

**ZION  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH &  
PRESCHOOL**



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**ECHO**

**101 South Railway  
Mascoutah, IL 62258**

**VACANCY PASTOR:**

- Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer  
Email: jeffhemmer@gmail.com or  
Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org

**MUSIC DIRECTORS:**

- Josh & Nancy Peterson

**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:**

- Vikki Harms  
Email: zionpreschool  
director2020@gmail.com

**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, X, and Instagram



**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".

## *Humor*

### *Bulletin Bloopers*

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery down stairs.

Thursday night: Potluck Supper - Prayer and medication will follow.

## *From the Pastor*

### **Lutheran Normal**

Be careful how you read that title. It doesn't say "Lutheran is normal." Because it's not. This Lutheran confession of the faith is super weird (you can say "peculiar," if you want, but let's call a spade a spade). It's super weird to believe that salvation is completely God's work without any assistance or input from man. It's super weird to believe that God delivers His saving work through very tangible means, like water, word, bread, and wine. The liturgy is weird. Vestments are weird. A lectionary is weird. Singing and chanting are weird. Ordering our lives around the annual retelling of the life of Jesus is weird. It's all weird and out of sync with the rest of our lives.

And, in a world where anxiety, depression, vain ambition, selfishness, lust, greed, pride, and more are normal, I'm ok with being weird. To paraphrase Jesus, "If the world thinks you're weird, know that it thought I was weird before you. If you were normal to the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not normal to the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world thinks you're weird" (John 15:18-19, a paraphrase).

It should be normal to be this weird. Everyone should be Lutheran. In no other Christian confession can you have absolute certainty of your salvation. It's all God's work. He gives faith. He works through external means to save. He baptizes. He absolves. He feeds with the Body and Blood of Jesus.

*Continued from page 1.*

I recently told Zion's catechumens that the Small Catechism's explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed exposes three common lies in popular Christianity. Against the lie that faith is my own work, some exercise of my will, the Catechism says "I believe I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ...but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith."

Against the lie that the goal of the Church is to make us good people, the Catechism says "In this Christian Church, He daily and richly forgives my sins and the sins of all believers." Good people don't need forgiveness. Who does? You know. The Church is only for sinners. And against the lie that the goal of this life is to die and go to heaven, the Catechism teaches, "On the last day, He will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

You should believe that. You should confess that. You should be Lutheran, even if—maybe *because*—it's weird.

So what is *normal* for Lutherans then? It's easy to become myopic and think that our experience of Lutheranism must be normal. Or is it? Let's revisit a bit of the Augsburg Confession I quoted in the October Echo. The Augsburg Confession is baseline, normal Lutheranism. In fact, it's so foundational that many congregations put the letters "UAC" in their building's cornerstone. That stands for the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

Recall these phrases, "The Mass is held among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved" (AC XXIV 1), and "Masses are celebrated among us every Lord's Day and on the other festivals. The Sacrament is offered to those who wish to use it, after they have been examined and absolved. And all the usual public ceremonies are observed, the series of lessons, of prayers, vestments, and other such things" (Apology XXIV 1).

In other words, when accused of doing something novel, the first generation of Lutherans said, "No, what we're doing is what the Church has always done. Here's our normal baseline: The Sacrament every Lord's Day (and other festivals), the lectionary, the liturgy, vestments, and more. And all with reverence."

We are not innovators. And the Church is built around no one's personal preferences. *Tradition* is a word from Latin means to hand something over. We receive what we've been given. In every age, what's normal in the church, has been weird, foreign, in the eyes of the world.

The earliest histories of the worship practice of the Church show a two-part service, not unlike our Divine Service. One part a service of the Word; another part the celebration of the Lord's Supper. That continued unbroken until the time of the Reformation, such that the Lutherans could say "Falsely are we accused of abolishing the Mass; the Lord's Supper is offered every Lord's Day."

Is that still the case today? Obviously not, and the question of how often the Lord's Supper should be offered has been a point of contention in Zion's recent history. And not just here. Congregations across the Synod have been asking the question, If our practice can't be described by the Lutheran confessions as "normal," why not? And a move to restore the Lord's Supper to "every Lord's Day and on other festivals" has taken hold across our church body. Though such statistics aren't kept at the Synod level, a Lutheran demographer who conducts an annual survey of Lutherans estimates that about 85% of LCMS congregations now offer the Sacrament of the Altar at least weekly. What was once normal is for most confessional Lutherans in America is becoming normal again.

But that doesn't make it any less weird. Just normal.

In Christ's Service and Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pastor Hemmer". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Pastor" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Hemmer".



## Youth Group News

The youth group did not have a meeting in December, but we are excitedly looking forward to our upcoming Christmas meeting in January, where we will celebrate the season together. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that our formal dress sale is coming up soon, offering a great opportunity for people to find the perfect attire for upcoming events. We look forward to seeing everyone at both the meeting and the sale.

## CHOIR NEWS

Thank you, choirs, bell ringers, and instrumentalists, for the beautiful music this Advent and Christmas! Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, January 8. New singers and ringers are always welcome!

Zion Music Academy is gearing up for another semester of private music lessons! We have openings available for new students. We encourage you to check out our website at [zionmusicacademy.com](http://zionmusicacademy.com) to learn about our teachers or to register. You are also welcome to talk to Cary Robinson or Nancy Peterson for more information.

### Membership Changes

**Baptisms:**

**Transfer Out:**

# Board of Ed

Happy New Year! We had a busy year in 2024, and we plan to make 2025 even better. The first couple things we need to focus on are the Easter Egg Hunt and Vacation Bible School. We're looking for volunteers to lead VBS. Believe it or not, VBS takes a lot of pre-planning, so we can identify the curriculum and schedule the dates. And of course, we'll need lots of volunteers to help! We would like to have the leader position filled by February. Please consider volunteering to lead or assist with VBS. If you're interested, please contact Cary Robinson or Bob Eldridge.



December is always a short month for us. This year was no exception. We packed our days with fun-filled activities getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday. We sang songs telling the story of Jesus' birth. We even had an exciting Christmas Spirit Week again this year! We had Mistle-Toes Monday, Treetopper Tuesday, What not to Wear Wednesday, and Flannel Fun Thursday. We ended our Spirit week with our Virtual Christmas Program. Pastor Hemmer had a special Jesus Time lesson where the children once again participated in telling the Christmas story.

Our second semester will begin on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Please continue to pray for the health and safety of our preschool children, families, and staff.

God's blessings for a safe and peaceful 2025.

Vikki Harms

Preschool Director



# Elders Corner

Happy New Year to all. Wishing all a safe, healthy, and prosperous year, with our Lord's grace.

I wish to thank all the officers and board members that have completed their terms. Thank you for your hard work and commitment for the term you served. Also, I welcome all the new members who are beginning their terms.

To the members of the Call Committee, thank you for the work you are doing. The Elders preach patience as the call process moves along. I know we are all anxious to call our new Pastor, but it takes time for all the work to be done, and I have great faith in the people on the committee getting it done.

If there is anything the Elders can do for you, please let us know and we will do our best to help.

Your friend in Christ,  
Ray Kemezys



## Thrivent Choice

**PLEASE READ:** If you are a Thrivent client who receives FREE money through the Thrivent Choice program, PLEASE ensure you designate your monies before the end of the January. Zion has at least 35 members receiving free monies. This does not cost you **ANYTHING!** Zion Lutheran Church and Zion Preschool are two eligible choices that would appreciate the funds, but there are many others you might choose to select.

The process is easy! If you have any questions, please talk to Glenda or Lionel.

**BY PHONE:** Call 1-800-847-4836 and say Thrivent Choice. Say or enter your Social Security number; press ONE to direct Choice Dollars. A representative will then help you complete the process.

**ONLINE:** Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Click on login and enter your user ID and password. Look for your designated Choice Dollars amount on right side of screen. Click on Direct Choice Dollars and search the catalog of organizations or type in Mascoutah for the two local choices. Click on Direct Choice Dollars Now to direct them.

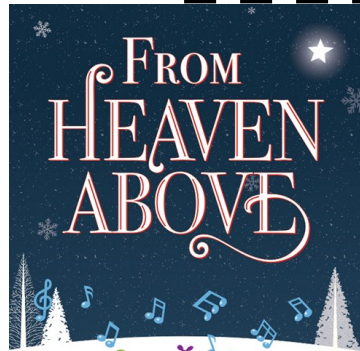


# Children's Christmas Program

December 15, 2024







A Children's Christmas Service





## *Repenting of “Feasts that Know No Fast”*

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December's celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

“Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ...” This hits us hard, doesn't it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

“For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ...” In “The Parable of the Sower,” we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul.

But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn't take its corporate responsibility seriously?

“For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal.” This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.



# ??? Who Do I Contact ???

## **ADULT NEW MEMBER/INSTRUCTION**

Pastor Hemmer 618-946-6465

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Lita Timmerman 618-806-2617

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Bob Eldridge 618-566-4841

Cary Robinson 618-420-7276

## **BOARD OF FINANCE**

Cheryl Sax 618-806-7290

Deb Heck 618-792-0723

Ken Frey 618-566-7294

## **CHURCH BUSINESS**

President — Jon Robinson 618-420-6978

V. President — Randy Thomsen 571-550-1046

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Pastor Hemmer 618-946-6465

## **EVANGELISM QUESTIONS**

Bessie Fick 515-230-9937

Dale Wehmeyer, Elder 618-566-8114

## **LADIES AID/LWML**

Pinky Ahner 618-698-0555

## **MEN'S CLUB**

Ray Kemezys 618-971-8691

Joe Crismon 270-762-6618

## **MUSIC**

Choir/Organ- Josh & Nancy Peterson

618-973-8169

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

Prayer requests - Contact Church Office

To be added to prayer chain please

contact Pastor Hemmer at

Pastor @ZionMascoutah.org

## **PRESCHOOL**

Director - Vikki Harms 618-334-2261

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Kayla Hollenkamp 618-367-5177

kayla\_hollenkamp@hotmail.com

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY QUESTIONS**

Pastor Hemmer 618-946-6465

Geoff Phillips, Elder 618-978-2616

## **SPIRITUAL CONCERNS/QUESTIONS**

Pastor Hemmer 618-946-6465

## **Board of Elders:**

A-G: Ray Kemezys 618-971-8691

H-L: Geoff Phillips 618-978-2616

M-R: Dan Eads 618-623-2760

S-Z: Dale Wehmeyer 618-566-8114

## **STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS**

Ray Kemezys, Elder 618-971-8691

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Superintendent— Dawn Corey

619-995-2401

Assistant Superintendent—

Mark Krausz 618-588-4917

## **THRIVENT**

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

Glenda Pike 618-806-3656

## **TRUSTEES/BLDG. MAINTENANCE**

Trustees@ZionMascoutah.com

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

Andy Sax 618-530-7294

Gail Frey 618-806-7294

## **WORSHIP QUESTIONS**

Pastor Hemmer 618-946-6465

Dan Eads, Elder 618-623-2760

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Kris Huth 618-267-3951

Jen Lara 618-530-8827

Marianne McDaniel 618-789-1602

Rhea Sax 618-558-0515



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES  
[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

**January 5**

**"In the Beginning Was Dialogue"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Do you need more faith? Then you need the Word. Faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ. (John 1:1)

**January 12**

**"What's This Neighborhood Coming To?"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When you're not limited by the size of your table, you can invite everyone. (John 1:14)

**January 19**

**"He Made Me a Believer"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

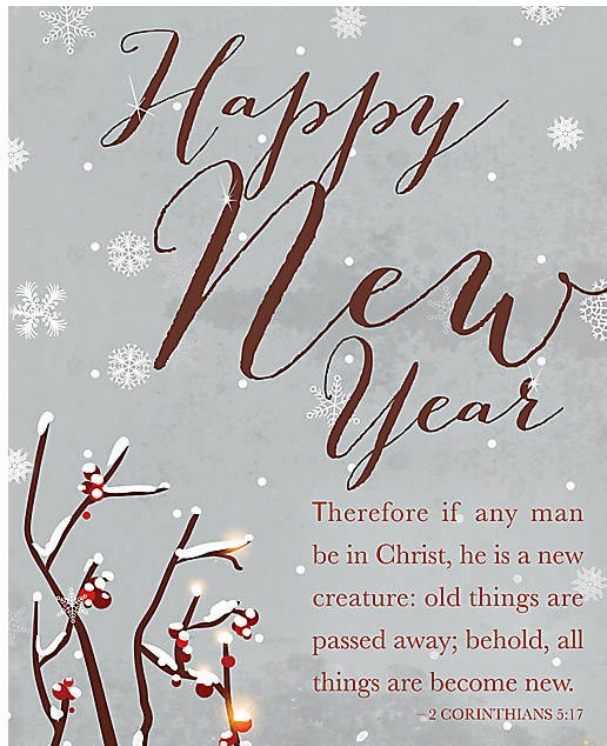
God makes us believers and the more we believe, the more we become involved in the institutions God made--church, marriage, family, and work. (John 2:11)

**January 26**

**"An Overture to the Greatest Story Ever Told"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez

Like an overture that introduces a great musical work, John the Baptizer is the living voice sent by God to bear witness to Jesus' lordship and salvation. (John 3:26-36)



# January

## Birthdays

01/02 Sarah Linn  
 01/04 Alicia Suedmeyer  
 01/05 William Huth  
 01/05 Abigail McDaniel  
 01/06 Chris Hatcher  
 01/06 Jessica Pettis  
 01/07 Elizabeth Bogue  
 01/08 Phoebe Corey  
 01/10 Shey Segelhorst  
 01/11 Adam Ahner  
 01/12 Kyrielle Corey  
 01/12 Callan Crismon  
 01/12 Bob Walter  
 01/13 Ted Ahner  
 01/14 Mackenzie Krausz  
 01/15 Gabriella Jeffries  
 01/15 Tony Timmerman  
 01/15 Cole Wambold  
 01/16 Rhiannon Corey  
 01/16 Makena Suedmeyer  
 01/17 Lauren Matthews  
 01/17 Torri Suedmeyer  
 01/18 Bailee Hollenkamp  
 01/19 Deb Heck  
 01/20 Reed Hollenkamp  
 01/20 Mark Manera  
 01/22 Jake Lara  
 01/22 Brad Lockwood  
 01/23 Lindsay Murphy  
 01/25 Lisa Rowold  
 01/26 Robert Corey  
 01/28 Bristol Sax  
 01/29 Kayla Hinton  
 01/29 David Hutchinson



## Wedding Anniversaries

01/02 Jerry & Karen Phillips  
 01/04 David & Jessica Hatcher  
 01/07 Ben & Penny Eatherton  
 01/24 Lawrence & Karen Hartstick

## Flowers for January

5

12 Kemezys family, in celebration of Callan Crismon's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday.

19 Peterson family, in memory of Annika Hope.

26 Hinton family, in celebration of Kayla's 18th birthday.

## Baptismal Anniversaries

01/01 Jenny Kneschke  
 01/04 Blake Rowold  
 01/07 Anna Pannier  
 01/10 Paul Bretz  
 01/10 Viktor Hatcher  
 01/12 Laurie Fournie  
 01/14 Melody Thomsen  
 01/14 Kennedy Yankey  
 01/14 Kinsley Yankey  
 01/15 Wyatt Bigley  
 01/18 Elizabeth Bogue  
 01/19 Andrew Hosler  
 01/19 Nicole Roehrig  
 01/20 Ruth Rincker  
 01/25 Roy Klingelhofer  
 01/25 Jake Lara  
 01/25 Robin Phillips  
 01/27 Ted Ahner  
 01/?? Bob Eldridge



## Altar Guild Schedule for January

5 Lita Timmerman  
 12 Lesley Eads  
 26 Mary Kay Krausz

HELLO  
*Winter*



**LWML MEETING**  
**JAN 16, 7 PM**

MAY YOU SHINE  
 THE LIGHT OF  
 CHRIST IN THE  
 NEW YEAR!



**Voter's Meeting Minutes**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**August 15, 2024**

Called to order at 6:59 p.m. (Mike Twenhafel)  
Opening prayer and devotion (Pastor Hemmer)  
Roll call: Quorum is present.

**MMSP** to approve April 11, 2024 Voter's meeting minutes

Presentation by Nancy Peterson on David's Harp Music Academy. David's Harp is an organization that helps LCMS churches establish parish-based music conservatories. David's Harp prints resources based on hymns and liturgy in the LSB and encourages congregations toward nurturing Christian musical instruction of their own members, while also reaching out into the community. Could possibly use money from the Music Equipment and Supplies Fund. **MMSP** to begin the David's Harp Music Academy program

**Board of Finance Report:** (Debbie Heck)

- Budget YTD: \$169,410.00
- Actual YTD: \$152,289.80

**Treasurer's Report:** (Laurie Fournie)

- First Federal Savings Bank: \$108,404.74
- First Federal Savings Bank – Money Market: \$40,220.45
- Edward Jones account: \$72,472.80
- General Fund: \$44,739.30
- **MMSP** to accept Treasurer's report.

**Board of Education Report:** (Linda Hoskins)

► **Preschool:**

- The 3-year-old class is full on Tuesday/Thursday with a few openings on Monday/Wednesday.
- The 4-year-old class has four openings.
- All staff from last year has returned.
- A new program has started: "Lunch Bunch" meetings on Tuesdays following Preschool from 11:45 to 2:00. Open to currently enrolled students. Each student brings their own lunch, and stays for fun time.
- The Preschool has officially received exempt licensing status through DCFS, and will need to be renewed every two years.

► **Sunday School:**

- Over \$700 has been collected in offerings since April.
- The Sunday School is in desperate need of a teacher for the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. Several volunteers have offered to cover the class on a rotating basis, but we need a permanent teacher, or perhaps 2 or 3 to split duties.

► **Youth group:**

- The Youth Group finally has adult directors! Marianne McDaniel, Kris Huth, Rhea Sax, and Jen Lara are splitting duties.
- The Youth Group has started annual sale of mums.
- They are making plans to go to Camp Wartburg for a teens course next month.

► **BOE:**

- We will be putting out a sign-up sheet to collect addresses of all our college students.
- Throughout the year, we will be mailing letters of encouragement and small gifts.
- Plans are being made for the Annual Fall Fest. Date and details to come.

*Continued from previous page.*

**Pastor's report:** (Pastor Hemmer)

- Baptism of Shiphrah and Puah Patterson on April 11, 2024.
- 3 hospital visits.
- 7 shut-in or members visits, most with Pastor Clayton.
- Conducted service at Brightly Senior Living.
- Attended 3 meetings.
- Confirmation begins September 8th following service. If children and parents are not able to make the class after service at Zion, they can go to Bethany on Wednesday for the same class.

**Board of Elders Report:** (Geoff Phillips)

- Welcome Pastor Hemmer.
- Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> we will combine Rally Sunday and Friendship Sunday. Potluck after church service.
- Call committee is being led by Jeff Fick and Lionel Timmerman. Congregational survey coming out soon. Ask for continued patience and prayers through the process.

**Trustees Report:** (Mark Hatcher)

- Ray Kunkel retiring as janitor after 25 years. Will have a certificate and gift for him. Two people interested in filling this position so far.
- Had water leak in Senior Youth room. Have some drywall to replace in that room, about the bottom four inches, which are a separate piece of drywall so easier to replace.
- Replaced security monitor in balcony.
- Power washed the building. Have some more power washing to do.
- Replaced 2 flushers for girl's restroom.
- 3 out of 4 smart boards are in place and functional.
- Light bulb above altar is burned out and will be replaced.

**President's Report:** (Mike Twenhafel)

- Replacing the church sign with a digital sign: Will get costs together to present and further discuss at December Voter's meeting.
- Updating bathrooms in the Preschool: Will begin working on what is needed to begin this project. Discussed forming a committee to begin exploring what all needs to be done and present at December Voter's meeting.
- Parsonage: Will look at what updates and cleaning all need to be done while it is empty. House moving: It won't get moved in September. The person moving it is running behind and will be giving Mike an ETA as soon as he can.
- If anyone knows of any items that need updating, etc. in the church, let a trustee or Mike know.
- Helping Hands has only had 1 person requesting service over the past year, so will transition this need to the Elders to be contacted if a member is in need of assistance.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Randy and Melody Thomsen have requested voting membership. MMSP to accept them as voting members.

Next Voter's meeting: Thursday December 12, 2024.

MMSP to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

In His service, Jean Kemezys

**Council Meeting Minutes  
Zion Lutheran Church  
December 5, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. (Jon Robinson)

Opening devotion and prayer by Pastor Hemmer.

Roll call: Laurie Fournie, Mark Hatcher, Pastor Hemmer, Linda Hoskins, Ray Kemezys, Jon Robinson, Mike Twenhafel, Jean Kemezys

November Council minutes approved by email

**Pastor's report:** (Pastor Hemmer)

- Duties have included:
  - 3 Divine services.
  - 4 catechesis sessions.
  - 1 session of private confession and absolution.
  - 6 sessions of Preschool Jesus time.
  - Spoke at Father-Son Retreat in Arkansas.
  - Several member visits including shut-in and hospital visits.
  - Pastor Hemmer will be gone on February 2, 2025 but has someone lined up to fill in.
  - Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols will be at 6:00 p.m. and Christmas Day service will be at 10:00 a.m.

**Board of Finance report:** (Laurie Fournie)

- Budget YTD: \$265,409.00
- Actual YTD: \$245,392.59

**Treasurer's report:** (Laurie Fournie)

- First Federal Savings Bank: \$128,182.25
- First Federal Savings Bank – Money Market: \$40,251.37
- Edward Jones account: \$72,472.80
- General Fund: \$57,077.20

MMSP to accept Treasurer's report.

**Board of Education report:** (Linda Hoskins)

► **Preschool:**

- Current bank balance \$56,171.32
- Staff will receive Christmas bonus of \$100 each.
- All parents attended parent teacher conferences in November.
- Christmas break is December 23 to January 2.
- Family Fun Night to be held in February, and Pay-A-Date fundraiser will be in March.
- Vikki reports the following needs: gym floor needs to be stripped and waxed. The last time this was done was in 2020. South classroom needs new window blinds. Due to size, they have to be custom made, cost around \$1,000.

► **Sunday School:**

- Mark Krausz has put his name in to be considered for Sunday School Asst. Superintendent.

► **Youth Group:**

- Puzzle night a big success. Youth wrote Christmas cards for flood victims in North Carolina, and sent winter coats.

► **BOE:**

- Gift cards and letters with Bible verses of encouragement were mailed to 6 college students.
- Board members are making up gift bags with oranges, candy, & craft ornament to be presented to the youth taking part in the Christmas program.
- Gail Frey has offered to fill the open position on the Board of Education.



*Continued from previous page.*

**Board of Elder's report:** (Ray Kemezys)

- No report.

**Board of Trustee's report:** (Mark Hatcher)

- Generator service call: Would crank but not start. Siebert Electric replaced the battery. Working reliably now.
- Grinder pumps (basement sewage pumps): Floats we installed last year aren't working, suspect sludge buildup. New sewage rated floats are in. We'll continue to run the pumps manually until we can install them.
- Sr. Youth room: Removed damaged sheetrock and cleaned basement moldings. Still need to do fresh sheetrock and baseboard work necessary.
- Finish Smart Boards: Conference room and Fellowship Hall boards are available for use as projectors. Need to test with a Windows laptop. Drawing function is not working for us.
- Church sign: No change. Estimates are in. Working on a sign demo.
- Routine Maintenance: Removed failing ballast from elevator mechanical room light. LED bulbs were installed at previous inspection because fixture does not have a cover. Replaced vacuum cleaner belt for Melissa. Replaced battery in chirping Preschool hall CO2 sensor. Parsonage is being checked regularly. Heat is on. Water is off.
- Priorities: Church office door lock. Security monitor in choir loft (no change) need to load software. Preschool girl's toilet – need to install additional flushometers & paint peeling stall door Re-tile stairway landings, starting with the balcony stairway.

**President's report:** (Mike Twenhafel)

- Gail Frey is getting an estimate for renovating the restrooms in the Preschool building.
- Concern raised about Christmas trees being placed in front of EXIT door. Will be looked into.

**Old Business:** Property update - house by church parking lot may be moved yet this year. Owner is waiting on estimate from Frontier to move lines to be able to move the house.

**New Business:** Discussed upcoming elections and members to run for open positions: Ken Frey for Board of Finance or Elder, Dale Wehmeyer for Elder, Mark Krausz for Sunday School Superintendent, Gail Frey for Trustee or Board of Education, Randy Thomsen for Vice President. Discussed proposed 2025 budget to be presented to Voters next week.

**MMSP** to extend meeting past 9:00 p.m.

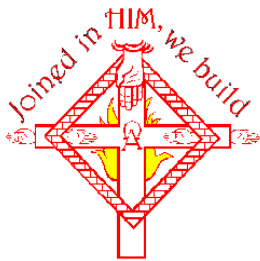
Voter's meeting December 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Council meeting January 9, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

**MMSP** to adjourn at 9:18 p.m.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

In His Service,  
Jean Kemezys



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**101 S. Railway**  
**Mascoutah, IL 62258**

**BIBLE STUDY**

Sunday 9:45 to 10:45 AM

**SUNDAY SCHOOL &  
YOUTH BIBLE CLASS**

Sunday 9:45 AM

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sunday 11:00 AM In-Person  
and on FaceBook

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Sunday 9:30 AM & 12:30 PM

**Address Service Requested**

**Worship Topics This Month**

**January 5 — Epiphany**

**January 12 — Baptism of Our Lord**

**January 19 — Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 26 — Third Sunday after Epiphany**

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