



# Zion Lutheran Church

## The Tidings January 2024

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and click .

### **The Epiphany of Our Lord** **Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM** **Service of Holy Communion**

Celebrate the Feast of Epiphany on the Twelfth Night of Christmas with carol singing and outdoor gathering rite around the fire. This is a Great Rivers Collaborative event that will be held at Unity Lutheran [8454 Glen Echo Dr.] and everyone is invited!

Bring an evergreen bough for the fire. Wassail and treats to follow the service.



# **A NEW BEGINNING AND A TIME OF RENEWAL**

I used that same title way back at the beginning of my ministry at Zion (September 2016), as we were beginning the “Interim Work” of deciding on a way forward for Zion after your previous pastor had resigned. I had used that same theme at a previous church that was looking to move forward after they experienced a similar situation.

In May of 2023, at one of the meetings that folks in ministry gather monthly to discuss how things are going at our churches, I brought up the fact that a number of ELCA churches in North County with attendance of less than 50 on a Sunday morning ought to think about how we might discuss an approach to support each other in different ways. Out of that discussion came the formation of the Great River Collaborative (GRC). Some of you attended the Reformation Sunday afternoon service at Unity, as well as the Advent service at Living Christ. Those events were the beginning of our focus on getting to know each other better. What will come of that is in God’s hands, as he leads us into a future yet to be determined.

Zion Lutheran Church is our church. Its future is up to us! And we need to decide! This is not how our Catholic friends do things; they are top down dominated. We, the congregation, own Zion Lutheran Church’s facility and determine what happens to it, as well as the congregation. The future of Zion’s facility and the congregation is in our hands. That means that all of us need to become involved in deciding what our future is going to be.

I suspect that 2024 is going to be a year of many conversations among different churches. There will be plenty of opportunities to partner with other churches to do outreach projects. It will take getting out of our comfort zones, reaching out to other churches, and it will take time to do it.

And at the end of all of these discussions, two churches may combine to become one, multiple churches may merge to become one, some churches may just close (as we have seen in the past) ... the combinations are numerous.

Maybe the title of this message should be “A New Beginning **OR** A Time of Renewal”? A new beginning for Zion would not be new, nor would a time of renewal be new for Zion. One thing is sure: it is up to us to make those decisions. We can make 2024 whatever we want to make it.

God's Blessings and a Happy New Year!

Peace,  
Pastor Larry



HAPPY NEW YEAR

# January Birthdays

3<sup>rd</sup> Izaiah Spotswood  
4<sup>th</sup> Phyllis Graser  
Paul Oswald  
7<sup>th</sup> Jacqueline Calhoun  
8<sup>th</sup> Mary Roth  
29<sup>th</sup> Andrew Tucker  
31<sup>st</sup> Carole Herrmann



Dear Zionites,

May God bless your Epiphany season with eyes to see the evidence of God's extravagant gift of love for you. I'm finding my way around Charlottesville without a star or GPS (most of the time) to get me to the places I want to go!

Like you, I'm relying on God's guidance for my earthly journey. I love that we are the communion of saints connected through God's Word and Sacrament.

God bless you richly in 2024.

Love,  
Gail



## Food Pantry at St. Stephen's

Dear Zion members,

You have been very generous throughout the years. Many thanks to all of you! You have been very supportive of the St. Stephen's food pantry for a long period of time, donating items including peanut butter, cereal, and non food items.

The food pantry is focused on the food needs of people in Ferguson. They provide free food and hygiene basics to local families. Covid created a lot of changes, affecting the St. Stephen's food pantry too, because of enforced closure for a period of time.

I am concerned because donations to the food pantry have fallen sharply and we are struggling to meet our goals of 100 donations, necessitating the decreasing of goals to 50. St. Stephen's always greatly appreciates our donations, stating "We cannot thank you enough for your support". Of course, their needs continue.

My question to you is, do you have suggestions for donations that more easily meet our goals, do you want to discontinue donating (which would make me very sad!)? Please give me your feedback.

Thank you,  
Kristina Oswald

# A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

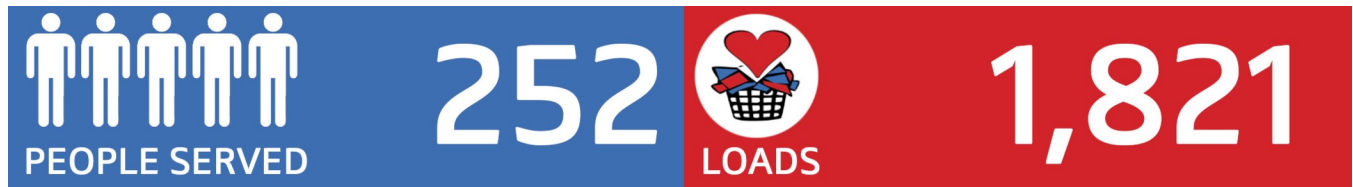
Another end of the year is here already! We are so blessed to be a part of a church family that cares for each other and our community. Thank you for all you have done this year.

Thank you, also, for your pledges of financial support for 2024. We appreciate your prayers and your recognition of the financial support we need for next year. If you have not turned in a pledge card yet, please send it to the office. There are blank pledge cards in the narthex if you need one.

Keep your heart and mind open to becoming involved in new things at Zion in 2024. On January 13th, Pastor Larry, Stacey Miller and I will be attending a Great Rivers Collaborative (GRC) sharing session to plan next steps for that group in 2024. We need your full support and will keep you informed of what we learn.

May the rest of your Christmas season continue to be full of hope, peace, joy, and love!

Pam Statler 



## An Epiphany Meditation

In Christianity, the Epiphany refers to a realization that Jesus, the Christ, is the Son of God! Western Christian churches generally celebrate the Visit of the Magi (the Wise Men) as the revelation of the Incarnation of the infant Christ, and commemorate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. The story is out! Jesus Christ, Light of the World, has been born to dispel the darkness that covers its people. God's glory appears in human form. Life on earth will never be the same again!

Today we live in a world that is still covered in darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May your lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us, that we might be the means through which others may encounter Jesus, their Lord and Savior.

– Richard Schademann, PMA





## Community in Unity

During the month of December, Zion members prepared two meals for the warming center. The CIU team, in collaboration with the Alternative Worship, made blessing bags for the Oak Knoll staff. The bags were delivered to the center just in time for their staff Christmas party. Ms. Keely, activities director at Oak Knoll, sent a big thank you to Zion!



faithful customers!

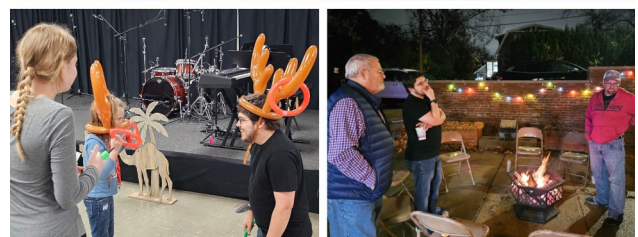
Now a request: Would you like to use your time to help us support Lutheran Family and Children's Services and the two Retirement Communities? We would love to have you volunteer to work with us for a day. We have many jobs here: hanging clothing, folding linens, arranging shelves, sorting clothing, etc. Some of the jobs are sit-down jobs. Bring a friend with you, try us once and see if it would be a fit.

We are at 6701 W. Florissant; our hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. Call us at 314-389-9970.

## Holiday Hangout

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the Holiday Hangout in December to help us kick off the holiday season. We all had a really great time! Despite the occasional rain drizzle, we were still able to enjoy some time around the fire, as well as an abundance of delicious Christmas cookies (including a decorate your own station), some fun games, and completed a group service project (mentioned in the CIU article).

From everyone on the Alternative Worship Team: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





**WHAT:** Laundry Love will provide funds and detergent to WASH & DRY your clothing, and/or bedding

**WHERE:** Jade Laundry  
497 Airport Rd, Ferguson, MO 63135

**FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:**  
Pam (314) 973-2390

**WHEN:**  
**6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**  
Every 4th Monday of the Month

January 22  
February 26  
March 25  
April 22  
May 27  
June 24

July 22  
August 26  
September 23  
October 28  
November 25  
December 23

**SPONSORED BY:**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

123 Carson Rd., Ferguson, MO 63135  
[www.zionferguson.com/laundry-love](http://www.zionferguson.com/laundry-love)

# **Zion Voter's Meeting Minutes**

## **December 3, 2023 - After Worship (and by Zoom)**

### **MEETING STARTED AT 10:55 AM**

### **OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOME**

- Pastor Larry gave an opening prayer
- Pam welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES (JULY 30, 2023)**

- Motion made by Sue to approve minutes, seconded by Jan, **motion carried**

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

- Pastor Larry encouraged everyone to participate in the GRC events
- Pastor Larry's sabbatical starts on June 1, 2024. PMA Richard will cover at Zion during those three months.
- Pastor Larry plans to retire on September 1, 2026. He is decreasing his salary by 1/3 this year and plans to do the same in 2025, so that as he decreases in time and salary, Richard's will increase.
- Written report is available in the packet

### **COUNCIL AND MEMBER CARE MINISTRY ELECTIONS**

#### **New Council Elections**

- Vice President - Kristen Kinney (2024-2025)
- Treasurer - Justin Kinney (2024-2025)
- At Large (one year term - 2024)
  - Sue Dunham
  - Erma Miller
  - Jan Roevekamp
  - Johnnie Tucker

#### **Member Care Ministry Elections (2024-2025)**

- Deborah Balestier
- Ron Devenport
- Wanda Devenport
- Sue Dunham

**Motion made by Annis to accept slate of nominees, seconded by Bob, motion carried**

### **2024 BUDGET**

- Bill and Pam discussed items in the budget. Written report is available in the packet.
- Motion made by Dorothy to accept budget as presented, seconded by Linn, **motion carried**

## **WRITTEN REPORTS IN VOTER'S MEETING PACKETS**

### **Assistant to the Pastor's Report**

- This Wednesday, Lisa Augustine will audition to become a musician for Sunday mornings.
- Lori is still open to provide music once a month, if needed.

### **Financial Report**

### **Team Reports**

- Worship Team
- Member Care Ministry
- Property

### **Strategic Goal Reports**

- Community in Unity (Partnership/Outreach)
- Alternative Worship
- Financial Sustainability
- Education and Faith Formation - Pastor Larry gave an update on Confirmation

**CLOSING PRAYER: PAM**






**MEETING ADJOURNED 11:20 AM**

**20 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**



# Zion Lutheran Church

## January Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Dec 31 NYE</b> 9:30am-Worship	<b>Jan 1</b> Office Closed 	2	<b>3</b> 10am-Bible Discussion  I Spotswood	<b>4</b>  P Graser  P Oswald	5	6
<b>7</b> 9:30am-Worship & Installation  J Calhoun	<b>8</b> 10am-Member Care 1pm-Worship Team  M Roth	<b>9</b> 6:30pm-Council	<b>10</b> 10am-Bible Discussion	<b>11</b> 6:30pm-CIU	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Upper Room Reserved
<b>14</b> 9:30am-Worship	<b>15 MLK Jr. Day</b> Office Closed	16	<b>17</b> 10am-Bible Discussion	18	19	20
<b>21</b> 9:30am-Worship	<b>22</b> <b>Tidings Deadline</b> 6pm-Laundry Love	23	<b>24</b> 10am-Bible Discussion	<b>25</b> 11:30am-Pokeno	26	27
<b>28</b> 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change 10:45-Fellowship	<b>29</b>  A Tucker	30	<b>31</b> 10am-Bible Discussion  C Herrmann	1	2	3

# *Zion Lutheran Church*

## **Serving on Sundays in January**

	Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28	Feb 4
Presiding	L Lemke	PMA Schademann	L Lemke	L Lemke	L Lemke
Music Accompanist	L Augustine	L Augustine	L Augustine	L Augustine	L Augustine
Assisting Minister	J Roevekamp	N Wolz	R Schademann	P Statler	J Roevekamp
Lector	Li Lemke	S Miller	D Balestier	K Kinney	L Moore
Children's Message	L Lemke	N Wolz	L Lemke	N Wolz	L Lemke
Ushers	L Wolk	J Roevekamp	S Dunham J Tucker	L Wolk	S Dunham J Tucker
Altar Guild	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Video Streaming	P Statler	B Budenholzer	K Kinney	B Budenholzer	P Statler

\* Scheduled servers are subject to change at the discretion of organization leaders.  
If you have a schedule conflict, please inform the Church office of any changes or schedule swaps.

Zion Lutheran Church  
123 Carson Road  
Ferguson, MO 63135  
314.522.0100 Office  
office@zionferguson.com  
www.zionferguson.com



**Celebrating  
God's Grace**

## January 2024

### Zion Leaders

#### Congregation Council

Pastor: Larry Lemke  
PMA: Richard Schademann  
President: Pam Statler  
Vice President: Kristen Kinney  
Secretary: Stacey Miller  
Treasurer: Justin Kinney  
Member At-Large: Sue Dunham  
Member At-Large: Erma Miller  
Member At-Large: Jan Roevekamp  
Member At-Large: Johnnie Tucker

#### Member Care Ministry

Dorothy Kaiser\*  
Ron & Wanda Devenport  
Linn Moore  
Sue Dunham  
Deborah Balestier

#### Committee Chairs

Finance: Pam Statler  
Property: Johnnie Tucker  
Stewardship: Pam Statler

#### Organizations

Hospitality: Annis Tucker  
Norma Wolz  
Altar Guild: Deb Balestier

#### Team Leaders

Worship: Norma Wolz  
Community in Unity: Stacey Miller  
Education: Larry Lemke  
Financial Sustainability: Pam Statler  
Alt. Worship: Deb Murrish

#### Team Members:

##### Worship Team

Norma Wolz\*  
Kristina Oswald  
Bill Budenholzer

##### Community in Unity Team

Stacey Miller\*  
Pam Statler  
Bill Budenholzer  
Linn Moore  
Linda Lemke  
Sue Dunham  
Deb Murrish  
Kristen Kinney  
Justin Kinney  
Nikki Tucker  
Richard Schademann

##### Education Team

Larry Lemke\*  
Norma Wolz  
Stacey Miller  
Linda Lemke  
Jason Martin  
Andi Martin

#### Financial Sustainability Team

Pam Statler  
Bill Budenholzer  
Paul Herrmann  
Jan Roevekamp

#### Alternative Worship Team

Deb Murrish\*  
Kristen Kinney  
Christine Walters  
Bill Budenholzer  
Pam Statler