

Zion Lutheran Church
Mascoutah, Illinois
August 20, 2023
11th Sunday after Trinity



In the Name of Christ Jesus our Lord, we bid you a warm welcome to this worship service. May your experience of worship and fellowship this morning be spiritually refreshing and ready you for the week ahead.



Pastor: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Church Secretary: Robin Phillips
Choir Director Team: Josh and Nancy Peterson

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

The pastor addresses the candidate:

P How are you named?

R *Cormac Patrick Laird*

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of the candidate while saying:

P Cormac Patrick Laird, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold Cormac Patrick Laird according to Your boundless mercy and bless him with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in him which has been inherited from Adam and which he himself has committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that he be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, he would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

The pastor addresses the sponsors:

P Is it your intention to serve Cormac Patrick Laird as sponsors in the Christian faith?

R *Yes, with the help of God.*

P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

C **Amen.**

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to Jesus that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The pastor places his hands on the head of the candidate, and the congregation joins in praying:

C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

P The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even ✠ forevermore.

C **Amen.**

Sit

When a candidate for Baptism is too young to answer the following questions, the child's parents and sponsors faithfully answer the questions addressed to the child on behalf of the one under their care:

P Cormac Patrick Laird, do you renounce the devil?

R *Yes, I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Cormac Patrick Laird, do you desire to be baptized?

R *Yes, I do.*

The pastor pours water three times on the head of the candidate while saying:

P Cormac Patrick Laird, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

C **Amen.**

The pastor may place a white garment on the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you before the foundation of the world.

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

P In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brother in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

C **Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.**

Stand

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted Cormac Patrick Laird the new birth in Holy Baptism and made him a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as he has now become Your child, You would keep him in his baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure he may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Peace ✠ be with you.

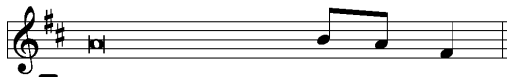
C Amen.

Versicles

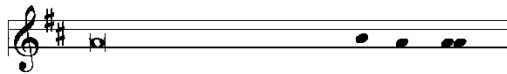
LSB 219



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Common: Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

Antiphon (Common)

LSB 220



L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite

LSB 220

C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,

1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphon (Common)

LSB 221

L Blessed be God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir-it.

C O come, let us wor-ship Him.

Psalms

Psalm 50:7–23 (antiphon: v.14)

- P** “Hear, O My people, and I will speak;
C O Israel, I will testify against you.
P I am God, your God.
C Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
P your burnt offerings are continually before Me.
C I will not accept a bull from your house
P or goats from your folds.
C For every beast of the forest is Mine,
P the cattle on a thousand hills.
C I know all the birds of the hills,
P and all that moves in the field is Mine.
C “If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
P for the world and its fullness are Mine.
C Do I eat the flesh of bulls
P or drink the blood of goats?
C Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
P and perform your vows to the Most High,
C and call upon Me in the day of trouble;

P I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”
C But to the wicked God says:
P “What right have you to recite My statutes
C or take My covenant on your lips?
P For you hate discipline,
C and you cast My words behind you.
P If you see a thief, you are pleased with him,
C and you keep company with adulterers.
P “You give your mouth free rein for evil,
C and your tongue frames deceit.
P You sit and speak against your brother;
C you slander your own mother’s son.
P These things you have done, and I have been silent;
C you thought that I was one like yourself.
P But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.
C “Mark this, then, you who forget God,
P lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!
C The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies Me;
P to one who orders his way rightly
C I will show the salvation of God!”
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Sit

Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

LSB 809

- 1 **Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
 Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain**
- ref **Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**
- 2 **Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
 Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain**
- 3 **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain**

Text: Public domain

First Reading

Genesis 4:1-15

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.” Cain spoke to Abel his

brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, You have driven me today away from the ground, and from Your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1–10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

Luke 18:9–14

[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Common Responsoy

LSB 221

Verse *To Refrain*

L 1 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
 2 Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
 3 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.

Refrain

C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glo-ry dwells.

Children’s Lunchbox Devotion

- 1 In the shattered bliss of Eden Dawned the day of sacrifice,
As our primal parents shuddered—Sin had caused this dreadful price!
Faith embarked with this discernment: Only God can cover sin,
As He took their leafy garments And He clothed their shame with skin.
- 2 Days and months and years unfolding Clearly showed what sin had wrought:
Fallen Adam’s children learning Lessons fallen parents taught.
All these sacrificial off’rings Crested as a crimson flood:
Patriarchs and priests atoning For their sins with cleansing blood.
- 3 What these sacrifices promised From a God who sought to bless,
Came at last—a second Adam—Priest and King of Righteousness:
Son of God, incarnate Savior, Son of Man, both Christ and Lord,
Who in naked shame would offer On the cross His blood outpoured.
- 4 Lamb of God, once slain for sinners, Host, who spreads this meal divine,
Here You pledge our sins are covered, Pledge received in bread and wine:
“Take and eat; this is My body, Given on the cross for you.
Take and drink; this cup of blessing Is My blood poured out for you.”
- 5 Taste and see the bliss of heaven Known by saints around the throne,
Where the Lamb, in closest union, Lives to love and feed His own.
From His riven side forever Flows the purest stream of love,
Love that robes us with the raiment Worn by all who feast above.
- 6 Gone the bliss of Eden’s garden, Gone the age of sacrifice;
Ours the time of grace and favor, Ours the call to paradise!
Ever, Lord, impress upon us: Only You can cover sin—
Take our worthless, self-made garments; Clothe our shame and cleanse within.

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Sermon

Sister Bertha Better-Than-You

Offering

[Please fill out a sheet in the attendance book. Visitors, please include your address. If you have a prayer request for the church prayer chain, please write it at the top of the sheet.]

Special Offering Music

Seek Ye First

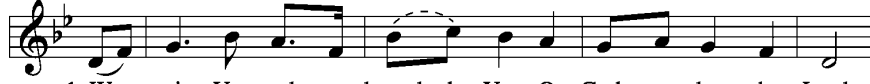
(Ella Sax, Bristol Sax, Savannah Murphy, Hadley Sax, Ava Sax, & Grace Wambold)

Stand

Canticle

Te Deum - We Praise You and Acknowledge You

LSB 941



1 We praise You and ac-knowl-edge You, O God, to be the Lord,
2 The band of the a-pos-tles in glo-ry sing Your praise;
3 You, Christ, are King of glo-ry, the ev-er-last-ing Son,
4 You sit in splen-did glo-ry, en-throned at God's right hand,



The Fa-ther ev-er-last-ing, by all the earth a-dored.
The fel-low-ship of proph-ets their death-less voic-es raise.
Yet You, with bound-less love, sought to res-cue ev-'ry-one:
Up-hold-ing earth and heav-en by forc-es You com-mand.



To You all an-gel pow-ers cry a-loud, the heav-ens sing,
The mar-tyrs of Your king-dom, a great and no-ble throng,
You laid a-side Your glo-ry, were born of vir-gin's womb,
We know that You will come as our Judge that fi-nal day,



The cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim their prais-es to You bring:
Sing with the ho-ly Church through-out all the world this song:
Were cru-ci-fied for us and were placed in-to a tomb;
So help Your ser-vants You have re-deemed by blood, we pray;



"O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth;
"O all-ma-jes-tic Fa-ther, Your true and on-ly Son,
Then by Your res-ur-rec-tion You won for us re-prieve—
May we with saints be num-bered where prais-es nev-er end,



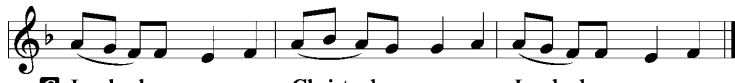
Your maj-es-ty and glo-ry fill the heav-ens and the earth!"
And Ho-ly Spir-it, Com-fort-er— for-ev-er Three in One!"
You o-pened heav-en's king-dom to all who would be-lieve.
In glo-ry ev-er-last-ing. A-men, O Lord, a-men!

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Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 227



☐ Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

☐ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P We praise You, O Lord; we exalt Your most holy name.

C **In the midst of trouble we praise You for Your goodness.**

P Though our lot on earth may not always be easy and pleasant, Your mercies have been our strength and stay.

C **To know that You have chosen us to be Your own is all we need to know to make life worth living.**

P We confess that we are not worthy of all Your blessings.

C **We have exalted ourselves when we should have been humble.**

P We have thought highly of ourselves while despising others.

C **We have not always served You nor walked in Your ways.**

P We have not loved You with all of our hearts, souls, and minds.

C **We have weakened in the good fight of faith.**

P We have been discouraged, forgetting that Your power is ours for the asking.

C **We have overlooked many opportunities to spread Your Gospel.**

P We have been proud of our goodness when we should have proclaimed Your justice and mercy.

C **For these, our many sins, we beg Your forgiveness.**

P May Your Holy Spirit strengthen our faith.

C **Give us a spirit of true humility to recognize the merits of others.**

P Help us to be concerned about the spiritual and physical wellbeing of all who dwell on the face of the earth.

C **Bless the witness of our words and lives on the hearts of those who do not know You.**

WE GO TO THE LORD IN PRAYER FOR

† Rick Meredith, Austin Murphy, Geoff Phillips, Peggy Lange, and Beth Twenhafel, as they celebrate their baptismal anniversaries this week.

† Cormac Patrick Laird, as he is baptized today.

† Ian Robinson, as he departs for basic training.

† Robert Corey and Joyce Hendrix, as they recover from surgery.

† Lee Hinton, as she has surgery this week.

† Pat Meier, as she fell last week and was hospitalized.

† Members of Zion's Board of Trustees, Stewardship Committee, and Board of Finance.

† Faithfulness in support of world missions.

P When we have finished the race, grant us the crown of righteousness earned by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C **We pray in His name. Amen.**

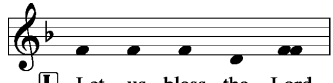
Collect for Grace

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

© Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

LSB 228



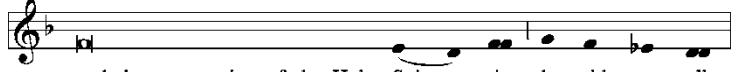
L Let us bless the Lord.



G Thanks be to God.



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



G A - - men.

Sit

Hymn

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

LSB 761

- 1** Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
- 2** Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.
- 3** Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.
- 4** While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

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Postlude

Rock of Ages

arr. John Behnke

Acknowledgments

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LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION



WE WELCOME CORMAC PATRICK LAIRD

Congratulations to Sem. Rob and Annie Laird on the birth and rebirth in Baptism of Cormac Patrick Laird. Cormac's sponsors are Brian and Elizabeth MacGillis, Cormac's uncle and aunt. Welcome, Cormac!

RALLY SUNDAY ON AUGUST 27

The new Sunday School year will begin with Rally Sunday next week, August 27! Sunday School students will be treated to donuts and special activities in their classrooms so they can get to know their new teachers and fellow students for this year. Parents, please do not just drop your children off and leave, please stay and be involved at Zion during the education hour from 8:45-9:45. You could attend Adult Bible Class in the Church Basement, or join the Sunday School for coffee and donuts in the Gym. Thanks to our Sunday School teachers for the year, and we look forward to seeing all of our children in Sunday School starting with Rally Sunday next week, August 27, at 8:45.

CALLING PROSPECTIVE CHOIR MEMBERS

Zion has been blessed with a tremendous history of choral music, and now is your opportunity to be a part of this wonderful blessing at Zion! Choir rehearsals are starting on Wednesday evening this week, August 23 at 7:00 PM. New singers who are interested in becoming a part of Zion's wonderful choir and adding to the blessing of the congregation as God's Word is sung during the services are welcome to join in! We look forward to seeing many of you at the first rehearsal of the season this Wednesday!

NEW ADULT BIBLE CLASS SERIES

We are excited to announce a new Adult Bible Class series walking through Old Testament history as it is found in the Books of Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings. This series of studies will take us through the time of the Judges before King David, through the stories of David's life, such as killing Goliath and his trouble with Bathsheba, to the fall of the Kingdom of Judah as the Babylonians captured Jerusalem in 586 BC. Do these events sound vaguely familiar, but you don't know the details? Do you remember these stories, but would like to review them again? This Bible Study Series is for you! The series will start on Sunday, September 10, taught by Sem. Rob Laird and Sem. Kyle Moellenhoff. If you are not familiar or comfortable with Old Testament history, this is a great time to start coming to Adult Bible Class! The classes will meet in the Church Basement from 8:45-9:45 on Sunday mornings. Come, and bring family members and friends!

YOUTH CONFIRMATION RESUMING IN SEPTEMBER

Calling all 5-8th Grade Members of Zion (and their parents)! We will be starting Youth Confirmation Classes in September. Lori Clayton will be leading the 5-6th Grade Class in a review of the stories and content of the Bible. Pastor Clayton will be leading the 7-8th Grade Class in working through Luther's Small Catechism, including the 10 Commandments and the Apostles Creed this year. (The Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, The Office of the Keys and Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar were covered last year, and will be again next year, so that each student in 7-8th Grade works through the entire catechism in depth one time over the two years.) Confirmation Classes will start on Sunday, September 10 at 8:30-9:45. We will have a parent orientation on Sunday, September 3 at 8:45. At least one parent from each Confirmation family is asked to attend the orientation. We will also have Acolyte Training that morning. Parents are also always invited and welcome to join in for Confirmation Class sessions as a review! We look forward to seeing parents for the Confirmation Orientation on September 3, and all Confirmation students for classes starting on September 10.

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY ON SEPTEMBER 10

The Elders are working on plans for Zion's annual Friendship Sunday, which will be held on September 10 this year. More details will be coming soon, but start thinking about which family members and friends you can invite to join you for this special day!

SPECIAL VOTER'S MEETING – SEPT. 17th

There will be a special voters meeting following the service on September 17th. We will need to take a vote on the new property which will be to allow the house to stay there for another year to be moved in 2025 or later or request to have it moved in 2024. We will also use this meeting to accept new voting members. If you wish to become a voting member, please talk to someone on the church council.

CHURCH DIRECTORY PICTURES

If you were not able to get a picture taken at the session last October and wanted to submit a family picture, please contact Mike Twenhafel at 618-363-1955. If you submitted one previously, please verify with Mike that we have it.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OCTOBER 7 APOLOGETICS WORKSHOP

Do you, or people you know, sometimes have questions about the Christian faith? Apologetics is the effort to provide answers to those questions, and to address the challenges people pose to Christianity. Zion Mascoutah will host an Apologetics Workshop on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 9:00-3:00. Topics to be addressed include "The Who, What, Where, Why, and When of Apologetics," "The Word They Still Shall Let Remain: The Reliability of Scripture," "Literature and Apologetics: A Bridge to Conversation," and "The Reality of the Resurrection: Nothing Else Really Matters." The registration fee is \$15 for the workshop to cover the cost of lunch, which will be provided. Mark your calendars now to attend this Apologetics Workshop at Zion Mascoutah on Saturday, October 7.

WANTED: SOUND/VIDEO TECHS

With Nathaniel Clayton leaving for college in mid-August, we are looking to recruit new sound/video techs to help with the soundboard and Facebook Live recording at Zion. Gadge Corey will be offering a general training session on Sunday, September 24, 2023, from 11:15-12:15, right after church. He will also be offering "on-the-job training" on August 27 and September 10. We hope to have at least 8-10 people trained, so that you will be on duty about every other month. If you are interested in learning these positions, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Thanks in advance for your engagement to serve in this way!

YOUTH POOL PARTY – NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 27th

Come enjoy the summer sun! All youth grades 5th-12th come take a plunge for the Splash Bash. You're invited to a pool party at Dan and LaVonne Evers' house, 505 West Poplar on August 27th from 1 PM-3 PM. Bring your suits and towels. A taco and nacho bar will be provided along with games. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please feel free to bring a guest. The pool is calling! Any questions, please contact LaVonne Evers at 618-477-2080.

ZION'S "HELPING HANDS" NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers to help with our "Helping Hands". If you would be available to help our church members occasionally with small tasks, please sign up to be a "helper". We are looking for people who may be able to provide rides to the doctor or to the grocery store, or perhaps help with very light housekeeping, etc. We need to update our "helper" list, so even if you signed up before, please sign up again. Become a volunteer by contacting Linda Hoskins at 618-210-6987. Thank you.

ZION NEW MEMBER CLASS TO START SOON

Are you interested in becoming a member of Zion, or reviewing the basic teachings of the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism, including the Ten Commandments, Apostles Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and the Lord's Supper? Zion will be starting a "Bible Information Class" which will meet for 12 sessions starting on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. If you are interested in being a part of this class, please let Pastor Clayton know by email at Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org or by text at 618-447-1306. After completion of this series of classes, participants will be able to participate in the joy and blessing of receiving the Lord's body and blood for the forgiveness of sin and strengthening of faith in the Lord's Supper.

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

We will resume LifeLight Bible Study on September 11, 2023. Join us in the church basement at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings as we study *Selected Psalms*. LifeLight provides a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture so Christian adults may grow their personal faith in Jesus Christ. Call or text Lionel (618-806-8993) NLT September 1st to join.

VOCATIO RETREAT FOR PERSPECTIVE CHURCH WORKERS

Have you considered serving full-time in a church work profession? Are you interested in a distinctively Lutheran retreat that provides the space to rest in God's Word, time to spend in prayer and the opportunity to learn from some of the brightest theologians in the church? Concordia Seminary, St. Louis invites you to attend Vocatio: Retreat — a three-day retreat geared toward college students and second-career men and women who are considering serving as a pastor, deaconess, missionary, or chaplain. This event will be held at Concordia Seminary on October 22-24, 2023. Registration is free and includes lodging and meals. To register, visit csl.edu/vocatio-retreat or Google "Vocatio: Retreat Concordia Seminary."

LCMS SINGERS NEEDED

Calling all LCMS singers in the St. Louis metro area who can come to three rehearsals in October: Let's fill the balcony at the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus for Reformation Choral Vespers at Concordia Seminary. This year's theme is "Each Life a High Doxology," and it is going to be a happening! Come sing in a service that includes a children's choir directed by Matthew Janssen, festival brass, and Laudamus (the seminary's touring choir). To maximize convenience for area choir members, we've got two rehearsal tracks lined up. So, you could come on Tuesdays (Oct. 3,10,17) or Thursdays (Oct. 5,12,19) for 6:45pm rehearsals in the chapel. Then, both tracks come together for a final practice, with instruments, on Saturday morning, October 28, at 9:30am. That's four rehearsals, you say. Yes, we'd love for you to do "3+1," but it's OK for you to miss one. We just ask you to commit to three practices. Please contact Phillip Magness, Interim Associate of Music Arts, at the seminary for more details and/or to let him know you are coming so that we can have a folder ready for you and know which section in which to seat you. You can respond here or contact him via email (MagnessP@csl.edu) or phone (314-505-7118). Please spread the word. Even if YOU can't come, you may have friends in your congregation's choir who can and would love the experience. SOLI DEO GLORIA

LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUE AM850

KFUE Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUE.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfue.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUEradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE AM850 & kfue.org: Dig into Sacraments and Church Order in the Augsburg Confession on Concord Matters (8/26 at 10:00 a.m.), finish the book of Ecclesiastes on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.), and study Acts 18-21 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfue.org or the KFUE Radio app!

DAILY 15-MINUTE BIBLE STUDY...

The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon will be leading a study this week on The Macedonian Call; The Conversion of Lydia; Paul and Silas in Prison and The Philippian Jailor Converted in Acts 15 and 16. You can listen at your convenience at thewordendures.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

THE FLOWERS ON THE LORD'S ALTAR

The flowers on the Lord's altar are given to the glory of God in honor and celebration of the baptism of Cormac Laird.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Nathaniel Clayton & Abigail Clayton
Acolytes: Ella Sax & Lola Simon
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

THOSE WHO SERVE NEXT WEEK, AUGUST 27

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Gadge Corey
Acolytes: Lily McDaniel & Rosemary Peterson
Altar Guild: Jenny Kneschke & Jordan Rehfeldt
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION

Sun. Bible Class 8:45 AM
Sunday School & Youth Bible Class 8:45 AM
Worship Matins 10:00 AM
Wed. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM
Fri. Senior Meal Delivery 10:30 AM
Sun. **Rally Sunday**
Bible Class 8:45 AM
Sunday School & Youth Bible Class 8:45 AM
Worship DS III w/communion 10:00 AM
Youth Pool Party at the Evers' 1:00 – 3:00 PM

ATTENDANCE AUGUST 13: Sunday: 134

Adult Bible Class: 17 High School: 5 Sunday School: 15