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Lessons From The Pumpkin Patch

How do we worship God at Halloween? Oddly enough this is a topic we talk about quit often at my work. I work with someone who does not “believe” in Halloween. She said it’s the devils holiday and that no one should dress up as someone they are not. So of course, this always leads to several discussions.

Yes, Halloween is often thought of the dress up holiday of the year, where children go and get free candy from strangers and it is not often paired with worshipping God. But we are told to honor God in everything we do, so are we dishonoring God while celebrating Halloween?

Halloween can be filled with frightening images such as skeletons that pop out at you, Walking in the dark, bloody knives, candy etc.; however, Halloween is always known for one thing and that is the trusty old jack-o-lantern. Carving the jack-o-lantern is something that I can get behind as a way to show God’s plan for us at Halloween.

This is where the children’s book, written by Liz Curtis Higgs, The Pumpkin Patch Parable book come to my mind. This book helps bridge the gap between Halloween and being a Christian during Halloween.

The story follows the path of a pumpkin seed’s transformation into a jack-o-lantern. But the best part of this book? There are scriptures noted on many of the pages to help with the application of important lessons.

So every Halloween, as I pull out the book to read to my children, I am reminded of four powerful truths of God.

1st Truth/ Lesson: We all begin as seeds.

As 2 Peter 3:18 says, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

God’s plan for our lives is greater than we can imagine. But God doesn’t promise the path will always be easy. So how can we know God’s plan? The truth is, we won’t always be able to know. But in the same way a seed needs daily care to grow, we must tend to our lives every day. We can provide care for our souls in countless ways including reading the bible, praying, signing worship hymns etc.

The more we care for our souls, the more we will know we are on God’s path.



2nd Truth/Lesson: We are all different but beautiful.

“My hand made all things. All things are here because I made them, says the Lord.” Isaiah 66:2

Like the pumpkins in the story, we are all different, but we are all made in God’s image. And one day, if we believe in Jesus, we will all be unified and made perfect and it will be more beautiful than we can ever ask or imagine.

3rd Truth/ Lesson: God has a plan.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

God has a plan for each and every one of us. Like the farmer in this story, God has to clean out our insides for us to fulfill our purpose. The pulp in a pumpkin is sticky, and goeey, and must be cleaned out before the final step. Our sin is just like that: sticky, goey and requires God’s purification.

As this story illustrates, when we allow God to purify us and take our sins away to the compost pile, we open our hearts and lives to a new and unimaginable life. Something unbelievable from looking at a tiny pumpkin seed. Just like the pumpkins, we are full of pulp and sin before being cleaned out.

4th Truth/Lesson: Be a light.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds, and glorify your Father in Heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Finally, like the farmer in this story, we put a light in our pumpkins so we can share the joy and light that only comes from God. But unlike a candle that withers away, the light our Heavenly Father provides never burns out. God offers us an eternal chance to shine.

In conclusion, as Halloween approaches and you prepare for the festivities I pray for an enjoyable and safe holiday for everyone. Whether you enjoy pop-out skeletons, cuddling up beside a nice warm toasty fire, watching the changing of the leaves and then saying a few choice words while you are cleaning up those beautiful leaves in your yard, seeing all the children dressed up as they approach your house and scream “Trick or Treat” and steal your candy... always remember to whom you belong.

God knows our true character. We can never hide from him, even if we dress up and put on a Halloween custom. His desire is to come into our lives and be a light to guide us. To be a light that will never burn out. So go out into the world and be a light.

I will close this devotion using the ending quote from the story itself:

“In the same way, God the Father offers his children the chance to be made new, full of joy and full of light, shining like stars in a dark world.” Pumpkin Patch Parable

Kimberly McCullough

Green Corner NWPAsynod Green Team

Creation Care with Eco-Friendly Wrapping

As Christmas approaches, here are some ideas for earth-friendly wrapping. Consider using alternatives to traditional wrapping, such as:

- Newspaper or brown paper rolls (kids can decorate with markers or Christmas card cut-outs)
- Reusable shopping bags (preferably cotton)
- Re-use gift bags (make it fun - see how many years you can use the same one)
- Recycled Christmas cards make great gift tags
- Wrap items in a t-shirt
- Wrap items in a tablecloth or blanket
- Instead of ribbon,
 - Use 100% cotton yarn (such as Sugar and Cream, available in many colors)
 - Use jute twine (100% biodegradable); add a fresh holly sprig for color
- Avoid shiny, glossy wrapping, as it is not recyclable
- If giving multiple gifts to a person/family, place them unwrapped in one (reusable) bag and have the recipient select one at a time. (No peeking inside first!)

Martin Luther, "God is wholly present in all creation, in every corner, behind you and before you." (LW 51:43)

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation". Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.



News from Luther Chapel - Part of the 3-2-1 Ministry— October

We had our Council meeting on Sunday and discussed upcoming services for All Saints and Reformation Sundays. For All Saints we will have candles on the altar to light for your loved ones who are deceased and carnations on the altar. Reformation Sunday will of course be red.

We've had requests to sing more of the older hymns and so we will try to do more of that.

Darlene Brown Beatty is planning to have a Veteran's Day program for everyone to enjoy on November 12 after our service. All Veterans and families of Veterans are welcome.

Gary is organizing a Harvest Home Outreach program to run until the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Paper products, canned goods and non-perishable items are fine to put by the altar. These will be donated to a local food bank.

We will again be participating in the Turkey Thon. Luther Chapel will start with a \$50.00 donation, and Congregation is invited to join with a donation through the plate.

Council will be saying goodbye to Darlene and Gary this December and thanking them for their efforts for our church, and we will need to replace them. Please begin considering how you can impact our church and community.

Our outreach for the Hawaiian people totaled \$160.00. This check was sent to the Synod for matching with additional dollars by Thrivent.

We are welcoming Vicar Jane to our pulpit. Vicar Jane will be with us for an extended time. Please if you haven't been in Church recently, come out and meet her and support her studies.

WELCA Ladies are busy as usual. Meeting at the Social Hall on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00. We are currently revamping T-shirts into pillows for the Girl Scouts. We will be back to making blankets for disaster relief soon.

Our sympathies extend to Janet Akers and family for the loss of her sister Linda Blatt. Linda was well known to us for attending services with Janet and many of our happenings. We will all miss her. Kathy Keller lost her cousin, Rose, this Sunday. Peace to Janet and Kathy.

Speaking of WELCA Ladies we will be having a Rada Knife sale from now until December first. Contact Kathy Keller for a catalog or to place an order. These make nice Christmas and wedding or new home gifts.

Salvation Army is asking churches to help brighten Christmas morning for children ages 13 and up. The angel program cuts off at age 12 and leaves older siblings with nothing. They are asking us to consider any type of art supply, makeup, puzzles or any type of gift appropriate for a teen.

Christmas Service schedule is set. Advent 4 will be at Luther Chapel on Saturday, December 23, at 5:30. A chicken and biscuit dinner will follow. There is no Sunday morning service on the 24th. Christmas Eve Service will be at Luther Chapel at 10:00pm. Christmas Day service will be at Zion at 9:30 for breakfast and service. All are welcome.

Remember the first Sunday of each month is teen night and the second Sunday is young adult night. These are from 6:00-8:00 PM at Luther Chapel each night. Darlene has some nice programs and crafts to share. Call her at 724-541-5168 if interested.

Zion Council Reports positive 3rd Quarter Budget Results.

As we close the books of the third quarter of 2023, Zion council is pleased to report some positive budget news.

Income through the third quarter of 2023 totaled **\$155,622.56**. This surpassed our entire 2023 income projections by \$823.73. Thanks to all in the congregation who continues to generously support Zion's budget.

Overall expenses through the 3rd quarter totaled **\$140,438.44**. This was 16.72% over our anticipated budget expenses for the first three quarters of the year.

While staff expenses, administrative costs and utilities held to budget estimates, we experienced increases in maintenance supplies and had unanticipated expenses in building repairs that contributed to our budget expense overruns. Our increased contribution to Synod benevolence also added to that 16.72% in budget expense.

Even with these unanticipated budget expenses, we showed a budget **surplus of \$15,184.12**.

At the end of the third quarter Zion had the following account balances:

Zion's Endowment Fund	\$156,845.37
Thrivent Investment Account	\$ 22,570.67
Zion's Dedicated Accounts	\$433,398.70
Zion's Available Operating Cash	\$154,879.57

Zion has committed **\$248,332.96** to several capital improvement projects (Window replacement in office and preschool areas, Kney organ refurbishment, bat and other pest removal, new marquee sign and roof support repair in furnace room). These costs will be supported through money already committed through our dedicated account balance and anticipated funds already pledged for the Kney organ refurbishment by the congregation.

The congregation deserves congratulations for its enthusiastic support of our budget process. Your generosity provides council with the confidence to address unanticipated issues that occur throughout the year. This keeps our worship, educational, and social programs operating in a safe and secure facility.

GREAT JOB ZION!

PRAY for those who suffer oppression, death, and tragedy. Please pray for those who travel. Please pray for those who serve in the armed forces and for their families. Pray for peace for all peoples.

Remember all those requesting prayer: Caroline Anderson, Ron Anderson, Tina Anderson, Mike Bash, Susan & Bob Butchkoski, Adam Chilenski, Ann Cogar, Deb Cosgrove, Jeff Davis, Paul Davis, Ernie Fisher, Beth Ford, Carol Forster, Jen Frick, the Guella family, Bonnie Hilty, Chris Howard, Dan Howard, Diane Howard, Family of Warren & Vicki Isakow, Family of Sue Johns (sons-Avery & Holden), Bishop Michael Lozano, Prisca Maier, Holly Miller, Paula Miller, Dave Nycum, Otto Family (Jill Shively-Mason-Cole), Fred Park, Loretta Piper, Olga Platt, Sandy Prinkey, Bob Reifsteck, Jenn Rising, Georgie Sandrowicz, Coleen Seagren, Shelby Sisco, Gladys Smith, Royce Walters Family, Todd Walters, Jane Williams, Dominic Yensi, Holly.

We pray for all those currently serving in the military especially, Zachery Horner, Mark Collins, Chad Beighley and Nicole Beighley, Matthew McEldowney, Corey Feretti and Franklin Feretti, and Stephen Davis.

We also pray for comfort and peace for our homebound including Geraldine Shatzer, Marietta (Mo) Foltz, Royce Walters and Bea Ruth.

Prayers for our family and friends is a cooperative effort

We at Zion, are privileged to pray for you and your loved ones and friends. Please be sure to let us know of your prayer requests. And it would help us so much if you could update us on the status of those on our prayer list.

We want to continue praying for those who are in need, to give thanks to God for those who have been healed and to pray for any family if they lost a loved one. That can only happen if YOU keep in touch with Zion's office and update us regularly.

You can speak to Beverly Monday through Thursday from 8 AM until 2 PM or email her at

zion.lutheran@comcast.net.

Thank you in advance for your partnership in this prayer venture.

NOTE: Zion council discussed our prayer list management at their recent monthly meeting. Council has suggested that a quarterly review be conducted on the prayer list. With that in mind we need your help in verifying that ALL who continue to need our prayer support remain on the list.

GIVING REPORT: MONTH OF OCTOBER

Needed for October operating budget:	\$ 12,899.40
Received in October:	<u>\$ 7,550.00</u>
Amount Still Due for October:	\$ 5,349.40

Does not include end of the month giving

In-Person Worship Attendance and On-line Viewing Last Month

<u>Service Dates</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
October 7 and 8	18	33
October 14 and 15	12	33
September 16 and 17	9	27
September 23 and 24	17	43

Zion to Hold its Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 19, 2023.**

We will begin proceedings with our business meeting beginning promptly at **4:00 PM.**

You are strongly urged to attend as we will be deliberating the following important agenda items:

1. Approval of Zion's 2024 annual budget
 - a. Adding IUP Scholarship singers program to our budget
1. Support for Lutherlyn renovation project
2. Election of Zion council members (3)
3. Election of Zion Administration and Finance committee members (1)
4. Election of 2023 Nominating committee (6)
5. Election of 2023 Endowment committee members (3)
6. Election of 2023 Synod Assembly representatives (3)

We will follow the meeting with a pot luck supper. Please bring a dish to share.

Zion Continues its Food Pantry Support

While we no longer have a Food Pantry to distribute food to our area neighbors who are in need, we can still help with Indiana's food insecurity by contributing to the other local food pantries who are still working hard to ease hunger in our area.

Zion's council has endorsed this effort. Those of us at Zion who still wish to contribute to help feeding our neighbors in need, can do so by donating each month to "Food Pantry". We will combine our monthly "Food Pantry" offering and then distribute it to one of our local food banks.

You can support this program by sending your contribution along with your regular Zion offering. Please make the dollar amount you wish to contribute to "Food Pantry" by marking that amount in the "Food Pantry" box on your contribution envelope.

We will select a different food bank each month and send our collected monthly contributions to that food bank.

We will be sending our donation this month to: **Creekside United Methodist Church**

Oktoberfest 2023 Recap

Zion hosted its fourth annual Oktoberfest on Sunday October 8, 2023. The event was attended by 47 enthusiastic party goers. The Recreation and Fellowship committee provided pork loin, sauerkraut, potatoes, beer basted brats, rolls, and beverages. All in attendance brought a dish to share. Combined, this gave all in attendance a smorgasbord of delicious food to choose from.

The social hall was decorated with traditional Bavarian colors and the festive atmosphere provided all with a fantastic fellowship experience.

Special thanks to Sue Dickson, Claudia Ditch, Becky Slade, and Shirly Horner for organizing and preparing the food and to Jim Laughlin and Jerry Ruffner for helping with the room set up and decorations.

Kney Organ Update

Here is a message from Zamberlan who is refurbishing the Kney Organ:

The new slider solenoids and miscellaneous small parts should leave Germany by the middle of this month. I expect to have all the Syndyne hardware by Thanksgiving or soon after; Chris Hahn told me earlier this week that he was hoping to have some time to work on the SDK shank modifications this week, to permit use of the original knobs. Once he sends me a sample I'll at least forward pictures to you, but likely a physical example, and then hopefully we can define a clear path forward in that regard. My pipemaker and I agreed late last week that we'll plan to pick up your pipework mid-December.

So, our current schedule has reinstallation at Zion commencing in January, hopefully around the middle of the month. I know that Ash Wednesday is February 14 next year, but I expect—based on the current timing—that the organ would be available before Lent begins.

Trinity 321 Holiday Schedule Announced

Trinity 321 has announced the service schedule for our upcoming Advent and Christmas services.

Advent 2023

Advent Mid-Week services will be held as follows:

- Advent 1 Wednesday November 29, 2023 – 7:00 PM at Zion
- Advent 2 Wednesday December 6, 2023 – 7:00 PM at Zion
- Advent 3 Wednesday December 13, 2023 – 7:00 PM at Zion
- Advent 4 Wednesday December 20, 2023 – 7:00 PM at Zion

These services will be held in the Zion office area. The service will provide time for prayer and discussion and be followed by a Eucharist.

Weekend Advent Services will be held as follows:

- Advent 1 Saturday December 2, 2023 – 5:30 PM at Zion
 Sunday December 3, 2023 – 9:30 AM at Zion
 Sunday December 3, 2023 – 11:15 AM at Luther Chapel
- Advent 2 Saturday December 9, 2023 – 5:30 PM at Zion
 Sunday December 10, 2023 – 9:30 AM at Zion
 Sunday December 10, 2023 – 11:15 AM at Luther Chapel
- Advent 3 Saturday December 16, 2023 – 5:30 PM at Zion
 Sunday December 17, 2023 – 9:30 AM at Zion
 Sunday December 17, 2023 – 11:15 AM at Luther Chapel
- Advent 4 Saturday December 23, 2023 – 5:30 PM at Luther Chapel (Dinner Following)

Christmas 2023

- Christmas Eve Sunday December 24, 2023 – 7:00 PM at Zion
 Sunday December 24, 2023 - 10:00 PM at Luther Chapel
- Christmas Day Monday December 25, 2023 – 9:30 AM at Zion

WELCOME TO VICAR JANE MILLER

Vicar Jane Miller will be doing her internship with Pastor Cogar. Jane is a retired Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and is currently in her third semester at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg and Philadelphia. She is pursuing a Master of Divinity in the seminary's Distributed Learning Program. Jane lives in Mayport, Pennsylvania on her paternal great grandparents' farm. She is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Shannondale and is an Authorized Lay Worship Leader for the Northwest Pennsylvania Synod of ELCA.

STAFF & VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

The annual staff and volunteer Christmas Luncheon will be held at 11:30 AM on Thursday, December 14, in the Social Hall. This is for everyone who has ever volunteered (doesn't matter how long ago). A sign-up sheet is in the office directly under the clock. Please join us!

STAFF BONUS ANNOUNCEMENT

Our staff works hard throughout the year to support the Worship Life, Education, and Mission Outreach programs of our congregation. Keeping our facilities clean and ready to support our mission work, providing worship materials, newsletters and other communications for the congregation and preparing and overseeing our educational programs is all work our staff does behind the scenes for us during the year. Now we can show our heartfelt appreciation to our staff by contributing generously toward the Christmas bonus to be distributed to the staff. You can contribute using your weekly envelopes or the envelopes in the pew rack. (Mark the envelope with the amount you wish to contribute to the staff bonus by writing the amount and "Staff Bonus" on the envelope). We will be accepting contributions through Sunday, December 3.

2024 Giving Envelopes

Giving envelopes for the calendar year 2024 are now available.

We will have the envelopes available for pick up at the annual meeting of November 19.

Following the annual meeting, the envelopes will be available for pick up at the rear of the nave until December 31, 2023.

We will mail any unclaimed envelopes to members the first week in January.

To save the cost of postage, we urge you to make arrangements to pick up your envelopes before the New Year. We also ask that you pick up envelopes for someone you know who may be unable to pick up their envelopes personally.

The Stewardship Committee thanks you all in advance for your help and cooperation.

ALL SAINTS DAY

As part of our All Saints celebration on Sunday, November 5, 2023, the Worship and Music Committee is asking that the congregation submit a name and relationship of a loved one which we will add as part of a sung litany during the lighting of memorial candles at the end of the service.

Example: "For Jane Doe, loving mother"

The congregation is encouraged to offer names they wish to have included by way of special remembrances on All Saints Sunday. Please submit them to the church office by November 1.

Christmas Candles and Funds – 2023

Due to the increased cost, care, clean-up, and disposal of fresh poinsettias and greens the Worship and Music Committee has switched to silk for the Christmas season. Therefore, members may want to consider other options for memorializing or honoring your loved ones.

- _____ Instrumental Musicians
- _____ Kelly Jones Lutherlyn Scholarship Fund
- _____ Emergency Fund for Members
- _____ Helen Myers Memorial Musicians
- _____ Candelabra Candles @ \$10.00 each
- _____ Processional Torches @ \$15.00 each
- _____ Votive Lights (Altar) @ \$5.00 each
- _____ Sanctuary Lamp @ \$5.00

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____ Envelope # _____

Please place your order form (with payment) in the offering plate OR return it to the Zion office by December 3, 2023.



FILM FESTIVAL

Jerry Ruffner's 18th Annual Film Festival is "coming soon", as the old theatre trailers used to say. These showings will entertain you with fine 16mm short subjects that are rarely seen on television. You will enjoy the old movie theatre experience.

Of course, Abbott & Costello's "Who's On First" will be repeated, along with other great short films and cartoons.

This is a fund-raising event and your generous donation will help the Zion Food Pantry. As always, popcorn, pop and water will be provided to enjoy with the films. Josh Widdowson will be providing the popcorn. No popcorn throwing from the balcony will be permitted. But then, of course, there is no



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Alex Budris
Anna Grafton
Bea Ruth
Dory Campbell
Gerrit Grafton
Janice Frain
Jasmine Blank
Kevin McCreary
Lauren Hotchkiss
Lynn Kennedy
Marion St. Clair
Nancy Ellenberger
Neil Balcerak
Peggy Houck
Ray St. Clair
Rebecca Slade
Stephen Campbell

Every member needs to check Zion's birthday list each month. Have we missed a member of your family? **PLEASE** call (724-465-5597) or email (zion.lutheran@comcaset.net) Bev at the Zion office and alert her of the member's name and birth date so we can correct our error. Thank you!

MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

September 11, 2023

Call to order: 6:33

Present: Kevin Huston, Kimberley McCullough, Rik Wissinger, Shirley Horner, Sheri Bowersox, Pernell Bowersox, Becky Slade, Gail Sechrist, Sue Dickson.

Absent: Dory Campbell (illness), Pastor Tedd Cogar

August minutes: Reviewed and made 2 corrections. Motion to approve. (Rik/Kim)

Facebook/Web site – Sheri Bowersox

Add to Facebook- Octoberfest. Oct 8 4 pm. Invite Luther Chapel and Campus Ministry

Add also the Annual meeting, and the Film Festival

Financial Report August-

August Financials- C&B income for August was above budget. Total income was at 91.79% and we should be at 67% at this time. Our expenses are above at 74.35% where they should be 67% at this time of the year. Motion to move to audit (Shirley/Becky)

Committee Reports

Administration and Finance-

Administration and Finance sends a recommendation to continue to send out pledge requests to the congregation this year. This year the letters will be sent out after the budget is approved in November. Discussion. Motion to proceed with this campaign (Becky/Kim).

Annual meeting November 19th Meeting at 4pm. Dinner at 5.

Staff Support – Rik Wissinger

Met with Jim McLaughlin, since he has been here almost a year. Rik is getting the contracts ready to give out to the staff as soon as salaries are approved at the Annual meeting.

Nominating Committee – Don Seagren

Evangelism/Stewardship – Dory Cambell

Prayer Retreat – cancelled, no reschedule date as of yet.

Bible Study – still ongoing. Next meeting Sept 20th 6 pm

Parish Education – Gail Sechrist

Lutherlyn Fund Raising Request – Asked Becky to speak about this at the annual meeting.

Property – Becky Slade

Window project – This work in progress, installation in spring.

Bats – We received two bids. Discussion. The Terminex Company was favored. They would give a guarantee and would also work at getting both bats/pigeons removed and tower sealed

MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL—cont

so they could not get back in. Bid is \$9,548.00. Motion to continue with this. (Rik/Kim).

Elevator – Right Elevator. Rik and Kevin met with this company. The bid for the repair was \$1,020 less than Eastern Elevator at \$4,400. Their service contract is better also and save about \$1,000/yr. Motion to continue with repairs with Right Elevator. (Sue/Kim)

Furnace Room support – The open space in the furnace room (old coal chute and bin) extends under the sidewalk and even under the street. Some support beams need repaired. An estimate was given for repair at approx. \$4,700. (Pennington) This should be done before winter. Discussion. Motion made to continue with repairs. (Gail/Kim)

Zion Sign – Replacement of the Zion sign on corner of church. Property received bids from various companies but recommend going with Blue Sky Sign Company with a \$4,470 bid. The sign will look similar to the one in place, be red and black, black letters, and will be lit from the outside. Motion to approve. (Becky/Kim)

Greenspace – Becky announced that a design has been drawn up to place trees and plants in the greenspace (parsonage lot). Landscape company Earthcraft was chosen to do the work. Their bid is \$6,750 and the work can be done the 1st week of October. This is being paid for by a memorial from Rossman Shaffer and designated for the greenspace.

Recreation and Fellowship –

Octoberfest – Planned for Oct 8 at 4 pm. We have \$500 remaining in budget.

Social Ministry – Sue Dickson

Back to School Bash event went very well. Money in our 02 account B2SB will be used to pay for the clothing vouchers that each registered child received with their new backpacks.

Trinity 3-2-1 – Next meeting is November

Bishop talk recap – A Church site profile will need to be done for each congregation. This will then be posted online so that Pastors searching for a call will see it.

We should put together a Call committee to prepare. We should have representatives from each congregation.

Intern – The intern (Jane Miller) may be here earlier due to a change in her class schedule. Could be late fall. Pastor Tedd will be her Advisor during her time here, but per the Bishop we should put together a “management” committee to assist and support the intern.

MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL—cont

Worship and Music –

Kney Organ Refurbishment – Looking into some grants.

IUP Student Scholars – The Helen Myers memorial has been funding the IUP Student Choir scholars. There is money enough for the fall semester but not enough for the spring. There will be more discussion next month and possibly at the congregational meeting about ways to sustain this fund.

Confirmation will be on Oct 29, Reformation Sunday.

Christmas Worship Schedule –

Sat, Dec 23 - 5:30 pm Advent 4 Service – 1 Service for both at Luther Chapel

Sun, Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Zion - 7 pm Luther Chapel - 9:30 pm

(No Sunday morning service)

Mon, Dec 25 – 9:30 am service at Zion (Pernell and Sheri offered to have Breakfast)

On-line worship – wiring being run.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:10 (Shirley/Kim)

Submitted Sue Dickson 9/20/23

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 4, 2023

Call to order: 7:19

Present: Kevin Huston, Rik Wissinger, Pastor Tedd Cogar, Gail Sechrist, Sue Dickson

September Minutes: September minutes were reviewed and approved (Rik/Kevin)

Financial Report:

September Financials: September giving was again above monthly budget with our YTD income at 100.5% with 3 months to go. Our expenses to date are at 90%. So far this year seeing an increase to 90 giving families. 65% of the amount is coming from only 20% of the giving families. Review of the September financials and motion to approve (Rik/Sue)

2024 Budget Process: 2024 Budget draft has been reviewed. Some of the variance increases are salary, intern salary, and funding for choir support. Our interest income is expected to go up. We will have a surplus at the end of this year. We used the surplus from 2022 to balance the budget for 2023. This time with the increase in interest income, we expect to use it to help balance the budget.

Funding of IUP Student Choir Support: There is enough in the Helen Myers Scholarship fund to fund this fall semester. To continue to fund the Choir support it is planned to include this in the 2024 budget. The congregation will be asked at the Annual meeting for approval and commitment for this project. Some congregation comments about this so far are this being a way of evangelism and outreach involving the students. Also the choral music can enhance the worship service. A congregation member said it is a part of the legacy of Zion Church.

Committee budget requests: Budget requests have been collected and being considered in planning the 2024 budget.

Ongoing facilities Projects;

Windows – spring

Kney Organ – completion delayed till after New Year

Online project –

Old business –

Intern project – Jane should be able to start in a few weeks.

New Business

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES—cont

New Capital Projects

Elevator repair – The parts are available and Right Elevator is waiting for the permit to come in to start work.

Elevator maintenance Contract – Right Elevator is proposing a annual maintenance contract that is much better than the prior company. A cost of \$780/yr compared to \$4,250.

Repair of Furnace room ceiling supports – This has been completed by Pennington.

Bat and other pest removal - Working on access to the bell tower by crane or from interior.

Octoberfest – Will be held Sunday Oct 8 at 4 pm.

Annual Meeting – Date set for Nov 19. Letters have gone out to the congregation.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 (Kevin/Rik)

Submitted by Sue Dickson 10/6/23

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 17, 2023

Members Present: Becky Slade, Jim Laughlin, Kevin Huston, Kathy Huston, Jerry Ruffner

Current Projects

- 1.Environmental Pest Control service performed
- 2.Ceiling support Beams in Furnace room have been replaced by Specialty Construction.
- 3.The committee is waiting for Blue Sky to supply a new Marque Sign at the corner of Church and Sixth Streets. (\$4,470.00 with funds from undesignated memorial fund)
- 4.Terminix Wildlife Division is working to remove bats and pigeons and seal building from further infestation (\$9,548.00) Terminix will be in on Friday October 20, 2023 to complete their work. Terminix will perform annual inspections of the building to ensure success with the program (\$489.00)
- 5.Right Elevator has repaired the lift cable on the elevator (\$4,450.00). We are still waiting for the state to provide a new operational certificate so that the elevator can be re-opened.
- 6.Right Elevator was contracted to perform quarterly service for the elevator at an annual cost of \$780.00
- 7.Earth Craft has completed the “green space” project (\$6,750.00). In addition, Earth Craft will clean out and mulch the areas around the church building (\$2,320.00). This work will be completed in October. The funds for this project will be provided with the remaining ZARP funds.
- 8.A problem with mold in the kitchen storage area was addressed. While temporary, this seemed to mitigate the problem. Baker Waterproofing will be contacted to provide a bid for a more permanent solution.
- 9.Stairway ceiling and walls going up to the choir loft need to be re-plastered. Jim will contact Russ Crane for a schedule to do this work.
- 10.Fire extinguishers were inspected.
- 11.Hobart was contacted to come in and service the power boost attachment on the dishwasher.

On Going Projects:

- 1.Window replacement project continues with final window measurements being taken in July. Installation schedule appears to be in early spring
- 2.Kney Organ refurbishment continues and is on schedule to be completed in early December.
- 3.The railing going up the Sixth Street entrance needs to be scraped and re-painted.

Available Funds for Projects

Capital Improvement Account Balance: \$133,650.00

Kney Organ Refurbishment Pledges - \$79,800.00

Thrivent Building Maintenance Fund - \$22,570.67

ZARP Account Balance: \$135.00

The Committee’s next meeting will be Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Formal recommendations to council:

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 24, 2023

Members Present: Kathy Huston, Kevin Huston, Pastor Tedd Cogar, Vicar Jane Miller, Sue Dickson, Rik Wissinger

Topics Discussed:

1. The application paperwork for the Ministry Formation/Seminary Intern (Vicar Jane Miller) has been finalized. Vicar Jane has begun her work at Zion. We are anxious to support her ministry journey.
2. The committee is planning a Kney Organ rededication service. A hymn sing and a hymn fest featuring Tom Trenney will be part of that.
3. The committee finalized a schedule for the 2023 Advent and Christmas services.
4. The committee selected hymns for Advent.
5. The committee is exploring having Kevin Eisensmith with his 18 piece brass ensemble to play on March 24, 2024 (Passion Sunday) to help welcome back the Kney organ. Plans are progressing to follow the worship service with an afternoon concert. Proceeds from offering to go to the Kney fund.

Plans are underway to celebrate Pastor Tedd's ordination anniversary (11 years) on Sunday, March 17, 2024.

Recommendation to Council:

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday November 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM

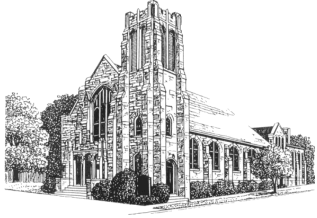
Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Huston

November 2023

Date	Lay Reader	Altar Guild	Ushers	Assist. Min.	Tellers
Nov 4/5	5:30-Sue Dickson 9:30-Jenn Rising	Sat-AM-Kathy Huston, PM-Ruth Houser Sun-Becky Slade	5:30-Shirley Horner, Chuck Rodnicki 9:30-Jim Slade	5:30-Stephanie Brady 9:30-Jenn Rising	Kim Balcerak
Nov 11/12	5:30-Kami Dugan 9:30-Gail Sechrist	Sat AM & PM-Maggie Dugan Sun-Becky Slade	5:30-Rik & Bev Wissinger 9:30-TBD	5:30-Rob Wilt 9:30-Kevin Huston	Kim Balcerak
Nov 18/19	5:30-Kalise Dugan 9:30-Tyson Ellenberger	Sat-AM-Jan Cikowski, PM -Bev Wissinger Sun-	5:30-Dave & Linda Malin 9:30-Gary Ellenberger	5:30-Sue Dickson 9:30-Rik Wissinger	Kim Balcerak
Nov 25/26	5:30-Claudia Ditch 9:30-Beth Grafton	Sat-AM-Kathy Huston, PM-Shirley Horner Sun-Sue Dickson	5:30-Rik & Bev Wissinger 9:30-Tyson Ellenberger	5:30-Kim Balcerak 9:30-Beth Grafton	Kim Balcerak
	Jenn Rising	Kathy Huston	5:30 Dave Malin 9:30 Dave Keith Pernell Boxwersox	Kim Balcerak	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Alcoholics Anonymous meetings Wednesday evenings	Narcotics Anonymous meetings Sunday evenings		1	2	3 Zion office closed	4 5:30 Liturgy
5 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:45 Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 7 Adm/Fin Mtg	9	10 Zion office closed	11 5:30 Liturgy
12 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:45 Choir Rehearsal Sunday School	13 6:30 Council Mtg	14	15	16 Office Closed	17 Zion office closed	18 5:30 Liturgy
19 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:45 Choir Rehearsal Sunday School 4 Annual Meeting	20	21 7 Property Mtg 7 W&M Mtg	22	23 Office Closed/Jim Off 	24 Zion office closed/Jim Off	25 5:30 Liturgy
26 9:30 Liturgy 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:45 Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29 7 Parish Ed Mtg	30 Newsletter Mailed		



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PASTOR/PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Tedd Cogar
 Vicar Jane Miller

ZION STAFF

Administrative Assistant	Beverly Swatsworth
Sexton	Jim Laughlin
Director of Music	Christine Clewell

TRINITY 3-2-1 MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Rik Wissinger
 Barry Widdowson

ZION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kevin Huston (Pres)
 Rik Wissinger (Vice Pres)
 Sue Dickson (Sec)
 Gail Sechrist (Treas)
 Kim Balcerak (Fin Sec)
 Becky Slade
 Dory Campbell
 Kim McCullough
 Pernell Bowersox
 Sheri Bowersox
 Shirley Horner
 Pastor Tedd Cogar

NEXT NEWSLETTER MAILED — November 30, 2023; Deadline: November 15, 2023

THERE IS NOW A LINK ON THE ZION WEBSITE TO ACCESS THE TRUMPET