

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool



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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

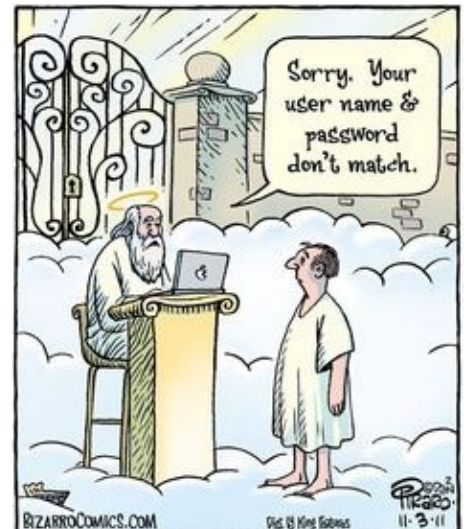
**Find us at @ZionMascoutah on
Facebook, Twitter, and
Instagram**



***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

Every once in a while when you are browsing the internet, you come across something interesting or helpful. A while back, I came across this, and I thought it would be a good reminder as we start a new year.

A list (in order) of parental duties for Christian homes:

The first duty of parents: Have your children baptized.

The first duty of parents: Be together with your children in God's house.

The first duty of parents: Be believers and doers of the faith.

The first duty of parents: Be prepared to teach the faith to your children.

The first duty of parents: Be active in growing in your faith and teaching it to your children.

Everything on the parent list for raising Christian families is number one. There are no secondary Christian duties.

Secondary or tertiary things are:

1. Sports
2. Activities (Dance, 4H, hunting, fishing, camping, travel, etc.)
3. Always using work as the reason you aren't doing the first duties.
4. Anything that keeps you from the first things. Stop making these first!

Continued from page 1.

Our world is wildly out of focus. There has always been a pull to focus on things other than God and His gifts. However, in recent years, this pull has intensified dramatically. Many can remember when there were no activities scheduled on Sunday mornings. Some can remember when even Wednesday evening was an open evening to allow for church activities. Now, there is virtually no concession for Wednesday church activities at all. As a result, family participation in Wednesday activities at church, such as Advent and Lent Midweek services, has fallen significantly. Even Sunday mornings are now busy with various activities. Our family knows this as well. Over the years, and with increasing frequency, we have kept our children out of activities on Sunday mornings so that they can be in church. Activities we have kept our children home from, or adjusted schedules to be home in time for church, include robotics, scouts, football, wrestling, and more.

I am not saying that to pat myself on the back, to show what a dedicated Christian parent I am. Quite the opposite. I am saying that to show that I know how hard it is to put Christian parenting first. I am personally aware of the sacrifices we make, and we ask our children to make, in order to have them in God's House to receive His gifts each week. Yet, despite the difficulties, it is exactly what we are called to do. God and His gifts come first.

As parents, grandparents, and mentors, we have no greater privilege and responsibility than growing in faith ourselves, and passing that faith along to the children entrusted to our care. The best way for us to grow in faith ourselves is to be in God's House at every opportunity, studying His Word in Bible Class, hearing His Word in the Divine Service, and receiving the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the closest contact we can have with Him this side of eternity in the Lord's Supper. Then, as we ourselves are in church every week, we not only are blessed and grow in faith ourselves, we also show by example how important this is for us.

The children around us learn much more from what they see in us than what they hear from us. Our children will prioritize what they see that we prioritize. If they see us making every effort to be in church at every opportunity, they will see how important this is for them as well. If they see us joyfully and eagerly looking forward to receiving God's gifts in Word and Sacrament, then they will be joyful and eager to receive these gifts from God as well.

On the other hand, if our children see us coming to church only when it is easy and convenient for us, but making every effort to get to other activities such as sports practices or music events, etc., then our children will likewise learn by experience that being in church is really not all that important. Even worse, if our children hear us complaining about what happens at church, or gossiping about people at church, or expressing anger at events taking place at church, then our children will want nothing to do with being in God's House. We might say that positive actions speak louder than positive words, but negative words can easily overcome even our most positive actions. Negative words cut deep.

So, if our first duty as parents, grandparents, and mentors is to have your children baptized, be together with your children in God's house, be believers and doers of the faith, be prepared to teach the faith to your children, and be active in growing in your faith and teaching it to your children, then the first thing to do is put that into practice ourselves. Our children are watching, and they will largely follow our example.

With that in mind, we will look forward to seeing you in Bible Class and in worship, hearing the Word and receiving the Sacrament at every possible opportunity. I look forward to seeing you!

In Christ,
Pastor Clayton

Ladies Aid Christmas Potluck on December 19, 2023



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 **CHOIR NEWS**

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Thank you, choir, for the beautiful music throughout Advent and Christmas! We are taking a short break from rehearsals and will resume our regular rehearsal schedule on Wednesday, January 17. We welcome all new and returning members!

<u>Membership Changes</u>		
Baptisms:	Transfer Out: Joshua Snyder to Holy Cross, Collinsville	Adult Confirmation; Melody Thomsen
	Removed: Lauren Segelhorst	Reaffirmation of Faith: Randy Thomsen Scott Yankey

We are looking for volunteers to be on our list of "Helping Hands". Our volunteers may be occasionally called upon to drive someone to a doctor office, or to pick up a few groceries, or help with a small chore. If you would be willing to help out, please contact me to be added to the list. With the new year upon us, and so many changes, we are starting with a brand-new list. Even if you previously signed up before, please sign up again so I can have a new, updated list. The way this will work is that when I get a request for help, I will send out a text to all who signed up to see if anyone is available for that time. This is an easy thing to do and offers a valuable service to any of our church members who may need to ask for help occasionally. Sign up by contacting Linda Hoskins at 618-210-6987. Thank you.



Board of Ed

We finished a great year in 2023 and look forward to our new year. In December we put together cute gift bags for all the participants of the Children's Christmas Program. We also mailed Christmas cards with Subway gift cards to all seven of our college students. If you neglected to get your college student signed up, please let me know by texting me at 618-210-6987. It's not too late to get added to the list!

Wishing everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Linda Hoskins



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 an exciting Christmas Spirit Week again this year! We dressed in white and blue like a winter wonderland and red and green to celebrate the colors of Christmas. We had fun showing off our crazy Christmas socks and ended the week in our favorite

Christmas gear for our Virtual Christmas Program. Pastor Clayton had a special Jesus Time lesson where the children once again participated in telling the Christmas story.

Our second semester will begin on January 3rd, 2024. Please continue to pray for the health and safety of our preschool children, families, and staff.

God's blessings for a safe and peaceful 2024.

Vikki Harms

Preschool Director



Elders Corner

We look to the new year with all sorts of plans and intentions. Psalm 37: 23 & 24 says, "The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in His way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand." Relying on God's help, the psalmist wants us to trust the Lord for guidance.

God supplies the direction in His Word. He leads us to glorify Him by serving others. We live the love of Jesus Christ on the job, in our homes and neighborhoods, in our community, and in our church. We will stumble because of our sin and weakness, but we will not fail, because the Lord upholds us with His hand.

I thank you and our Lord for the opportunity to serve as a Zion Elder for the past three years. It is such a blessing to see the Lord's work being done through His people. May our Lord continue to bless the Zion ministry as the Gospel message is preached.

In His service,
Mr. Jeffrey Fick

**"May God bless you with a
prosperous and happy
new year."**



As the year ends, so does my term as Sunday School Superintendent. I really enjoyed working with the kids and seeing their excitement for Jesus grow. These kids are the future of our church. At the time I am writing this, no one has stepped up to be Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. Anna Pannier will step up to my position and could use some help. If you have a love of our children, please consider volunteering for this position. Most of the work can be done on Sunday mornings. ***Edited to add, Dawn Corey has since stepped up to be Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. Thank you, Dawn!

The Sunday School program was held on Sunday, December 17th and the children were excited to tell the story of baby Jesus and the wise men.

God's blessings in this joyous season.

Marianne McDaniel
Sunday School Superintendent



Children's Christmas Program

December 17, 2023







The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.



??? 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

If needed, call Elder Joe Bloomquist or
Elder Geoff Phillips

SPIRITUAL CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

Pastor Clayton 618-447-1306

Board of Elders:

A-G: If needed, call Elder Joe Bloomquist or
Elder Geoff Phillips

H-L: Geoff Phillips 618-978-2616

M-R: If needed, call Elder Joe Bloomquist or
Elder Geoff Phillips

S-Z: Joe Bloomquist 618-954-9462

STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS

Geoff Phillips, Elder 618-978-2616

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

If needed, call Elder Joe Bloomquist or
Elder Geoff Phillips

YOUTH GROUP



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org

January 7

"As We Forgive"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Dr. Michael Zeigler discusses forgiveness--
what it is and what it isn't.

(Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4)

January 14

"How Could She Ever Forgive Him?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Dr. Michael Zeigler explains why it's not a
contradiction to offer forgiveness while insist-
ing on justice. (Matthew 18:27)

January 21

"The Battleground of Forgiveness"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

(Psalm 32:1)

January 28

"Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

(Psalm 103:11-12)



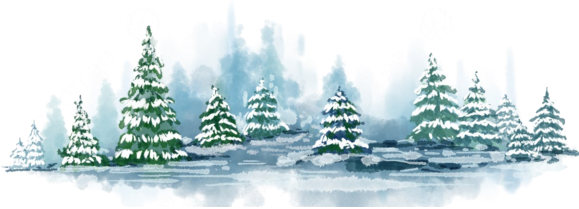
*Please
continue to
support the
Mascoutah
Food
Pantry.*

**"As we step into a
new year, let us
remember that God's
love and grace are
always with us.
Wishing you a year
filled with His
blessings. Happy New
Year!"**



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 Reed Hollenkamp
 01/20 Mark Manera
 01/22 Jake Lara
 01/22 Brad Lockwood
 01/23 Lindsay Murphy
 01/25 Lisa Rowold
 01/26 Robert Corey



JANUARY

Wedding Anniversaries

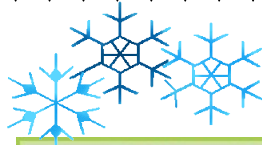
01/02 Jerry & Karen Phillips
 01/04 David & Jessica Hatcher
 01/07 Ben & Penny Eatherton
 01/13 Roy & Ruth Klingelhofer
 01/24 Lawrence & Karen Hartstick



Flowers for January

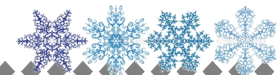
7 Kemezys family, in celebration of Callan Crismon's 8th birthday.

14
21
28
Flowers needed



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



ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

7 Abigail Clayton
 14 Joyce Hendrix & Dawn Corey
 28 Becky Wachtman & Lita Timmerman

LWML Meeting
Jan 18 ~ 7 PM

Happy
NEW YEAR

MAY HE GIVE YOU THE DESIRE OF YOUR HEART
 AND MAKE ALL YOUR PLANS SUCCEED.
 PSALM 20:4

**Council Meeting Minutes
Zion Lutheran Church
December 10, 2023**

Call to Order at 7:00 pm

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

November council meeting minutes: Approved via email.

Board of Finance Report:

- 2023 Budget YTD - \$267,169.92
- 2023 Actual YTD - \$229,533.65 (-37,636.27)

Treasurer's report:

- MMSP to accept as written.

Board of Education Report:

- Still in need of an Assistant Director and a Youth Group Director.
- Made gift bags for children with candy and a poem.
- Christmas cards were mailed out with \$15 Subway gift cards to our seven college students.

Pastor's Report:

- Visits: 31 (19 members and 12 non-members)
- Congregational Meetings and Activities: 13
- Circuit/District/Synod Events: 16
- Community Contacts: 2

Board of Elders' Report:

- 33 worshipers in attendance at the first Advent service.
- Donated 15 Christmas Baskets to congregation families in need.

Board of Trustees Report:

- Nothing new to report.

President's Report:

- 2024 Budget.
- Board Candidates.
- Goal Setting Meeting for 2024 will not be held this year.

Old Business:

- Nothing new to report.

Continued from previous page.

New Business: No new business.

Next Meeting – January 11, 2024@ 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



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.

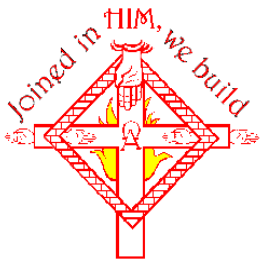
Zion has at least 35 members receiving free monies. This does not cost you **ANYTHING!** Zion Lutheran Church and Zion Preschool are two eligible choices that would appreciate the funds, but there are many others you might choose to select.

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](https://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.





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

Jan. 7 — Epiphany Sunday — Matthew 2:1-12

“King Horrid”

Jan. 14 — The Baptism of Our Lord — Matthew 3:13-17

“God’s Work for Us”

Jan. 21 — Septuagesima — Matthew 20:1-16

“The Gift of Vocation”

Jan. 28 — Sexagesima — Luke 8:4-15

Chaplain Steven Hokana to preach

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