

# Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool



February  
2024

# ECHO

**101 South Railway  
Mascoutah, IL 62258**

**PASTOR:**

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

**MUSIC DIRECTORS:**

- **Josh & Nancy Peterson**

**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:**

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

**CHURCH SECRETARY:**

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

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

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



**A Congregation of  
The  
Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod**

**Mission Statement: "Zion is God's  
family of faith in Christ serving our  
communities, our country, and our  
world".**

## Humor

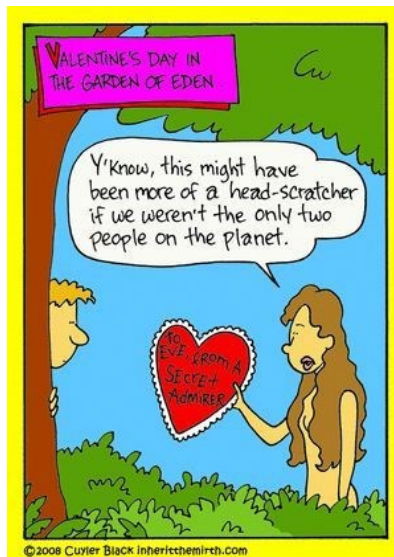
On Ash Wednesday I will be giving up spreadsheets for 40 days and 40 nights.

*It's going to be completely Excel Lent.*

Why is Lent the best time of the year to run a marathon?  
*Because that's when you fast.*

Have you heard about the first baseball game in the Bible?  
*In the big inning. Eve stole first, Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel. The Giants and the Angels were rained out.*

The frugal Lutheran walked into the house panting and almost completely exhausted. "What happened, honey?" inquired his wife. "It's a great new idea I have to be a better steward of our resources," he gasped. "I ran all the way home from the stewardship committee meeting behind the bus and saved \$1.50. "That wasn't very bright," replied his flustered wife. "Why didn't you run behind a taxi and save \$10?"



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Thanks to Benoit Paquette  
REALLY ADAM ... A VALENTINE'S DAY  
FRUIT BASKET ... IN THE GARDEN OF  
EDEN?!?



# What do the ashes mean?

A quick explanation of the ashes of Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday gets its name from a longstanding Christian custom. On this day, many Christians wear a cross made of ashes on their foreheads.

## **The cross made of ashes represents two things:**

First, ashes have long been used as a symbol of mourning. In Biblical times, people would express grief by sitting in ashes. The ashes express my sadness that I have sinned against God. I am sinful from birth, and this shows itself in my life in thoughts, words and actions that go against what God has commanded. **The ashes that I wear symbolize how I acknowledge and confess my sins to God.**

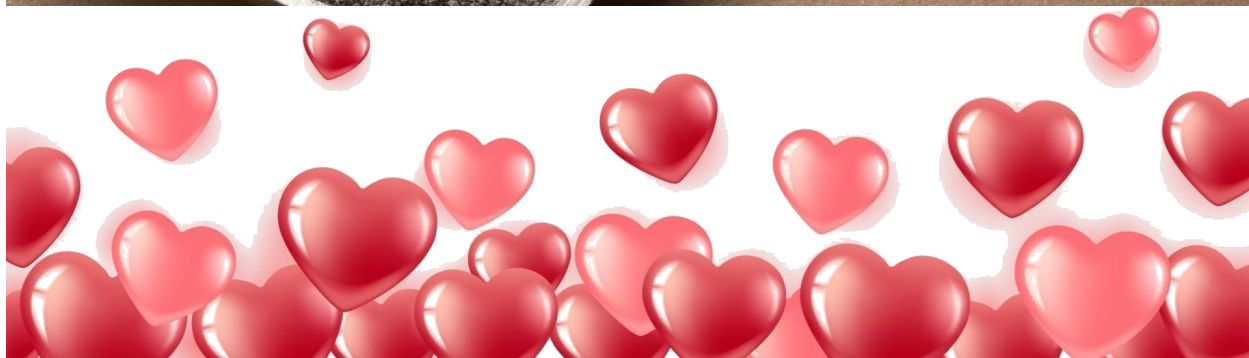
Second, however, notice that the ashes are in the shape of a cross. This reminds me that Jesus Christ gave up his life for me on a cross. By doing this, Jesus took the guilt of my sins upon himself. **The shape of the cross reminds me that God has completely and freely forgiven my sins, based on the work of Jesus Christ.**

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
But with you there is forgiveness. (Psalm 130:3,4)





Ash Wednesday  
February 14



## CHOIR NEWS

The Choir will be singing for Ash Wednesday as well as three Sundays in February. Our rehearsal will be at 7:00 on February 7th and 6:00 (right after the Lenten meal) for the rest of the month.

Feb. 4: Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing (David Angerman)

Feb. 14 (Ash Wednesday): Out of the Depths (Jeremy Young)

Feb. 18: A Lenten Prayer (Hal Hopson)

Feb. 25: Jesus Your Name (Lloyd Larson)

### Membership Changes

#### **Baptisms:**

Kinsley Rose Yankey  
Kennedy Marie Yankey

#### **Transfer In:**

Dianne Helbig (B) (C)  
from St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Morrison, IL

# Board of Ed

We have two new board members this year, Cary Robinson and Bob Eldridge. We are looking forward to a great year for our Youth.

We are in dire need of someone to take over the Youth Group. We have been without a volunteer director for some time now. Please consider stepping up for this very important position.

Letters with encouraging quotes and silly riddles will be mailed to our college students in time for Valentine's Day. If you have not given me your student's name and address yet, it's not too late to add to my list.

Easter comes early this year and with that our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We have begun planning for this fun event for our youth and will be sharing details soon.

Linda Hoskins 618-210-6987

Hello from Zion Preschool! 2024 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... "Two Men Pray", "The Good Samaritan", "Jairus's Daughter", and "Jesus' Miracles".

We will also start Registration for the 2024-2025 school year this month. Priority Registration will begin on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. If you have a preschooler, you can contact me at [zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com](mailto:zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com) for more questions or check out our Facebook page!

God Bless, Vikki Harms, Zion Preschool Director



As we get the new year started we are excited to bring back sharing Jesus' love with residents in nursing homes. Prior to COVID our Sunday school students would visit a local nursing home the Sunday before Valentine's Day to sing songs about Jesus' love for us.

We are eagerly practicing songs and plan to visit Brightly on February 11th! To make the visit extra special for the residents, the children will be making a craft that describes what Jesus' love is referring to 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7!

Anna Pannier  
Sunday School Superintendent



# Elders Corner

## **BIBLE TIPS FOR GOOD COMMUNICATION IN RELATIONSHIPS**

February, with Valentine's Day, is a great time of year to focus on our relationships! 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.

### **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 Blomquist



## Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

*You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)*

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.



# ??? 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

Bob Eldridge 618-566-4841

Cary Robinson 618-420-7276

## **BOARD OF FINANCE**

Karen Eldridge 618-580-5914

Cheryl Sax 618-806-7290

Deb Heck 618-792-0723

## **CHURCH BUSINESS**

President — Mike Twenhafel 618-363-1955

V. President — Jon Robinson 618-420-6978

## **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

Geoff Phillips 618-978-2616

## **SPIRITUAL CONCERNS/QUESTIONS**

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

## **Board of Elders:**

A-G: Ray Kemezys 618-971-8691

H-L: Geoff Phillips 618-978-2616

M-R: Dan Eads 618-623-2760

S-Z: Joe Bloomquist 618-954-9462

## **STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS**

Ray Kemezys, Elder 618-971-8691

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Superintendent— Anna Pannier

618-409-5193

Assistant Superintendent— Dawn Corey

619-995-2401

## **THRIVENT**

Eldon Ahner 618-588-4215

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

Glenda Pike 618-806-3656

## **TRUSTEES/BLDG. MAINTENANCE**

Trustees@ZionMascoutah.com

Mark Hatcher 618-409-8848

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

Andy Sax 618-530-7294

Carl Sherrill 618-409-3321

## **WELCOME COMMITTEE**

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

## **WORSHIP QUESTIONS**

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

Dan Eads 618-623-2760

## **YOUTH GROUP**



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

**February 4**

"Nature Abhors a Vacuum"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

What fills the heart that has no room to forgive? (Ephesians 4:32)

**February 11**

"What Is Evangelism?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

How do you encourage someone to receive the gift God has for them? That's what evangelism is all about. (Mark 9:7-8)

**February 18**

"Redeeming DIY"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Mark 1:12-13)

**February 25**

"When Winning Is Losing"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

(Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Romans 5:1-11, Mark 8:8-27)



*Please  
continue to  
support the  
Mascoutah  
Food  
Pantry.*





## 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

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

-1 John 4:7-9

### Flowers for February

4  
 11  
 18  
 25

*Flowers  
 needed*

Greg & Linda Hoskins, in  
 memory of Linda's mother,  
 Marjorie Dunbar.



## 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

4 Dan & Lesley Eads  
 11 Lita Timmerman, Dawn  
 Corey, & Phoebe Corey  
 14 Lesley Eads  
 25 Gail Frey

### LWML Meeting ~ Feb. 15th

**Devotion:** "I Was Lonely" (Marlene Lockwood)

**Activities:** Baby Bottle Return (Feb 11)  
 Prayer Service, Messiah Lebanon, (Mar 2)

**Hostesses:** Glenda Pike & Candy Andres



**Council Meeting Minutes  
Zion Lutheran Church  
January 11, 2024**

Call to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll call – Present: Joe Bloomquist, Pastor Clayton, Karen Eldridge, Laurie Fournie, Linda Hoskins, Jon Robinson, Mike Twenhafel, and Jean Kemezys

Opening prayer and devotion by Pastor Clayton.

December Council meeting minutes – approved via email.

**Board of Finance Report:**

- 2023 Budget YTD: \$ 295,000.12
- 2023 Actual YTD: \$ 290,667.32

**Treasurer's Report:**

- First Federal Savings Bank:\$94,515.41
- First Federal Savings Bank – Money Market: \$40,023.29
- Edward Jones Account: \$70,358.17
- General Fund: \$62,176.05

MMSP to approve Treasurer's report.

**Board of Education Report:**

- Sunday School: Anna Pannier is Superintendent; Dawn Corey is Assistant Superintendent.
- Board of Ed is sending out letters for college students for Valentine's Day, with inspirational quotes and funny sayings. Will send gift cards closer to final exams.
- Search has started for volunteer to lead VBS this summer.
- Will start planning for Easter Egg Hunt.
- Preschool looking at ways to grow, possibly expanding to include 2-year-olds.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Official Acts: Adult Confirmation of Melody Thomsen, Dec. 24, 2023
- Reaffirmation of Faith of Randy Thomsen & Scott Yankey, Dec. 24, 2023
- The Numbers:
  - Visits: 30 (22 members and 8 non-members)
  - Congregational Meetings and Activities: 12
  - Circuit/District/Synod Events: 10
  - Community Contacts: 1
- Invitation to Congregational Stewardship Workshop at Zion Lutheran in Belleville on Thursday, February 22, 2024.
- About 50 people communed on January 7, 2024.
- Upcoming trip to Israel – Pastor will be gone January 22 – February 9.

*Continued from previous page.*

- Substitute pastors will be:
  - ▶ January 28 – Chaplain Steve Hokana
  - ▶ February 4 – Chaplain Craig Muehler
- Evangelism Committee planning next Apologetics Workshop to be held at Zion on Saturday, October 12, 2024. Keynote speaker will be Nancy Almodovar, leader of “Lutheran Girl Apologetics” from Montana.

**Elder’s Report:**

- Attendance numbers for 2023 were presented.
- 52 people attended Communion after normal service on January 7, 2024.
- Apologetics Workshop – October 12, 2024. Reaching out to Issues, Etc. to see if they could broadcast the event.

**Trustee’s Report:** No report.

**President’s Report:** Pictorial Directory will be out soon.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

Next Council Meeting February 8, 2024.

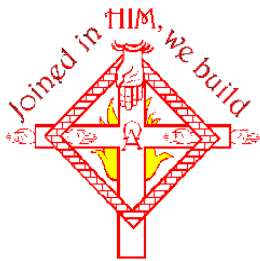
**MMSP** to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

In His service,  
Jean Kemezys







**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**

**Feb. 4 — Quinquagesima — Luke 18:31-43**

**— Chaplain Craig Muehler to Preach**

**Feb. 11 — Transfiguration — Matthew 14:1-9**

**— “Can I Get an Alleluia?”**

**Feb. 14 — Ash Wednesday — Matthew 6:1-21**

**Feb. 18 — 1st Sunday in Lent — Matthew 4:1-11**

**— “How Does Satan Temp?”**

**Feb. 21 — 1st Lent Midweek**

**Feb. 25 — 2nd Sunday in Lent — Matthew 15:21-28**

**Feb. 28 — 2nd Lent Midweek**

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