

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool



**February
2023**

THE ECHO

**101 South Railway
Mascoutah, IL 62258**

PASTOR:

- **Rev. Kirk Clayton**
Email: Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org

MUSIC DIRECTORS:

- **Josh & Nancy Peterson**

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

- **Vikki Harms**
Email: zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com

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

Dear Zion Family,

As you know, I regularly encourage you to become ever more faithful and regular in Worship and Bible Class attendance. I thought you might be interested to see encouragement from another source. The following article was written by Ericka Andersen in "Pastor Resources: Helping Ministers Grow Healthy Churches," which is an email resource that I get. As always, we look forward to seeing you for Worship and Bible Class at Zion, where God Himself comes to us and blesses us with strength of faith and forgiveness. As we join together to receive His Word and Sacrament, we are richly blessed. Come, join in, be blessed by God in receiving His gifts!

FROM "PASTOR RESOURCES: HELPING MINISTERS GROW HEALTHY CHURCHES," BY ERICKA ANDERSEN:

It's one of the most common statements you'll hear regarding church attendance: "I don't need church to have a relationship with God."

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What's at the heart of this contentious remark? While one can certainly "have a relationship" of some kind with God without attending a church, will they ever fully experience His presence here on earth without the local church body God has provided? Will they be able to glorify God as He calls without it? I would argue that the answer to both of these questions is no.

As Christians, however, maintaining close relational and community connections with brothers and sisters is a vital part of our membership in the family of God. How do we know this is true? While the Bible doesn't explicitly say, "Go to church," it would be impossible to live out much of what is written there without doing that.

Scripture is the absolute guiding light for Christians. Thus, we cannot ignore the divine calls to meet together (Hebrews 10:25), confess our sins to each other (James 5:16), and devote ourselves to teaching and fellowship (Acts 2:42).

We know from the Bible that God never intended for our lives to be lived in solitude. Even God Himself was in communion within the Trinity when He created the world. He quickly created a human partner for Adam, and since then, humans have flourished best within faith communities. It is the natural order of things.

Statistically speaking, those who attend church are happier, healthier, more generous, and more satisfied with their lives. We may not have data for much of history, but it's sensible to assume similar results impacted previous generations as well. We were created to live and thrive with fellow believers. Thus, a faith community is a necessary tool for living out our Christian lives, strengthening our faith, and developing a deeper relationship with God. Part of this is just obedience to Scripture's clear call to gather in worship and fellowship.

The idea of church as an obligation seems to trip many people up. But the church is so much more than that. When Christians fail to attend church, they deprive the local body of their unique spiritual gifts, attributes that God has equipped them with to serve and honor in this way. The Bible says that individual Christians are vital parts of "one body" (1 Corinthians 12:12), each one having a different "function" (Romans 12:4). We are "fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household" (Ephesians 2:19), something that isn't possible to live out unless we're actually in communion with others in God's household. The local church simply isn't complete or as functional without every Christian participating in it.

If "going to church" is just an obligatory act of legalism, you will not experience what God intends when He calls you there. When you understand the history of the local church, the purpose of engaging in biblical community, and the responsibility you have to others as a member, going to church is no longer about you. It's about God, others, and living out the Edenic ideal to the best of our abilities here on earth.

As Sam Allberry writes, the local church is the "embodiment" of the universal Church, functioning like "sovereign territory in a foreign land—a small part of heavenly territory in this world." If we want to be closer to God, the best place we can be is at church.

(By Ericka Andersen in "Pastor Resources: Helping Ministers Grow Healthy Churches")

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO ORCHESTRA CONCERT

The Chamber Orchestra from Concordia University, Chicago will be giving a concert at Zion Lutheran, Mascoutah on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at 4:00 PM. As the host congregation, we have several requests. First, there is a financial need, and we are looking for significant donors who will help sponsor this concert in advance. Any gift will help, but we are asking for several donations in the \$200 plus range. Thanks in advance! Also, we will need to provide host families for the group, about 25 people. That means we will need 10-12 host families for Sunday evening, March 26, please. The jars are set out by the doors to receive donations, and a sign-up sheet for host families is on the table in the narthex. Thanks for your advance support of this event!



Members of Zion's Youth Group enjoyed their annual Christmas Party, including a white elephant gift exchange, on Sunday, January 8, 2023 after church.



The choir will be singing four times during the month of February:

February 5 God of Grace
 February 12 Here I Am, Lord
 February 19 Glorious Is the Lord Almighty
 February 22 (Ash Wednesday) Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God



On February 12th our youth will be leading much of the service. Some of our musical youth will be playing instruments on the hymns and sharing special music with us!

Membership Changes

Baptisms:

Transfer In:
 Steve Hollenkamp (C)
 Reed Hollenkamp (B)

Transfer Out:
 Randy Schorfheide

Board of Ed

We are needing addresses to send care packages to your college students. We are also looking for a third person to be on the board.



We Love Because He First Loved Us...a beautiful thought and also one of the songs the Sunday School kids will be singing to send to the local nursing homes and assisted living facilities in our area. We hope to put smiles on their faces as well as remind them of God's love!

I hope you enjoyed hearing the kids sing in church at the end of January. Hearing those beautiful little voices puts a smile in my heart every Sunday morning and I hope it puts one on your heart too.

Thank you to all the parents who are getting their children to Sunday School every week. In the difficult world that we live in, it is one of the best ways to strengthen your child's faith!

Remember...Jesus Loves Me!!!! Sing that around the house today!

Marianne McDaniel, Sunday School Superintendent



Hello from Zion Preschool! 2023 is off to a great start! During February we will talk about God's love for us and how we share that love with others as we exchange Valentines.

Jesus Time lessons with Pastor Clayton will focus on the following... "Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man", "Jesus Stops the Storm", "Jesus Feeds 5,000", and "Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray".

We will also start Priority Registration for the 2023-2024 school year on Monday, February 13th. Priority registration is open to all current and past Zion Preschool families as well as all Zion Church families. Open registration for the public will begin on Wednesday, March 1st. If you have a preschooler, you can contact me at zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com for more information or check out our Facebook page!



God Bless,
Vikki Harms, Zion Preschool Director



BIBLE FOCUSED TIPS FOR GOOD COMMUNICATION IN RELATIONSHIPS

February, with Valentine's Day, is a great time of year to focus on relationships and how to make them stronger. Zion Lutheran Church is blessed with many long-lasting marriages and relationships, for our example. It is my opinion, a strong relationship doesn't work without good communication.

Good communication is the key to any relationship. Good communication ensures that both parties feel respected, validated, and understood. Communication is the key to avoiding and straightening out any misunderstandings, and to working through problems.

Christian communication exchange has to be filled with kindness, heartfelt emotions and it needs to be civil.

TREAT EACH OTHER AS YOU WOULD WISH TO BE TREATED

Matthew 7:12 tells us "Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them..."

This is a powerful principle to apply to any relationship. Think about it – how do you respond to nagging, shouting, or being spoken to in an unkind way?

When you treat each other well, you open the door for honest, loving biblical communication in relationships that nourishes both the parties.

KEEP PRAYER AT THE HEART OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP

1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to "Pray continually." Faith is at the heart of Christian lives, and that places it at the heart of Christian marriages too. Prayer aligns us with God and reminds of His love, care, compassion, and faithfulness to us, and ours to Him.

Prayer means taking problems before God too and letting Him know what is truly in our hearts. If you have concerns about communication in a relationship, give them to God in prayer and let Him know your worries. After all, he already knows your heart.

PRACTICE FORGIVENESS

Ephesians 4:32 tells us to "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

It's hard to communicate well when one or both of you are angry, resentful, or nurse hurtful sentiments from the past. Letting your negative emotions get the best of you is against biblical principles. You must let go of them to ensure peaceful communication as a Christian. Learn to practice forgiveness as shown by Christ, so you can approach one another with open, trusting hearts. Forgiveness is critical for healthy communication in a Christian

TAKE TIME TO LISTEN

James 1:19-20 tells us that "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

This is wonderful relationship advice that, once implemented, will change the way you communicate with each other.

Christian faith gives us a common ground, a kind and loving foundation from which you can build relationships that nourishes both parties and brings you closer to each other, and to God.

As is stated in 2 Corinthians 13:14 "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

In Christ, Joe Bloomquist



Don't Replace "And" with "Or"

We've all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money but about our whole lives.

God gives us everything we have and enjoy, as Luther's Small Catechism explains in the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. First, we each confess that God "has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses" (SC II). Then, we confess that He gives us material things.

The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word — when we replace the word and with the word or. It is always written with the and, but when we read it, we read it with the or. Thus, this quite helpful trinity — which extolls that everything that we have and are is a gift from God, to be given back in service of His church — turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God. The giving of our time, talents and treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, or treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions.

The right question is: Can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, AND treasure as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings with which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasure to our families, our society, our church, and our local congregations.

And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood, and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything — His time, His talents, and His treasure — to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God.

Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love — time, talents, and treasure together.

— LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

??? Who Do I Contact ???

ADULT NEW MEMBER/INSTRUCTION

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

ALTAR GUILD

Lita Timmerman 618-806-2617

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Linda Hoskins 618-210-6987

Jordan Rehfeldt 618-980-8475

BOARD OF FINANCE

Jenny Kneschke 618-566-9919

Karen Eldridge 618-580-5914

Amy Kolweier 314-766-6870

CHURCH BUSINESS

President — Mike Twenhafel 618-363-1955

V. President — Ben Eatherton 618-900-4291

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

Linda Hoskins 618-210-6987

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: Geoff Phillips 618-978-2616

M-R: Jeff Fick 515-230-6459

S-Z: Joe Bloomquist 618-954-9462

STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS

Geoff Phillips, Elder 618-978-2616

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent— Marianne McDaniel
618-789-1602

Assistant Superintendent— Anna Pannier
618-409-5193

THRIVENT

Eldon Ahner 618-588-4215

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

Glenda Pike 618-806-3656

TRUSTEES/BLDG. MAINTENANCE

Trustees@ZionMascoutah.com

Dan Eads 618-623-2360

Greg Hoskins 618-210-6987

Mark Hatcher 618-409-8848

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

Birthdays

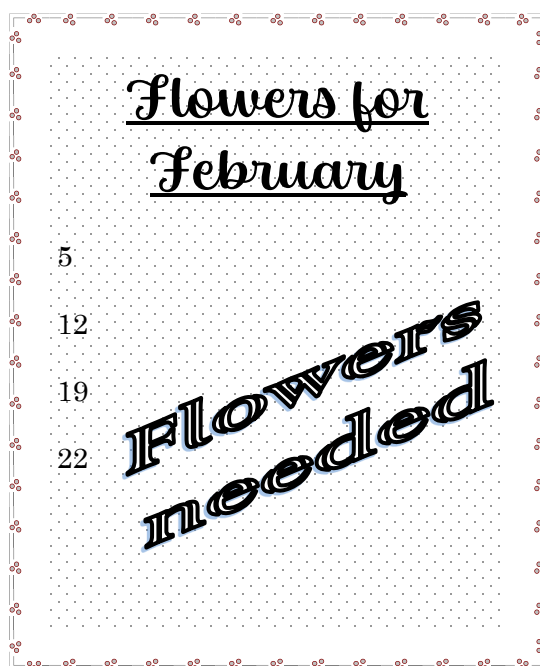
02/02 Viviana Jeffries
 02/06 Liam Hatcher
 02/07 Brenda Ogden
 02/08 Mia Tubbs
 02/09 Jenna Dunn
 02/09 Carolyn Overmyer
 02/09 Lola Simon
 02/12 Nancy Peterson
 02/13 Aileen Malcharek
 02/13 Luke Morra
 02/14 Marleen Purdin
 02/16 Marianne McDaniel
 02/17 Amy Kolweier
 02/20 Rick Meredith
 02/21 Barbara Bretz
 02/22 Jean Kemezys
 02/22 Doug Sax
 02/25 Samuel Clayton
 02/25 Jennalee Matthews
 02/29 Paul Bretz
 02/29 Tom Sax



February

Wedding Anniversaries

02/22 Bob & Angie Walter



Baptismal Anniversaries

02/04 Mark Krausz
 02/05 Adam Ahner
 02/05 Brad Lockwood
 02/06 Deb Heck
 02/06 Gabriella Jeffries
 02/06 Gatlin Jeffries
 02/06 Viviana Jeffries
 02/06 Alicia Suedmeyer
 02/07 Sarah Linn
 02/07 Ami Linnertz
 02/07 Jeremy Linnertz
 02/07 Nicholas Linnertz
 02/09 Jenna Dunn
 02/09 Torri Suedmeyer
 02/10 Ellie Tubbs
 02/11 Abby McDaniel
 02/12 William Huth
 02/14 Nora Bigley
 02/14 Amber Schanz
 02/16 Makena Suedmeyer
 02/16 Cole Wambold
 02/22 Lindsay Murphy
 02/23 Mark Manera
 02/24 Makenna Gryga



Altar Guild Schedule for February

12 Lesley Eads
 22 Lita Timmerman
 26 Sharon Weier



*Let us love one another,
for love comes from God.*

-1 John 4:7-9



LWML ~ Feb. 16th

Devotion: "Ramblin' Rose" (Marlene Lockwood)

Special Mission Offering: Mosaic Baby
Bottle Collection

Activities: Baby Bottle Return, Feb ?
Finish plans for Ash Wed. meal, Feb 22.

Hostesses: Pinky Ahner & Lita Timmerman

**Council Meeting Minutes
Zion Lutheran Church
January 12, 2023**

Call to Order.

Roll Call: Present – Pastor Clayton, Linda Hoskins, Tom Sax, Jenny Kneschke, Dan Eads, Laurie Fournie, Mike Twenhafel, Jon Robinson and Ben Eatherton

December council meeting minutes: Approved via email.

Board of Finance Report:

- 2022 Budget YTD - \$299,509.08
- 2022 Actual YTD - \$297,978.65 (-1,530.43)

Treasurer's report:

- Bank Balance is at \$153,660.09.
- MMSP – to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Board of Education Report:

- Sunday School Superintendent is Marianne McDaniel.
- All is well with Preschool enrollment and operations.
- Linda Hoskins is the new BOE President and Jordan Rehfeldt is a board member with one vacancy needing to be filled.
- Lindsay Murphy is the Youth Leader.

Pastor's Report:

●**The Numbers:**

- ▶ Visits: 52 (47 members and 5 non-members)
- ▶ Congregational Meetings and Activities: 18
- ▶ Circuit/District/Synod Events: 8
- ▶ Community Contacts: 4

●**Information/Discussion:**

- ▶ Zion will host the Chamber Orchestra from Concordia University, Chicago on Sunday, March 26, 2023. Coordinator asked that offerings for the event reach \$2000. Would need host families for about 22 students and a few chaperones for one night and breakfast the following morning. Zion will host a dinner following the concert at 6:30 pm.

Board of Elders' Report:

- Will host a Youth Sunday led by the Youth on February 12, 2023.

Board of Trustees Report:

- Looking into potential sidewalk repair and parsonage repairs.

Continued from previous page.

President's Report:

- Evangelism Committee – Pastor indicated the committee is arranging for Nancy Almodovar to present a Community Workshop in Apologetics on 10/7/23 at Zion and Sunday bible study activities the following day. There would be a charge to attend the workshop.
- Strategic Planning – No updates.
- Constitution Committee – No updates.

Old Business:

- No updates.

New Business:

- 2023 Budget was reviewed.
- Kayla Hollenkamp has volunteered to help maintain Zion's Social media (Facebook) and website.
- Open board member options were discussed.

Next Meeting – February 2, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

Goal Setting Meeting – January 14, 2023

Adjournment - MMSP to adjourn.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Jon Robinson, Council Secretary

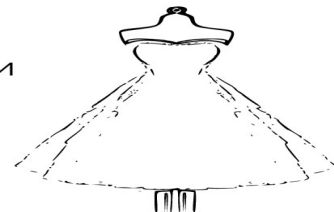
Formal Dress Sale



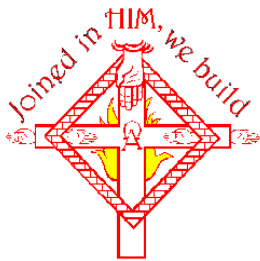
DRESSES FOR PROM,
HOMECOMING, MILITARY BALLS,
AND MORE!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH FROM
10-3 & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH
FROM 12-3

101 SOUTH RAILWAY
MASCOUTAH, IL



WE ARE TAKING DRESS DONATIONS FROM 5-7 ON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH. ANYONE WHO DONATES
WILL RECEIVE A 50% OFF COUPON FOR THE SALE!



Zion Lutheran Church
101 S. Railway
Mascoutah, IL 62258

Address Service Requested

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Sunday 8:30 to 9:45 AM

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday 8:45 to 9:45 AM

**SUNDAY SCHOOL &
YOUTH BIBLE CLASS**

Sunday 8:45 AM

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday 10:00 AM In-Person
and on FaceBook

Worship Topics This Month

February 5 — Sexagesima — Luke 8:4-15

— “What Does This Mean?”

February 12 — Quinquagesima — Luke 18:31-43

— “Captain Obvious”

February 19 — Transfiguration — Matthew 17:1-9

— “Alleluia”

February 22 — Ash Wednesday — Matthew 6:1-21

— “TBD”

February 26 — First Sunday in Lent — Matthew 4:1-11

— “What Tempts You?”

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