

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool



**MARCH
2024**

ECHO

**101 South Railway
Mascoutah, IL 62258**

PASTOR:

- Rev. Dr. 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

Sometimes we wonder about how accurate and reliable God's Word is. Did the things recorded in the Bible really happen? Did Jesus really say and do what the Bible says?

On our recent trip to Israel, we had an interesting verification of just one small aspect of that question. We read in Matthew 11:21-24 that Jesus says, "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

During our time in Galilee, we toured two of the three cities mentioned in this passage, Chorazin and Capernaum. True to Jesus' words, these cities were destroyed. But what is perhaps even more interesting is something our tour guide pointed out.

Continued from page 1.

Not only were these cities destroyed as Jesus prophesied, but after they were destroyed, these particular cities have never been rebuilt. Our guide pointed out that many cities in history have been destroyed and rebuilt, but these three cities, Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, were all destroyed and remain in ruins to this day. They have never been rebuilt or resettled.

God's Word is trustworthy, and what Jesus says is the truth. If that is true for the destruction and continual ruin of cities that rejected Jesus' message, how much more can we be confident that when Jesus says, "It is finished" or "Your sins are forgiven" that those statements are also true and trustworthy! God's Word and His promises are true, and they continue to this day!

In Christ,
Pastor Clayton



Standing amidst the ruins of the city of Capernaum. (The structure in the background is a modern church built over what is very likely the ruins of Peter's house.)



Standing amidst the ruins of the city of Chorazin. It is still in ruins 2000 years after Jesus said it would be destroyed.



This past month the youth group had their 6th Annual Formal Dress Sale! It was very successful and helped raise around \$950 to help the youth pay for their summer conferences. Thank you to everyone who helped make this successful! This month we will have our monthly meeting on Sunday, March 17th right after church. We will be doing a St. Patrick's Day activity with a potluck style meal. Hope to see everyone there!



CHOIR NEWS

There will be no choir rehearsal on Wednesday, March 6. Otherwise, we will continue to rehearse at 6:00 PM throughout Lent. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays except for Holy Week, when our rehearsal will be on Friday.

LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL MARCH 6TH

Nancy Peterson will present a 30-minute organ recital before the Wednesday evening Lenten service on March 6th. Please come at 6:30 PM to hear arrangements of Lenten hymns, as well as music of Bach.

Membership Changes

Baptisms:
Clayton James Beville

Transfer In:

Easter is almost here and so is our annual Egg Hunt for the children! The Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 23, rain or shine! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for all children to register. The deadline for sign up is Sunday, March 17.

We are asking members of the congregation to fill our plastic eggs with treats or trinkets for the Egg Hunt. We will have bags of eggs in the Narthex. Please take a bag or 2 to fill, and return by Sunday, March 17. We could use some help with our various activities, so please join us for a fun morning! If you are able to help out, let me know. Thanks so much.

Linda Hoskins

Board of Ed

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School students visited Brightly on February 11th to sing to the residents. To make the visit extra special for the residents, the children made crafts that describes what Jesus' love is referring to in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7!



Preschool News & Updates



February is always a short month but packed full of fun and learning. We had a great time at our Valentine's Day Parties! Our main focus for the month was LOVE, especially the love God has for all of us and that He loves us so much He sent Jesus to be our Savior.

2023-2024 priority preschool registration for returning students and siblings, Zion church members and previous Zion Preschool families is in full swing. We began open registration to the public on February 26th. Tell your friends and neighbors. If you are interested in registering a preschooler, you can contact me at zionpreschool-mascoutah@gmail.com. I can answer any questions you may have, and I would be happy to schedule a time for you to come and tour our facility.

Our activities during March will include leaving winter behind and heading into spring! We will have parent/teacher conferences this month and begin our journey of following the events of Jesus' death and resurrection as we celebrate Easter.

God Bless

Vikki Harms, Zion Preschool Director



ELDERS CORNER

An Elders' Corner Book Review

"The 1529 Holy Week & Easter Sermons of Dr. Martin Luther"

Did you know that, in 1529, Dr. Luther preached eighteen sermons over the course of eleven days spanning Holy Week and the first week of Easter? What could he have possibly talked about over eighteen sermons?!

Here's a rough breakdown: one sermon on confession, five sermons explaining and exhorting the Lord's Supper, five sermons on various aspects of the Passion, and seven sermons on the resurrection, its aftermath, and its meaning.

This fascinating collection provides "a glimpse into what Luther actually preached to his own congregation, how he perceived their need, and how he molded the Gospel to their capacities." (Wengert, 14)

My favorite quotes from this collection of sermons are:

1. On confession: "Thus one may not force Christianity on you with commandments, but if you want to be a Christian or already are one, then come for the comfort!" (Luther, 32)

2. On the Lord's Supper: "Therefore the pope should drop the law and compulsion for those who receive the Sacrament. Instead, he does the opposite. However, you should learn what the Sacrament is and what God offers in it, and then you will come of your own accord." (Luther, 69)

3. On the Passion: Speaking of the torture and mockery that Jesus endured on the cross, he said, "So it shall be: every cruelty is to befall Christ and His Gospel so that Satan may pour out absolutely every evil he possesses and become powerless, much to our comfort." (Luther, 115)

4. On the Resurrection: "This is the true teaching of the resurrection: that each person receives the resurrection as his or her own. For there is a great difference between 'Christ is a Savior and king,' and 'Christ is my Savior and my king.'" (Luther, 123)

5. And finally, there is a quote that at first blush seems humorous but was probably fairly accurate in those days (and perhaps still today). Beginning to preach on the resurrection, he said, "...I will first read the story for the sake of the simple folk who do not know what happened on this day, in order that they may know how it turned out."

If you would like to borrow the book, it will be in the church library shortly.

In Christ, Dan Eads

Luther, Martin. The 1529 Holy Week and Easter Sermons of Dr. Martin Luther. Translated by Irving L. Sandberg. Introduction by Timothy J. Wengert. Edited by George Buchwald. Concordia Publishing House, 1999



Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done. The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC 1).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

Thank you from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation thanks the Sunday School students and staff for their mission hearts. Their generous donations will go towards the Sierra Leone Project where funds are needed most.

??? 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 618-971-8691

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

March 3

"Included in Such Company"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The more you listen to the life of Jesus, the more you admire Him and the more grateful you are to be included in His company.

(Mark 10:43-45)

March 10

"All Bets Are Off"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus engages his opponents in a battle of wits and wins—for us.

(Mark 11)

March 17

"The Strangest Request"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe

(Genesis 22:1-14)

March 24

"Repurposed Joy and Junk"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

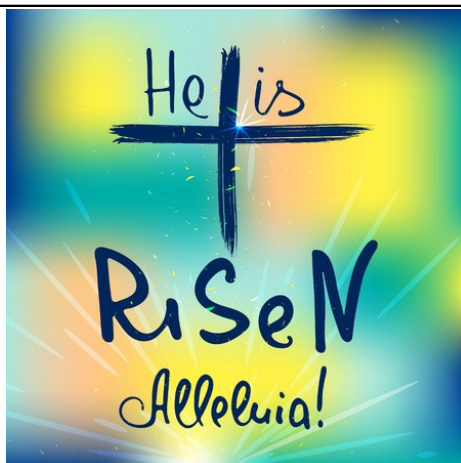
(Mark 14:6)

March 31

"TBD"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler



HE IS RISEN

Forgiven

For God so Loved the World

LAMB ^{of God}

love

He is Risen Indeed

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

HALLELUJAH

Eternal Life

Redeemer

my savior



PLEASE
CONTINUE TO
SUPPORT THE
MASCOUTAH
FOOD
PANTRY.



March



BIRTHDAYS

03/01 Jeff Fick
 03/03 James Barnard
 03/03 Matthew Clayton
 03/03 Sharon Hosler
 03/04 Joe Haas
 03/05 Lesley Eads
 03/05 Sue Kandler
 03/05 Ivar Peterson
 03/07 Joyce Hutchinson
 03/08 Julie Benner
 03/09 Paul Seering
 03/10 David Hatcher
 03/10 Jenny Kneschke
 03/11 Christian Drinnon
 03/12 Dalton Wambold
 03/14 Eldon Ahner
 03/14 Mary Kay Krausz
 03/14 Camryn Walter
 03/14 Sydney Walter
 03/15 Lionel Timmerman
 03/15 Terry Twenhafel
 03/16 Kara Simon
 03/17 Laquitta Gibson
 03/18 Pinky Ahner
 03/18 Payton Barnard
 03/18 Abigail Clayton
 03/18 Kyle Manera
 03/20 Gary Fulton
 03/20 Solomon Hatcher
 03/20 Noah Overmyer
 03/20 Brenda Snyder
 03/24 Miles Krausz
 03/25 Nathan Schreiber
 03/26 Daniel Bretz
 03/26 Patrick Lange
 03/27 Marsha Baro
 03/28 Taylor Crismon
 03/29 Olivia Begley
 03/31 Janice Conklin
 03/31 Blake Twenhafel



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

03/17 Kenny & Robyn Rakers

Flowers for March

3
 10
 17 Timmermans
 24 Kemezys, in honor of Taylor Crismon's 10th birthday.
 31



GOOD FRIDAY

ALTAR GUILD

SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

3 Abigail Clayton
 10 Dawn Corey & Lita Timmerman
 24 Karen Eldridge
 28 Joyce Hendrix & Lita Timmerman
 30 Abigail Clayton
 31 Mary Kay Krausz & Lita Timmerman

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

03/04 Evangeline Duffie
 03/04 Joe Haas
 03/04 Luke Morra
 03/05 Kathleen Eldridge
 03/11 Amy Kolweier
 03/11 Jessica Pettis
 03/12 Carolyn Overmyer
 03/15 Aileen Malcharek
 03/16 Matthew Clayton
 03/16 Mackenzie Krausz
 03/16 Mary Kay Krausz
 03/17 Barbara Bretz
 03/17 Leif Peterson
 03/17 Doug Sax
 03/18 Bristol Sax
 03/18 Tom Sax
 03/20 Jeff Fick
 03/20 Marianne McDaniel
 03/20 Lola Simon
 03/21 Julie Benner
 03/22 Reed Hollenkamp
 03/24 Dick Bogue
 03/26 Kyrielle Corey
 03/27 Liam Hatcher
 03/30 Abigail Clayton
 03/31 Christian Drinnon



LWML ~ MARCH 21

Devotion: "Remember" (Joyce Hendrix)

Activities: Confirmation Plaques
 Easter (Mar 31)

Hostesses: Marlene Lockwood
 Joyce Hendrix

**Council Meeting Minutes
Zion Lutheran Church
February 8, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll call: Joe Bloomquist, Karen Eldridge, Laurie Fournie, Mark Hatcher, Linda Hoskins,
Jon Robinson, Mike Twenhafel, Jean Kemezys

Opening devotion by Joe Bloomquist.

January Council minutes approved by email.

Board of Finance Report:

- 2024 Budget YTD: \$ 22,588.00
- 2024 Actual YTD: \$ 22,318.54

Treasurer's Report:

- First Federal Savings Bank: \$ 105,354.21
- First Federal Savings Bank – Money Market: \$ 40,023.29
- Edward Jones Account: \$ 70,358.17
- General Fund: \$ 60,752.63

MMSP to approve Treasurer's report.

Board of Education Report:

- Sunday School: January attendance 275.
 - Will do Lenten boxes.
 - Classes will meet at Brightly Sunday, Feb. 11 to sing and pass out crafts.
- Letters with inspirational quotes and jokes were mailed to college students.
- Plans have begun for Easter Egg Hunt to be held Saturday, March 23.
- Dawn Corey and family have graciously volunteered to direct VBS this summer.
- Youth Group: We still have no official director of the Youth Group.

Pastor's Report: No report available.

Elder's Report:

- Elders working on updating Voting members list.

Trustee's Report:

- Preschool girls bathroom has one toilet that needs repair.
- Church bell: replaced missing bolts and nuts securing "wagon wheel" guide.
- Parsonage:
 - Garage door needs repair or replacement.
 - Refrigerator needs replacement.
- Smart Boards: Have parts/hardware – project has taken a back seat to maintenance.
- Grinder pumps – basement bathroom grinder pumps aren't coming on automatically because lower float switch is failing. New float switches will be replaced as soon as Trustees can schedule it.

Continued from previous page.

President's Report: No report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Next meeting March 7, 2024 7:00 p.m.

MMSP to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

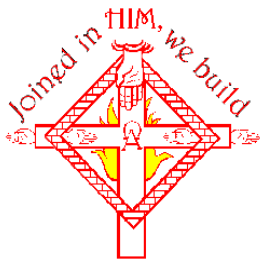
In His service,
Jean Kemezys

**"HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!"
LUKE 24:6-7**

**"AND GOD RAISED THE LORD AND WILL ALSO RAISE US UP
BY HIS POWER."
1 CORINTHIANS 6:14**

**"JESUS SAID TO HER, 'I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. THE
ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE, EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE; AND
WHOEVER LIVES BY BELIEVING IN ME WILL NEVER DIE.
DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?'"
JOHN 11:25-26**

**"PRAISE BE TO THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! IN
HIS GREAT MERCY HE HAS GIVEN US NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE
THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD."
1 PETER 1:3**



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

March 3 — 3rd Sunday in Lent — Luke 11:14-28 — “The Dangers of Cleaning”

March 6 — 3rd Lent Midweek — Luke 18:9-14

— “Parables of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector”

March 10 — 4th Sunday in Lent — John 6:1-15 — “Do We Want What God Gives?”

March 13 — 4th Lent Midweek — Matthew 13:44-46

— “Parables of the Treasure Buried in the Field and the Pearl of Great Price”

March 17 — 5th Sunday in Lent — John 8:42-59 — “Calling God a Demon”

March 20 — 5th Lent Midweek — Matthew 21:28-32 — “Parable of the Two Sons”

March 24 — Palm Sunday — John 12:12-19 — “Behold Your King”

March 28 — Maundy Thursday — John 13:1-15 (34-35) — “Washed by Jesus”

March 29 — Good Friday — John 18:1-19:42 — “It Is Finished”

March 30 — The Great Vigil of Easter — “There You Will See Him”

March 31 — The Resurrection of Our Lord — Mark 16:1-8 — “Where is Jesus?”

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