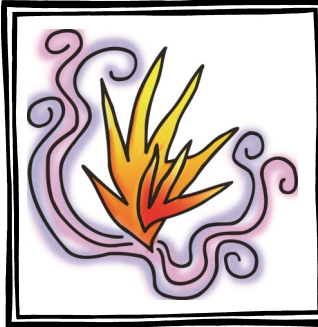


# THE HERALD DECEMBER 2024



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**zionyork.org**  
**(717) 767-4673**

# Zion Lutheran Church

Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In, with Faith and Love

Rev. Kevin C. Stout x. 2224

Pastor

kstout@zionyork.org

Phone: 717-877-8721

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday

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Chuck Bissell x. 2246

Director for Family Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

cbissell@zionyork.org

Phone: 717-891-3426

Denise Moyer, Parish Administrator x. 2240

dmoyer@zionyork.org

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Shawn Cummings, Digital Media Coordinator

avteam@zionyork.org

Laine Knaub, Director of Music x. 2243

lknaub@zionyork.org

Andrew Strittmatter, Director of Windswept

andrew.stritt@gmail.com

Arieta Beamesderfer, Director of Joyful Noise Preschool x. 2241

joyfulnoise@zionyork.org

## Office Hours

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Closed Friday

## Services

- Saturday 5:30 PM ~ Gathering, Come As You Are
- Sunday 8:00 AM ~ Traditional: Words, Hymns, Liturgy
  - Sunday 10:00 AM ~ Community Service
  - Sunday 10:00 AM - Online (Facebook)
  - Sunday 12 Noon—Online (YouTube)
  - Monday 7:30 PM - Online Prayer Service



# *A Message from our Pastor*

## **O Holy Night: A Song for All Seasons**

Do you know the story behind “O Holy Night”? It’s one of those songs we may sing each year without knowing its powerful origins. If you know me, you know I love Christmas music, and “O Holy Night” is my favorite. Since childhood, I’ve cherished this song, but it wasn’t until recently that I learned its story—and it moved me deeply.

The song began as a poem written in 1847 by a French poet at the request of a priest who wanted a special piece for Christmas Mass. Later, in 1855, a Boston pastor named John Sullivan Dwight translated it into English, and it was in this version that “O Holy Night” became a beacon of hope and change.

One verse stood out to Pastor Dwight:

**"Truly He taught us to love one another,  
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name, all oppression shall cease."**

Consider the context: America was on the brink of Civil War, and the division over slavery was widening. John Dwight, a staunch abolitionist, shared “O Holy Night” in his magazine, “Dwight’s Journal of Music,” where it resonated with abolitionists and gained popularity in the North. Yet many religious leaders rejected it. Even years after the war, Southern churches refused to sing the song or removed this verse, preferring to ignore the painful truth it proclaimed.

In many ways, we are still dealing with the effects of that reluctance to fully embrace Christ's call to love and liberation for all. Today, we have the opportunity to carry forward the message that this song so beautifully shares. Our call is to follow Jesus not just in word but in action, living out His love for all humanity.

This Christmas season, I invite you to take a few minutes to listen to "O Holy Night" in its fullness. Reflect on what it means to follow Christ's way of love and justice, to see every person as your brother or sister. Let this song remind us of our role in building a world where, truly, "all oppression shall cease."

Here are a few of my favorite renditions that include verse 3:

- Tori Kelly
- Tasha Cobbs Leonard
- Third Day (their whole *Christmas Offerings* album is great)
- Sleeping At Last
- Melvin Crispell and Maverick City
- Lauren Daigle

May this song and season bring peace, hope, joy, and a renewed commitment to live out Christ's love.

Jesus' Peace, Pastor Kevin



### Follow us at

Facebook: [ZionYork](#)  
YouTube: [ZionYork2215](#)  
Instagram: [zionyork2215](#)

## THE WELCOME TABLE

*Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.*

*Luke 13:29*

All are welcome, friend and stranger at the banquet  
of the Savior All are welcome, all are welcome here  
*"All are Welcome" by Dakota Road*



Imagine a long, expansive, banquet table, with a place for everyone at the table. No one is turned away; everyone will enjoy the feast. This is a powerful image of life as people of God. All are welcome- there is always room at the table.

Guiding Principle #1 for our congregation is: As the Body of Christ, we welcome, accept and embrace everyone. With that in mind, we rejoice to be together at the table of our Lord.

We rejoice this month that:

*Dwayne and Theresa Scheuing were received into church membership*

We give thanks to God that the expanse of God's table is without end. We trust in the promise of eternal for those who have died:

*Marjorie Mann, as we pray for comfort for daughters, Julie Aguirre & Jen Lau*

### BOOK CLUB



For the month of December we will be reading *The 13th Gift* by Joanne Huist Smith, a heartwarming Christmas story about how a random act of kindness transformed one of the bleakest moments in a family's history into a time of strength and love.

**December 11 at 6:30 PM**

In January we will return to the 4th Wednesday. Hope to see you there!

~Your Book Club Leaders — Erin Ream & Amy Schanbacher



# Faith Formation

## **Adult Bible Studies**

**Sundays**

**9:00 AM—9:45AM**

## **Adult Bible Study Devotion & Dialogue**

Each week we discuss the lectionary verses and dive deeper into their meaning in our lives today. Held in the parlor.

## **Life with Jesus**

Are you looking to grow your faith? Participate in “Life with Jesus” each Sunday in the choir room (first door to the left past the bathrooms, across from the nursery). We are currently studying and discussing the comparison between James and the Sermon on the Mount. Pop in any Sunday and check it out. All adults are welcome!

## **Lunch Bunch**

**December 18**

**12:00 Noon**

Join Pastor Kevin at Friendly's located at 423 Loucks Rd, to connect with like-minded individuals, share your thoughts, and deepen your understanding in a welcoming and supportive environment.

## **Gather & Grow**

**December**

Gather & Grow will be taking a hiatus in December. Women, join us January 13th in the fellowship hall for a pot luck for a time of fellowship and to make plans for 2025!

## **Men's Huddle**

**December 19**

**7PM**

Men, join us as we gather at Matt Engleman's home, 2680 Oberlin Dr., York 17404. It's a time for fellowship, food, and faith as iron sharpens iron. Remember to bring your own beverage and meat; the grill will be ready. Pastor Kevin will be discussing Martin Luther's leadership, making it an insightful and enriching evening. Questions, contact Matt Engleman or Walt Marriot.



- 1 Katelyn Graver  
Sean Morris  
Gabrielle Rahn
- 2 Stephen Anderson
- 3 Violet Barclift  
Dan Connolly
- 4 Madison Hilty  
Nancy Newton
- 5 Helen Volz
- 7 Scott Penley
- 8 David Gardner
- 9 Ali Davis  
Stephanie Forry  
Barbara Reed  
Linda Reinecker
- 13 Kara Hetrick
- 15 Fran Reinhard  
Rocky Turnbaugh

- 16 Heather Kirby  
Karen Marshall
- 17 Barbara Sierotowicz
- 18 Thomas Kauffman  
Andrei Kin  
Madison Lam
- 19 Frank Heisey
- 21 Karen Connolly  
Travis Shaffer
- 22 Allison Detwiler  
Kameron Holtzapple
- 24 Christopher Bahn  
Lily Schneider
- 25 Jennifer Lau  
Linda Morrison
- 26 Janet Glatfelter  
Erin Stauffer
- 27 Jakob Bohannon  
Hannah Cunningham  
William Hanacik  
Gini Riese
- 28 Luca Hetrick  
Jonathan Kunkle
- 30 Richard Gruver  
Christian Ludwig  
Richard Marshall  
Wilhelm Rader
- 31 Grant Arnold  
Judith Vasali

- 1 Richard & Karen Marshall
- 2 Jeff & Kim Alloway
- 5 Keith and Debra Plowman
- 13 Dan & Diana Mohn
- 14 Ronald and Joyce Kline
- 22 Eric & Mysta Johnston
- 23 Rodney & Kimberly Brandstedter
- 28 Don & Diane Meluzio



# Children, Youth & Family Ministry



Hello everyone and welcome to December

Here we go!!! Happy December everyone and I hope this Advent season finds you well. December will be the best and busiest month for our youth. First up, we have the Multi Youth Group MEGA-Retreat at Camp Nawakwa Dec 6-8. The theme for this year is "Presence". It promises to be a great weekend spent with seven other youth groups from the area. The following weekend brings the Cookie Walk. Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4pm, the youth of Zion will be on site to help consumers purchase an enormous amount of donated baked goods. Speaking of donated baked goods, the signup sheet is up on the board. Are you baking for us?? Please make sure you are signed up for this event. The larger the variety of baked goods we have the better sales we will have. All money goes towards the youth group's fund for the ELCA Youth Gathering as well as other trips.

Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup> will be youth group for all three of our groups. December 20<sup>th</sup> will be our annual December Lock-in. This event is always a high point for the youth group and a great way to wrap up the year. It is a time for all of us to gather and just spend the time in fellowship while we play games, watch movies, eat SO MUCH food. This event is huge as the older youth have the chance to get to know each other a little bit better.

Faith Formation will continue to meet through the month of December. We will have five Sundays in the month and we will be meeting the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day. Speaking of Faith Formation, we will be having a Christmas Play on the final Sunday in Advent, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at the 10am service. We will use the Faith Formation session that day to do the final rehearsal. You can sign up your





**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**6-8**

**Dec** 6-8 ZEAL MEGA-Retreat

**14**

**Dec** 2:00 Cookie Walk Fundraiser

**15**

**Dec** 11:30 Kidz Konnection  
3:00 456  
6:00 ZEAL

**20-21**

**Dec** 6:00 ZEAL Lock-in

**22**

**Dec** 10:00 Children's Christmas Play

**3-5**

**Jan** Winterfest  
Sr High Retreat

**17**

**Jan** 11:30 Kidz Konnection  
3:00 456  
6:00 ZEAL

child(ren) on the play sign up sheet on the youth bulletin board in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions regarding any of these things, please reach out to me via email or you can find me in the building on Sundays from 9 until the end of worship. I am wishing all of you a very blessed month as you prepare your hearts for the coming of Jesus.

Peace and Blessings,  
Chuck



# *Lectionary Scriptures for December*



## **December 1, 2024**

This coming Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. God is “advancing” towards us: in the past in the life of Jesus; in the present in word and sacrament; and in the future, even if there is disaster, in everlasting life. This Sunday we light the first candle on our Advent wreath, and we begin a year-long reading from the gospel of Luke.

### **Readings and Psalm**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

*To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)*

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

## **December 8, 2024**

On the second Sunday of Advent, we light two candles on the wreath, and we listen to John the Baptist, preaching, baptizing, and urging also us to prepare for the coming of Christ. Come to worship, to see “the salvation of our God.”

### **Readings and Psalm**

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

*In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Lk. 1:78)*

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

## **December 15, 2024**

This coming Sunday we light three candles on the Advent wreath. While our society goes crazy with Christmas preparations and the northern hemisphere grows darker each day, we gather to hear John the Baptist urging us to accept God’s good news.

## Readings and Psalm

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

*In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)*

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

## December 22, 2024

This Sunday, we light all four candles of the Advent wreath, and we read the story from Luke about Mary visiting Elizabeth. Christians believe that in baptism we too are filled with the Holy Spirit so that Christ will dwell in us. Come to worship: the mystery approaches.

## Readings and Psalm

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

*You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)*

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

## December 29, 2024

This Sunday we hear Luke's story of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple, which the boy Jesus refers to as his Father's house. Come to worship with us, where we meet Jesus in his Father's house.

## Readings and Psalm

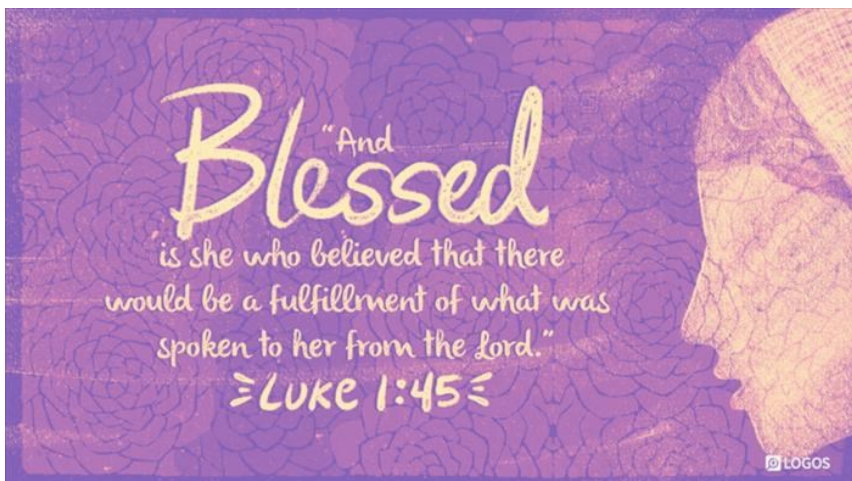
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

*The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52



2024

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

## SCHEDULE

**FAMILY SPONSORSHIP** – Zion Lutheran Church will be sponsoring a family from our local community who would otherwise not have a very merry Christmas this year. Please see the sign-up sheet on the board next to the Parlor and sign up for any items you would like to donate. *Items may be dropped off at the Information Booth or in the office by December 15<sup>th</sup>*. Items donated should be wrapped and labeled for who the gift is for (i.e. *Mom, Girl age #, etc.*). Gifts will be delivered the week before Christmas.

*“Prepare the way of the Lord”*

**HANGING OF THE GREENS** - **Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** services will be the Hanging of the Greens to celebrate the First Sunday of Advent.

**COOKIE WALK** – **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** – Come out to Zion from 2 to 4 pm to purchase homemade cookies for your next holiday event!

**CAROLS FOR A CAUSE**– **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**  
Please come join us for our annual Carols for a Cause. The purpose of this event is to raise money for Olivia’s House, which is an organization to help support grieving children. The concert includes a variety of performances.

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# JOY



**OUTSIDE SERVICE – Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.** Join us around the firepit for a service with holy communion and singing of Christmas carols. Bring chairs and blankets and enjoy the provided hot chocolate and cookies while celebrating the birth of Jesus.




**ADVENT 4/CHRISTMAS PLAY SERVICE - Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>– 10:00 a.m.** – Join us for worship as we conclude our Advent season and begin our Christmas celebration with the children presenting their Christmas play. Come watch the magic happen all over again.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – 7:00 p.m.** – Join us for worship filled with Christmas Music, a Christmas message and Holy Communion. The service will conclude with the lighting of the candles and singing Silent Night. This service will also be livestreamed.

**110<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – 10:00 p.m.** - Zion was the first church in York to hold a Christmas Eve candlelight service. The tradition continues as the Christmas story comes to life through music, song, scriptures and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. In keeping with tradition, the service will also include the lighting of individual candles while singing together, “Silent Night.”

# December 2024

	Mon	Tue
<b>1 Advent 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship Times In-person: 8 am and 10 am</li> <li>• Faith Formation-9am</li> <li>• Worship Times Online *Facebook/YouTube-10:00 am</li> </ul>	<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LOF Rehearsal – 6:30pm</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
<b>8 Advent 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship Times In-person: 8 am and 10 am</li> <li>• Faith Formation-9am</li> <li>• Worship Times Online *Facebook/YouTube-10:00 am</li> <li>• Team Meetings 11:30am-1pm</li> </ul>	<b>9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LOF Rehearsal – 6:30pm</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>
<b>15 Advent 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship Times In-person: 8 am and 10 am</li> <li>• Faith Formation-9am</li> <li>• Worship Times Online *Facebook/YouTube-10:00 am</li> <li>• Kids Konnection-11:30am to 1:30pm</li> <li>• Club 456– 3 to 4:30pm</li> <li>• ZEAL-6 to 8:30pm</li> </ul>	<b>16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LOF Rehearsal – 6:30pm</li> </ul>	<b>17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fireside Christmas Service 6:30 to 7:30pm</li> </ul>
<b>22 Advent 4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship Times In-person: 8 am and 10 am</li> <li>• Faith Formation-9am</li> <li>• Worship Times Online *Facebook/YouTube-10:00 am</li> </ul>	<b>23</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LOF Rehearsal – 6:30pm</li> </ul>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Services</b> 7 pm and 10 pm
<b>29 1 Christmas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship Times In-person: 8 am and 10 am</li> <li>• Faith Formation-9am</li> <li>• Worship Times Online *Facebook/YouTube-10:00 am</li> </ul>	<b>30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LOF Rehearsal – 6:30pm</li> </ul>	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b>

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choir Practice –12:00 pm</li> </ul> <p>We Are Wednesdays 6:30-8pm *GriefShare *Prayer Group</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worship- 5:30pm</li> </ul>
<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choir Practice –12:00 pm</li> </ul> <p>We Are Wednesdays 6:30-8pm *GriefShare *Book Club</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cookie Walk Fund Raiser 2-4pm</li> <li>Worship- 5:30pm</li> <li>Carols for a Cause- 7pm</li> </ul>
<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choir Practice –12:00 pm</li> <li>Lunch Bunch Friendly’s–12noon</li> </ul> <p>We Are Wednesdays 6:30-8pm *Discipleship</p>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Men’s Huddle 7 pm</li> </ul>	<p>20</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">ZEAL Lock-in Fri 6pm to Sat 9 am</p>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worship- 5:30pm</li> </ul>
<p>25 <b>Christmas Day</b></p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worship- 5:30pm</li> </ul>
			<p>Deadline to submit items for the January Herald is December 14.</p>

## JNP December Events

December 13th: Evening with Santa Claus

December 19th: Four Year Old Christmas Pageant

December 20th thru January 3rd: Christmas Vacation



*Have a Blessed Holiday Season with your  
loved ones!*

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
from the JNP Staff*

Luke 2:10: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid;  
for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all  
the people: ”





Merry Christmas from the  
students of  
Joyful Noise Preschool!

# A Peek at JNP's November



We had a mock election in November. The candidates were Chocolate Chip and Oreo. It was a close race, but Oreo was the winner!!



We are THANKFUL! The past month's focus was on being thankful...for our friends, our families, and God! Here is a pic of some of our friends enjoying the BEAUTIFUL fall weather on our playground!



## MINUTES: ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** October 15, 2024

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Member	Attendance	Member	Attendance
Pastor Kevin Stout	Present	Dave Schneider, Parliamentarian	Present
Denise Moyer, Administrator	Present	Alex Engleman, Youth Representative	Present
Christy Bucks, President	Present	Kim Alloway, Member	Present
Al Abruzzese, Vice President	Excused/Missing	Andrew Doerr, Member	Present
Wade Markel, Treasurer	Present	Jill Lordan, Member	Excused/Missing
Sara Strayer, Secretary	Present	Mary Jane McCluskey, Member	Present
Anmarie Hazelton, Assistant Secretary	Present	Krista Zellers, Member	Present

**1. OPENING DEVOTION**

- Andrew Doerr led devotion focused on James Chapter 1, with an emphasis on being slow to become angry and the role of encouragement.
- Devotion will be led by Christy Bucks at the next meeting.

**2. THANK YOU CARDS**

- Mario Saulo and Jim Rowlands for presenting sermons - to be written by MJ McCluskey.

**3. MEETING MINUTES AND REPORTS**

Report	Comments
3.1 Meeting Minutes	The Meeting Minutes from September 2024 were submitted by Sara Strayer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to approve by Andrew Doerr, seconded by Kim Alloway. Motion carried.</li> </ul>
3.2 Treasurer's Report	Report submitted by Wade Markel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 2024 Operations (does not include preschool): Receipts (Giving) \$36,020.56, Expenses \$49,559.76, Surplus/Deficit -\$13,579.20.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Expenses increased in September.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Current surplus/deficit for 2024 is at -\$88,599.21 deficit and we are budgeted to have a -\$89,013.85 deficit at the end of the year.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Will need a strong October, November, December to meet budgeted YTD deficit of -\$89,013.85.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion of discrepancy between October deficit of -\$86,490.67 (Net Revenue page 16), -\$87,863.05 (Net Revenue page 5), and -\$88,599.21 (Net Operating Revenue page 4) listed in budget.</li> <li>• Expense and surplus deficit are incorrect due to error in budget.</li> <li>• Youth gathering is paid.</li> <li>• Current surplus/deficit for 2024 -\$87,683.05 to be changed in summary statement and table.</li> <li>• Actual YTD Net Revenue Budget -\$88,703.55.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net Expenses to be updated in the table. \$429,874.68 expenses and -\$87,863.05 deficit.</li> <li>• YTD Operations: Receipts (Giving) \$341,275.47, Expenses \$431,199.86, Surplus/Deficit -\$89,188.23.</li> <li>• YTD Budget: Receipts (Giving) \$332,882.25, Expenses \$399,409.83, Surplus/Deficit -\$66,527.58.</li> <li>• Motion to approve September Treasurer’s Report by Andrew Doerr, seconded by Anmarie Hazelton. Motion carried.</li> </ul>
3.3 Membership Report	<p>Report submitted by Pastor Kevin Stout</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 new members</li> <li>• 2 Losses through death</li> <li>• Nothing to approve.</li> </ul>
3.4 Investment Treasurer Report	<p>Report submitted by Adam Strayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No questions or comments.</li> </ul>
Pastor Report	<p>Report submitted by Pastor Kevin Stout</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No questions or comments.</li> </ul>
Parish Administrator’s Report	<p>Report submitted by Denise Moyer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Gathering paid.</li> <li>• Reimbursement policy developed for volunteers only. Staff reimbursement is under the personnel policy.</li> <li>• Motion to approve Reimbursement Policy for Volunteers by Mary Jane McCluskey, seconded by Dave Schneider. Motion carried.</li> </ul>
Children, Youth and Family Ministry (CYFM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No questions or comments.</li> </ul>
Youth Rep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No questions or comments.</li> </ul>
Joyful Noise Preschool Board Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No questions or comments.</li> </ul>

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS

##### 4.1 Congregation Council Seats

- Welcome Alex Engleman
- Applicants
- Al Abruzzese submitted resignation of his completed full term and will remain on Council through December 2024, resulting in 5 open spots:
  - Rose Hartzel, Jim Rowlands, Carl Peckmann, Kelly Kessler are interested
  - MJ McCluskey to ask one more person
  - 4 three-year terms and 1 two-year terms available
  - Kim Alloway to present new Council member nominations to Council

##### 4.2 Congregation Updates

- No changes requested from Council
- Motion to approve Congregation Constitution Updates by Andrew Doerr, seconded by Dave Schneider. Motion carried.

#### 4.3 Budget 2025 Review

- Health care coverage went up; insurance broker believes a less expensive option may be available as of November 2024. Etna is budgeted as the most expensive option. To make it balanced with health care coverage- 22% increase in giving for next year-with 28.6% increase in giving.
  - Will need to ask Congregation to increase giving from \$30,000 to \$39,000.
- An increase in giving is required. If giving does not increase, the decision to cut staff will need to be made in June due to significant budget.
- 2023 Stewardship Campaign may have been around 10-15% increase.
- Deficit -\$33,802.68
  - Accept the budget of the rolling 9 month giving of current & plate and add 20%=deficit
  - Motion to approve 2025 Budget by Kim Alloway, seconded by Dave Schneider. Open discussion.
  - Can have an addendum during Congregation meeting with corrected healthcare coverage costs.
  - Discussion of presenting a balanced budget versus deficit budget; cutting staff would impact the growth of the church and volunteers would be required to fill duties; Congregation members would need to increase their giving and bring in new members to achieve zero-based budget.
  - Presenting to Congregation a budgeted deficit -\$33,802.68 which is a 20% increase of open plates and receipts this year.
  - Motion to amend motion to approve -\$33,802.68 deficit in 2025 Budget by Christy Bucks, seconded by Andrew Doerr. Motion carried.

#### 4.4 "Stuff the Bus" – November and December on hold due to Angel Tree and adopting families. To restart in January with rotation of current identified organizations.

#### 4.5 Teams Debrief

- Faith Formation Team did not meet in October.
- Service Team to load school kit boxes in truck on Saturday and may need help due to no lift.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 Congregation Meeting

- Roles and responsibilities
  - Congregation Council President, Pastor Kevin, Parliamentarian, and Secretary to be present.
  - Tables to check in Congregation members before the meeting. Denise to identify quorum number. Questions to be directed to Pastor Kevin. Chapter 10 of Constitution states 10% of voting members make quorum.
  - Meeting following 9am Sunday Service.

#### 5.2 Yvonne S. Falkenstein Scholarship

- Application requirements to be changed due to their difficult nature. Council agreed.

#### 5.3 Book Study – Anatomy of a Revived Church:

- Chapters 5 & 6 discussion questions
  - Chapter 5 regarding toxins. Guiding Coalition to respond to toxins includes Mutual Ministry Committee, Council President, Council, staff, and Outreach Team.
  - Chapter 6 regarding silver bullets. Matthew 28:19-20 & Acts 1:8. Congregation is the hand and feet of the church and should not rely on Pastor, money, and worship/music as silver bullets.
  - Chapter 7 & Conclusion to be completed at the next Council meeting.

### 6. ADJOURN

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm.**

Motion to close by Andrew Doerr, seconded by Mary Jane McCluskey. Meeting adjourned in prayer.

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Pastor Kevin C. Stout

**Christy Bucks - President\***  
**Al Abruzzese - Vice President\***  
**Sara Strayer - Secretary\***  
**Anmarie Hazelton - Assistant Secretary**  
**Dave Schneider - Parliamentarian**  
**Wade Markel -Treasurer\***  
**Adam Strayer - Investment Treasurer**  
*(non-council member)*

Kim Alloway  
Andrew Doerr  
Jill Lordan  
Mary Jane McCluskey  
Krista Zellers  
Alex Engleman—Youth Representative

\*Executive Team

Council Email

[zionyork.congregationcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:zionyork.congregationcouncil@gmail.com)

### **Zion's Mission Statement**

**“Reaching up, Reaching out, Reaching in,  
with faith and love.”**



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**2215 Brandywine Lane**  
**York, PA 17404**