

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool



December
2023

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

CHECKING OUT

This time of year, a lot of people focus on "Checking Out," meaning they focus on shopping, buying the perfect Christmas presents for family and friends, buying Christmas decorations, buying food for Christmas parties, and the like. While there is nothing inherently wrong with buying presents, decorating, and enjoying good food, these things can distract us from what is most important about the Christmas season—the birth of God among us as the Babe of Bethlehem.

So, I would urge you to consider something. If all of your "checking out" with shopping and other preparations becomes a hassle or a distraction from what is truly important during Advent and Christmas, then CHECK OUT of any activities that draw you away from what is truly most important. If going to a holiday show takes you away from a worship service, then check out from the show, and come to God's house instead of going to the theater. If shopping or planning a Christmas party distract you from devotions and worship, then prioritize God's Word over anything else and "check out" from whatever leads you away from God's Word.

Check out from all the extraneous details this December, and CHECK IN at Zion! Come to all these services offered this month to hear the wonderful news of God's greatest gift, our Lord Jesus Christ. I look forward to seeing you in God's House at Zion throughout the month of December!

In Christ, Pastor Clayton



Men's Club "Bible and Brewing" with Sem. Laird



Membership Changes

Transfer Out:
Mike & Lisa Segelhorst
to Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Waterloo, IL

Transfer In:
Duane & Wilma Fischer (B) (C)
from Holy Cross Lutheran Church,
Collinsville, IL

Angie Kempfer from Hope Lutheran
Church, Granite City, IL

Brandon & Kristin Summers
Kristopher & Jakob Summers
from Hope Lutheran Church,
Granite City, IL



Congratulations

WEDDING SHOWER FOR
SEM. KYLE MOELLENHOFF
AND KAYLA OBERDIECK ON
NOVEMBER 5, 2023.



CHOIR NEWS

We have a full schedule of spectacular music to sing on Christmas Eve (both morning and evening), and brass and strings will play that evening as well. We particularly invite both choir members and guests to come to choir rehearsal at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 20th. This rehearsal will focus on preparation for the Christmas Eve services, and anyone who is planning to be in town for those special services is welcome to join us!

This past month, the youth group hosted their Annual Puzzle Night, and it was a huge success! A big thank you to everyone who helped out and to those who participated. A special thanks to Jen Lara for organizing the event and to Lita Timmerman for making tons of delicious food! We are looking forward to our Christmas party in January!





Board of Ed



We had someone volunteer to be a part of our Board of Education, hooray! We are still looking for one more member. Please consider stepping up to help us. For the month of December, we are sending to our college students gift cards and notes of encouragement to get through finals.

We are preparing really cute gift bags for all participants in the Children's Christmas program. We are looking forward to seeing their program!

Wishing you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Linda Hoskins

President of the Board of Education



I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.



December is always a short month, but packed full of learning. Ask any of our preschoolers what Christmas is about, and they will happily tell you....**"It's Jesus' birthday!"** We will celebrate Christmas by sharing the Christmas message with our families. We will also have Jesus Time with Pastor Clayton and will hear the stories about "Angels and Shepherds Praise" and "The Savior is Here!"

Our last day of school will be Thursday, December 14th. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3rd.

We wish everyone a blessed, happy, and safe Christmas holiday as you and your family celebrate the birth of our Savior. We look forward to seeing all our students again in January.

God Bless,

Vikki Harms

Zion Preschool Director



Elders Corner

As we enter the most wonderful and joyous time of the year, it seems the right time for reflection and prayer.

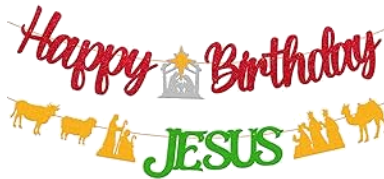
Please pray for our Pastor and family, our wonderful seminary students and their families, our secretary, our choir director team, our organists, our preschool staff, and all those who generously give their time and talents serving on Zion's boards, and for those who will continue to serve next year.

Please pray for each other, our congregation members and families, and those in and around our community who are suffering.

Please pray for those who serve our nation, many in harms way, and many who will be unable to be with loved ones this holiday season.

On behalf of the Zion Elders, Merry Christmas to all, and continued prayers to you!

In Christ,
Geoff Phillips



As the year comes to an end, we again focus on the birth of our Savior, Jesus. The kids are practicing for the Christmas program which will be during the church service on December 17th.

Did you know that Luke has 24 chapters? Reading one chapter a day with your family is a great devotional for the Christmas season. You will go through the life of Jesus before Christmas.

Do you have a heart for our Sunday School program? The position of Assistant Sunday School Superintendent is open. The job requires you to assist the Superintendent, provide objects for the lunchbox devotional and become the Superintendent the 2nd year of service. Remember that our children are the future of our church. This job can be done all on Sunday mornings. Have questions? Ask Marianne McDaniel or Anna Pannier (Anna will be superintendent next year). Please don't wait for a personal invitation. If you are willing to do this job, please let us know.

Merry Christmas!
Marianne McDaniel



Christian-Themed Calendars and Christmas Cards

The Ladies Aid has beautiful Christian-themed 2024 calendars for sale. We have a limited number, so they may go fast! They are \$6 each.

We also have a wide variety of Christmas Cards for sale at very reasonable prices. See the table in the hall outside the office to shop.

See Candy or Glenda to pay.



ZION'S 140TH ANNIVERSARY

COOKBOOKS

GREAT GIFT IDEA....

SALE PRICE \$10!

ZION HAS ADDED MANY NEW MEMBERS IN THE PAST THIRTEEN YEARS. HAVE YOU LOOKED THROUGH OUR COOKBOOK? IT CONTAINS MORE THAN 475 RECIPES, AS WELL AS SOME HISTORY ABOUT ZION AND SOME FUN ENTRIES AS WELL. THEY SELL FOR ONLY \$10. DON'T FORGET OUR WONDERFUL COOKBOOKS AS YOU LOOK OVER YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST. THEY MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

**TOP
SECRET**

SECRET PAL PROGRAM

Would you like to have a Secret Pal at Zion? Have you noticed gifts mysteriously appearing at church? Zion's Ladies Aid/LWML members have had secret pals for the past few years and have enjoyed it so much, this program is offered to any member of Zion who wishes to participate. You will receive a slip of paper on which to write your name, favorites, etc. from Glenda Pike. See Glenda by Sunday, Dec 10, to get details and/or sign up. (Or sign up and get a sheet from the narthex table.) On Dec 17 and 24, we will draw Secret Pal names. You are to pray for this person and can send cards or leave cards or small gifts at church during the year. Names are revealed in December. Sh-h-h, don't tell anyone!

*shhh....
it's a secret*

Ladies Aid Christmas Potluck



ALL LADIES of the congregation are invited to join us on Tues, Dec 19, for our annual Christmas party and potluck (side dishes only, meat will be furnished). We eat at 6:00 and then will have a short program.

You may bring a \$5 gift for exchange; if you have a Secret Pal, that gift may be brought also. We will also take a collection for Concordia Seminary. It's a fun and special evening. Please plan to attend. See Glenda for more details.



LOCALLY-HARVESTED HONEY FOR SALE

The Ladies Aid is selling pints of fresh, local honey for \$15 each. See the display on the table in the narthex.





The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?





??? 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

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

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 MEDIA

Kayla Hollenkamp 618-367-5177

kayla_hollenkamp@hotmail.com

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

December 3

"Before They Call"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

SOS and Mayday are distress signals that cry out for rescue. So is "Lord, have mercy!" (Isaiah 64:4)

December 10

"A-T Walker"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A wilderness can be scary, but if someone is with you who knows the way out, you're not really lost. (Isaiah 40:3)

December 17

"Life After Landing"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

What happens when a passenger suddenly has to be the pilot? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about the power of words to save. (Isaiah 61:1-2)

December 24

"Community and Conversation"

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

December 31

"Of Entrances and Exits"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes (Luke 2:27-28)



Please
continue to
support the
Mascoutah
Food
Pantry.



Birthdays

12/04 Harry Bailey
12/04 Andrew Dunn
12/05 Ryan Heck
12/05 Ian Robinson
12/06 Tom Hinton
12/06 Pat Meier
12/06 Anna Pannier
12/07 Bentley Randol
12/07 Blake Rowold
12/12 Tyler Hinton
12/12 Ellie Tubbs
12/14 Lisa Wehmeyer
12/16 Nicole Roehrig
12/17 Laurie Fournie
12/18 David Hinrichs
12/18 Becky Wachtman
12/22 Carl Sherrill
12/24 Andrew Hosler
12/26 Ruth Rincker
12/28 Alexander Allen
12/30 Kathleen Eldridge
12/30 Jerry Purdin
12/31 Rosemary Peterson



DECEMBER

Wedding Anniversaries

12/16 Tom & Deb Heck
12/17 Dan & Lesley Eads
12/17 Ken & Gail Frey
12/23 Karl & Barbara Bretz
12/27 Lionel & Lita Timmerman
12/29 Terry & Beth Twenhafel



Flowers for December

3 Evers, in celebration of their anniversary.

10

17 Lairds, in celebration of their 22nd wedding anniversary.

24 Timmermans, in celebration of their anniversary.

31 LaVonne Evers, in memory of Roland & Marcella

Baptismal Anniversaries

12/01 Matt Krausz
12/01 London Mann
12/01 Bentley Randol
12/02 Rainer Bretz
12/02 William Bretz
12/02 Andy Sax
12/03 Isaiah Clayton
12/03 Pastor Kirk Clayton
12/03 David Hatcher
12/03 Jadon Lorton
12/04 Eliza Matthews
12/04 Emily Matthews
12/04 Jennalee Matthews
12/04 Lauren Matthews
12/06 Lily McDaniel
12/06 Dan Morra
12/07 Marion Kneschke
12/09 Katie Crismon
12/11 Melissa Kohnen
12/15 Stefan Drinnon
12/16 Jennifer Hosler
12/16 Jacob McDaniel
12/16 Nick McDaniel
12/16 Ray McDaniel
12/18 Marlene Lockwood
12/20 Ryan Heck
12/21 Nathan Stangle
12/25 Robyn Rakers
12/26 Sophia Bretz
12/27 Lisa Wehmeyer
12/29 Sherrie Knutson
12/29 Eliza Timmerman
12/30 Mia Simon
12/31 Sadie Orr
12/31 Jennifer Rueter
12/31 Joseph Rueter IV



LWML ~ Dec. 19th

Christmas Potluck 6:00 PM
(Meat will be furnished.)

Secret pals Revealed

Senior Ladies Gift Donation

****Bring \$5 Gift for Exchange****

Hostesses:
Lita Timmerman & Joyce Hendrix

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

10 Mary Kay Krausz
24 Gail Frey
25 Lita Timmerman
31 Becky Wachtman



**Council Meeting Minutes
Zion Lutheran Church
November 9, 2023**

Call to Order at 7:00 pm

Roll Call: Present – Pastor Clayton, Mike Twenhafel, Linda Hoskins, Laurie Fournie, Tom Sax, and Jon Robinson

October council meeting minutes: Approved via email

Board of Finance Report:

- 2023 Budget YTD - \$244,905.76
- 2023 Actual YTD - \$207,915.84 (-36,989.92)

Treasurer's report:

- MMSP to accept as written.

Board of Education Report:

- Still in need of an Assistant Director and a Youth Group Director.
- For October, total Sunday School attendance was 353 with an offering collected of \$354.55.

Pastor's Report:

- Visits: 43 (36 members and 7 non-members)
- Congregational Meetings and Activities: 10
- Circuit/District/Synod Events: 27
- Community Contacts: 7

Board of Elders' Report:

- Elders will adjust communion based off feedback from the earlier survey and will pursue getting "packets" to have communion after service on Matins Sundays.
- Konya Bloomquist is leading the Operation Christmas Child Box Mission.

Board of Trustees Report:

- Church HVAC filters were replaced.
- Smartboard install process has begun by Mark Hatcher.

President's Report:

- 2024 budget discussions will begin soon.
- There are an anticipated 13 positions open on the 2024 board starting this December to include the Vice Chairman's position vacated in August.

Old Business:

- Nothing new to report.

Continued from previous page.

New Business:

- Linda Hoskins has promoted Helping Hands but thus far received no volunteers. If interest continues to wane, an as-needed volunteer basis will be considered in the future as opposed to a standing roster of volunteers.

Next Meeting – December 7, 2023 @ 7:00 pm; Voters Mtg December 14, 2023 @ 7:00 pm.

Adjournment - MMSP to adjourn.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Jon Robinson, Council Secretary

The Night Before Christmas

The night before Christmas, the eve of Christ's birth,
Many people were resting all over the Earth.
The Shepherds were watching their sheep in the night,
When all of a sudden they saw a bright light!

And what to their wondering eyes should appear,
But a beautiful Angel high up in the air.
His face was all shining; his garments so bright,
That the shepherds began to tremble with fright.

But as he came nearer, the words that he said,
Soon gave them to know there was nothing to dread.
He told them of Peace, with no fear or danger,
Their Wonderful Gift they would find in a Manger.

So leaving their sheep they went into town,
To seek for this Gift; they would look all around.
They came to the stable, the covers they lift,
And there in the Manger, God's Wonderful Gift!

So Pure and so Holy, so filled with God's Love,
They knew it was JESUS, God's Gift from above.

Let's love Him and trust Him;
There's none that's too small,
May the Lord richly bless you...

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

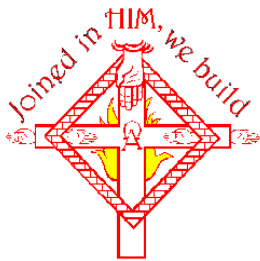


THE LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE



The candy cane symbolizes God's love for us, meant to be shared. Shaped like a shepherd's staff, it shows us the "J" for Jesus. The white stripes symbolize our Savior, spotless, pure, and true. The red stripes remind us of His sacrifice shed for me and you.





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

- Dec. 3 — First Sunday in Advent — Mark 1:1-15 — “The Advent of Our Lord”
- Dec. 6 — First Advent Midweek — Mark 1:21-34 — Rev. Karl Gregory to Preach
- Dec. 10 — Second Sunday in Advent — Luke 21:25-36 — Sem. Moellenhoff to Preach
- Dec. 13 — Second Advent Midweek — Mark 2:1-17 — Rev. Bruce Keseman to Preach
- Dec. 17 — Third Sunday in Advent — Matthew 11:2-11 — Children's Christmas Program
— “The Gifts of the Wise Men, and the Gift from God”
- Dec. 20 — Third Advent Midweek — Mark 5:21-34 — “Our Lord's Authority over Death”
- Dec. 24 — Fourth Sunday in Advent — Luke 1:39-56 — “Magnificat”
- Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve — Service of Lessons and Carols — “All Is Well”
- Dec. 25 — Christmas Day — Luke 2:1-20 — “The City of David”
- Dec. 31 — First Sunday after Christmas — Luke 2:22-40 — “Seeing Your Savior”

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