Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool





101 South Railway Mascoutah, IL 62258

PASTOR:

Rev. Kirk Clayton
 Email: Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org

MUSIC DIRECTORS:

Josh & Nancy Peterson

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

Vikki Harms

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Robin Phillips
 Email: ChurchOffice@
 ZionMascoutah.org

Church: 618-566-7345 Fax: 618-566-9519

Website:

www.ZionMascoutah.org

Find us at @ZionMascoutah on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram



A Congregation of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Mission Statement: "Zion is God's family of faith in Christ serving our communities, our country, and our world".

Humor





From the Pastor

AN UNEXPECTED AND UNWANTED ANNIVERSARY

The month of March marks one year since our country has been wrestling with Covid-19 and its effects, including "Social Distancing" and lockdowns. The wider world had begun to be aware of Covid by about late January, if I recall, but at that time it was a problem elsewhere. By February, concerns about the disease spreading to other areas were beginning to arise, and by early March, panic was beginning to build in the United States. By early March, some states like New York and California were entering into lockdowns. By mid-March, Illinois had done the same. The effects of these decisions over the last year have been dramatic, or perhaps drastic would be a better word. That is why I write that we are facing an unexpected and unwanted anniversary.

I say that this is an unexpected anniversary because when our governor in Illinois began to impose a lockdown in March of 2020, the strong indication was that the restrictions would last for two weeks in order to "flatten the curve" and then things would open up again. When Zion suspended services in mid-March last year, the intention was that we would be welcoming everyone back to worship in-person by no later than Easter of 2020, which was on April 12. In fact, we were having discussions in mid-March about possibly needing to add extra opportunities to worship and receive the Lord's Supper on Easter because of the flood of members of Zion who would be so eager to get back into church in person after being kept away for two to three weeks of a lockdown for Covid.

Well, we all know how that "two weeks to flatten the curve" that was so frequently mentioned by our governor and state leaders turned out. Two weeks turned into two months, and most of the effects still linger now going on one year later. The government imposed its will with an iron fist, and that heavy-handed approach has continued far longer than initially stated. (There's a shock...political leaders saying one thing and doing another, or seizing a form of power and not being quick to relinquish that power? How surprising.) So, with government control still dictating where we can go and when, and what we need to wear when we are doing it, we face an unexpected anniversary. "Two weeks to flatten the curve" has become a one-year anniversary with no stated end in sight.

This is, of course, an UNWANTED anniversary as well as an unexpected anniversary. The lockdowns imposed by our government have done untold damage in a wide range of areas that will not be fully understood or assessed for years. The economic damage, of course, has been severe. However, I am more concerned about the psychological, interpersonal, social, and spiritual damage that this year of prolonged fear has created in our society. It is easier to see "closed" signs in store windows and recognize the economic damage done by the past year of restrictive government policies than it is to see people weeping alone in their homes because they have had no human contact for months. It is more difficult to determine the cost of extreme loneliness in people, perhaps in nursing homes and care centers, who have not been allowed to visit with their family members and loved ones for a year. And, how do you assess the damage done to all of us when—in contrast to God's good plan that we love one another, depend on one another, and live together as extensions of His presence with us—we have been taught for the last year to fear each other and view everyone around us with suspicion that they might be the cause of our future sickness or death? God placed us in community as a blessing, not a curse. In Genesis 2:18 we read, "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Loneliness is not good, God has made us for fellowship and community. The past year of fear has reversed much of God's good and gracious plan. The we can only begin to assess the extreme damage this has done.

This is not to make light of the seriousness of the plague in our midst. In our own congregation, we have bid an earthly farewell to two dear brothers who have died of Covid or with Covid, and we have had several others who have been hospitalized with extremely serious and long-lasting effects from the plague. By all means, we need to exercise great care that we protect the health of those around us. I am not urging recklessness or a disregard of the seriousness of this plague at all. What I am saying is that we need to look at "health" a bit more fully than just the temperature of our bodies and the oxygen level in our blood. The past year of lockdowns has done extreme damage to our emotional, interpersonal, and spiritual health. That is why this March brings us to an unwanted anniversary.

Of course, the effects of the past year on the Church have been obvious. A few worship attendance comparisons will demonstrate this. Here are worship attendance numbers from one year ago: Feb. 23, 2020—177; March 1, 2020—191; March 15, 2020—71; March 22, 2020—8, and everyone else online only. Now, here are combined Saturday-Sunday attendance numbers from the last few weeks: Feb. 6-7, 2021—68; Feb. 13-14, 2021—66; Feb. 20-21, 2021—92. Yes, a good number more than that are watching the services on Facebook Live every week, and that has been a blessing the past year. However, there is no substitute for being in God's house, with God's people, joining together in worship. We trust that as God calls and gathers His people, God blesses His people. This is not a guarantee that nobody will get sick by going to church (although to the best of my knowledge, there have been absolutely ZERO cases of Covid transmission in worship at Zion over the past year) since Christians are not immune to the problems of the world. We do need to be sensible and safe. But also be aware of the saying, "The more you miss church, the less you miss church."

We NEED to be together. That is the way that God has designed us. Remember God's admonition in Hebrews 10:24-25, "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, *not neglecting to meet together*, as is the habit of some, *but encouraging one another*, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." We need each other, and we need not to fear each other. We need to be together in God's house. God calls and gathers His people. We look forward to seeing you.

In Christ, Pastor Clayton

President's Page

We have had several meetings this past month that are important for the well being of our facilities and the long term mission of our church.

Our Strategic Planning Committee has met with very good discussion and thinking about the short and long range plans for Zion. It is so neat to see the long term opportunities as well as short term, and thinking about "what is God's plan for this congregation in this community?". For the present, the committee has agreed that the Preschool focus is the present "top priority", and will be getting more details of a community analysis and need based decisions to build confidence that we are on the right track.

The council has completed a review of the Weeke bid for repairs to our HVAC. Not surprisingly, the cost is significant, but I think we all are aware of the lack of uniform heating and probably air conditioning coming up, and it needs to be addressed. Their bid was \$38,225, and we feel good that they are making the right changes after consulting with our member engineers. The unit is 20 years old, and some components are not working right. This will be discussed at the April Voters Meeting.

The Trustees have set a date of Saturday, March 13th, as a clean up day for the Holroyd property that Zion purchased. We need a good turnout to help, as we will be cleaning out the house, garage/shed, and the brush on the property. This will prepare us for better maintenance of the grounds for the summer. Please keep this date in mind and help if you can.

A big thank you to the membership donations that keep coming in to offset the purchase price of the Holroyd property. Currently, Zion has received \$10,920, which is a tremendous help to our budget! Thank you so much!

Please let the leadership know how we can improve what Zion is doing for you. After all, we are all part of the same family!

God's blessings to you.

Dale Wehmeyer, President







Membership Changes

Baptisms: Nora Kay Bigley Transfer In:

Elders Corner

As 2021 gets into full swing the pandemic still has a good grip on the entire world. We can only pray that the vaccines will be available to all and we can see a return to a somewhat normal lifestyle we have been accustomed to. Some things will never be the same. We need to pray for each other as some families have been devastated by the loss of their loved ones. We need to show compassion and stay in touch, especially with the elderly who are in nursing homes and assisted living centers, my mom being one of them. These people have been banned from the outside world with no physical contact from their families, and that's when they need us the most. We pray God will get us through these tough times as it has created a hardship on jobs and mental taxation on our minds. As we do return to normal, please carefully consider returning to church when it opens to full capacity to receive God's Word and nurture your soul. It is so important to interact with church family members. As it is said in Psalm 133:1, "How good and pleasant is it when God's people live together in unity."

Yours in Christ, Elder Tom Sax

Board of Education

Spring is in the air...or at least we hope so. A special mailing went out to college students last month. Hopefully, it will cheer them up since most will not be getting a spring break! We are disappointed to say that there will not be an Easter Egg Hunt this year. The Board of Ed is working on a way to have a virtual VBS this summer. Stay tuned for details.

Marianne McDaniel



February is always a short month, but packed full of fun and learning. We had a great time at our Valentine Parties. Our main focus for the month was LOVE, especially the love God has for all of us and that He loves us so much He sent Jesus to be our Savior.

We are in the middle of 2021-2022 preschool registration for returning students and their siblings, Zion church members, and previous Zion Preschool families. We will begin open registration to the public on March 1st. Tell your friends and neighbors. Registration forms are available in the church office or let me know and I will get forms to you.

Activities during March will include leaving winter behind and edging into spring! We will have parent/teacher conferences this month and begin our journey of following the events of Jesus' death and resurrection.

God Bless.

Vikki Harms, Zion Preschool Director





Make your reservations now for Wednesday, March 17th!

Menu:

- •Pulled Pork Sandwich
 - •Crown Potatoes
 - Salad
 - Dessert

Adults: \$10 Kids 5-10: \$5



Please call or email the church office for reservations. Sunday, March 14th is the last day for reservations. If you haven't made your reservations by noon on Friday, March 12th, please call Lita at 618-806-2617. Drive-up, pick-up only from 5-6:30 PM, south side gym door.

This fundraiser is for the Ladies Aid Seminarian. We really need your support on this project!



Sunday School is in the process of ordering curriculum for an April/May start date for 3rd and 4th graders. Class will be held via-Zoom. Check your email for a signup list for those grades in the next few weeks.

Jenna Dunn







Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

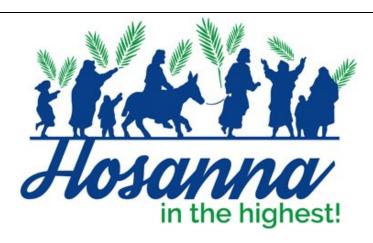
St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to gives thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budget-ary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.



??? Who Do I Contact ???

ADULT NEW MEMBER/INSTRUCTION

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

ALTAR GUILD

Beth Twenhafel 618-660-8872

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Marianne McDaniel 618-789-1602 Amanda Ganey 618-789-3157 Jeannette Schorfheide 618-304-5405

BOARD OF FINANCE

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993 Deb Heck 618-792-0723 Jenny Kneschke 618-566-9919

CHURCH BUSINESS

President — Dale Wehmeyer 618-566-8114 V. President — Ben Eatherton 618-203-0053

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

EVANGELISM QUESTIONS

Bessie Fick 515-230-9937 Tony Lara, Elder 618-530-8886

LADIES AID/LWML

Pinky Ahner 618-698-0555

MEN'S CLUB

Ray Kemezys 618-624-6625 Joe Crismon 270-762-6618

MUSIC

Choir/Organ- Josh & Nancy Peterson 618-973-8169

PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer requests - Contact Church Office To be added to prayer chain please contact Marlene Lockwood @ 618-566-4597

PRESCHOOL

Director - Vikki Harms 618-334-2261

SOCIAL MINISTRY QUESTIONS

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306 Elder

SPIRITUAL CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

Board of Elders:

A-G: Tom Sax 618-401-3490

H-L: Randy Schorfheide 618-304-4422

M-R: Jeff Fick 515-230-6459 S-Z: Tony Lara 618-530-8886

STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS

Randy Schorfheide, Elder 618-304-4422

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent— Jenna Dunn 850-420-4006

Assistant Superintendent— Alicia Suedmeyer 618-944-9631

THRIVENT

Eldon Ahner 618-588-4215 Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993 Glenda Pike 618-806-3656

TRUSTEES/BLDG. MAINTENANCE

Trustees@ZionMascoutah.com Gadge Corey 618-477-2716 Mike Twenhafel 618-363-1955 Kurt Bretz 618-558-6747 Alex Tubbs 618-610-1089

WELCOME COMMITTEE

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

WORSHIP QUESTIONS

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306 Elder

YOUTH GROUP

Lindsay Murphy 618-530-7297



March 7

'A Place to Belong"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler A house is not a person—but, could a Person be a house, a place to belong? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about finding that place, in Christ.

(Mark 11: 1-26)

March 14

I'Widow's Mite"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Why did Jesus commend a poor widow who gave all her money to a corrupt institution that oppressed widows? Dr. Michael Zeigler takes a deeper look.

(Mark 12: 13-34)

March 21

"But He Is Strong"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

(Mark 14:10-72)

March 28

"TBD"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

(Mark)

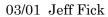


MASCOUTAH FOOD PANTRY TEMS NEEDED FOR MARCH

Sugar, Flour, Canned Salmon, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Pork & Beans, Sloppy Joe Míx, Alfredo Sauce, Egg Noodles, Stewed Tomatoes



Birthdays



03/03 James Barnard

03/03 Matthew Clayton

03/03 Sharon Hosler

03/04 Joe Haas

03/05 Sue Kandler

03/05 Ivar Peterson

03/07 Joyce Hutchinson

03/08 Julie Benner

03/09 Paul Seering

03/10 David Hatcher

03/10 Jenny Kneschke

03/11 Christian Drinnon

03/12 Dalton Wambold

03/14 Eldon Ahner

03/14 Mary Kay Krausz

03/14 Camryn Walter

03/14 Sydney Walter

03/15 Lionel Timmerman

03/15 Terry Twenhafel

03/16 Kara Simon

03/17 Laquitta Gibson

03/18 Pinky Ahner

03/18 Payton Barnard

03/18 Abigail Clayton

03/18 Kyle Manera

03/20 Gary Fulton

03/20 Solomon Hatcher

03/20 Brenda Snyder

03/25 Ruth Klingelhoefer

03/25 Nathan Schreiber

03/26 Daniel Bretz

03/26 Patrick Lange

03/27 Marsha Baro

03/28 Taylor Crismon

03/29 Olivia Begley

03/31 Janice Conklin

03/31 Blake Twenhafel





Wedding Anniversaries

03/11 Randy & Jeannette Schorfheide

03/17 Kenny & Robyn Rakers

03/26 Jacob & Erin Beville



₩ 7 Mark & Mary Kay Krausz, in

 \divideontimes honor of March birthdays. * 14 Schorfheide's, in honor of *

💥 their 26th anniversary and 💥 March birthdays.

21 Kemezys, in celebration of Taylor Crismon's 7th birthday.

米 28

Special Music

03/04 Evangeline Duffie

03/04 Joe Haas

03/04 Luke Morra

03/05 Deloris Bramstedt

03/05 Kathleen Eldridge

03/08 Norman Rowold

03/11 Amy Kolweier

03/11 Jessica Pettis

03/12 Carolyn Overmyer

💥 03/15 Aileen Malcharek

★ 03/16 Matthew Clayton

※ 03/16 Mackenzie Krausz

03/16 Mary Kay Krausz

03/17 Barbara Bretz

03/17 Leif Peterson

03/17 Doug Sax

03/18 Bristol Sax

03/18 Tom Sax

★ 03/20 Jeff Fick

₩ 03/20 Marianne McDaniel

03/20 Lola Simon

₩ 03/21 Julie Benner

03/24 Dick Bogue

03/26 Kyrielle Corey

03/30 Abigail Clayton

03/31 Christian Drinnon



Altar Guild Schedule

14 Joyce Hendrix & Lita Timmerman

for March

28 Mary Kay Krausz & Lita Timmerman

Devotion and Topic:

A Time to be Born, A Time to Die (Lisa Wehmeyer)

Special Mission Offering:

Mascoutah Food Pantry Collection

Activities:

Finish collection of personal care kits; Confirmand plaques?

Hostess: Candy Andres







Council Meeting Minutes Zion Lutheran Church February 4, 2021

Call to order. Note: Meeting conducted via Zoom.

Opening prayer/devotion: Pastor Clayton

Roll call: Present – Pastor Clayton, Dale Wehmeyer, Ben Eatherton, Laurie Fournie, Tony Lara, Marianne McDaniel, Mike Twenhafel, and Lionel Timmerman; Absent – Rachel Bretz.

Approval of January council meeting minutes – <u>MMSP</u> to approve minutes.

Pastor's report:

- •Official Acts:
 - oVisits: 29 (29 members and 0 non-members)
 - oCongregational Meetings and Activities: 13
 - oCircuit/District/Synod Events: 11
 - oCommunity Contacts: 1
- •Prayer and Care Request: Kandler, Morra, and Tubbs families.

Treasurer's report:

- •First Federal Savings Bank \$78,131.06
- •Petty Cash − \$50.00
- •Edward Jones \$66,726.65
- •Pastor asked about possible Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Phase 2; Mike suggested focusing on lost Preschool enrollment/fees; Laurie will investigate.
- •Approval of report to be conducted via email after Laurie updates accounts.

Board of Finance Report:

- •2021 Budget YTD \$28,902.20
- •2021 Actual YTD \$20,397.00 (-\$8,505.20)

Board of Elders Report:

- •Lenten services
 - oIn-person/video services Wednesday evenings Pastor noted both types of service needed as many senior congregants don't have access to social media.
 - oLWML to sell box lunches prior to Ash Wednesday service for in-home consumption; Pastor suggested other groups provide meals in same fashion.
- •Zoom Devotions offer 15-20 minute devotions on weekday evenings; in planning stage.
- •Members Needs Fund currently sufficient but foresee need for additional funds in near future; envelopes placed on table in narthex.
- •Transfer the Blessing presentation Scott Raddon scheduled pre-COVID; will reschedule post-COVID.
- •Mortgage Burning celebration consensus to cancel; anticlimactic 2 years after fact.

Board of Education Report:

- •Preschool:
 - Fall fees to increase by 5%.
 - •Restructuring options for class 3-year-olds will only have option of 2 or 4 day.
 - Preschool doing excellent job responding to COVID with mix of in-school/online instruction.
- •Sunday School:
 - ONeed replacement for Jenna Dunn as Andrew received military orders; will leave about May.
 - oInvestigating possible Zoom/Facebook Live classes for grades 3-4; expand to other grades if successful.
 - ONeed names/addresses for college student mailings.

Continued on next page

Council Meeting Minutes continued from previous page

•VBS – investigating Zoom/Facebook Live classes with take-home craft-in-box; have class materials from last year. Pastor and Marianne to serve as counselors for Colorado Higher Things youth conference if COVID allows.

Board of Trustees Report:

- •2021 Budget items:
 - •Paint Sanctuary \$5,000 bid from Dave the Painter within budgeted amount; Mike suggested painting May-June; Pastor recommended getting second bid prior to seeking voter approval.
 - Finish Replacing lighting \$1,500 awaiting ACE Hardware grant; Mike recommended replacing sconces if/when sanctuary is repainted.
 - ○ADA Door (west entry) paid by Roland Kniepkamp memorial; scheduled for completion on Feb 12.
 - Ceiling Fans in Sanctuary \$750 Mike recommended installation when sanctuary is repainted; will greatly improve energy efficiency, especially during winter.

•Other Items:

- oPDQ door locks on main doors Mike getting bids to add to other doors.
- o Camera/Computer for service recording Gadge states system is working now.
- Outside Security Cameras currently have 8-channel NVR, allowing expansion by 4 cameras; will continue to investigate.

•New Property:

- House items for sale Mike printed out descriptions and placed in the narthex.
- •Work Day tentatively scheduled for March 13th; clean up brush, garage, house interior; consensus to remove trees at later date.
- •HVAC proposal/bid meets need at this time; will need voter approval (cost ~\$37,000); question re amounts of memorial money designated/available Lionel to research.
- Preschool testing due on water fountain; will accomplish after school year.
- Elevator Inspection Alex/Alan applying for extension.

President's report:

- •Committee Reports:
 - o Evangelism Bessie Fick chair; next meeting scheduled for Feb 9 (Zoom meeting).
 - oConstitution Alan Kneschke chair; Dale asked boards to review and provide comments/recommendations to Alan as soon as possible.
 - oStrategic Planning Geoff Phillips chair; next meeting Feb 12; focus on how Holroyd property fits into overall plan.
 - oChurch Directory delayed due to COVID; Marianne suggested providing updated address/ phone directory until formal directory completed.

Old Business:

- •Concerned Christians Board <u>MMSP</u> for Ken and Gail Frey to replace Beth Twenhafel.
- •Security cameras see Trustee report above.
- •ADA door see Trustee report above.

New Business:

- •Delay Synodical Convention Synod proposed districts hold conventions in 2021/2022, national Synod convention delayed until 2023 due to COVID. <u>MMSP</u> to recommend approval to Synod.
- •MMSP to allow LWML to sell box lunches for Ash Wednesday (See Elder report above) [Note: LWML date subsequently moved to March 17].
- •Leak in coat room ceiling Mike reported; Andy Sax investigated and will follow up.

Next Meeting – Thursday, March 4 @ 7 p.m.

Adjournment - MMSP to adjourn.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Lionel E. Timmerman, Acting Secretary



Zion Lutheran Church 101 S. Railway Mascoutah, IL 62258

Address Service Requested

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Sunday 8:30 TO 9:30 AM on Zoom

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday 8:45 to 9:30 AM In-Person and on Zoom

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 9:00 AM on FaceBook

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 7:00 PM In-Person Sunday 10:00 AM In-Person and on FaceBook

Worship Topics This Month

March 3—Second Lent Midweek—John 18:1-11—"Return from Betrayal"

March 7— Third Sunday in Lent—Luke 11:14-28—"Division of the House"

March 10 — Third Lent Midweek — Matthew 26:57-68 — "Return from False Witness"

March 14 — Fourth Sunday in Lent — John 6:1-15 — "A Good Leader Is Hard to Find"

March 17— Fourth Lent Midweek— Luke 22:54-62—"Return from Denial"

March 21 — Fifth Sunday in Lent — John 8:42-59 — Sem. Makey to Preach

March 24 — Fifth Lent Midweek — John 18:28-38 — "Return to the Kingdom of God"

March 28 — Palm Sunday — John 12:12-19 — "Palm Branches"

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