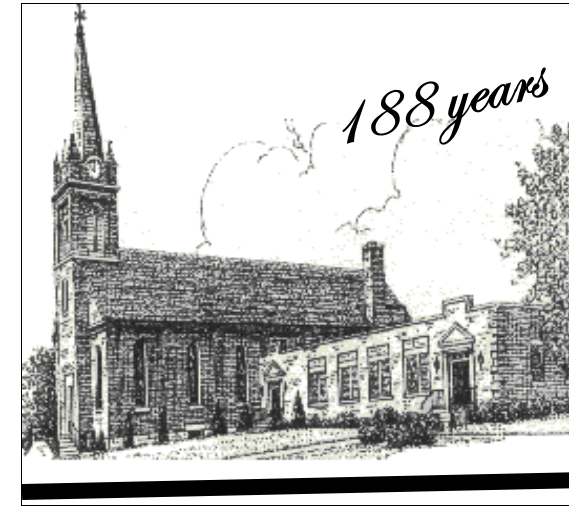


Zion's *Visitor*
 Zion Evangelical Church
 117 West White Street
 Millstadt, IL 62260-1939

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Zion Evangelical Church

Serving in Christ's Name Since 1835

From the Desk of Pastor Darrell Advent - Christmas

Advent is a season of preparation, preparing for the coming of the Christ. As we prepare ourselves for the prophesied 2nd coming of Jesus, proclaimed in the New Testament, we look to His prophesied 1st coming, as proclaimed in the Old Testament. The faithful fulfillment of these Old Testament prophecies gives us confidence that the New Testament prophecies will also be fulfilled.

The Old Testament prophecies proclaim the mystery of who the Christ is and what He will do. As such, this Advent season we will look at the 3 offices that Christ fulfills (the Prophet, the Priest, and the King), and we will finish up with who the Christ really is – the Son. For the mystery of the Bible is that Jesus is the Christ and that He is all of these – the Prophet, the Priest, the King, and the very Son of God.

Dec. 3	Deut. 18:15-19	Christ is the Prophet
Dec. 10	Psalms 110	Christ is the Priest
Dec. 17	Isaiah 9:1-7	Christ is the King
Dec. 24 morning	Isaiah 7:10-17	Christ is the Son
Dec. 24 evening	John 1:9-13	Christ is the Light in the Darkness
Dec. 31	Gal. 4:4-7	Christ is God's Gift

So come and join us each Sunday of Advent, Christmas, and beyond. Lift your voices in praise to our Triune Lord God the Almighty — The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Praise Him for the prophesied and fulfilled incarnate birth of Jesus the Christ. For indeed, the Word of God has been made flesh and dwelt among us. He is full of Grace and Truth and freely gives this to all everyone who follows Him.

May you and yours come to Worship Christ Jesus this Christmas Season and beyond;
 Pastor Darrell



"Mary, Did You Know?" by Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene (1984)
 Mary did you know that your baby boy will some day walk on water?
 Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
 Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
 This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
 Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
 Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
 And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God.

Oh, Mary did you know?
 The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
 The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb.

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
 Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
 Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
 This sleeping child you're holding is the great I AM!

December 2023

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We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

CHURCH DIRECTORY Office: 618-476-1778

Rev. Darrell Weber, Pastor
 Office/Fax 476-1778, ext. 2
 After hours phone: 618-972-6010
 zion@zionmillstadt.com

Amanda Frierdich
 Office Administrator/Financial Treasurer
 Office 476-1778, ext. 1
 After hours phone: 618-975-5142
 amanda@zionmillstadt.com
 treasurer@zionmillstadt.com

Sheila Peters, Pre-School Teacher - 618-363-3930
 preschool@zionmillstadt.com

Dave Maeder, Custodian - 618-975-6355
 Church E-Mail: zion@zionmillstadt.com
 Church Website: http://www.zionmillstadt.com

Christian Education
 Jeri Arnold (24) 618-792-4481
 Jodi Notter (25) 618-698-1890
 Debbie Doerr (26) 618-514-3917

Sisters in Faith
 Meets Sept., Oct., Nov., March, April and May at 12:00 p.m.
 President - Charlotte Mehrtens - 476-1267

Z Team
 Meets every Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m.
 Coordinator - Gary Shondy - 618-281-6509

CHURCH COUNCIL (Every Second Monday of the Month - 7:00 p.m.)

Darren Doerr	(26)	618-980-5055
Rich Hoffelmeyer	(24)	702-499-7371
Annette Hund	(25)	618-719-6306
Charlotte Mehrtens	(24)	618-978-2655 (Secretary)
Kurt Pellmann	(25)	618-781-0903 (President)
Mary Lou Peter	(24)	618-719-8077
Barb Scharf	(25)	618-973-0289 (Vice Pres.)
Betty Keller Timmer	(26)	618-520-3623
Sherry Wynn	(26)	618-615-7915

(00) indicates the year that the Council Member's term expires.

Worship Schedule

9:00 AM - Adult Bible Classes/SS/Conf
 10:15 AM - Worship Service

Office Hours

Amanda Frierdich
 Monday through Thursday
 From 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 Lunch 12:00 - 12:30
 Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Lay Liturgist Schedule for December

We have 13 liturgists who read the Scriptures: *Joy Dormeier, David Harres, Tracy Holmes, Linda Hopfinger, Annette Hund, Sean Mahoney, Kay Mehrtens, Vicki Pellmann, Bill Saverling, Joyce Tastad, Richard Trent, Dave Woehlke, and Marjie Weber.*

We are looking for more volunteers to read the Scriptures during our Worship Services. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office (476-1778) to be signed up. The Lay Liturgist schedule is given below. To make a change, contact someone listed below.

Dec. 3	Linda Hopfinger	618-406-0269	dlmshop@msn.com
Dec. 10	Annette Hund	618-719-6306	71threng@gmail.com
Dec. 17	Sean Mahoney	618-977-3240	seancari@htc.net
Dec. 24	Kay Mehrtens	618-792-3138	leskay@htc.net
Dec. 31	Vicki Pellmann	618-806-8878	vdp2007@aol.com

The following is taken from the internet: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/biblical-truths-from-mary-did-you-know.html>

“**Mary Did You Know**” is one of the few Christmas classics that was written in the last few decades. Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene wrote the popular Christmas song in 1984. Lowry wrote the lyrics and Greene the music. The song’s lyrics wonder if Jesus’ mother could grasp the incredible power that was held in her tiny newborn.

The lyrics to “Mary Did You Know?” were written by Mark Lowry in 1984. It may surprise you that Mark Lowry wrote “Mary Did You Know?” especially if you know him for his comedy.

Mark Lowry, however, is much more than a humorist. He’s been an entertainer since he was eleven, growing up in Houston, Texas. Apart from penning “Mary Did You Know?”, he is best known for singing with the Gaither Vocal Band.

Lowry was born in 1958 to Charles and Bev Lowry. His mother was also a songwriter and singer, and Mark inherited her talents. He attended and graduated from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

In 1984, Lowry was contacted by Liberty’s president, Jerry Falwell, who asked him to write the program for The Living Christmas Tree, a church music performance. Today, The Living Christmas Tree is known as The Virginia Christmas Spectacular. The church has been hosting the annual show... since 1971, the year Liberty University was founded.”

While writing the program that year, Lowry meditated on the Christmas story found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and especially pondered the person of Mary, the mother of Jesus. He asked questions now posed in the song: Did Mary know her Son was as special as He was? Did she know that her Son had come to save humanity, including her? Did she know that her baby would be able to heal, to calm storms, to walk on water? Did Mary know that she was kissing the face of God?

Seven year later, Mark contacted his friend Buddy Greene and asked for his help writing the music. A few weeks later, Lowry and Greene met up and recorded the song and then got it into the hands of Michael English, who sang it and included it in the album he was making at the time.

The Evangelical Catechism

I am continuing the series of articles on the 1896 edition of the Evangelical Catechism (which is in the public domain). It has been republished (in modern English) by the Evangelical Association in 2018. This article covers the 14th of 52 weeks in the catechism. This begins the section on the Christian Faith. Weeks 14 through 19 focus on describing God’s character and nature.

Week 14 is composed of questions 40 through 45.

40. What do the Holy Scriptures teach concerning God?

The scriptures teach us that God is one God, Spirit: that is, He is Life, Light, and Love; and therefore eternal, unchangeable, omnipresent; — true, omniscient, all-wise, holy, omnipotent, just; blessed, good, gracious and merciful. Deut. 6:4; 1John 4:24; 1John 5:20; 1John 1:5; 1 John 4:8.

41. What is the meaning of: God is Life?

God is Life” means that He is eternal, unchangeable and ever present. God is eternal. Ps. 90:1-2; Rev. 1:8; Isaiah 26:4.

42. What is the meaning of: God is Light?

In His being and in His will God is always the same. Ps. 102:24-27; James 1:17

43. What is the meaning of: God is omnipresent?

God fills heaven and earth and works everywhere at the same time. Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 17:27-28; Ps. 139:7-10; Ps. 23:4

44. What is the meaning of: God is true?

God is truth itself, and certainly does fulfill all His promises and threats. Num. 23:19; 1John 5:10; Ps. 119:99-100

45. What is the meaning of: God is omniscient?

God sees all, hears all, knows all — the past, the present and the future: He discerns everything as it is: Ps. 139:1-3; Ps. 139:16; Heb. 4:13; 1 Sam. 1:7; Ps. 94:9; Matt. 6:8

May you be blessed as you examine this founding statement of our Evangelical faith and heritage.



Zion Evangelical Church

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00AM FH - Civic Club	1 8:15AM Preschool 10:00AM FH - Chair Yoga 4:00PM MCC Holiday Home Tours	8 8:15AM Preschool 10:00AM FH - Chair Yoga	15 8:15AM Preschool 10:00AM FH - Chair Yoga	22 10:00AM FH - Chair Yoga	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed
3 Advent #1 Communion 9:00AM SS / Conf 10:00AM MCC @ Zion 10:15AM Worship 11:00AM FH - Sladek	4 8:15AM Preschool	5 8:30AM Z-Team 1:00PM G.P. Bible Study	6 8:15AM Preschool 11:00AM Bible Study	7 9:00AM Quilting 12:00PM Sisters of Faith - Xmas Party	8 8:15AM Preschool 10:00AM FH - Chair Yoga	9 12:00PM FH - Stephanie Berry
10 Advent #2 9:00AM SS / Conf 10:15AM Worship 11:00AM FH - Skaer Family 5:00PM SS Xmas Party - @ Weber's	11 8:15AM Preschool 7:00PM Council Mtg	12 8:30AM Z-Team 1:00PM G.P. Bible Study	13 8:15AM Preschool 10:00AM EA Eccles. Council	14 9:00AM Quilting 2:00PM G.P. Worship	15 8:15AM Preschool 10:00AM FH - Chair Yoga	16 7:30PM MCC Rehearsal
17 Advent #3 SS Xmas Program 9:00AM SS / Conf 10:15AM Worship 7:00PM MCC Xmas Concert	18 8:15AM Preschool	19 8:00AM Z-Team Xmas Breakfast 8:30AM Z-Team 1:00PM G.P. Bible Study	20 8:15AM Preschool - Xmas Party 6:30PM Z-Team Xmas Party	21 9:00AM Quilting	22 10:00AM FH - Chair Yoga	23
24 Advent #4 Food Pantry 10:15AM Worship 6:00PM Xmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed
31 Deacon's Fund New Year's Eve 10:15AM Worship						




LIBRARY DISTRICT

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

Holiday Open House GRAND RE-OPENING

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 7 | 5PM - 7PM

COME SEE OUR NEWLY REMODELED SPACE
AND LEARN ABOUT ALL THAT YOUR
LIBRARY CAN DO FOR YOU!



COOKIE WALK

Saturday, December 9, 2023
9:00 am – Noon

Trinity Lutheran Church
503 East Washington, Millstadt, IL 62260



Delicious **HOMEMADE** Christmas Cookies
Sold by the pound
\$13.00 – mixed ~ \$14.00 – fancy

Advance Orders Taken
Please call Shirley Boehm at
618-476-1113




Millstadt Community Choir Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 17

7:00 p.m.

Zion Evangelical Church
117 W. White Street

Trivia Night & Silent Auction

to Help Maintain the Restored
Old Millstadt Water Tower

Saturday, January 27, 2024
St. James Parish Center
423 West Madison -- Millstadt, IL 62260

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. -- Trivia starts at 7 p.m.

\$120 per Table, 6-8 Players
(Includes Survivor Round & 10 Mulligans)
Heads/Tails and 50/50 Drawing
(Player-friendly questions read by experienced announcer.)

- Bring Your Own Snacks
- Beverages Available (or Bring Your Own Beverages)

Cash Prizes Awarded to Top 3 Teams

Reservations: Call Betty at 618-520-3623 or Marianne at 618-719-1911
or
e-mail: millstadtinman@gmail.com



Operation Christmas Child Update

This year we (Zion members and friends) collected 97 boxes. Thank you to all who contributed either money, items, or complete boxes and to those who sorted and filled boxes. The shoeboxes were delivered to St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Belleville on November 10th and 16th and are on their way to children around the world.



Christmas at Zion

The following events at Zion are sure to get you into the Christ(mas) Spirit. You can read more about each of these in other articles throughout this newsletter.

Tuesday, Nov. 28, Hanging of the Greens. In the morning, the Z-Team will bring decorations up from storage in the basement. At 10:00 a.m. retirees (both women and men) and anyone else free to help will decorate the sanctuary except for the tree. We can put the tree base (big box) in place, move the piano, hang garland, etc. And in the evening (7:00 p.m.), we will put up the tree.

Thursday, Dec. 7, starting at noon, the Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon.

Sunday, Dec. 10, 5:00-8:00 p.m., Sunday School Christmas Party (for children, youth, teachers and families) at Pastor Darrell and Marjie Weber's home (137 Benham Dr., Millstadt, IL 62260). Bring a \$5 gift to be exchanged, a snack to share, and your friends. We will also go Christmas caroling at 5:20 pm, so bring a coat and gloves.

Friday, Dec. 15, starting at 11:45 a.m., at Joe Boccardi's Ristorante in Columbia, IL, the Zion Staff Christmas Party.

Sunday, Dec. 17, at 10:15 a.m., the Children's Christmas program via video recordings.

Sunday, Dec. 17, at 7:00 p.m., the musical "Sounds of our Village – Christmas Concert."

Wednesday, Dec. 20, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Millstadt VFW, the Z-Team Christmas Party.

Sunday, Dec. 24, at 6:00 p.m., our Christmas Eve & Candlelight Service.




Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25th and New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1st. In addition, the Church Office will have very limited hours on Tuesday thru Friday, Dec. 26th thru 29th.

No Sunday School

With all of the Christmas and New Year's Eve activities and family gatherings and travels, we will not have Sunday School on December 24th and 31st. See you in the New Year!



Once again it's time to order poinsettias for Christmas! If you would like a poinsettia, please have your order in by **December 13th**. The cost will be **\$8.00** per plant.

PLEASE CIRCLE RED OR WHITE POINSETTIA

Order Your Poinsettias From: _____

DESIGNATE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please turn your order into the church office with payment. Make checks payable to Zion Church.

Poinsettias will be ready for pick up on **December 24th**.



Advent Candles

The Lighting of the Advent Candles is a meaningful part of Zion's traditional preparation for the coming of Christmas. This year the following families will be lighting our Advent Candles.

- Dec. 3 Ryan & Mallori Kochmann and Brock
- Dec. 10 Alex & Paige Pellmann and Tessa and Oliver
- Dec. 17 Michael & Jodi Notter and Sadie and Wyatt
- Dec. 24 morning Phil & Heather Kish and Caleb and Drew
- Dec. 24 evening Mark & Kelly Riemann and Josephina and Alessandra



Christmas Eve Service

Join us for our Christ-centered family Christmas Eve service at 6:00 p.m. This will be a service of Scriptures and Songs celebrating the birth of Christ Jesus.

So come and bring your children to see and hear and to praise and sing, celebrating anew the birth of Jesus Christ.

We are asking Zion's children and youth to share their musical talents on Christmas Eve with Prelude music, starting before 6:00 p.m., based on the number of pieces to be played. Please contact Pastor Darrell (618-972-6010) to sign up to do this.



December Birthdays



Andrew Lang	12/01	Carson Rolland	12/11	Carter Jones	12/19
Cindy Green	12/04	Colby Jones	12/13	Kim Gibson	12/20
James Gardner	12/06	Myrtle Metter	12/13	Megan Glaeser	12/23
Daniel Haas	12/06	Ava Stumpf	12/14	Jerrid Hartman	12/23
Lucille Schewe	12/07	Emma Stumpf	12/14	Lukas Pellmann	12/23
Donna Gaulrapp	12/08	Shelby DeRousse	12/15	Mariella Pellmann	12/23
Kristofer Muskopf	12/08	Chantelle Guenther	12/15	Helen Vigna	12/23
Diane Germann	12/11	Eric Wilson	12/16	Kathleen Trent	12/24
Peggy Hubbs	12/11	Julia Acker	12/18	Sadie Notter	12/31



DONATION NEEDED

We are looking for a used, lightweight, collapsible wheelchair for the Church. If you have one or have any questions, please contact the Church Office (618-476-1778). Thank you!

Upcoming Events

- MCC Christmas Concert December 17th
- Christmas Eve Service - 10:15 a.m. December 24th
- Christmas Eve Service - 6:00 p.m. December 24th

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOOK BAZAAR 2024

Collection of books began Tuesday, August 15th and will continue to December 16th. It will start back up on Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 9th through March 16th 2024.

Please drop off books at the Hospital Warehouse or you may bring them to church and arrangements will be made for pickup. Please, NO encyclopedias. Thank you!



Please keep the Fellowship Park and Hall in mind for your upcoming events. Call the office or stop by for a reservation form today!

Oak Hill Nursing Home

Shirley Brandenburger
Pearl Griebel

Our Lady of the Snows

Betty Baltz

Garden Place at Millstadt

Marianne Baltz
Marilyn Beil
Dianne (Muskopf) Mehrmann
Dottie Rickard

The Atrium of Belleville

John Kalbfleisch

The Villas of Holly Brook

Don Mueller

Freeburg Care Center

Arlene Dohrmann



Thank you from all of us!

Happy Herd 4H Club
Jenn Stoks, Abbie, Jilly, Pennie, Max,
Logan, John, Gwyn, Kori, Leo, and
Journey

(The group used our Fellowship Hall for a meeting on November 14th)



Treasurer's Report

2023	GENERAL FUND - Updated Version					
	2023 INCOME	2023 EXPENSE	difference	BUDGET 2023	2022 INCOME	2022 EXPENSE
January	\$19,575.07	\$27,228.77	\$ (7,653.70)	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 17,103.09	\$ 21,309.34
February	\$19,135.11	\$29,700.64	\$ (10,565.53)	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 17,135.69	\$ 18,881.14
March	\$17,094.66	\$19,876.48	\$ (2,781.82)	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 26,484.04	\$ 20,985.79
April	\$30,417.21	\$28,239.45	\$ 2,177.76	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 18,035.02	\$ 23,939.45
May	\$15,956.14	\$34,598.97	\$ (18,642.83)	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 19,504.14	\$ 17,124.96
June	\$9,208.61	\$16,591.59	\$ (7,382.98)	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 10,515.28	\$ 28,671.99
July	\$23,961.75	\$36,382.84	\$ (12,421.09)	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 19,274.63	\$ 16,962.38
August	\$18,685.51	\$15,040.61	\$ 3,644.90	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 13,571.24	\$ 17,480.61
September	\$16,390.86	\$21,953.02	\$ (5,562.16)	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 18,093.74	\$ 18,977.58
October	\$22,409.09	\$24,934.93	\$ (2,525.84)	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 19,747.35	\$ 21,492.17
November			\$ -	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 20,625.21	\$ 46,594.67
December			\$ -	\$ 20,442.00	\$ 33,857.51	\$ 38,777.17
TOTALS	\$ 192,834.01	\$ 254,547.30	\$ (61,713.29)	\$ 245,304.00	\$ 233,946.94	\$ 291,197.25

Please note: The high 2023 Expense amount is due to the new park building and landscaping (\$16,328.48), new lawn mower (\$11,175.75), fence at the cemetery (\$21,214.73), and new sound system (\$1,174.67), all of which were purchased with designated funds.



Easy Christmas Fudge

- 3 cups sugar
- 1-5 oz. can evaporated milk
- 3/4 cup butter
- 1-7 oz. jar marshmallow fluff
- 1-12 oz. package semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)



Butter an 8x8 pan. Combine sugar, milk and butter in pot and cook on medium low heat until boiling. Boil for 5 minutes stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in chocolate chips and marshmallow fluff. Add chopped nuts, if desired. Pour into prepared baking dish. Cool completely and cut. Enjoy!



ATTENDANCE - SUNDAYS

MONTH	ONLINE AVE. 2023	IN PERSON AVE. 2023
January	10	68
February	8	69
March	5	70
April	11	114
May	7	64
June	6	68
July	12	56
August	15	61
September	5	61
October	6	64
November		
December		
Christmas Eve		
Year-to-Date	9	70



Council Meeting
November 13, 2023

Meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Darrell at 7 P.M. President Kurt Pellmann called the meeting to order with Kurt Pellmann, Sherry Wynn, Richard Hoffelmeyer, Mary Lou Peter, Betty Keller Timmer, Annette Hund, Barb Scharf, Charlotte Mehrstens and Darren Doerr. Pastor Darrell and Amanda Frierdich were also present.

Office Administrator Amanda gave the **Treasure's Report**. Everything was found to be in order at this time. There was a small discussion on some items but there were no problems. Motion was made by Annette and seconded by Darren to accept the report. Motion carried.

Minutes from October meeting were approved as presented. Rich motioned to approve the minutes and Mary Lou seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor Darrell gave his **Pastor's Report**. Dale Gruenewald organized the Polka Sunday on October 15th. Operation Christmas Child kicked off on October 15th and ended on November 5th. 95 boxes were sent so far and Pastor was expecting more to be dropped off at church. Sisters in Faith packed the Halloween candy for the party which is planned Halloween Night October 31st. He did the worship and Communion service at Garden Place and did four bible studies at Garden Place during the month. He did the invocation at the Senior Center 40 Anniversary celebration on October 10th. He had several engagements with the E A Association during the month. He will be meeting with other Pastors this month also. Mary Lou motions to accept Pastor's report; seconded by Rich. Motion carried.

Bill Savering has accepted a temporary call to Owensville council voted to pass the resolution to allow Bill to be called. Annette Hund made the motion and Rich Hoffelmeyer seconded the motion, motion carried.

Long Range Planning Charlotte thanked everyone for helping with the Wurstmarkt. We made \$2,459.47 serving 242 dine in and 111 carry out.

Mary Lou gave the **Mission Report** and said we are doing very well in Mission giving.

Staff and Parish Relations Darren stated that they had interviewed a custodian and felt she would do a good job. Rich made a motion and seconded by Sherry to hire her; motion carried. Melody Ceswell who lives in Millstadt and also does other house cleaning. If you see Melody around

church please stop and talk to her. Since all of the vacuums are in need of major repairs, Mary Lou made a motion to buy two new ones, one for downstairs and the other for upstairs. Motion seconded by Sherry; motion carried.

Worship and Music Annette is looking for members to sing or perform before the Christmas Eve Service. Please contact Annette or the church office if you know someone who can help.

Cemetery Board Kurt talked about The Baltz Cemetery indicating that Darrell Doerr had been taking care of it and has decided he no longer prefers to do it. It was decided to put the \$44,000.00 into a new account. Rich made a motion to set up account with Edward Jones in town, seconded by Barb; motion carried. Rich will set up the account.

The church is looking for a wheelchair to keep here in church in case we ever need one. Please contact the office if you have one.

Mary Lou motioned to call the meeting at 8.50 P.M.; seconded by Rich. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

President – Kurt Pellmann
Vice President – Barb Scharf
Secretary – Charlotte Mehrstens
Assistant Treasurer - Richard Hoffelmeyer



**Sisters in Faith Meeting
November 2, 2023**

There were sixteen ladies in attendance at the meeting. Pastor Darrell was not present, so Marjie blessed the meal. We were treated to a Thanksgiving feast by Darlene Gansmann, Patti French, and Kay Mehrtens.

Kay Mehrtens read a devotion about prayer.

Marjie reported that 150 children and their parents came through Reiss Hall for our Halloween party. All the children were very polite. Linda Hopfinger read the minutes from the October meeting, and they were approved. Carol Harres gave the Treasurer's report. The balance in our checking account as of October 31st was \$7,492.97. The report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Quilting - No report

Kitchen – Ginger reminded everyone that uncovered food on the cabinets and work areas attracts insects and rodents. Please make sure all foods are well covered.

Food Pantry – Patty said that the pantry is doing OK. Several groups are organizing food drives. The Scouts will be putting bags on porches on Saturday, November 4th and will collect food on Saturday, November 11th. Turkey prices are being negotiated for turkeys that will be distributed on November 18th to over seventy families in our area.

Cre8tive Souls – No report

Ushers – Mary Lou will be asking for volunteers to collect the offering on the 4th Sunday of November.

Old Business

Wurstmarkt - Kay had a list for pie donations and workers needed in the dining room. Ginger is getting supplies.

New Business

Charlotte announced that SIF is planning to purchase some new padded folding chairs. Linda Hopfinger made a motion to purchase the chairs and Darlene Gansmann seconded. More discussion followed on prices and the motion was amended to state SIF would research and purchase padded chairs up to the amount of \$600.00. Motion carried.

Christmas Party - As in years past, our meal will be fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy and be purchased from IGA. All ladies are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Also, each lady is asked to bring a \$10.00 exchange gift. Donations for the Food Pantry will be collected as well.

Birthdays were announced and we celebrated in song.

Cabin Fever – January 20, 2024. 9:00 to 2:00. More details will be reported at the December meeting. The executive committee will meet and finalize the event.

Spring Luncheon – Charlotte asked if anyone had ideas for themes for our 2024 luncheon. Several ideas were discussed, and we decided that we would use sunshine, lollipops and lifting others up as a sounding board. Everyone is asked to look for items and decorations to incorporate these ideas.

Attendance prize winners were Linda Hopfinger and Annette Hund.

Meeting adjourned with our closing song.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hopfinger, Secretary



Missions Article for December

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the October-November Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes, which culminated in the Ingathering on Sunday, November 5. Our gift boxes are on their way to brighten the faces of children around the world for Christmas.

Thanks also for the Food Pantry offerings in November. Those cash offerings will go a long way in filling the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets of neighbors in need at this time of the year. Your generosity all during the year by bringing food and household items to our Food Pantry collection box is a blessing!

December's Mission of the month is The Salvation Army. With all of the disasters, storms, and general need because of the Pandemic, the Salvation Army will provide much-needed assistance. Please consider making a contribution in December.

Also, in December, we will have a Giving Tree in Riess Hall. LifeNetwork will have ornaments on the tree to provide women with the items they need to raise their babies. The ornaments will indicate the items needed. In addition, we have ornaments for area families that need clothes and Christmas gifts for their children.

As we have in past years, a special collection for the Salvation Army shelter will be taken on Christmas Eve.

There are many ways to share your blessings to help people who are in need at this blessed time of the year. Thank you and God bless you for help with our mission projects!



The last three radiators have been sandblasted, painted and installed. We then had some trouble with the boiler, only to find we needed a new pressure gauge. All is well now.

The guys set up tables in the basement and set up the garage for cooking the food for the Wurstmarkt.

The water has been shut off at the Park. Restrooms have been winterized.

We cleaned leaves from the roof of the education building.

Thanks to all the guys who have cut grass at Church, the Park, and cemetery all summer. Big thanks to Bill Bourn for cutting the grass inside the fenced area each week with a push mower and trimming. The area always looks good. Thanks Bill!

Can't forget the guys that watered the flowers, plants and trees at Church and the Park. Thanks guys!

We will be going on paid vacation from December 20th till January 3rd. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gary Shondy

In case of hospitalization or surgery, please notify our church office. When being admitted to a hospital, be sure to mention that you are affiliated with this congregation. This will help us keep you in our prayers and assist you in our ministry of care.

IN THE HOSPITAL IN DECEMBER

CURRENT PRAYER LIST

Pray for strength and healing for the following:

Bruce Alberter, Donna Altemeier, Arik Barnes, Wanda Basse, David Becherer. Marilyn Beil, Roche Beine, Cindy Bertelsmann, Roberta Billhartz, Lindsay Bourn and Family, Baby Levi Boyle, Joyce Brand, Shirley Brandenburger, Roger Davis, Sheila Davis (Jessi Doerr's Mother), Bill Ditch, Mark Eckman, Fritz Fritzingler, Lynn Gass, Mary (Boerke) Graham, Greg, Pearl Griebel, Baby Adalyn Harres, Mary Hund, Joyce Kasper, Billy Klopmeier, Scott (Barbara Knoth's Son), Jim Kostelac, Elizabeth Koval, Tom & Renee Kreher, Family of Jessica LaDuke, Lucille Lang, Richard Madden, Erin Mahoney, Charlotte Mehrtens, Anna Belle Muskopf, Dean Norrenbern, Doris Obernagel, Baby Ariela Oliver, Pat Parrish (Wayne Jones's Sister), Janet Pauketat, Bruce Reese, Dottie Rickard, Rich Riemann, Jim Savering's Family (Bill Savering's Cousin), Janice Seidlitz, Nancy Smith, Shelly Smith, Mike Speichinger, Sharon Stallmann, Ray Teliczan, Mike Toenjes, Rich Trent, Elizabeth Tubbs, Baby Ty, Lacey Grace Valentine, Mark Vandermyde, Bill & Donna Ward, Mary Weldele, Joan Wilkins, Jeffrey Willey, Bart & Kelley.

SERVING OUR COUNTRY Sgt. Anthony Hanson, Jr., Kenny Wolf, Brandon Lester, Kasey Davis, Kory Klein and Michael Barnes serving overseas; Erin Green, Adam Stern, Austin Stumpf, and Derek Ferguson in the Middle East; Samantha Glaeser, Jesse Eimer, Jason Parrish, Chris Lewis, Sharon Wirth, Al Wirth, Joshua Trent, and Tristen & Stefan Cashwell serving in the States.

To add a name to our prayer list, please locate a communication card in the pews. Provide the name, address, phone, and reason for the prayer request - place the card in the offering plate or give it to an usher. You may also contact the church office between 8:30 a.m.– 3:30 p.m. weekdays or by leaving a message on our answering machine. Members of our prayer team will pray daily for everyone on our list. (Contact Barbara Hohlt for more information (476-1750)). **Names will be left on the list for one month unless you contact Barbara Hohlt or the church office.**

If you would like to receive prayer chain information via e-mail, contact Barb Hohlt at barbhohlt@aol.com

Meal-a-Month Schedule

Let us not forget those who are less fortunate. There never seems to be an end to those who are in dire need. Your help is appreciated.

December

canned meat
pasta side dishes
pickles
peanut butter

January

cake mixes/frosting
canned meat
Jello or pudding
laundry supplies

The Food Pantry is always looking for volunteers. Please consider donating your time to this worthy cause. Call Patti French at 618-660-4255 to sign up.

