

Zion

Lutheran Church & Preschool



JANUARY 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,

Happy New Year! As we think about a new year, we often think about resolutions or new beginnings. I have a challenge for you to think about. As you ponder new and different directions, plans, or ideas for your life, and for the congregation, resolve that your highest consideration in any new venture is not "What do I want?" but "What does the Lord want for me?" or "What does the Lord want for the congregation?"

Our culture is very "me" driven. I want what I want, and I want it now, and I want anyone who doesn't want what I want to fail. This is not the approach that we see in Scripture, and it is not the attitude that God would have for His people. As Christians, we have been so influenced by the sinful ways of the fallen world that we are often indistinguishable from non-Christians in culture. This should not be. We, as God's people, should think, speak, and act in ways that are distinct from the rest of the sinful world, as we are called to a higher standard of love and care for one another.

As you approach this new year, make it your first and foremost resolution to put God first. This means putting Him first in your scheduling, such as making it a higher priority than anything else in your life to be in Bible Class and worship at every opportunity. This also means putting God first in your plans and decisions. If we want one thing, but God wants something else, we need to submit our wills to God's will.

May these thoughts and priorities guide everything you do in the coming year and beyond! God's blessings for a faithful and fulfilling new year!

In Christ, Pastor Clayton

Zion's Children's Christmas Program was held on Sunday, December 18th. The Program was called "The Angel's Invitation" and was written for Zion by Maggie Harlan.



The angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah to tell him about the birth of John the Baptist.



The angel Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her she would be the mother of the Savior.



An angel appears to Joseph while he is sleeping to tell him that Mary's child is the Son of God.



Zechariah, Elizabeth, a Relative, and Mary all rejoice at the birth of John the Baptist.



The angels and the shepherds gather around the stable to celebrate the birth of Jesus as our Savior.



According to the Book of Revelation, John falls down to worship an angel, but the angel tells him to worship only God.



Jesus promises His people that He is coming soon.



CHOIR NEWS



Thank you, choir, for the beautiful music you shared at the special Christmas services! We will take a break from rehearsals, with practices resuming on Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 PM. The choir will be singing on Sunday, January 8, and we invite all choir members and visiting singers to join us for warm-up at 9:45 AM in the church basement.

Membership Changes

Baptisms:

**Transfer to Heaven:
Bob Twenhafel**



Thrivent Choice

PLEASE READ: If you are a Thrivent client who receives **FREE** money through the Thrivent Choice program, **PLEASE** ensure you designate your monies before the end of the January.

Zion has at least 35 members receiving free monies. This does not cost you **ANYTHING!** Zion Lutheran Church and Zion Preschool are two eligible choices that would appreciate the funds, but there are many others you might choose to select.

The process is easy! If you have any questions, please talk to Glenda or Lionel.

BY PHONE: Call 1-800-847-4836 and say Thrivent Choice. Say or enter your Social Security number; press ONE to direct Choice Dollars. A representative will then help you complete the process.

ONLINE: Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Click on login and enter your user ID and password. Look for your designated Choice Dollars amount on right side of screen. Click on Direct Choice Dollars and search the catalog of organizations or type in Mascoutah for the two local choices. Click on Direct Choice Dollars Now to direct them.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ZION'S NEW OFFICERS

******We are still in need of the following board members: Trustee, Board of Ed, and Treasurer. If you are interested, please let us know. ******

At the Voter's Meeting held on Thursday, December 8, 2022, the following people were elected to offices at Zion Lutheran Church: Vice President, Ben Eatherton; Board of Elders, Geoff Phillips; Sunday School Superintendent, Marianne McDaniel; Asst. Sunday School Superintendent, Anna Pannier; Board of Trustees, Mark Hatcher; and Board of Finance, Amy Kolweier. Thanks to all those who allowed their names to be considered for elections. We pray God's blessings for diligent and Godly leadership as we look into the future. Please extend your congratulations and thanks to these individuals for being willing to serve in the Lord's church. We give thanks for Mike Twenhafel and Jon Robinson, as they continue their terms as President and Secretary. We would also like to say a big "thank you" to those who are finishing their terms in office, including Ben Eatherton, Chairman; Randy Schorfheide, Board of Elders; Amanda Ganey, Board of Education; Alicia Suedmeyer, Sunday School Superintendent; Alex Tubbs and Kurt Bretz, Board of Trustees; and Deb Heck, Board of Finance. We thank and praise God for the dedicated people He provides to give guidance and leadership in His church.

***Installation of officers for the new year will be held during the 10:00 AM worship service on January 8, 2023.
All officers and board members, please be in attendance.***





It has been an honor to serve the Sunday School for the past two years. Bringing us back to in-person classes and reviving our program has been more than just a humbling experience, it has been a life changing one.

I ask that everyone in our congregation give words of encouragement, volunteer some time, or say "yes" when asked to help or serve in Sunday School. You will not regret it. The kids of our church are so fun to watch and spend time with and the staff is so wonderful with the future of our church.

I want to thank all of our wonderful Sunday School teachers. It's so fun to see and hear you teaching and interacting with the kids. It is both impressive and inspiring how you are able to connect with the kids in their spiritual education. I am in awe every week!

I want to especially thank Candy Andres. She has donated so much of her time the past two years working in the Sunday School office so that I had someone to bounce ideas off of, she kept me on track, and was there for the kids every Sunday.

I wish you all a very happy, prosperous, and blessed new year!

Alicia Suedmeyer



PRESCHOOL

December is always a short month for us. This year was no exception. We packed our days with fun-filled activities, getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday. We sang songs telling the story of Jesus' birth. We even had a fun Christmas Spirit Week again this year! We had so much fun wearing our Crazy Christmas Socks and we wore our Fancy Christmas Apparel for our Virtual Christmas Program. We ended our Christmas Spirit Week wearing Red and Green and our Ugliest Christmas Sweaters! Pastor Clayton had a special Jesus Time lesson where the children once again participated in telling the story.

Our second semester will begin on January 4th, 2023. Please continue to pray for the health and safety of our preschool children, families, and staff.

God's blessings for a safe and peaceful 2023.

Vikki Harms, Preschool Director



ELDERS CORNER

The Baptism of Our Lord

Matthew 3:13-17 says, "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me? But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."

During this Epiphany season, we see Jesus, who was born of Mary, is indeed the Christ, the Son of God. The word Epiphany means revealing, and the verses from Matthew 3 certainly reveals Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, who came to redeem us from our sins. Jesus was not in need of forgiveness, but John and all others who came to Him were. By being submissive to baptism, Jesus identified Himself and His ministry as bringing the grace of God to fruition. Jesus was baptized to fulfill God's promise of redemption for all those who enter the waters of baptism. In baptism, we are so united with Jesus the Christ, that we share in His righteousness. Jesus did not enter the waters of baptism for His own redemption, but to identify with us, so that we may come to know Him, and through His submission to the will of God, receive the grace of God for our redemption.

The message that we receive in this Epiphany is that through our baptism, we are united to the grace of God in Jesus who submitted to the will of God, even to giving His life on the cross for our redemption. The recorded words of Matthew show that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who dedicates His life to bringing God's kingdom and righteousness into His presence.

Luther proclaimed that as Christians, we should daily remember our baptism and repent of our sins, seeking God's forgiveness. Our baptism assures us of the grace and presence of God in our lives, as we face whatever comes our way. Our baptism assures us that Christ identifies with us and walks with us on our life's journey. As we daily recall our baptism, we submit to the will of God for our lives and are united to Christ who gave His life for our redemption. Through His grace, we are embraced by Him as His child. May you always live as a redeemed child of God.

Written by:
Mr. Jeffrey A. Fick, Elder





Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

– 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

Jordan Rehfeldt 618-980-8475

Linda Hoskins 618-210-6987

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



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org

January 1

"Out of Egypt"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony)
Cook

"Out of Egypt I called my son." With these words the Gospel of Matthew reveals the rich and interconnected history of the young nation, Israel, and the young Savior, Jesus. Follow them on their journeys to discover the true Israel and what He means to your life today. (Matthew 2:13-23)

January 8

"Gifted"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

What if we learned to see this world and everyone in it as gifts from God? (Colossians 1:16)

January 15

"Gifts to Share"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A body of water becomes stagnant when there is no outflow. The same could be said of us. (Colossians 1:29)

January 22

"Whatever You Do"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge
(Colossians 3:17-21)

January 29

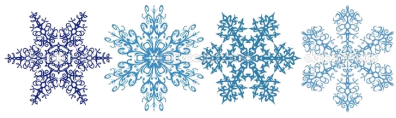
"Hopelessly Hopeful"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Colossians 1:27)

Mascoutah Food Pantry items needed for January

Vegetable Beef Soup,
Scalloped Potatoes, Ketchup,
BBQ Sauce, Egg Noodles, Oil,
Sugar, Chili, Chili Beans,
Laundry Detergent





Birthdays

01/02 Sarah Linn
 01/04 Alicia Suedmeyer
 01/05 William Huth
 01/05 Abigail McDaniel
 01/06 Chris Hatcher
 01/06 Jessica Pettis
 01/07 Elizabeth Bogue
 01/08 Phoebe Corey
 01/10 Shey Segelhorst
 01/11 Adam Ahner
 01/12 Kyrielle Corey
 01/12 Callan Crismon
 01/12 Bob Walter
 01/13 Ted Ahner
 01/14 Mackenzie Krausz
 01/15 Gabriella Jeffries
 01/15 Tony Timmerman
 01/15 Cole Wambold
 01/16 Rhiannon Corey
 01/16 Makena Suedmeyer
 01/17 Lauren Matthews
 01/17 Torri Suedmeyer
 01/18 Bailee Hollenkamp
 01/19 Deb Heck
 01/20 Mark Manera
 01/22 Jake Lara
 01/22 Brad Lockwood
 01/23 Lindsay Murphy
 01/25 Lisa Rowold
 01/26 Robert Corey
 01/28 Bristol Sax
 01/29 Kayla Hinton
 01/29 David Hutchinson



JANUARY

Wedding Anniversaries

01/04 David & Jessica Hatcher
 01/07 Ben & Penny Eatherton
 01/13 Roy & Ruth Klingelhofer
 01/24 Lawrence & Karen Hartstick



Flowers for January

1

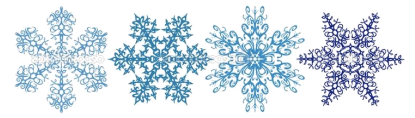
8 Ahners, in honor of Ted and Adam's birthdays.

15 Josh & Nancy Peterson, in memory of Annika Hope and the Kemezys family in celebration of Callan Crismon's birthday.

22

29

2023



Baptismal Anniversaries

01/01 Jenny Kneschke
 01/04 Blake Rowold
 01/07 Anna Pannier
 01/10 Paul Bretz
 01/10 Viktor Hatcher
 01/12 Laurie Fournie
 01/15 Wyatt Bigley
 01/18 Elizabeth Bogue
 01/19 Andrew Hosler
 01/19 Nicole Roehrig
 01/20 Ruth Rincker
 01/25 Roy Klingelhofer
 01/25 Jake Lara
 01/25 Robin Phillips
 01/27 Ted Ahner
 01/?? Bob Eldridge



LWML
MEETING:
JANUARY
19TH

Altar Guild Schedule for January

1 Lita Timmerman
 8 Karen Eldridge & Mary Kay Krausz
 22 Gail Frey
 29 Joyce Hendrix

HAPPY
New Year

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE.

PHIL 4:4

**Council Meeting Minutes
Zion Lutheran Church
December 1, 2022**

Call to Order.

Roll Call: Present – Pastor Clayton, Amanda Ganey, Jeff Fick, Debbie Heck, Laurie Fournie, Mike Twenhafel, and Ben Eatherton

November council meeting minutes: Approved via email.

Board of Finance Report:

- 2022 Budget YTD - \$276,469.92
- 2022 Actual YTD - \$252,080.80 (-24,389.12)

Treasurer's report:

- Bank Balance is at \$125,683.72.
- MMSP – to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Board of Education Report:

- Sunday School bank balance is \$1,158.03.
- Marianne McDaniel will take over Sunday School Superintendent with Voter's approval.
- Anna Pannier has offered to run for Asst. Sunday School Superintendent. (MMSP by the Council to approve Anna as a voting member. Will go to voters for final membership approval at the December 8th meeting.)
- Sunday School tax exempt certificate expires in October 2023. Will need to find out how to renew.
- Sunday School has asked for additional funding to their present \$1500 budget.
- No Sunday School on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- New curriculum for Senior Youth.
- Current Preschool bank balance is \$68,470.34.
- Preschool Parent Teacher Conferences were well attended.
- BOE approved Preschool staff Christmas bonuses.
- Preschool Parent Survey was created to inquire need for extended class days next year. Surveys will be sent out the week of 12/5/22.
- No candidate has been found for the Board of Education for 2023.

Pastor's Report:

● **The Numbers:**

- Visits: 42 (38 members and 4 non-members)
- Congregational Meetings and Activities: 17
- Circuit/District/Synod Events: 18
- Community Contacts: 6

● **Information/Discussion:**

- Pastor would like Zion to host the Chamber Orchestra from Concordia University, Chicago on Saturday, March 25, 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.
- Sem. Mackey and Sarah will be leaving around December 20th.
- Zion needs a lay delegate to vote for LCMS President. Ben Eatherton volunteered.

Board of Elders' Report:

- Sunday Attendance Numbers for comparison

	Total	Weekly Total (Avg/Month)
January	560	112
February	535	133.75
March	561	140.25

Continued from previous page.

April	668	167
May	688	137.6
June	505	126.25
July	501	100.2
August	497	124.25
September	582	145.5
October	712	142.4
November	<u>549</u>	137.25
	6,358	

Weekly Avg (Jan-Nov) = 132

Monthly Avg (Jan-Nov) = 578

- Estimated Attendance for 2022 is 6,936
- 2019 attendance: 8,034
- 2018 attendance: 7,991
- 2017 attendance: 7,710
(13.67% decrease comparing 2022 & 2019, 10.03% decrease comparing 2022 & 2017)
- Strongly considering implementing weekly Communion. Elders are receiving feedback.
- Will continue tradition of distributing Christmas baskets to members who've had challenges during 2022.
- Inquiring with "Helping Hands" on possibility of that group providing transportation for Brightly residents to Sunday service.
- Geoff Phillips has agreed to place his name on the ballot to run for the Elder position that will be vacant at the end of the year.

Board of Trustees Report: No Report.

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. There would be a charge to attend the workshop.
- Strategic Planning – No updates.
- Constitution Committee – Constitution and by-law changes need final approval from the voters at the December Voter's Meeting.
- Pictorial Directory is moving forward. Need to work on layout of picture pages and create contact list for the directory. We had around 70 families participate.

Old Business:

- Board member replacement: Still need candidates for second Trustee position, Board of Education, Treasurer, and Vice President. Ben Eatherton volunteered to stay on board and run for VP and Laurie Fournie indicated she would consider staying on as Treasurer if no one steps forward.
- Mike Twenhafel presented a Lease Agreement for the house on the property east of the church on South Street.

New Business: Budget was reviewed.

Next Meeting – TBD (January 5th or 12th, 2023 @ 7:00 pm)

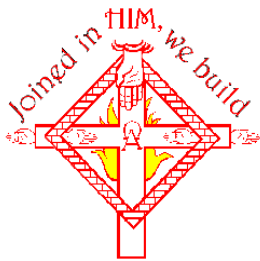
Goal Setting Meeting – TBD (January 7th or 14th, 2023)

Installation of New Officers – January 8, 2023

Adjournment - MMSP to adjourn.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Deb Heck for Jon Robinson, Council Secretary



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

January 1 — Circumcision and Name of Jesus — Luke 2:21

— “Fulfilling the Old, Founding the New”

January 8 — The Epiphany of Our Lord — Matthew 2:1-12

— “The Star of the Show”

January 15 — Second Sunday after Epiphany — John 2:1-11

— “What Is This Wine?”

January 22 — Third Sunday after Epiphany — Matthew 8:1-13

— “Reclining at Table”

January 29 — Septuagesima — Matthew 20:1-16

— “The Countdown”

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