

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. 9

September 2010

From the Pastor's Desk

"Compassion is only compassion when you cross the street and go to someone. Too often, we confuse emotion with compassion."

At times I get to think about why people choose one congregation over another. Each congregation has its history and its own personality. Zion is a downtown church with lots of traditional views. We do not have a new modern sanctuary nor do we have a school. We do have some wonderful programs like KICK, Pioneers and small groups, but so do other congregations. Over the past ten years I am proud to say we have developed a real passion for serving the community. For lots of congregations their social ministry efforts are programs and not a part of their personality. For Zion, servanthood is not a program or emphasis, it is a part of our DNA. Whether it serving out at the Fair or collecting canned goods for the Salvation Army or assisting Habitat for Humanity, it is part of how we *"share Christ's love."* For me it is said best by our Faith in Action slogan, "Let's not just go to church, let's be the church."

I am asking you to invite someone you know to come to worship with you on September 12. We will do everything possible to be accommodating and friendly that day. But it will take you to work up the courage to "walk across the room or street" and invite someone. Begin by praying about making the invitation and then who you will ask. And then do it! Invite them not to just worship but to join us in sharing Christ's love. Invite them to be part of a congregation that is not just welcoming to all, it is constantly looking to serve in Christ's name. We choose to walk across the street and put our compassion to work. We define a living faith as one that is growing. On Sunday, September 12 you will be introduced to lots of ways of growing your faith, be sure to put your faith in action and become an active part. Let's talk about what is good about our congregation and invite others to that living faith.

Pastor Otto

September Highlights

Meeting for
Funeral Servers
September 7

KICK OFF
Sunday
September 12

Bring your
favorite Coffee
Cake for
fellowship hour
on September 12

Pioneer Club
September 13

New Bible Study
begins on
September 19

Confirmation
Retreat
September 25

Quilt Sunday
September 26

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.

Kick Off Sunday September 12



Sunday School Start-up

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

Please save your soda cans for recycling.

KICK OFF CELEBRATION September 12

Instead of wearing your white shirt and tie or your dress and nylons to church, how about wearing your favorite team shirt—or your Z shirt. Show your team spirit!

P.S.

If you love coffee cake, how about bringing one to share at fellowship hour?



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

During the month of September, The Social Ministry Team will be collecting items needed for overseas soldiers. You may leave your donations in the designated box in the narthex, and the VFW will pack them and ship them off.

Food items are most frequently requested by soldiers. We have a list of suggested items below. For more information contact: Marilyn Smith or Julane Nease

Suggested items: Beef Jerky, Canned or packed fruit, Dried Fruit, Fruit Roll Ups, Granola/Energy Bars, Hard Candy, Nuts (All kinds), Oatmeal (Instant), Peanut Butter/Jelly, Pop Tarts, Popcorn, Powdered Drink Mixes, Pudding Cups, Ramen Noodles, Slim Jims, Tea

Please do NOT send the following: Pork products, Religious items, OR chocolate that may melt in the summer

From the Treasurer

	General Fund	Building Fund
Report for the month ending July 2010		
Balance, last month end	(232.64)	3,758.76
Receipts	15,655.50	1,225.70
Disbursements	18,920.67	1,673.30
Balance	(3,497.81)	3,311.16

Fund: General Fund thru Building Fund



From our Mailbox

To Pastor, and all of our Zion Families and Friends,
There should be a much more powerful phrase than “Thank You” to express our feelings but, that phrase has taken on a new dimension as we think of the many blessings you all have given us! Emotions are all over the map sometimes but, we know one thing for sure. We have your prayers, love, and support! So thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
Mary & Lee Bierman

Zion Lutheran Church Congregation,
Thank you so much for the opportunity for me to receive this scholarship. It means a lot to me knowing I have so many people supporting me and all their blessings. Also, thank you for the blanket I received.
Thanks! Micaela Downey

Dear Zion Lutheran,
I wish to extend my thanks for the very generous scholarship you have given me. The amount will greatly assist in the purchase of books, supplies, and my computer for college. Thank you again for all your support and prayers over the years.
Sincerely, Anthony Castro

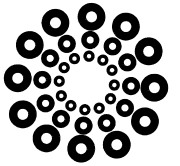
Dear Zion,
I want to thank you all so much for the scholarship money. I look forward to using it this fall at the U of I. Your friendship and support over the years is greatly appreciated.
Thanks for everything,
Derek Ernest

Thank you Zion Lutheran,
This scholarship will really help me as I go into college. I am very glad to be a member of this fine congregation. Through all the mission trips, the youth group has become a second family to me, and I always enjoy spending time with them. More important, thank you for being the people with which I found God!
Nicholas Balabuszko

Thank you to Sherri Theisen for serving on the altar guild during the month of August.



Kick Off Sunday
September 12
8:00 & 10:45
Worship
9:30
Sunday School



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Morning Sarah Circle meets on Wednesday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m. in the church library.

Faith Finders meet on Wednesday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. here at the church.

Deborah Circle will not meet in September.

Pioneers

Looking ahead to the Fall—our next meeting will be on Monday, **September 13th** at 12:00 noon in the fellowship hall. Remember to bring a dish to share and your own tableware.

Guest speaker, Butch Falkenstein, will be with us to talk on the subject of: “The First 72 Is On You.”

A bus outing is planned on September 23rd to Moline. Enjoy the day aboard the Celebration Cruise line with the John O’Mera Band performing on deck. Food consists of their famous Sticky Buns with fresh fruit upon arriving aboard; a full hot buffet lunch and an afternoon snack before returning to the dock. Please see sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for all details. Make checks payable to **Golden Agers** for \$79 per person and turn into the church office no later than September **1st**.

The Bible from Scratch

Pastor will be offering a new Bible study on Sunday nights beginning on Sunday, September 19 at 6:00 pm . This study is intended for those who feel they know little about the Bible and want to start slowly. Watch for sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with

- * Sophie Nelson and her family upon the death of her brother, Elmer;
- * Mike Mallegni and his family upon the death of his grandmother, Fern Kunde.

**Offering
Counters
Needed!**

Any part of
your time
would be
greatly
appreciated!

Please call the
church office
if you are
interested.

Homeless in Belvidere

So what are we doing about the homeless in Belvidere?

We are still waiting for a site to be approved. Hopefully when we get to the fall weather, we will be ready to sign up workers. Will you be one of them?





HELP WANTED IN CHOIR

POSITIONS: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass

PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must be able to carry light musical notes part way across the church. Vision must be good enough to see the director from ten feet away.

EXPERIENCE: No applications accepted from persons who have not sung, hummed, or whistled in the tub or shower at some time.

BEGINNING WAGES: Guaranteed satisfaction and joy in the Lord's service.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Members who demonstrate unusual ability and courage might be asked to sing a solo some time.

FRINGE BENEFITS: Social security included. We promise you the security of fellowship with other fun members of the choir.

HOURS: An hour of rehearsal between services. Choir alternates singing at early and late services monthly.

CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS: September 12, 2010 from 9:30—10:30 a.m. in the choir loft.

Call Carleen Courtney for more information at 608-563-5599.

Men Only

We are looking at a new approach in our Men's Group and wonder if you would take a few moments and think over the following questions:

In what area of your life do you feel the most pressure?

If your church could do one thing for you, what would it be?

What is the most valuable experience you've had at church in the last year?

If you were to join our group, what day would you prefer to come?

Now save up those answers and share them with our leadership group:

Curt Tobin, John Enright, Bob Brockway & Pastor Otto

Confirmation Students' Orientation

On Wednesday, September 1, we will be having a potluck supper for all 7th and 8th grade confirmation students and parents. It will be held in the fellowship hall at 6:00 pm. Please bring a hot or cold dish to share. Drinks and dessert will be provided. We will be going over the requirements for confirmation. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for you to write down the item you will be bringing to the potluck, so we don't have two of the same item.

Confirmation Retreat held at Zion

On Saturday, September 25, we will start the Retreat at 8:30 a.m. and will end at 2:00 p.m. Please drop your son/daughter at the church on time. Pick-up of your son/daughter will be at Dodge Bowling Lanes. We will be having a continental breakfast and lunch at the Retreat. Retreat cost is \$20.00.

KICK (Kids In Christ's Kare)

The first day of "KICK" will be starting on Wednesday, September 15th at 5:00 p.m. Volunteers for KICK: We are looking for volunteers for our Wednesday night program. We will be needing bakers, cooks, clean-up crews, and table parents; teachers, craft and music leaders. Even if you don't have experience, we accept all kinds of help and we will train you. The KICK program means a lot to our children of Zion and we need your help. There will be a sign up board in the narthex. Please step up and give a little bit of your time. Oh! By the way, did I tell you there will be food and dessert.

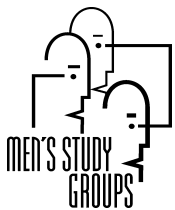
Youth On a Mission

All high school students are invited to our first meeting on Sunday, September 19 at 3:00 pm. We will discuss ideas for the up and coming year. You can also bring a friend.

Coffee hour—High School Students

Once a month, the high school students host coffee hour between services. The first coffee hour will be on Sunday, September 19. Please bring your baked items to the church kitchen between 8—8:45 am. You will be serving coffee and talking with members. They enjoy this time with you!

Join the party
On Sunday August 29 we will be celebrating our 116th anniversary.



KICK
Begins on Wednesday, September 15th at 5:00 pm.