

# **Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool**



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**101 South Railway  
Mascoutah, IL 62258**

**PASTOR:**

- **Rev. Kirk Clayton**  
Email: [Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org](mailto:Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org)

**MUSIC DIRECTORS:**

- **Josh & Nancy Peterson**

**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:**

- **Vikki Harms**  
Email: [zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com](mailto:zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com)

**CHURCH SECRETARY:**

- **Robin Phillips**  
Email: [ChurchOffice@ZionMascoutah.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@ZionMascoutah.org)

**Church: 618-566-7345  
Fax: 618-566-9519  
Website:  
[www.ZionMascoutah.org](http://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*

On Ash Wednesday I will be giving up spreadsheets for 40 days and 40 nights. It's going to be completely Excel Lent.

As the storm raged, the captain realized his ship was sinking fast. He called out, "Anyone here knows how to pray?" A pastor stepped forward. "Captain, I know how to pray." "Good," said the captain, "you pray while the rest of us put on our life jackets – we're one short."

A pastor was in the middle of his sermon when he noticed a man had fallen asleep with his head on his wife's shoulder. "Wake up your husband," Pastor Riley snapped. The wife smiled and replied, "You put him to sleep. You wake him up."

## *From the Pastor*

Christians sing. This important central theme was brought out at the Hymn Festival in Honor of Carl Schalk that Zion hosted on February 27, 2022, with Dr. Mark Bender providing commentaries on hymns and choral selections. In his opening remarks, Dr. Bender shared a quote from Dr. Schalk:

"Christians sing songs. Whether we gather in congregations and parishes or in the solitude of our homes, we sing. We sing songs of worship and praise to God, songs of confidence and faith, songs of confession and contrition, songs of exile and rebirth, songs of sin and salvation. We sing because it is both our duty and our delight. Whether our voices are loud and clear or weak and hesitant, whether we sing in tune or out of tune, we sing. We sing in part because it is our obligation as creatures of the Creator. 'O come, let us sing to the Lord, for He is our maker.' But as redeemed Christians, it is also what we want to do, what we cannot help but do. It is the Cantus Firmus of our lives, that great melody that extolls God's glory and praise, especially for the great central act of God in Jesus Christ." (Quoted by Dr. Mark Bender from Dr. Carl Schalk)

*From the Pastor continued on page 2.*

*From the Pastor continued from page 1.*

Christians sing. This has been the case from the very beginning of the Christian Church, and in fact even before. Christianity has its roots, of course, in Judaism, and God's people of the Old Testament were also a singing people. In fact, the Scriptural quote referenced above is from the Old Testament. It is drawn from Psalm 95, which we sing at the beginning of the Matins service as the Venite. Hopefully these words sound very familiar to you, to the point that you hear music in your head as you read them...

Psalm 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving, let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.

The deep places of the earth are in His hand; the strength of the hills is His also.

The sea is His, for He made it, and His hand formed the dry land.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

Christians sing. As Carl Schalk so eloquently put it, "We sing in part because it is our obligation as creatures of the Creator...But as redeemed Christians, it is also what we want to do, what we cannot help but do." Unfortunately, it seems that in the past couple decades, in many places in the church, rather than Christians *singing*, Christians are *sung to*. A praise band provides a performance, and worshippers are invited to listen to the worship leaders as they embellish and stylize songs that have lots of repetitions but very little richness. Christians have become consumers of music rather than co-creators of music. That is not what God has designed for us to be as His people. He made us to sing, not to be sung to.

Christians sing. Unfortunately, many today seem to avoid this opportunity. The good news is that on February 27, we had about 75 choir members and congregation members join to sing God's praise at the Hymn Festival. The bad news is that we only had about 75 people join to sing. It is a sad commentary on society that there are too many other things going on in our lives that we don't have time to gather as Christians to do what Christians do...to sing. It is an even sadder commentary on the Christian life that we are disinterested in singing together. After the Hymn Festival, one member I talked with said, "I don't get it. I don't understand why more people are not here. They are really missing out!" Very true. Blessedly, about 75 people did not miss out on the opportunity to join together to sing praise to God. In fact, many people drove for an hour or more, and in one case, over three hours in order to join God's people in singing His songs! As we join in God's house, hearing His Word expressed in the texts of hymns, we are richly blessed. God pours out His grace on His people, and He uses song to do that. He blesses us, and then we sing praise to Him.

Christians sing. It's what we do. It's what we *should* do. It is what we have the opportunity to do. "O come, let us sing to the Lord."


In Christ,  
Pastor Clayton




Left: Dr. Mark Bender was the presenter at a Hymn Festival in Honor of Dr. Carl Schalk, held at Zion on Sunday, February 27, 2022. About 75 choir and congregation members, including members from two states and three LCMS Districts, were blessed to be able to lift voices to God together in song. For those who were not able to attend in person, the Hymn Festival is available on Zion's Facebook Page.

Right: On Sunday, February 20, Zion was privileged to host Dr. Marcus Ross, a Youth Earth Creationist, for a presentation entitled "How to Date Like a Geologist." This special event was attended by about 130 people, and was followed by an extremely engaging question and answer segment. For those who were not able to attend in person, the Hymn Festival is available on Zion's Facebook Page.





## CHOIR NEWS



Choir rehearsals will be at 6:00 PM throughout March. Come early to enjoy a Lenten meal! The choir will be singing every Sunday in March. Please join us! All voice parts are needed.

### Membership Changes

#### **Baptisms:**

**Viviana Eloise Jeffries  
Gabriella Nicole Jeffries  
Gatlin Amadeus Jeffries**

#### **Transfer In:**

# Board of Ed

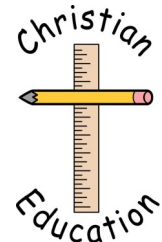
Happy March Families of Zion!!

The Board of Education is excited to announce all college students will be receiving "Trust in God Gives More Than Luck" this March as they continue their college journeys. We love our college students and look forward to reminding them of God's love and to keep their heads held high in a challenging world!

We are also excited to announce an Easter Egg Hunt is on the schedule to be held on Saturday, April 9th. The event will be outside including an egg hunt, telling of the Easter story, and a very light breakfast. In the case of rain, the event will be canceled with no rain date scheduled. Let's celebrate our church moving forward and bringing back cherished activities while still remaining cognizant of all viewpoints and levels of comfortability.

The BOE wishes you all of God's blessings as we move into March.

Blessings,  
Amanda Ganey with the Board of Education



## Preschool

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 2022-2023 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 will take place online this year. If you are interested in registering a preschooler, you can contact me at [zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com](mailto:zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com). I can answer any questions you may have and I would happy to schedule a time for you to come and tour our facility.

Our activities during March will include leaving winter behind and heading 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



# Elders Corner

This past month, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we watched the famous “Phil” come out of hiding, see his shadow, and retreat to his hole in the ground for another six weeks of winter. This probably isn’t what most of us wanted to hear. The winter months can be bleak and cold for some, and it doesn’t always put us in the best of moods.

You may not know the connection of Groundhog’s Day with the Christian Community. I did not until I did a little research. In Luke 2 it tells us the story of when Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord and give a purification offering of two turtle doves or pigeons. Leviticus 12 provides a formula that states that the purification offering be made 40 days after the birth of a male Israelite. If you do the math, we celebrate Jesus’ birth 40 days prior to February 2<sup>nd</sup>. When fourth century churchmen declared that the nativity of Jesus was to be celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup>, a festival evolved to celebrate his presentation at the Temple on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The holiday became known as Candlemas. Many churches would use this day to bless all the candles that they would be using during the next year. This also ties in to when Simeon declared Jesus to be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles” in Luke 2:32.

So, do you ever feel like Phil the groundhog? Are you hiding from your sins and burdens? Are you holding grudges or possibly just not treating people lovingly? Do you want to just crawl in a hole and hide? Possibly you don’t feel that bad, but you should. Our sinful ways are nothing to boast about or flaunt. There is hope. Surprisingly, it is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, Ash Wednesday, and again another 6 weeks and we will be celebrating Easter. Take this time to reflect on your life and the ways you have been living. Ask for forgiveness and forgive others that you may have been “hiding” from. The shadows on Good Friday will be washed away as are our sins with the light of the Resurrection on Easter.

In Christ,  
Tom Sax, Elder

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

March will be a fun month to be in Sunday School!! We are working to get all Sunday School families a prayer box with a prayer token for each week of Lent. Each Sunday during Lent, we will send home the devotion for that week to go with the prayer token for the week. This is a great opportunity for families to share in their spiritual growth and talk and pray together.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact Alicia Suedmeyer (618-741-3337) or [suedz2@yahoo.com](mailto:suedz2@yahoo.com)

Yours in Christ,  
Alicia Suedmeyer







## God's Providential Care

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: "Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.'" (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. "For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (Luther's Small Catechism, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.

# ??? Who Do I Contact ???

## **ADULT NEW MEMBER/INSTRUCTION**

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Lita Timmerman 618-806-2617

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Amanda Ganey 618-789-3157

Jeannette Schorfheide 618-304-5405

Jordan Rehfeldt 618-980-8475

## **BOARD OF FINANCE**

Deb Heck 618-792-0723

Jenny Kneschke 618-566-9919

Karen Eldridge 618-580-5914

## **CHURCH BUSINESS**

President — Ben Eatherton 618-900-4291

V. President — Mike Twenhafel 618-363-1955

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

## **EVANGELISM QUESTIONS**

Bessie Fick 515-230-9937

Joe Bloomquist, Elder 618-954-9462

## **HELPING HANDS**

Leslie Eads 618-623-2360

Jordan Rehfeldt 618-980-8475

## **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 Pastor Clayton at

Pastor @ZionMascoutah. org

## **PRESCHOOL**

Director - Vikki Harms 618-334-2261

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY QUESTIONS**

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

Tom Sax, Elder 618-401-3490

## **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: Joe Bloomquist 618-954-9462

## **STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS**

Randy Schorfheide, Elder 618-304-4422

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Superintendent— Alicia Suedmeyer

618-741-3337

Assistant Superintendent— Candy Andres

618-566-8019

## **THRIVENT**

Eldon Ahner 618-588-4215

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

Glenda Pike 618-806-3656

## **TRUSTEES/BLDG. MAINTENANCE**

Trustees@ZionMascoutah.com

Kurt Bretz 618-558-6747

Alex Tubbs 618-610-1089

Dan Eads 618-623-2360

Greg Hoskins 618-210-6987

## **WELCOME COMMITTEE**

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

## **WORSHIP QUESTIONS**

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

Jeff Fick, Elder 515-230-6459

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Lindsay Murphy 618-530-7297



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES  
[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

March 6

**"One Thing Needful"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Bible is not a Magic 8-ball; it's a portal into a new world.

(Luke 10: 38-42)

March 13

**"No Room for Demons"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Why did God allow evil? The Bible doesn't answer that question. The question it does answer is, "In spite of evil, what will God do?"

(Luke 11:14-28)

March 20

**"Everything I Have Is Yours"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

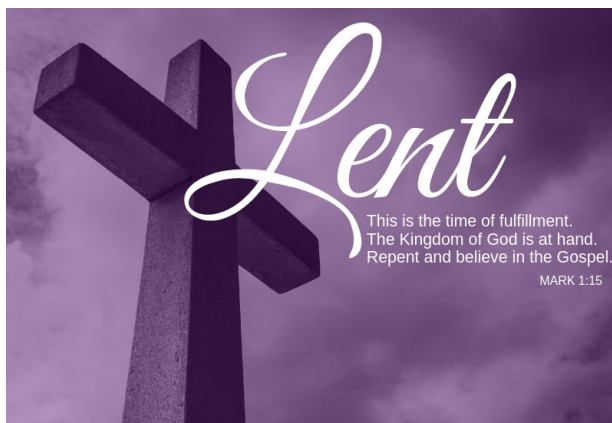
Being very bad can get one lost, but so can being very good.

(Luke 15:1-32)

March 27

**"TBD"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge



Mascoutah Food  
Pantry items  
needed for March

Egg Noodles  
Tang  
Miracle Whip/Mayo  
Canned Pineapple  
Spam  
Saltines & Snack  
Crackers  
Old-Fashioned &  
Instant Oatmeal  
Chicken Helper  
Tuna Helper  
Chili Seasoning  
Packets





# March

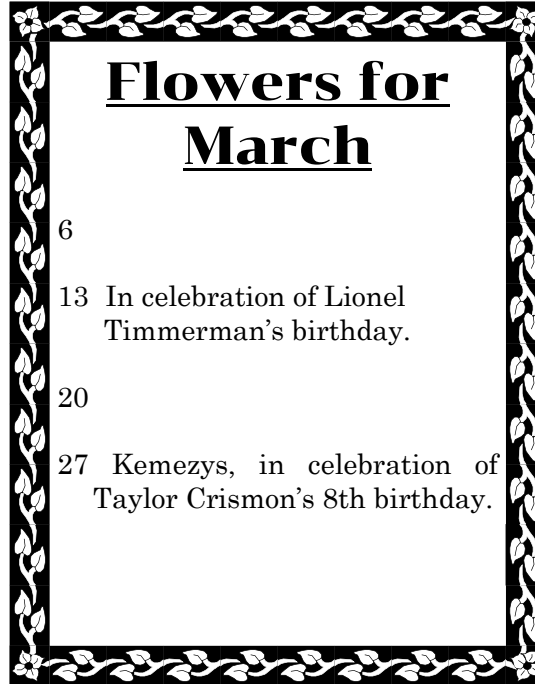
## Birthdays

03/01 Jeff Fick  
 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 Klingelhofer  
 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



*The  
 Season  
 of  
 Lent*



## Baptismal Anniversaries

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



## LWML Meeting ~ March 17th, 7 PM

Hymn LSB 562,  
 "All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall"  
 Bessie Fick

80th Goal for Mar/Apr:  
 Collection of baby items.

Activities: Lenten meals  
 Spring Retreat, Good Shepherd, Mar. 26

Hostess: Laurie Knutson

## Altar Guild Schedule for March

3 Shirley Braeutigam &  
 Lita Timmerman

13 Gail Frey

27 Lita Timmerman & Karen Eldridge

**Council Meeting Minutes  
Zion Lutheran Church  
February 10, 2022**

**Call to order.**

**Opening prayer/devotion:** Pastor Clayton

**Confidentiality:** Pastor Clayton

**Roll call:** Present – Pastor Clayton, Ben Eatherton, Amanda Ganey, Mike Twenhafel, Laurie Fournie, Randy Schorfheide, Debbie Heck, and Jon Robinson

**December council meeting minutes:** Approved via email.

**Pastor's report:**

- Official Acts:
  - Visits: 34 (22 members and 12 non-members)
  - Congregational Meetings and Activities: 14
  - Circuit/District/Synod Events: 20
  - Community Contacts: 1

**Treasurer's report:**

- Bank balance is at \$187,219.50
  - MMSP - to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

**Board of Finance Report:**

- 2021 Budget YTD – \$28,798.95
- 2021 Actual YTD – \$24,061.07 (-\$4,737.88)

**Board of Elders Report:**

- Tom Sax has volunteered to finish installing the new Zion Church Signs.

**Board of Education Report:**

- Amanda presented goals for the upcoming year of finding ways to connect the Preschool to the Church and providing more activities for our college-age students.

**Board of Trustees Report:**

- All preschool faucets will be replaced by the end of the month as part of regular maintenance.
- Pastor asked for the elevator lights to be checked and replaced as needed.
- Pastor asked to have the curtain reinstalled in the Cry Room to provide privacy for nursing mothers.

**President's report:**

- The Church Pictorial Directory: The council agreed on a Pictorial date of Oct 7/8, 2022 and will put the proposal together for the April Voters Mtg.
- Constitution Committee – Ben provided a “red line” copy for Council approval, and all recommended changes were agreed upon. The updated version will be forwarded to Synod for their approval with the expectation of presenting it at the April's Voter's Mtg.

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**Old Business:**

- Lenten Meals were discussed, and the council agreed to continue with them as planned. A sign-up announcement will appear in the next bulletin.
- MMSP - for preparing to provide Lenten Meals this year.

**New Business:**

- No New Business.

**Next Meeting** – Thursday, March 3, 2022 @ 7 pm.

**Adjournment** – MMSP to adjourn.

**Closed with The Lord's Prayer**

Jon T. Robinson, Secretary

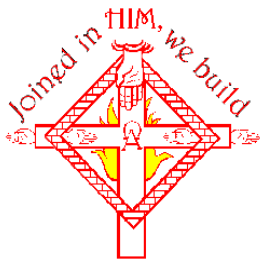


## LMML 80<sup>th</sup> Goals

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, with the theme, "80 Years of God's Grace". In celebration, Zion's Ladies Aid is doing a special collection every two months and invite **YOU** to participate. **(WE HOPE TO COLLECT AT LEAST 80 OF EACH OF THESE ITEMS!)**

Mar/Apr:

We will collect any baby items to donate. These can be baby foods, wipes, diapers, clothing, etc.



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**101 S. Railway**  
**Mascoutah, IL 62258**

**BIBLE STUDY**

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL &  
YOUTH BIBLE CLASS**

Sunday 8:45 AM

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sunday 10:00 AM In-Person  
and on FaceBook

**Address Service Requested**

**Worship Topics This Month**

**March 2 — Ash Wednesday — John 1:29-34 — “Witness to Christ: John the Baptist”**

**March 6 — First Sunday in Lent — Matthew 4:1-11 — Sem. Don Stein to Preach**

**March 9 — First Lent Midweek — John 18:1-11 — “Witness to Christ: Malchus”**

**March 13 — Second Sunday in Lent — Matthew 15:21-28 — “More than Crumbs”**

**March 16 — Second Lent Midweek — John 12:1-11 — “Witness to Christ: Mary of Bethany”**

**March 20 — Third Sunday in Lent — Luke 11:14-28 — “A Word of Lament, A Word of Hope”**

**March 23 — Third Lent Midweek — John 18:12-27 — “Witness to Christ: Peter”**

**March 27 — Fourth Sunday in Lent — John 6:1-15 — “Give and Take”**

**March 30 — Fourth Lent Midweek — John 19:1-16 — “Witness to Christ: Pontius Pilate”**

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