

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool



December
2019

ECHO

**101 South Railway
Mascoutah, IL 62258**

PASTOR:

- **Rev. Kirk Clayton**
Email: Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org

MUSIC DIRECTORS:

- **Josh & Nancy Peterson**

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

- **Marlene Lockwood**

CHURCH SECRETARY:

- **Robin Phillips**
Email: ChurchOffice@ZionMascoutah.org

Church: 618-566-7345

Fax: 618-566-9519

Website:

www.ZionMascoutah.org

**Find us at @ZionMascoutah on
Facebook, Twitter, and
Instagram**

Humor

While participating in a church Christmas pageant many years past, I had the good fortune to be chosen as the narrator. Each rehearsal went off well and then on the night of the show, I, in a loud and penetrating voice announced the gifts of the Magi as "gold, Frankenstein, and myrrh."

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures illustrating Biblical stories. The teacher walked by and noticed one little boy was drawing an airplane! "Oh, what Bible story are you drawing?" she asked. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy answered. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."

A little boy named Nicholas told the store's Santa Claus: "You and I have the same name." Santa says: "Well, hello Harold."

From the Pastor

As December comes upon us with its annual time of rejoicing and celebration, I wish you and your loved ones a very merry and fulfilling time of love, peace, and joy with your family and friends. May this season be filled with the hope that we long to experience at this time of the year. May your gatherings be filled with the joy that we celebrate in this festive season. Best wishes to you, and Seasons Greetings!

Was that paragraph a bit difficult to read? It was a bit difficult to write. What did you notice about the paragraph, or more importantly, what did you notice about what was not in the paragraph? What was missing was, of course, Christ. I made no mention of Christ, and in fact, no mention of Christmas. What I wrote is basically what our secular, increasingly pagan culture is reduced to saying lately.

There is lots of talk of joy, hope, love, peace, and celebration, but no reason for any of that. Think about this. I wished you joy, but only because for some vague and un-named reason, December should be filled with joy. Have joy because you should be joyful. The same is true for love and peace. May you experience peace because we some-



***A Congregation of
The
Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod***

Mission Statement: "Zion is God's family of faith in Christ serving our communities, our country, and our world".

how mysteriously associate peace on earth with the month of December, so have peace. Likewise for hope. We long to experience hope, so we might as well hope for hope in December. Be hopeful because we want to have hope.

Well, that paragraph was probably even more difficult to read than the first paragraph. There is a reason for that. It is nonsense. Joy does not magically appear because we think we should have a month of joy. Peace does not wash over us because of wishful thinking. Hope does not just happen because we hope it will. All of these wishes are exactly that—wishes—and nothing more without a solid grounding and reason. They are baseless words, ideas without reality...if they are separated from Christmas and the Christ who is the reason for Christmas.

Now, let's put Christ back in Christmas and see what meaning we find. Why should we have joy this season? Why can we have joy this season? The familiar hymn says it so well, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" We have joy because God Himself has come among us. Joy at Christmas ultimately has a reason. Jesus has come to be our Savior, to rescue us from this fallen, sinful world of death. That is truly a reason to rejoice. We can share love with our family and friends during December and throughout the year because God has shown His love for us in sending Jesus as the baby at Bethlehem. We love because God first loved us. The peace we pray for at this Christmas season is rooted in the message the Angels joyfully delivered to the shepherds over Bethlehem, "Peace on earth, good will to those with whom He is pleased!" In sending His Son, God has made peace with us, not holding our sins which would separate us from Him against us, but drawing us to His embrace in a sacrificial act of peace for all time. Peace on earth is rooted in God making peace through the birth, death, and resurrection of His Son. And what is our hope in this holiday season? Hope detached from Christ is ultimately hopelessness. But in the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus we have hope. This hope is not just for a temporary improvement in our situation, but for ultimate deliverance from the evils of this world. Our hope is not for a brief time, but for all of eternity.

Without Christ, the greetings so commonly heard in December are shallow, hollow, and ultimately meaningless. But with Christ, these greetings are more than mere wishes, they are fulfilled truth in God's grace. Jesus brings joy. Jesus brings peace. Jesus brings love. Jesus brings hope. Those gifts flow from Him to us, and from us out to those around us. When we remember that the reason we celebrate is because of God's love in Jesus Christ, it all makes sense.

So let's try a December greeting again. As December comes upon us again with the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, born as God's gift of love to us, I wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas! May you be blessed to know the love that flows from the Father that would cause Him to send His Son for you. May you experience the peace promised by the angels as they announced the birth of the One who would make peace between God and fallen humanity. Rejoice, for Christ, the Savior is born! As the hope of the nations has been revealed in the birth of Jesus, who would undo the curse of sin and open the doors of heaven for us, may you also find tremendous hope for all eternity. May your gatherings be filled with the joy that comes from the reason for the season, the birth of Jesus Christ as our Savior. Blessings to you, and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Yours in CHRIST, Pastor Kirk Clayton

Membership Changes

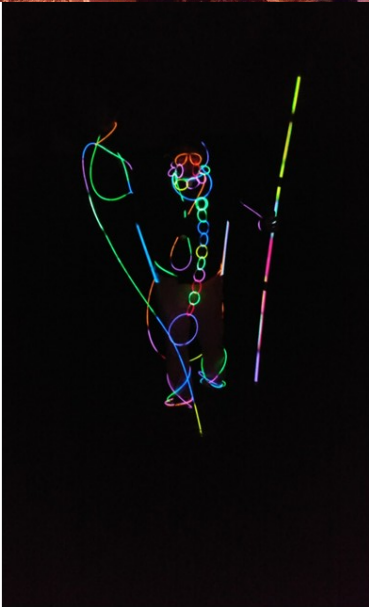
Baptisms:

**Rose Hatcher
Sven Peterson**

Adult Confirmands:

**Ashton Dunn Alex Farmer Hayden Farmer
Kayla Hollenkamp Joanna Matthews
Sharon Morris Trent Morris
Ian Robinson Isaac Robinson**

Youth bonfire on November 9th.



Sem. Don Stein covered in glow sticks at the youth bonfire.



CHOIR NEWS & NOTES

The choir will rehearse at 6:00 PM during Advent. We will sing at various Sunday morning, Wednesday evening, and special Christmas Eve/Christmas services. As we close out 2019, we want to recognize that this year was the centennial of the birth of Lutheran composer Paul Manz. In honor of this fact, one of the last choral pieces of the year will be Paul Manz's setting of "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came."



*Please join us on
Saturday,
December 7th at
10:00 AM to
decorate Zion for
the Christmas
season.
All help is
welcomed!*



Christian-themed Calendars
and Christmas Cards



The Ladies Aid has beautiful Christian-themed 2020 calendars for sale. We have a limited number, so they may go fast! They are \$6 each.

We also have a wide variety of Christmas Cards for sale at very reasonable prices. See the table in the hall outside the office to shop. See Candy or Glenda to pay.



#1 holiday hack:

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile), Amazon donates.



The holidays are approaching and you will be busy shopping for gifts, decorations, and more. By shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile), Zion Lutheran Church can increase its AmazonSmile donations. Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to Zion Lutheran Church when you do your holiday shopping at Amazon!

PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE

The Steins are happy to invite you all to the parsonage to give back one small piece of the generosity they have received from Zion. We are holding an open house on Saturday, December 14th, from 4 pm to 8 pm. You and your family are welcome to come and bring a friend. There will be many sweets, some savory options, Christmas music sheets on a piano and choral music playing on the television. Seminarian Stein would also like to see you all in your ugliest Christmas sweaters.



Youth Group meeting minutes from October 27th.

Theme of Meal: Lumpias!

Current Schedule for the Upcoming Year:

- Jan. 11: Christmas Party/ White Elephant Sale
- Feb. 15: Prom Dress Sale
- Mar. 7: Puzzle Night



Today we voted on our fundraiser!

We are buying 50 boxes of World's Finest chocolate bars to sell! We need as much help as possible to sell all of these for the best profit so try and pitch in!

Next Meeting is December 1st.



President's Page

Greetings All. As we draw near to the end of the year, it's nice to look back and see how blessed we were as a congregation this year. The Church building is officially paid off and is a wonderful testament to everyone who help build it and then support the congregation all of these years. We also have the wonderful opportunity to also pay off the organ as well by the end of the year, allowing us to enter the new year debt free and able to use those resources for good causes and the work of the Church. In addition to the financial good fortunes that we have seen this year, we have also seen tremendous growth as a congregation. We have a wonderful group of people in our Church and hopefully we all continue working with and for each other to continue spreading God's Word and Works. I would like to say thank you to all of the outgoing officers for their service and time this year in making this such a successful year. I also appreciate everyone who has agreed to run for the open positions for next year. The December Voter's Meeting is set for Thursday, December 12 at 7 pm in the Church Basement. We will be electing the new officers and approving the budget for next year. I hope to see everyone there.

Thank you again for a Blessed year and I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas season.

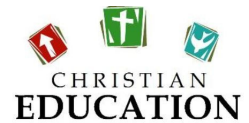
Bob Walter

Board of Education

As 2019 comes to a close, the Board of Education would like to thank all those who have made another year of events possible. From preparations, moral support, elbow grease and hard work, to heavy lifting and decorating, we thank all of you for your gifts and talents.

We also thank all those who have helped support and grow our Christian Education opportunities at Zion. We appreciate and welcome all efforts to attract more and more members (and non-members) to participate in the quality classes we offer for spiritual growth.

Your servant in Christ,
Alicia Suedmeyer



Church Mice



November is already gone and what a fun-packed month it was. Amy and I had the opportunity to talk with our parents as we held parent/teacher conferences this month. It was a great time for us to exchange information about our preschoolers and the progress we are witnessing. We had a wonderful time at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner where we served over 225 preschool family members. The children did a great job singing seasonal songs for their families while wearing Pilgrim and Native American headgear and vests that we made. A big THANK YOU to Sue Kandler and her helpers who cooked and prepared the turkeys, dressing, and gravy. Another big THANK YOU to the Board of Education and congregation members who served the dinner, to Mark Krausz who transported borrowed chairs, and our parents who helped set up before and put things away afterward.

December is always a short month, but packed full of learning. Ask any of our preschoolers what Christmas is about and they will happily tell you that "It's Jesus' birthday"! We will celebrate Christmas by sharing the Christmas message with our families. Parents are invited to join us as always for Jesus Time where they will sing songs and Pastor Clayton will read *Listen and Cheer*, and interactive story about Jesus' birth.

Our last day of school will be Friday, December 20. School will resume on Monday, January 6.

We wish everyone a blessed, happy, and safe Christmas holiday as you and your family celebrate the birth of our Savior. We look forward to seeing all of our students again in January.

In His Service, Marlene Lockwood, Director



Elders Corner



This Echo article section from the Elders will be giving an update on some new opportunities that we will be helping organize for the church in the means of having remote Bible studies, devotions, or just small group meetings to encourage one another through ones computer or smart phone.

This will not be replacing Bible studies or other activities that are currently held at the church, but as a means to supplement those with a means for church members to connect, build relationships, and stay plugged into God's Word throughout everyone's busy lives away from our gathering at church.

There are several technologies and apps out there that support these endeavors. We are currently looking at utilizing an app called Zoom. Zoom is a free app that can provide audio and video meeting for up to 50 people on one meeting. Zoom is accessible and works on iOS, Android, Windows, and Mac platforms. It is fairly simple and many people including myself currently use it at their work for video conferences with multiple offices. There is a limit to 40 minutes of meeting time with this free app. Whichever church member is the host for the meeting, would send out a meeting invite thru the Zoom app (this could be done via email and or text). The meetings could be audio only for group discussions or video based discussions. The host could share their screen, if they had a Bible passage, Bible lesson, or even Bible study video playing on their phone or computer that they wanted the rest of the group to be able to see.

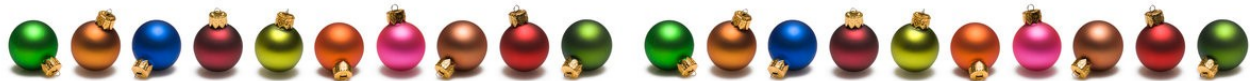
Anyone that might be interested would simply need to have a smart phone or computer and need an email address. The host of any meetings would need email addresses and smart phone numbers of all of those who wanted to partake in the group meetings.

The Elders see these as endless opportunities for connection of church members outside of church. This could possibly be an opportunity for a 5 to 15 minute quick Bible study or prayer/accountability groups once a week at the end of the day after kids are in bed, ½ hour bible study in the morning before the day gets started, or video studies of endless topics rooted in God's Word with the group getting together on Zoom to discuss.

If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please see myself to discuss. We could demonstrate how to use Zoom.

If you are interested in forming a group (singles, retired, young parents, youth, men's, women's, etc. or even utilize by some existing church groups as means for meeting) please see your Elder to help get this organized and announced to the church.

Matt Sink, Elder



As we head into December, our kids are already working on the annual Christmas Program. Practice takes place at the church on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM, with a practice on Saturday, December 14 at 10AM before the Happy Birthday Jesus Party which is also being held at the church. There will be a final practice the day of the program on Sunday, December 15. Practice is at 8:45 AM and the Christmas Program and service is at 10 AM. With lots going on this Christmas Season we look forward to seeing your kids at practice and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.



Items donated to the seminary by some Zion members. The Seminary ALWAYS needs baby items, diapers, wipes, food, etc.



LADIES AID CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us on Thursday, Dec 19, for our annual Christmas party and potluck (side dishes only, meat will be furnished). We eat at 6:00 and then will have a short program.

NOTE: We are not doing the \$5 gift exchange this year, but rather bringing several items for the Mascoutah Food Pantry. If you have a Secret Pal, that gift may be brought also.

We will take a special collection for Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School.

It's a fun and special evening. Plan to attend. See Glenda for more details.

***BABYSITTING will be provided.

Zion's 140 Anniversary Cookbooks – Great Gift Idea!

REDUCED PRICE! ONLY \$10 EACH!

Zion has added many new members in the past eleven years. Get to know the members by their submitted recipes! Have you looked through our cookbook? It contains more than 475 recipes, as well as some history about Zion and some fun entries as well. Don't forget our wonderful cookbooks as you look over your Christmas list. They make great gifts!

Christmas Carolers Needed!!!

Would you like to bring the sounds of the season to those who need to hear the joyous message of God's love to them in the Christ Child? Would you like to enjoy the fellowship and fun of a potluck with brothers and sisters in Christ? If so, please join us as we meet at church at 4:30 PM on Sunday, December 8th. After we have made the rounds of caroling, we will return to the church for fellowship and a potluck supper.

Please bring a dish from the below list according to your last name:

A-J Salad/Vegetable K-Q Dessert R-Z Main Dish

WHAT: Christmas Caroling and Potluck.

WHEN: Sunday, December 8th at 4:30 PM.

WHERE: Meet in the church kitchen to carpool to caroling sites.



Secret Pals

Secret Pal Program

Would you like to have a Secret Pal at Zion? Have you noticed gifts mysteriously appearing at church? Zion's Ladies Aid/LWML members have had secret pals for the past few years and have enjoyed it so much. This program is offered to any member of Zion who wishes to participate. You will receive a slip of paper on which to write your name, favorites, etc., from Glenda Pike. See Glenda by Sunday, December 8th, to get details and/or sign up. On December 15th and 22nd, we will draw Secret Pal names. You are to pray for this person and can send cards, leave cards, or small gifts at church during the year. Names are revealed next December.

Stewardship

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, is teaching those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. This is because worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and to what we're devoted. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument.

Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you when you are worth more than they are?

For you know that you are worth more than them. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No!

He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserve because of it. He was raised again on the third day to overcome sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about this and find security in it, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that God – who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son, and sanctifies you by His Spirit – will not keep His promises of sustaining you in this life.

Jesus says this: Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need – food and clothing, house and home, etc. – and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. Those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

??? Who Do I Contact ???

ADULT NEW MEMBER/INSTRUCTION

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

ALTAR GUILD

Beth Twenhafel 618-660-8872

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Alicia Suedmeyer 944-9631
Christa Sink 618-670-7844
Marianne McDaniel 618-789-1602

CHURCH BUSINESS

President — Bob Walter 593-6973
V. President — Torri Suedmeyer 618-944-9631

EVANGELISM QUESTIONS

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

FINANCE BD./ENVELOPES ETC.

Sharon Weier 618-660-7815
Ken Knutson 618-566-8350
Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

WELCOME COMMITTEE

Lionel Timmerman 806-8993

LADIES AID/LWML

Pinky Ahner 698-0555

MEN'S CLUB

Ray Kemezys 624-6625
Joe Crismon 270-762-6618

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

MUSIC

Choir - Josh & Nancy Peterson 566-7375

PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer requests - Contact Church Office
To be added to prayer chain contact
Marlene Lockwood 566-4597

PRESCHOOL

Director - Marlene Lockwood 566-4597

SENIOR YOUTH

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

SOCIAL MINISTRY QUESTIONS

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

SPIRITUAL CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

Elders—

A-G: Mark Krausz 618-588-4917

H-L: Ray Kemezys 624-6625

M-R: Matt Sink 618-567-5267

S-Z: Tony Lara 618-530-8886

STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

Ray Kemezys 624-6625

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent— Robert Corey

618-581-1394

Assistant Superintendent—Emily Stein

815-979-7637

THRIVENT

Eldon Ahner 588-4215

Lionel Timmerman 806-8993

Glenda Pike 806-3656

TRUSTEES/BLDG. MAINTENANCE

Trustees@ZionMascoutah.com

Mike Segelhorst 314-956-5332

Mike Ganey 618-779-4348

Andy Sax 618-530-7294

Cheryl Sax 618-806-7290

WORSHIP QUESTIONS

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306



December 1

"Enough with the Self-Talk"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We are not always who we say we are. What you say to yourself about yourself may or may not be what's true. Dr. Michael Zeigler says, "Enough with the self-talk!" Who does God say you are? You'll find that you are worse than you thought, and yet, more loved than you could ever imagine.

(Luke 18:9-14)

December 8

"God's Yes"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Loved and Sent Series - "If we say that God's purpose is simply to take our souls to heaven when we die, we might miss God's bigger 'yes' ... God's 'yes' to putting bodies and souls back together again in the resurrection; God's 'yes' to creation as He intended it to be."

(Romans 8:18-39)

December 15

"Love Is Enough"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Loved and Sent Series - God shows us a different kind of love. It's love for the world that is not of this world, love that is focused outward, love that gives without requiring anything in return.

(Matthew 22:35-40)

December 22

"Christmas"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

(Matthew 1:18-25)

December 29

"Dreams"

Guest Speaker: Pastor John Nunes

(Jeremiah 23:24)



Mascoutah Food Pantry
items needed for December

Oil, Mandarin Oranges, Applesauce,
Hot Chocolate, Canned Spinach,
Pineapple, Sugar



Birthdays

- 12/01 Randy Schorfheide
- 12/05 Ryan Heck
- 12/05 Ian Robinson
- 12/06 Pat Meier
- 12/06 Anna Pannier
- 12/07 Blake Rowold
- 12/14 Lisa Wehmeyer
- 12/16 Nicole Roehrig
- 12/17 Laurie Fournie
- 12/18 David Hinrichs
- 12/20 Heston Sink
- 12/22 Carl Sherrill
- 12/24 Andrew Hosler
- 12/26 Ruth Rincker
- 12/28 Alexander Allen
- 12/30 Kathleen Eldridge
- 12/31 Rosemary Peterson



its the most
DECEMBER
wonderful time of the year

Wedding Anniversaries

- 12/16 Tom & Deb Heck
- 12/17 Ken & Gail Frey
- 12/23 Karl & Barbara Bretz
- 12/27 Lionel & Lita Timmerman
- 12/29 Terry & Beth Twenhafel



Flowers for December

- 1
- 8
- 15
- 22 Timmermans', for their anniversary.
- 29 Stangle/Kniepkamp

Flowers needed!

Special Music for December

- 1 Ashlee Eatherton
- 15 Christian Drinnon
- 29 Cecily Peterson



Baptismal Anniversaries

- 12/01 Matt Krausz
- 12/02 Rainer Bretz
- 12/02 William Bretz
- 12/02 Andy Sax
- 12/03 Erin Beville
- 12/03 Isaiah Clayton
- 12/03 Pastor Kirk Clayton
- 12/03 David Hatcher
- 12/03 Jadon Lorton
- 12/06 Lily McDaniel
- 12/06 Dan Morra
- 12/07 Marion Kneschke
- 12/09 Katie Crismon
- 12/11 Melissa Kohnen
- 12/15 Stefan Drinnon
- 12/16 Jennifer Hosler
- 12/16 Jacob McDaniel
- 12/16 Nick McDaniel
- 12/16 Ray McDaniel
- 12/18 Marlene Lockwood
- 12/20 Ryan Heck
- 12/21 Nathan Stangle
- 12/25 Robyn Rakers
- 12/26 Sophia Bretz
- 12/27 Lisa Wehmeyer
- 12/29 Sherrie Knutson
- 12/29 Eliza Timmerman
- 12/30 Mia Simon
- 12/31 Sadie Orr
- 12/31 Jennifer Rueter
- 12/31 Joseph Rueter IV



Altar Guild Schedule
for December

- 8 Gail Frey
- 22 Linda Hoskins
- 25 Beth Twenhafel
- 29 Jenny Kneschke
- 31 Gail Frey

Merry Christmas
May your days be merry and bright with the light of God's love.

LWML ~ December 19

Christmas Potluck — 6:00 PM
(meat will be furnished)

Secret Pals revealed

Senior ladies gift donations

***Please bring several items for Mascoutah Food Pantry.**

***Babysitting will be provided.**

***No \$5 gifts this year.**

Program Committee: Pinky Ahner

Hostesses: Candy Andres, Glenda Pike, & Kim Drinnon

**Council Meeting Minutes
Zion Lutheran Church
November 7, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Attendance: Pastor Clayton, Bob Walter, Torri Suedmeyer, Terry Twenhafel, Ken Knutson, Ray Kemezys, Alicia Suedmeyer, Mike Segelhorst, Jean Kemezys

Opening prayer and devotion by Pastor Clayton.

Approval of October Council minutes (by email) – **MMSP** to approve minutes.

Pastor's report:

- Official Acts: Funeral Service of Dolly Browder (at Moll Funeral Home) October 5, 2019
Baptism of Beatrice Lockwood, October 20, 2019

- The Numbers: Visits: 49 (40 members and 9 non-members)
Congregational Meetings and Activities: 23
Circuit/District/Synod Events: 27
Community Contacts: 10

Treasurer's report:

- First Federal Savings Bank: \$49,910.07
- Edward Jones: \$102,498.58
- General Fund: \$6,532.30

MMSP to accept Treasurer's report.

Financial Secretary's report:

- Budget YTD: \$250,733.00
- Actual YTD: \$246,220.41

Elder's report:

- Elder of the month for November is Matt Sink and bell ringer is Mark Krausz.
- Council recommends and approves purchasing a new laptop computer for Pastor Clayton.
- Recommend adding yearly organ and piano tuning (\$1200-1500) as a budgeted line item.
- Members Needs Fund – fundraiser potluck to be held Sunday, November 10.
- Recommend increasing the Music Director salary by \$2000.
- Recommend increasing the music budget from \$750 to \$1000.
- Discussion of salary vs. stipend in Music Director contract. Council recommends to Voters to change the Music Director's contract to use the word salary rather than stipend.

Board of Education report:

● **Preschool:**

- Held open house and art show.
- Children went pumpkin picking.
- Parent/Teacher conferences scheduled for November 7 & 8.
- Thanksgiving Dinner will be November 19.
- Proposing increase of Preschool tuition 3% next year.

● **Sunday School:**

- October attendance: Adult class 118, High School 33, Pre-K to 8th grade 163
- Offerings: \$187.24
- Checking account balance: \$1365.00

Continued on next page

•Youth Group:

- Meeting this month was cooking with Lita.
- Decided to do candy bar fundraiser again.
- November meeting on November 9 is a bonfire.
- Discussed money from Lemke estate for missions in town.
- Bob and Karen Eldridge have resigned as youth group leaders. Carrie Kunkel has been handling checkbook for youth group and she has also resigned. Board of Ed will take over the checkbook and are looking for new youth group leaders.
- College mailings went out.

Trustee's report:

- Parsonage & A/C fence projects: Parsonage fence has been installed. A/C fence scheduled for Nov. 8.
- Keyless entry system is installed. Software representative will come to do training on the system. We still need to install an outlet for the controller. We can issue PINs or download an app and get in through Bluetooth on your phone. Hopefully within next week or two will have that up and running.
- Preschool received notice it's time to renew radon testing to meet state regulations. Will schedule this in near future.
- Automatic door opener. Have gotten three bids to have an automatic door opener installed on the right hand main entrance and foyer doors, with wall mounted push pad for interior door and post and push pad for outer main entrance door. Will discuss at next Council meeting and be ready to make a recommendation to Voters at December meeting.
- Recommend putting door closers on interior gym doors.
- Looking at purchasing new projector for social hall downstairs. Currently checking on funding for this.

President's report:

- Strategic Planning committee: Meeting scheduled for November 18. Subcommittee looking at education goals, needs, wants. Geoff Phillips has been heading that, looking at possible Preschool expansion as well as other options. Hope to have info by end of year to give to Council. Also looking at long range goals 5 – 10 years out.
- Ruth Knipp estate - Estate documents were recently received and we will be discussing tithing off the estate proceeds.
- Secretary review still needs to be done. Will be scheduling it soon.
- Council recommends and approves purchasing a new computer for the church secretary's office.

New Business:

- Jenna Dunn has requested to become a voting member. MMSP to approve.
- Ruth Knipp Estate proceeds - \$36,549.05.
- Organ loan balance should be approx. \$27,000 by end of 2019.
- Council recommends to Voters to approve using proceeds from the Ruth Knipp Estate Memorial to pay off the remaining balance on the organ loan. MMSP to make recommendation to Voters at December meeting.
- Reviewed preliminary 2020 budget to present at December Voters' meeting.

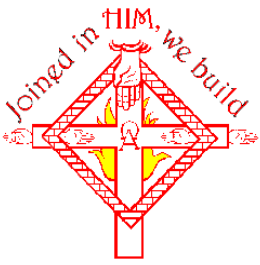
December Council meeting – Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

December Voter's meeting – Thursday, December 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

MMSP to adjourn.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Kemezys



Zion Lutheran Church
101 S. Railway
Mascoutah, IL 62258

Address Service Requested

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday 10:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday 8:45 to 9:45 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 8:45 to 9:45 AM

Worship Topics This Month

December 1 — First Sunday in Advent — Matthew 21:1-9 — “Drawing Near”

**December 4 — First Advent Midweek Service — Matthew 1:18-25
— “Righteousness Born...Received by Faith”**

December 8 — Second Sunday in Advent — Luke 21:25-36 — “Fig Leaves”

**December 11 — Second Advent Midweek Service — Luke 2:1-14
— “Righteousness Born...Unto You”**

**December 15 — Third Sunday in Advent — Special Readings
— Children’s Christmas Program — “God Keeps His Promises”**

**December 18 — Third Advent Midweek Service — Luke 2:22-40
— “Righteousness Born...to Redeem Us”**

**December 22 — Fourth Sunday in Advent — John 1:19-28
— “What Do You Say about Yourself?”**

December 24 — The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord — Service of Lessons and Carols

December 25 — The Nativity of Our Lord — John 1:1-18 — “He Dwells Among Us”

**December 29 — First Sunday after Christmas — Luke 2:22-40
— “The Lives of Simeon and Anna”**

**December 31 — Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus
— Pastor Drinnon to Preach**

Please join us in worship to hear more about the Good News!