



Ragged Old Flag

I walked through a county courthouse square
On a park bench, an old man was sitting there
I said, "Your old courthouse is kinda run down"
He said, "No, it'll do for our little town"
I said, "Your old flagpole is kinda leaning a little bit
And that's a ragged old flag you got hanging on it"
He said, "Have a seat," and I sat down
"Is this the first time you've come to our little town?"
I said, "I think it is"
He said, "I don't like to brag
But we're kinda proud of that ragged old flag"
You see we got a little hole in that flag there
When Washington took it across the Delaware
And it got powder burns the night Francis Scott Key
Sat up watching it writing, " Say, can you see?"
And it got a little rip in New Orleans
With Packingham and Jackson tugging at its seams
And it almost fell at the Alamo
Beside the Texas flag but she waved on though
It got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville
Got cut again at Shiloh Hill
There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard and Bragg
And the south wind blew hard on that ragged old flag
On Flanders Field in World War I
She got a bad hole from a Bertha gun
She turned blood red in World War II
She hung limp and low by the time that one was through
She was in Korea and Vietnam
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam
She waved from our ships upon the briny foam
And now we've about quit waving her back here at home
And in her own good land here she's been abused
She's been burned, dishonored, denied and refused
And now the very government for which she stands
Is scandalized throughout the land
And she's getting threadbare, and she's wearing kinda thin
But she's in good shape for the shape she's in
'Cause she's been through the fire before
And she can take a whole lot more
So we raise her up every morning
And we bring her down slowly every night
We don't let her touch the ground, and we fold her up right
On second thought I do like to brag
'Cause I'm mighty proud of that ragged old flag

Church Council President

Dear members of Zion Lutheran Church,

It is with great joy and with thanks to our heavenly Father that we share the results of our Congregational meeting, which was held on Sunday, June 14, 2026.

A motion was made by Terry Miller, chairman of the Call Committee, to extend a call to Marit Johnson to be our next pastor. The motion was seconded, and Jeff Ernest then presented the compensation package for our review. After a brief discussion, a vote was taken. The vote was unanimous - all 66 members in attendance voted to extend the call to Marit Johnson, and she accepted that call.

It is now official – Marit Johnson will be our next pastor! We give thanks for the Transition Team as well as the Call Committee for their dedication to this call process, and we ask God to continue to be with us and to bless us and to bless Marit Johnson as we begin the next chapter in the life of Zion Lutheran Church.

Marit will be ordained on Sunday, July 19th, at 6pm in Chicago.

We have reserved 2 12-passenger vans to ride as a group and show support for Marit. If you would like a seat on the van, for a minimal fee of \$30.00-\$40.00, sign up either at the entrance of the church or call/email the office by July 10th during office hours of Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm.

Since seats are limited and may fill up fast, you are also welcome to follow in your own vehicle. The van will leave the Zion parking lot at 3pm.

The plan is to grab a bite to eat in Logan Square prior to the ordination if time permits.

The church address is

St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square

3325 W. Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647

God's Blessings!!!

David Schumann

President, Church Council

Scholarships

Zion has a scholarship program to encourage the educational and professional growth of our church family. The awards will be announced at both the July 9th and the July 12th services. Join in celebration as we applaud past successes and pray for their continued endeavors.

Isabella Bahena

Katelyn Bishop

Lily Brandmire

Holden Reininger

Rock Valley College

Rock Valley College

Western Illinois University

Military Service

Secondary Education + Psychology

Emergency Medical Tech + Fire Science

Criminal Justice + Forensics

United States Marines



Financial Secretary Position

With the recent decision of Diane's to retire from her work as Financial Secretary for Zion, we are starting the process of finding an individual to replace her. Below are some of the attributes /job tasks that the volunteer Financial Secretary is responsible for performing.

The Financial Secretary:

- a. Keep a record of all income from contributing members and other sources.
- b. Oversee and participate in counting the offerings.
- c. Oversee and participate in creating and depositing receipts.
- d. Train individuals who count the offerings.
- e. Ensure that two non-related people are always present for any counting procedures.
- f. Report to the treasurer the total offerings each week and any special purpose breakdowns.
- g. Oversee recording contributions to the individual contribution records within the church's dedicated software.
- h. Assist with reporting on levels of giving to the council and congregation.
- i. Assist with providing periodic (usually quarterly) and annual statements to the contributors for tax reporting.

This individual needs to be available to count money on a Monday or Tuesday and have good computer skills.

If you are interested in discussing this position, please get in touch with Gary Yunto at 815-547-7312 or via email at garryy513@gmail.com

Time and Talent 2026-2027

As we move forward from celebrating 130 years as a church in Belvidere, our church council along with the Witness Committee and the Women of Zion would like to ask your help as we continue to share Christ's love. Faith and service depend on volunteers willing to share their talents and time to make our worship exciting and vital. We are asking that you fill out the Time and Talent Survey that has been passed out in church over the last few weeks. There is a basket in the back of the church and one upstairs in the fellowship hall to place them in when you have completed it. This will help us in planning for fall activities. Thank you!

Kris Enright

Women of Zion

WOZ is collecting the following school supplies for our First Step Daycare partner. You will find a drop box under our bulletin board at the entrance as well as a copy of the supply list. The school supplies will be blessed on Sunday, August 2nd, during the service.

Backpacks (no wheels)	2 Pocket folders
Multicolored pack of construction paper	Box of 24 crayons
Play-Doh 4 oz	Erasers
Ream of white copy paper	Purple glue sticks
Highlighters yellow	Box of Tissues
Erasers	Container of Sanitation wipes
Colored pencils	Colored markers unscented

Thank you to all who have supported the Women of Zion throughout their fundraising events. The women, along with Memorial Committee funds, have purchased new furniture for the narthex. Thank you to John Enright for helping to receive the furniture and move it into place. We are currently looking for an area rug to complete the project.





Thank you to the members of Zion who donated geraniums to decorate our Peace Garden. Beth Hong took the plants home until the weather cooled, not only for the plants but for the gardeners who put them in the ground, Beth and Cheryl! Thank you, Marie Hagen, for cleaning the area earlier this spring. It made planting a lot easier. If you have a green thumb and could help keep our landscaping looking good by pulling weeds, planting, or even watering during the heat of summer, fill in the Time and Talent sheet under Property to indicate that you are willing to help.

Mark your calendar for July 26th and plan to attend church and the Appreciation Coffee Hour as we recognize our SAMs (Special Appointed Ministers), David Schumann, Brenda and Doug Shiloh, and our Lay Readers. Many people have worked hard at Zion during the absence of a Pastor; however, these three have led our Sunday and Thursday worship services and have done an outstanding job.

Thank you to Thrivent and Dave Schumman for applying for a grant to support our quilters.

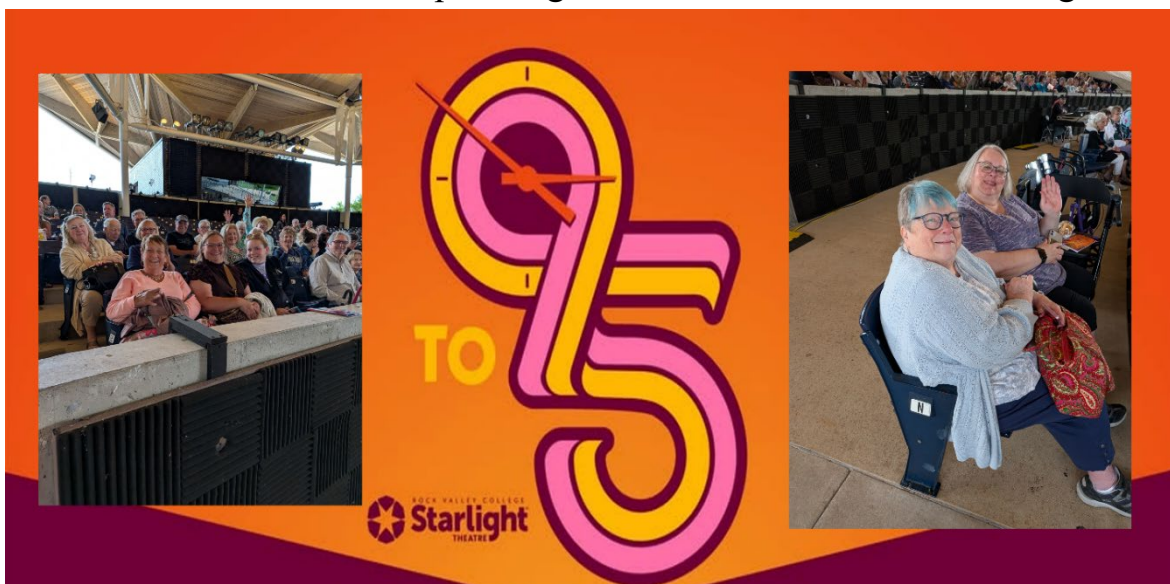
If you are a Thrivent member, you can donate twice a year through this grant option.

Contact Cheryl Sturges about how the Women of Zion could benefit from a grant to help fund projects.



Women of Zion have scheduled a planning meeting for the remainder of the year on July 20th at 11am. in the church library. All are welcome to attend. If you can't make the meeting but have ideas, please share them with either Kris Beever or Cheryl Sturges.

A great evening was had by all who attended the Starlight Theater's production of 9 to 5. Thank you to the Women of Zion for planning another successful and fun outing.



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's Youth

LOMC Youth Retreat

We had a group of 14 go to the LOMC retreat. There were 7 boys, 4 girls, and 3 adults. Stephanie, Deana, and Jody enjoyed sharing stories from when we were there 37-44 years ago. Many things have not changed. We did the team-building course, and everyone worked great together. They were even able to “throw” Jody over an eleven-foot wall! They learned how to shoot a bow, and there were many bullseyes. There were three fish caught while fishing. It was 43 hours of nonstop fun! Thanks to everyone who helped us raise funds and made this trip possible!





Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Youth Events

Sunday, July 12-Friday, July 17 – The Mission Trip to Crandon, WI Camp Wasmogishek

This trip is open to anyone 8 years or older. We will help the Midwest Indian Missions with a summer camp for the kids on the Potawatomi and Chickasaw Reservations. The younger youth will participate in the camp, while those 15 and older can be camp counselors or help with activities, crafts, or in the kitchen. We had a lot of fun last year and are looking forward to another great trip! We have room for more! Contact Jody Archer if you are interested!

August 11-16 - Boone County Fair

We will be helping with the Grandstand for the shows.



Christian Nurturing News

Vacation Bible School was a fun-filled week with “Cabin Fever.” Each day, kids watched a skit; played games; listened to a story; made a craft; ate snacks; sang songs, and petted a turtle.

We would like to thank all of our helpers who made VBS a wonderful time for all. Thank you to Pat Castro, Stephanie Skelnik, Marilee Sellers, Kris Beever, Tammi Zastrow, Trish Zastrow, Katelyn Bishop, John Enright, and Linda Johnson. We had 15 “kid campers” and 10 kid camp helpers this year!! What a fun group of youth! During VBS we started collecting a “Noisy Offering” again this year. We are collecting for Operation Kid To Kid. This organization helps families in need. This year they are collecting money to buy fruit trees in Central America. We will be collecting money at church services through July. Look for the plastic container at the back of the church to put your change in. Thanks!









“Food Truck Thank You”

Thank you to the 25 volunteers who helped on Thursday, May 28th with our 1st Northern Illinois Food Bank event for 2026.

These volunteers helped with approximately 7,000 pounds of food items by packaging the items into bags and loaded this food into vehicles included: Jean Anderson, Gene & Mary Berg, Larry & Nancy Brendum, Dawn Calkins, John Enright, Jeff Ernest, Charles Foster, Arlyn Groen, Kathy Hansen, Linda Johnson, Russ Kindberg, Lyle & Patti Lee, Keith Marnen, Terry Miller, Gary & Linda Prater, Stephanie Skelnik, Brenda Tobin, Gary & Sharon Yunto, and Tammy & Trish Zastrow. These 25 individuals packed and loaded into vehicles 12 assorted items for giveaway that helped 184 families with 619 individuals with their food insecurity from the Boone County area. Additionally, some extra items were able to be used by First Step Daycare and the American Legion to help even more of our Belvidere / Boone County residents.
by Gary Yunto



Community Meal

Despite the weather forecast for a severe thunderstorm the evening of the June Community Meal, we still served 49 people. The meal was the ever-popular “Breakfast at Night,” where we served scrambled eggs, hash browns, pancakes, and bacon. An extraordinary effort was made by our crew for this meal. Ten dozen eggs were scrambled and cooked, well over 100 pancakes made, 8 packages of bacon cooked, tons of hash browns made, and coffee, milk, water, and lemonade served. Keeping up with washing all the pots and pans was a chore in itself. Quite the busy night! Thank you to the following people who made it all happen: Lyle, Patti, Kathy, Jean, Linda, Judy, Stephanie, Nancy, Larry, Dawn, Marilee, and Lillian. The next Community Meal will be held on Wednesday, July 8. A volunteer sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.
by John Enright

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

May/2026 Beginning Balance \$ 41,992.38
Total Income \$ 22,566.31
Total Expense \$ 13,822.49
Balance \$ 50,736.20

Building Fund

May/2026 Beginning Balance \$
(1,760.05)
Total Income \$ 3,262.00
Total Expense \$ 3,735.19
Balance \$ (2,233.24)

General Fund Reserve Savings

May/2026 Beginning Balance \$ 89,067.92
Income \$ 18.91
Expenses \$
Balance \$ 89,086.83

Prayers for America

Our country is in the middle of a great battle, and we know the best way for us to battle is on our knees. We also know the best source to turn to is not the news, not social media, but the Word of God.

Despite different denominations, political parties, and opinions, we are all united by the power of prayer and the blood of Jesus. We serve a God who invites us to align with Him and His heart for us.

Pray that you and others would seek God in humility and that God would bring healing to our nation. **2 Chronicles 7:14** “Then if my people who are called by name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.”

Pray that you, your family, and our nation would follow God and be blessed. **Psalms 33:12** “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.

Pray that God would give our government leaders, church leaders, and all citizens His wisdom and knowledge. **Daniel 2:20-21** “Praise be to the name of God forever, and ever, wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons; He deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.”



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



1-Natalie Armstrong
5-Rhett Pinkston
6-Pam Romanek
11-Kim Halper
12-Courtney Long
14-Keith Marrnen
20-Arlyn Groen
24-Kyra Messbarger
26-Richard Beever
30-Jane Schuessler

1-Tom Zastrow
5-Erickson
7-Curtis Gustafson
12-Mary Lightfoot
13-Heather Wick
15-Isabelle Bahena
21-Sharon Yunto
25-Kristen Larson
28-Deno Ventura
31-Micaela Downey

5-Jacob Hrebik
6-Pat Erickson
9-Eva Marie Foley
12-Jill Smuck
14-Diane Vorndran
16-Ian Cordray
21-Patricia Gifford
26-Jeanie Huffman
28-Mary Albrecht
31-Rodney Brandmire

July Scriptures

1st Reading

2nd Reading

Gospel

July 5 Zechariah 9:9-12

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12 Isaiah 55:10-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19 Isaiah 44:6-8

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26 1Kings 3:5-12

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday 9am-1pm			1 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm	2 Thursday Worship 7pm	3 Office Closed	4
5 Sunday Worship 9am	6 Worship & Music Meeting 5pm	7 Scholarship Meeting 9:30am	8 Council Reports 9am Bible Study 9:30am Community Meal 5pm-6pm	9 Present Scholarships Thursday Worship 7pm	10	11
12 Sunday Worship 9am Present Scholarships Youth – Crandon WI	13 Witness Meeting 6pm Youth – Crandon WI	14 Youth – Crandon WI	15 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 6:00pm Youth – Crandon WI	16 Holden Sundae Service 7pm Youth – Crandon WI	17 Youth – Crandon WI	18
19 Sunday Worship 9am Marit Johnson's Ordination - Chicago	20	21	22 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	23 Thursday Worship 7pm	24	25
26 Sunday Worship 9am Appreciation Fellowship Coffee Hour	27 Tidings Articles Due by 9am Baby Bank Restock 9:30am – 11:30am	28	29 Bible Study 9:30am	30 Barnabas 6pm Thursday Worship 7pm	31	