

**ZION  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH &  
PRESCHOOL**



**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

"Why did the melons have to get married in a church?"  
*Because they cantelope.*

"What do you call someone who falls ill on Valentine's Day?"  
*Lovesick.*

"What did the sheep say to his Valentine?"  
*I love ewe.*

## From the Pastor

### **Lutheran Worship Teaches Lutheran Theology or How to Become a Calvinist**

I've quoted before in these pages Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession—arguably the most foundational document in the Confessions for the Lutheran Church. "Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass. The Mass is held among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved" (AC XIV 1). What does that look like in practice?

Within the first generations after the beginning of the Reformation, many Lutherans were trying to fit in with some of the other reformers. Even Philip Melancthon, the author of the Augsburg Confession and a close friend and associate of Luther, would spend nearly the rest of his life altering the text of the Augsburg Confession until it was something his friend John Calvin could agree to.

Calvin is one of the reformers who thought the Lutherans didn't go far enough. In his estimation, to be free from all of Rome's false theology, all the rites and ceremonies of the Roman worship service had to be jettisoned.

In cities that became Calvinist, Lutheran ceremonies were prohibited. Dr. Joseph Herl, professor at Concordia University in Nebraska, records one such change. In 1616, Johann Georg, Margrave of Brandenburg, converted to Calvinism and sought to enforce Calvinism on his very Lutheran territory. To do, he ordered all practices which taught people Lutheran doctrine to be banned from the churches in Brandenburg. What changes did he demand?

*Continued from page 1.*

- All images are to be removed from the church and sent to the court.
- The stone altar is to be ripped from the ground and replaced with a wooden table.
- When the Lord's Supper is held, a white cloth covers the table.
- All altars, crucifixes and panels are to be completely abolished.
- Instead of the host, bread is to be baked into loaves, cut into strips, and put in a dish from which the people receive it in their hands; likewise the chalice is received by the people with their hands.
- The words of the Supper are no longer to be sung, but rather spoken.
- The golden chalice to be replaced by wooden.
- The prayer in the place of the collect is to be spoken, not sung.
- Mass vestments and other finery no longer used.
- No lamps or candles to be placed upon the altar.
- The houseling cloth is not to be held in front of the communicants.
- The people are not to bow as if Christ were present.
- The communicants shall no longer kneel.
- The sign of the cross after the benediction is to be discontinued.
- The priest is no longer to stand with his back to the people.
- The collect and Epistle no longer to be sung, but spoken.
- Individuals are no longer to go to confession before communing, but rather register with the priest in writing.
- The people are no longer to bow when the name of Jesus is mentioned, nor are they to remove their hats.
- The Our Father is no longer to be prayed aloud before the sermon, but rather there is to be silent prayer.
- Communion is not to be taken to the sick, as it is dangerous, especially in times of pestilence.
- The stone baptismal font is to be removed and a basin substituted.
- Epitaphs and crucifixes are no longer to be tolerated in the Church.
- The Holy Trinity is not to be depicted in any visual form.
- The words of the sacrament are to be altered and considered symbolic.
- The historic Epistles and Gospels no longer used, but rather a selection of the Bible by the minister, read without commentary.

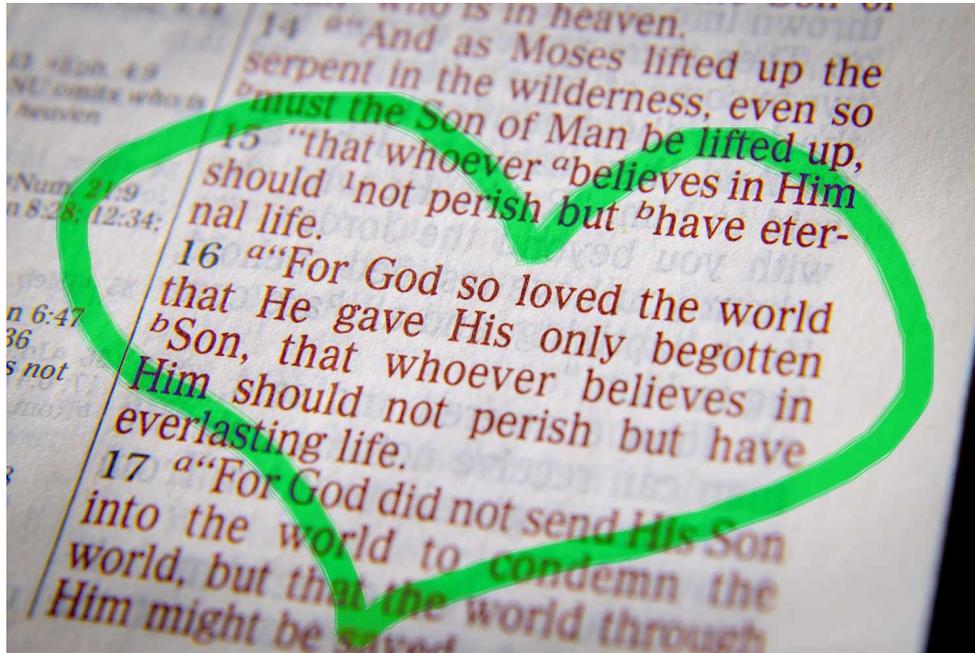
The Margrave knew what we often forget. These practices were impediments to his desire to implement Calvinist believing in his territory.

Lutheran practices teach Lutheran theology. And Lutheran theology begets Lutheran practices. In Latin, *Lex orandi lex credendi*, that is, the law of praying is the law of believing. Or, as you worship, so you believe.

In Christ's Service and Yours,

*Pastor Hemmer*



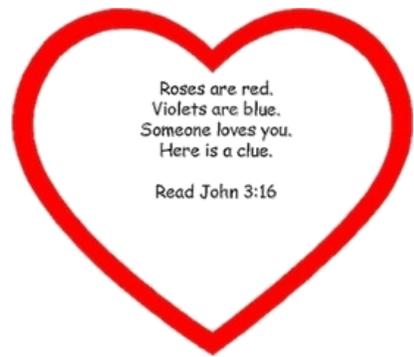
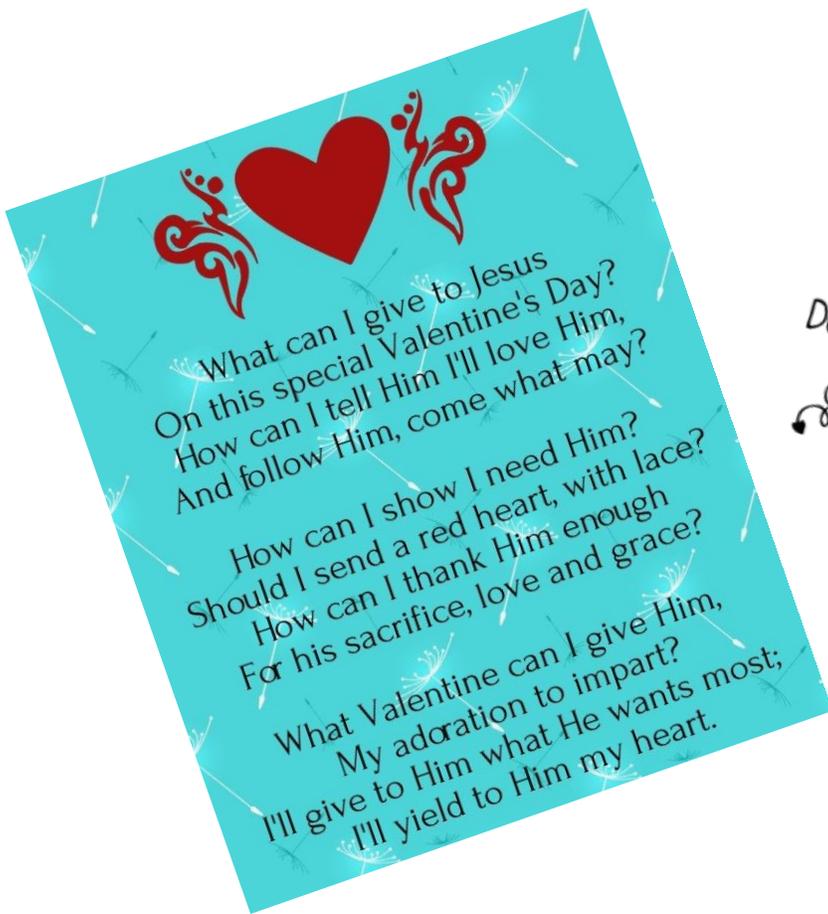


 **CHOIR NEWS** 

Choir schedule for February:  
February 2: Blest Be the God of Israel  
February 9: Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise  
February 16: Rock of Ages (Played by Hand Chimes)  
February 23: He Comes to Us as One Unknown

On February 9, Transfiguration Sunday, the Junior Confirmation class will introduce the congregation to LSB #415, "Jesus on the Mountain Peak." This wonderful hymn tells the story of Jesus' transfiguration. Our brass ensemble will also help us to bid a festive farewell to Alleluia, as we enter a more penitential season in the church year.

<u>Membership Changes</u>	
<b>Baptisms:</b>	<b>Transfer Out:</b>



Hello from Zion Preschool! 2025 is off to a great start! We started the year with a few snow days, but those are always fun!

During February we will talk about God's love for us and how we share that love with others as we exchange Valentines.

Jesus Time lessons with Pastor Hemmer will focus on the following... "Jesus Blesses the Children", "Jesus Teaches about Birds and Flowers", "Jesus Stops the Storm", and "Jesus Feeds 5,000".

We will also start Registration for the 2025-2026 school year this month. Priority registration will begin on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Priority registration is open to all current and past Zion Preschool families as well as all Zion Church families. Open registration for the public will begin on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. If you have a preschooler, you can contact me at [zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com](mailto:zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com) for more questions or check out our Facebook page!

God Bless,  
Vikki Harms  
Zion Preschool Director



## A Fresh Calendar

As we begin 2025 and affix a fresh calendar to the refrigerator door, take a moment to ponder the church calendar and how it keeps us focused on the different 'seasons' and major events of Jesus' life throughout the church year.

The seasons that make up the overarching 'Time of Christmas,' 'Time of Easter,' and 'Time of the Church' are filled with meaning, providing a rich canvas on which Christ's church builds its liturgy. The "Treasury of Daily Prayer" identifies three reasons for corporately following a church calendar: <sup>1, 2</sup>

1. A regular calendar is helpful to keep the remembrances before us. God directed the Israelites to observe a variety of memorials and feasts. In Exodus 12:14, referring to the Passover, we read, "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast." And again, in Luke 22:19, as He broke the bread and gave it to the apostles, Jesus commanded, "Do this in remembrance of Me." <sup>1, 2</sup>

2. The regularity of the holidays and celebrations provides teaching moments and opportunities to tell the Gospel. For example, consider how ashes on your forehead for Ash Wednesday might prompt a question from a curious friend or co-worker. Or how might the twelve days of Christmas (not just one) followed by Epiphany provide some context for a discussion with your children about Christ's first coming and what it means for His church? <sup>1, 2</sup>

3. A calendar of Christian events unites us with other Christians – past, present, and future. It is comforting to know that congregations around the world are, at the same time as you, following the same liturgy and commemorating Jesus' birth, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension just as you are. <sup>1, 2</sup>

So, please check out the links below and be on the lookout for the ways the church service changes throughout the year, especially in the colors, liturgy, readings, and hymnody.

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1. "The Seasons of the Church Year." Apr 4, 2022. Concordia Publishing House. <https://blog.cph.org/read/church-year>.
  2. "Treasury of Daily Prayer." 2008. Concordia Publishing House.



Sunday School would like to thank Anna Pannier for her two years of thankless service. We would also like to welcome Mark Krausz as Assistant Superintendent.

The children will practice singing songs about love during Sunday School in preparation to go to Brightly Senior Living Center on February 9th to share Jesus' Love for

us with the residents of Brightly. We will also be making a craft to share with the residents.

I thank you for sharing your children with the Sunday School staff each Sunday morning. We enjoy their smiling faces and their enthusiasm to learn about Jesus.

Dawn Corey, Sunday School Superintendent

FEEL  
YOUR  
JOY



# stewardship

## “Christ’s Life, and Love, and Light”

Open our eyes Lord to see Your love’s intent,  
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height  
May thankfulness be days in service spent  
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light. (LSB 788)

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don’t see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would “Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love’s intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.”

Only when we are immersed in God’s Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism’s life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord’s loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ’s servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

May thankfulness be days in service spent  
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light.

This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ’s love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!

# ??? 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:

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

## **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)

**February 2**

**"Do the Things That Make for Unity"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus crosses borders and even breaks down the barrier of death to do the things that make for unity: shared worship, shared mission, shared harvest. (John 4:9)

**February 9**

**"We Have an Advocate"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Where we might see only a problem, Jesus sees a person who needs an Advocate. (John 5:6)

**February 16**

**"The Bread of Our Lives"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

Jesus gives us Himself as the Bread of Life so that everything we need can be filled by Him and His gifts. (John 6:35)

**February 23**

**"Need to Know"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

If you don't need God, you won't know God. (John 7:28-29)



# Birthdays **February** Baptismal

- 02/02 Viviana Jeffries
- 02/06 Liam Hatcher
- 02/07 Brenda Ogden
- 02/08 Mia Tubbs
- 02/09 Jenna Dunn
- 02/09 Carolyn Overmyer
- 02/09 Lola Simon
- 02/12 Nancy Peterson
- 02/13 Aileen Malcharek
- 02/13 Luke Morra
- 02/14 Marleen Purdin
- 02/16 Marianne McDaniel
- 02/20 Rick Meredith
- 02/21 Barbara Bretz
- 02/22 Jean Kemezys
- 02/22 Doug Sax
- 02/25 Jennalee Matthews
- 02/29 Paul Bretz
- 02/29 Tom Sax



## Wedding Anniversaries

02/22 Bob & Angie Walter



### Flowers for February

2  
9  
16  
23

**Flowers needed**



## Anniversaries

- 02/04 Mark Krausz
- 02/05 Adam Ahner
- 02/05 Brad Lockwood
- 02/06 Deb Heck
- 02/06 Gabriella Jeffries
- 02/06 Gatlin Jeffries
- 02/06 Viviana Jeffries
- 02/06 Alicia Suedmeyer
- 02/07 Sarah Linn
- 02/07 Ami Linnertz
- 02/07 Geremy Linnertz
- 02/07 Nicholas Linnertz
- 02/09 Jenna Dunn
- 02/09 Torri Suedmeyer
- 02/10 Ellie Tubbs
- 02/11 Abby McDaniel
- 02/12 William Huth
- 02/14 Nora Bigley
- 02/14 Amber Schanz
- 02/16 Makena Suedmeyer
- 02/16 Cole Wambold
- 02/22 Lindsay Murphy
- 02/23 Mark Manera
- 02/24 Makenna Gryga
- 02/26 Briar Bales



**LOVE**  
let all that you do  
be done in  
(1 Corinthians 16:14)



Jesus  
IS MY  
valentine

### Altar Guild Schedule for February

2 Dawn & Phoebe Corey

9 Lita Timmerman

23 Lita Timmerman

**LWML Meeting: Feb 20th, 7:00 PM**

**Devotion: "O God Our Help in Ages Past"**  
(Becky Wachtman)

**Special Mission Offering: Zion Member Needs**

**Activities: Baby Bottle Return**

**Hostesses: Glenda Pike & Becky Wachtman**

*Let us love one another,  
for love comes from God.*  
-1 John 4:7-9

**Council Meeting Minutes  
Zion Lutheran Church  
January 9, 2025**

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. (Randy Thomsen)

Opening devotion and prayer (Jon Robinson)

Roll call: Bob Eldridge, Laurie Fournie, Jean Kemezys, Ray Kemezys, Jon Robinson, Cheryl Sax, Randy Thomsen

December Council meeting minutes were approved by email.

**Pastor's report:**

- No report.

**Board of Finance report:** (Cheryl Sax)

- Budget YTD: \$293,644.00
- Actual YTD: \$295,157.79

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

- First Federal Savings Bank: \$154,587.13
- First Federal Savings Bank – Money Market: \$40,251.37
- Edward Jones account: \$72,472.80
- General Fund: \$83,961.25

MMSP to accept Treasurer's report.

**Board of Education report:** (Bob Eldridge)

- BOE distributed 37 goody bags following the Children's Christmas Program.
- Sent out gift cards to college students in December.

**Board of Elders report:** (Ray Kemezys)

- No transfers in or out.
- 13 baskets were delivered to members that may have faced some challenges last year.
- Southern Illinois District convention coming up in February and Elders will look for a layperson to attend as a representative.

**Board of Trustees report:**

- No report.

**President's report:** (Jon Robinson)

- Discussed President's duties per our church Constitution.

**Old Business:**

- Jon reported that Mike Twenhafel will continue to handle communication with the owner of the house on church property and see that it will be moved.

*Continued from previous page.*

**New Business:**

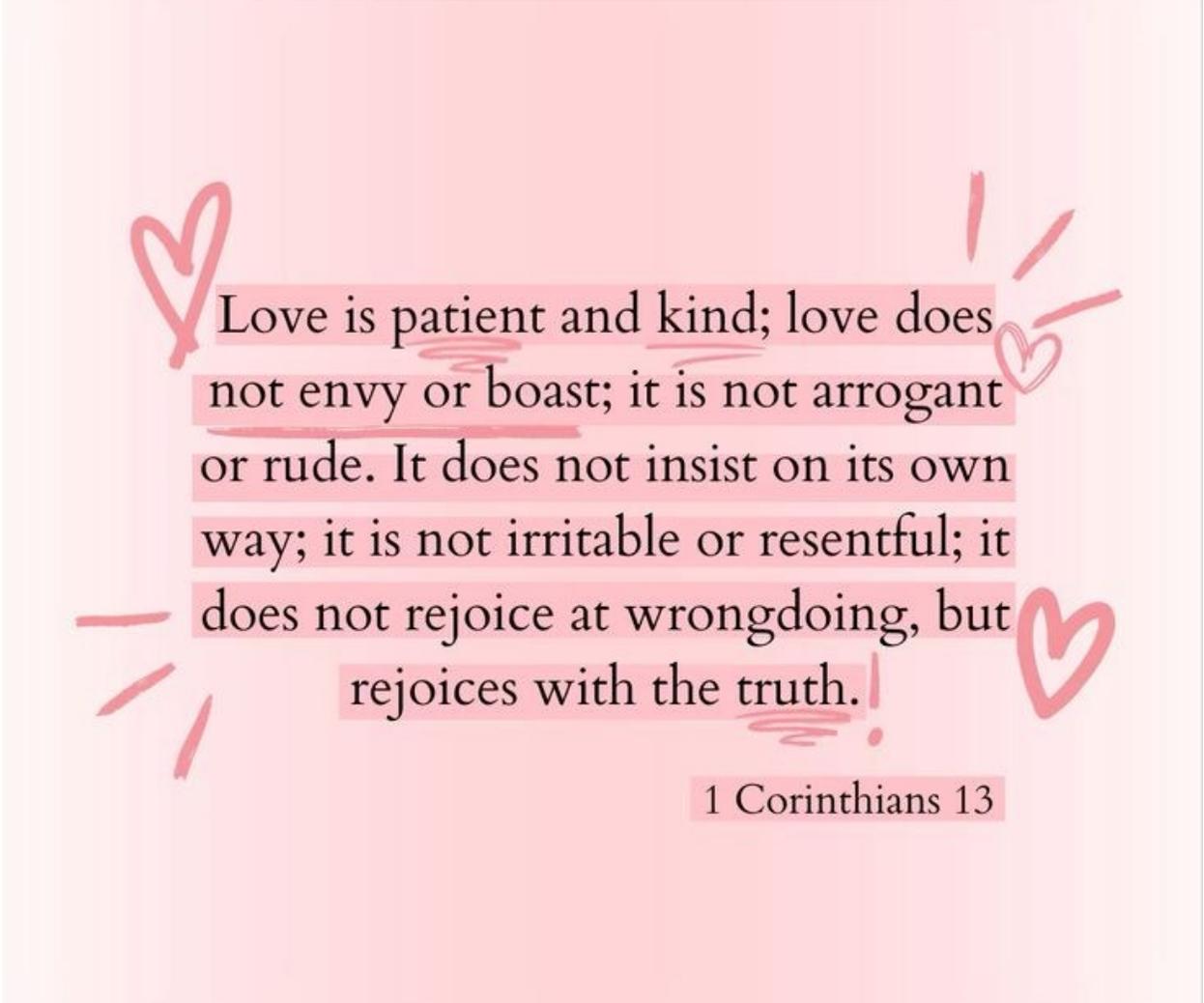
- Church insurance - Laurie has information on a company she will contact to see about comparing prices for insurance premiums.

Next Council meeting February 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MMSP to adjourn meeting at 7:51 p.m.

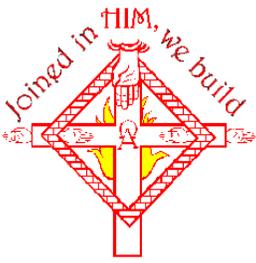
Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

In His Service,  
Jean Kemezys



Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth!

1 Corinthians 13



**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**

**February 2 — The Purification of Mary and**

**Presentation of Our Lord — Luke 2:22-40**

**February 9 — The Transfiguration of Our Lord**

**— Matthew 17:1-9**

**February 16 — Septuagesima — Matthew 20: 1-16**

**February 23 — Sexagesima — Luke 8: 4-15**

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