faith because of the many members who willingly share their time and talents as God has given them. It has been my privilege and my joy that you have entrusted me to be your worship leader, and it is because of your love and support and words of encouragement that I have been able to fulfill this calling. This calling would not have been possible without the partnership of Doug and Brenda Shiloh, who willingly shared this responsibility, and for Cynthia Reynolds, who provided me with weekly worship plans and graciously worked with me on any last-minute changes or special services. Thank you. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your love. And thank you for the outpouring of cards and gifts and personal messages from all of you. I am truly blessed to be part of this family of faith.

A reading from 1 Peter 4:10

“Each of us, as good stewards of God’s gifts, must use for the good of others; the special gift he has received from God.”

Peace be with you!

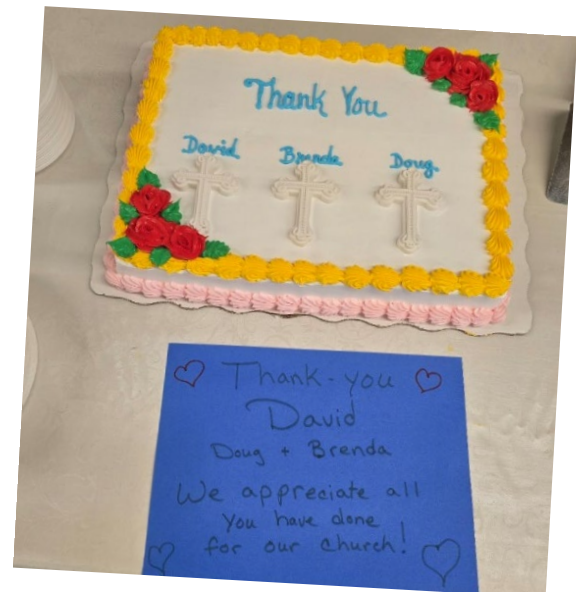
David Schumann

Appreciation Breakfast for Zion's Assisting Ministers

For the past 6 months, David Schumann, Doug Shiloh and Brenda Veit-Shiloh have stepped up to help out Zion's Sunday morning and Thursday evening worship services until we have a new pastor when they will step back slightly to their normal role as assisting-minister's. To thank these individuals for their dedication over the past 6 months, a "Thank You" breakfast was held for them. Below are some pictures from this event.



Thank You!



Pastor Marit Johnson's Ordination



Bishop Fidler with Pastor Marit

On July 19, Marit Johnson was ordained in Chicago. Zion Church was well represented as several members traveled to St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Logan Square to celebrate this special occasion and show their support for our next pastor.

Pastor Marit's first day at Zion Lutheran Church will be August 3. We look forward to welcoming her as she begins her ministry with our congregation.

Pastor Marit and family



Pastor Marit with Zion members attending



Sunday, July 19, 2026 Lunch with Ray

Who Is This Ray Guy? Is He a Member of Zion?

No, Ray Vander Laan isn't a member of Zion—but many of us feel like we've come to know him through his engaging Bible teaching.

Ray is the founder of **That the World May Know Ministries** and the creator of the **Faith Lessons** video series produced with Focus on the Family. An ordained minister and longtime Bible teacher, he brings Scripture to life by exploring the historical, cultural, and geographical setting in which biblical events took place.

In each lesson, Ray takes a small group to a location in the Holy Land that corresponds to a particular passage of Scripture. Whether the site is the exact location or one very much like it, seeing the landscape and learning about the culture of the time gives a deeper understanding of God's Word. It's often said that a picture is worth a thousand words—and these videos make the Bible come alive in a powerful way.

Join us for Lunch with Ray! We meet on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month** in **Linda's Lounge**.

- **11:30 a.m.** – Bring your lunch and enjoy fellowship together.
- **Noon** – Watch one of Ray's inspiring Bible lessons.

Whether you've attended before or are joining us for the first time, you'll be warmly welcomed. Come enjoy good food, great fellowship, and a richer understanding of Scripture.

Questions?

Contact Terry Miller at **815-355-6518** or **jmt66.1@att.net**.

Scholarships

Four Continuing Education Awards were presented in July to Isabelle Bahena, Katelyn Bishop, Lily Brandmire, and Holden Reininger. Our prayers and best wishes for their continued



success.

Thrivent Choice Program Update

The Thrivent Choice program has been updated, making it easier for Thrivent clients with membership to support organizations like Zion Lutheran Church.

1. All members now receive Choice Dollars instead of just Select Thrivent members.
2. Members can act sooner. Choice Dollars will be available at the start of the year versus accumulating over time.
3. Intuitive Calendar year with members now able to direct Choice Dollars anytime through December 31st.

For any of you that are Thrivent clients: Supporting our mission has never been easier! We're proud to be a Thrivent Choice ® enrolled organization, which means you can direct Choice Dollars ® to us or make a personal donation fee-free. Your support helps us with our many activities and programs that we provide for the community. To learn more or to take action, visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.



Kris and Richard were hard at work digging and pulling up weeds. The front of the church looks so much better.



Women of Zion

WOW! We had a wonderful turnout for our planning meeting on July 20, with nine women in attendance. We shared ideas for activities to finish out 2026 and even began planning some exciting possibilities for 2027. Thank you to everyone who came and contributed your ideas! A special thank you to Thrivent for providing \$250 in matching funds to help purchase supplies for the First Step classrooms. We also appreciate everyone who donated school supplies for the children at First Step. The school supplies will be blessed during worship on Sunday, August 2, and delivered to First Step on Monday, August 3.

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Join us during coffee hour for a **Fundraiser Breakfast** benefiting the Arcot building project. As part of Zion's 130th anniversary celebration, we made a seed-money donation toward their orphanage. We are excited to continue supporting our sister church in India through this special fundraiser.

Coming Later This Year

More details will be shared as these events get closer:

- **Thanksgiving Meals** for First Step Daycare families and others in need.
- **Angel Tree** for the children of First Step Daycare.
- **White Pines Dinner Theatre** – *“Under the Mistletoe”* on **December 3**.

Cost: \$67.00 per person, including the buffet, beverages, show, tax, and gratuity.

If you're interested in carpooling, we will leave the Zion parking lot at 10:20 am sharp. Check-in at White Pines is at 11:30 am, the buffet is from 12- 1 pm, and the show is from 1-2:45 pm.

If you are interested in attending, please sign up by **August 9, 2026**, so we can reserve tickets.

We look forward to sharing these opportunities for fellowship and service with you as we close out another wonderful year together!

Recent Photos of the Peace Garden



A lot of hard work has gone into weeding and cleaning up the Peace Garden. Thank you to those that show up to weed, thin out flowers and water. It does not go unnoticed.



Zion's Prayer Ministry

You may notice that we have placed prayer cards in the pews, as shown below. We don't always hear about our members who are in need of prayer. We like to send out cards of encouragement and specific prayers for healing or sympathy via text messages or emails. If you have a specific need for yourself, a relative, or a friend, please let us know by using these cards or notifying Cynthia in the office. We believe that prayer is powerful, as is our concern and love for one another. You can also contact us at the numbers below. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please let us know.

Kris Enright 815-985-1794 or Michelle Ernest 815-543-2142



The importance of prayer is affirmed throughout the Bible. As a church, we are committed to prayer — your needs are important to us. Please share your prayer request on this card so that we may join you in prayer, then place the card in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

Please pray for

I would like a prayer sent to:

Name _____

Address _____

Contact Information

Home #: _____

Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Would you like this request added
to the weekly bulletin list?

Yes _____ No _____

Zion Youth Happenings

Mission Trip: We had a wonderful time on the mission trip! We had eleven people go to Camp Wasmogishek in Crandon, Wisconsin. Jody Archer, Ken Downey, Raven Downey, Katie Bishop, Leo Rodriguez, and Elleney Ogan helped with various activities, including the games each day, the canteen each night, camp counselors, help in the kitchen, and watching the little ones. Alex Haugen, Angeline & JayRay Kutka, and Maggie Austin enjoyed meeting, hanging out with, and worshiping with the children from the Chippewa and Potoawatame Indian Reservations. Laios Downey also joined the fun and enjoyed hanging around with Mom, Katie, and Elleney. A special thank-you to everyone who helped with our fundraisers and made this trip possible!



Our mission of serving others continues as our youth lend a helping hand to others by cleaning up flower beds and gardens.

A special thank you to Dawn Calkins and Cynthia Reynolds for giving our youth the opportunity to serve. We also want to recognize Leo, Eva, and Angeline for their hard work and cheerful willingness to help!



Upcoming Youth Events:

August 9: Coffee hour in honor of Pastor Marit Johnson

August 11-16: Boone County Fair Let me know if/when you are available to help at grandstand.

September 20: Breakfast Fundraiser for the orphanage in India

We will be helping the Women of Zion raise money for our sister church to build an orphanage for the children. Youth are asked to serve and clean up.



Boone County Fair Volunteers Needed!!!

The **Boone County Fair** is just around the corner!

If you can help with the grandstand, please sign up on the volunteer sheets located on the WOZ bulletin board by the back door. Signing up in advance helps ensure we have enough volunteers to cover each shift.

Volunteer passes may be picked up at the Zion office
Monday – Friday from 9 am – 1 pm.

Thank you for your willingness to serve!



Belated thanks for all
your prayers, cards,
calls + visits during my
recovery. I appreciate everyone
thinking of me + miss seeing
everyone at Zion. I do see
the back of your heads every
Sunday online + wish I
could be there. Your continued
prayers would be sincerely
appreciated.

With appreciation
for your
thoughtfulness.

Diane
Vorn don

For All The Saints

In 1976, our congregation sponsored a family from Laos: Tong Kou Bliaza Vang, his wife, Song Ly, their daughter, Pagnia, and their son, Pete.

Floyd and Marie Anderson graciously welcomed Kou and Song into their family, helping them adjust to life in the United States. They introduced them to many everyday things they had never experienced before, including modern kitchens and bathrooms. The Andersons also lovingly took on the role of grandparents, caring for the children in the evenings so Kou and Song could attend English classes while Kou worked two jobs.

Although the Vang family lived in Belvidere for only about ten years, they remained closely connected with the Anderson family. The last time they returned to Zion was for Marie Anderson's funeral.

Kou recently passed away, and his family held a three-day Celebration of Life in Minnesota to honor his many accomplishments and the legacy he leaves behind.

A copy of the Celebration of Life program is available in the narthex for anyone who remembers the Vang family or would like to learn more about Kou's remarkable life. Please feel free to read through it, but kindly leave the folder in the narthex for others to enjoy as well.



Community Meal

The great Zion crew put out a fabulous meal for our guests at the July Community Meal. Much of the work was done before the evening began. Sharon made a delicious batch of gravy the day before, and Marge and Kris peeled nearly 40 pounds of potatoes earlier that morning. Best of all, Charlie came in at 1:30 and prepared 30 pounds of pork loin and got it started in the roasters. In addition to the pork loin, we served mashed potatoes & gravy, apple sauce, a choice of two vegetables, and a variety of desserts. A total of 50 meals were served that night.

In addition to the four already mentioned, thank you to the following people who helped at the meal: Jean, Patti, Kay, Kathy, Linda, Stephanie, Kendall, Sandra, Nancy, Dawn, Marilee, Lillian, and Larry. Also, a big thank you to COSTCO for their generous grant to Zion that funded this meal. The next meal will be held on Wednesday, August 12th, which is during the week of the Boone County Fair. We know some of the regular meal crew will not be available that week. Because of that, it is very important that you sign the volunteer sign-up sheet so we know we will have enough help.

John Enright

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

June/2026 Beginning Balance \$ 50,736.20
Total Income \$ 15,019.18
Total Expense \$ 10,437.51
Balance \$ 55,317.87

Building Fund

June/2026 Beginning Balance \$ (2,233.24)
Total Income \$ 2,449.72
Total Expense \$ 2,063.52
Balance \$ (1,827.04)

General Fund Reserve Savings

May/2026 Beginning Balance \$ 89,086.83
Income \$ 18.31
Expenses \$
Balance \$ 89,105.14

Zion's Low Voice Chorus - Sunday, July 26th





Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



1-Max Beever	1-Miles Hallock	2-Aimee Hansen
10-Mazie Ruzic	11-Mary Berg	11-Jeanne Marnen
11-Nadiya Reininger	13-Jerry Hall	13-Gary Yunto
15-Kyle Magnuson	15-Curt Tobin II	18-Kalin Bahena
18-Pat Melton	19-Rob Zediker	22-Jonah Brunschon
22-Ken Meyers	23-Alicia Downey	25-Dawn Calkins
26-Paul Watts	28-Sandra Dotzler	28-Marilee Sellers
30-Cheryl Sturges		

August Scriptures

<u>1st Reading</u>	<u>2nd Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
<u>Aug 2</u> Isaiah 55:1-5	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
<u>Aug 9</u> 1 Kings 19:9-18	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
<u>Aug 16</u> Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28
<u>Aug 23</u> Isaiah 51:1-6	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
<u>Aug 30</u> Jer. 15:15-21	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28

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
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

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sunday Worship 9am Blessing School Supplies	3 Worship & Music 5pm Pastor Marit's First Day	4	5 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm	6 Thursday Worship Service 7pm	7	8
9 Sunday Worship 9am	10 Witness Meeting 6pm	11 Fair Week Starts	12 Council Reports 9am Bible Study 9:30am Community Meal 5-6pm Fair Week	13 Thursday Worship Service 7pm Fair Week	14 Fair Week	15 Fair Week
16 Sunday Worship 9am Fair Week Ends	17	18	19 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 6:00pm	20 Thursday Worship Service 7pm	21	22
23 Sunday Worship 9am	24 Tidings Articles 9am Baby Bank Restock 9:30 – 11:30am	25	26 Bible Study 9:30am	27 Barnabas Meeting 6pm Thursday Worship Service 7pm	28	29
30 Sunday Worship 9am	31				OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday 9am-1pm	