

Zion Lutheran Church
1300 Pearl Street
Belvidere, IL 61008

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Sharing Christ's Love

Tidings of Zion

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church
1300 Pearl Street, Belvidere, IL 61008

Volume 45, No. 3

March 2010

From the Pastor

Jonah for Lent? Sounds fishy, but it's a natural fit. When the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, he said, "I will give you only the sign of Jonah." After three days in the belly of the earth, Jesus rose with the news of God's prodigal grace. So I invite you to join me on **Wednesday evenings** for Bible study and worship. This could be an excellent way for you to discover how to renew your loyalty to God and his way of life.

This series of special services and Bible study explores the meaning of "the Sign of Jonah". We will explore together the journey of Jonah and see how similar it is to Jesus' journey to the cross. Our Bible study will begin at 6.30 in the fellowship hall. Come along and explore this Old Testament book, as well as looking at what God is calling us to do today. As Lutherans we add to our life during Lent, so join us for worship. It will begin at 7:00 pm.

Pastor Otto

Habitat for Humanity

We are building in Belvidere. Habitat for Humanity has a lot near Immanuel School and will begin construction in May. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has given us a generous gift but we need to raise 10% of the money needed locally.

Look for the Habitat for Humanity table in the upcoming weeks and give a gift. For gifts larger than \$25.00, you can fill out a special certificate which will be given to the family as they take occupancy.

March Highlights

First
Communion
March 7

Pioneer Club
March 8

H.S. Meeting
March 14

All Easter
Flower Orders
due by noon
March 15

Ice Hockey
Outing on
March 20

Vacation
Bible School Mtg.
March 21

New Members
Received
March 28

Our Staff

Rev. Karl Otto	Senior Pastor
Rev. Bill Nelson	Visitation Pastor
Cheryl Sturges	Council President
Carleen Courtney	Music Director
Dan Albrecht	Worship & Praise
Michael King	Youth Director
Kathy Martin	Secretary
Dan Druckrey	Custodian

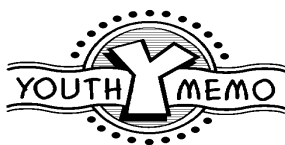
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Fax: 815-544-0590
Email: zionbelvidere@juno.com
Web Site Address:
www.belviderezion.org
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Worship Schedule

September—May
Sundays at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

June—August
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
Nursery Available



High School Youth

The next time we **host the coffee hour** will be Sunday, March 14. Please drop off items between 8:45 & 9:00 a.m. The theme will be St. Patrick's Day, so think green.

Our next High School **meeting** will be on Sunday, March 14 at 5:00 p.m. We will go over our Mission Trip to Kokomo, Indiana. Dinner and dessert will be served.

Rockford Ice Hogs Hockey Outing

On Saturday, March 20, we are putting a group together to attend the Ice Hogs hockey game. The cost is \$8.00 per ticket. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. So bring the whole family for a good time out!

Lenten Services

On the Wednesdays during Lent, there will be a Soup Supper at 5:45 pm. The soup is homemade by women of Zion. Please come join us for dinner and then attend a Bible study after dinner with Pastor Otto. Then at 7:00 pm, we will have our Lenten worship service. Sign up sheet for the dinner is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Sunday School

- Sunday School teachers meeting on March 14th at **9:15** in the church library.
- World Hunger meeting on March 14th—bring your pennies! We only need \$100 to meet out goal!
- Looking ahead—no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 4th.

Confirmands

Our next servant project is on Saturday, April 3rd. Please keep the date open and more information will follow in the next newsletter.

Rummage Sale

The date has been set! Mark your calendar for Saturday, **May 1**, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. So start collecting those special items. Drop off dates will be announced in the next newsletter.

Sympathy *Our thoughts and prayers are with*

- + Bob Reynolds and his family upon the death of his granddaughter, Charlotte
- + Kaye Slagle and her family upon the death of her sister
- + The family of Lennart Johnson

Funeral arrangements for Lennart Johnson include a Memorial Service at Zion on April 17th.

From our Mailbox

Thank you to my Zion family for the prayers, concerns, and cards during my recent surgery and recuperation. A special thank you to Pastor Otto for getting up early Monday morning and coming to Rockford Memorial Hospital to pray for me and my family.

Sincerely, Sylvia Tracey

The High School youth would like to thank the congregation for supporting their Mardi Gras fundraiser. If you missed coming, it was a blast! There were so many different acts and a lot of good food and desserts. We would also like to thank all the people who participated in Mardi Gras. This event helped support the summer Mission Trip.

Sincerely, Mike King

WHAT'S P.A.D.S?

Would you never think that Belvidere and Boone County have homeless people? There are up to 100 homeless people in our county at any given time. Throughout March we'll learn more about this problem and how we can represent Christ in Boone County by participating in P.A.D.S. Stay tuned to learn more.

Thank you to Sandra Dotzler, Wanda Watts and Linda Kozlowski for the delicious homemade soups for the Lenten suppers. Be sure to join us on Wednesdays at 5:45 pm to share good food and fellowship before Bible study and worship time.



Soup suppers on the Wednesday during Lent

Please save your soda cans for recycling.

Come help us plan for Zion's 2010 **Vacation Bible School.** Meeting on Sunday, March 21 9:30 a.m.

Is Your Will Out of Date?

Attend our LEAVE A LEGACY Seminar

Your will may be out of date if:

- it was written before the 1997 tax law changes
- you have acquired more property
- your children no longer live at home
- you have increased your assets
- your church or other charity is not in your present will
- your spouse has died
- you have received an inheritance

There may be other changes in your life that may justify revising your will or writing a will if you do not have one. Plan to attend the Wills, Estates, and Gift Planning seminar being held at our church on Sunday, **April 18. 12:00 Noon Potluck followed by the Seminar.**

Rev. Dr. Len Hoffmann of the ELCA Foundation will share accurate and concise information about wills. You will learn how Lutherans are strengthening the ministries of the Lutheran Church through special provisions in their wills. This is one meeting you should not miss!

Feed The Hungry

In March you can **help feed the hungry** in Belvidere and Boone County by providing the makings for an Easter meal. Please take a grocery bag from the narthex (OR use one from home) and fill it with these items—then put the bag in the box in the narthex:

- INSTANT SCALLOPED OR AU GRATIN POTATOES
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- JELLO
- CAKE MIX
- CANNED FROSTING
- EASTER CANDY (LIKE JELLY BEANS)
- EGG DYE KIT (OR FOOD COLORING)

We're also looking for donations of canned hams. If you can't donate a ham but would like to defray the cost, please put money in an envelope and place in the box in the narthex. Thanks for being the hands of God in our community.

Women's
Groups



Register
by
March 1

Women's Circle Dates

Faith Finders will meet on Wednesdays, March 10 & 24 at 6:15 p.m. *Deborah Circle* meets on Tuesday, March 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the church library. Ruth Kaschub will be the hostess.

Morning Sarah Circle meets on Wednesday, March 17 at 9:30 a.m. in the church library.

Women of Zion

Looking ahead—the April breakfast/program will be on Saturday, April 24th at 9:00 a.m. Come hear Lisa Bruno talk about her work and experience with breast cancer. Please sign up the bulletin board in the narthex if you plan to attend. (Cost: \$5.00)

Pioneer Club Events

On Monday, March 8th, you are invited to the noon monthly “carry-in” luncheon of Pioneer Club. Since this time of year focuses on scouting, Eric Schmidt will update us on what is currently happening in our area with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. In his younger years, Eric took part in Cub Scout Pack 600 sponsored by Zion. Now, he is serving as Assistant Scoutmaster for a Boy Scout troop serving Belvidere and Cherry Valley. Come for some good food, friendly fellowship, and helpful information.

2010 Congregational Resourcing Event March 20th from 8:30 a.m.—3:15 p.m. Kishwaukee College, Malta

The NI Synod's Congregational Resourcing Event is one this synod's finest yearly events. Church council members, teachers, musicians, staff, volunteers and leaders—just about everyone in a congregation—can take advantage of this learning event to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries. Come, experience and bring home new ministry tools.

Registration deadline is March 1. Supervised child care in Kishwaukee College's on-campus Early Childhood Center is provided with pre-registration. Listing of workshops and other information are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.