

**ZION  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH &  
PRESCHOOL**



**April  
2024**

**ECHO**

**101 South Railway  
Mascoutah, IL 62258**

**PASTOR:**

- Rev. Dr. 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)**

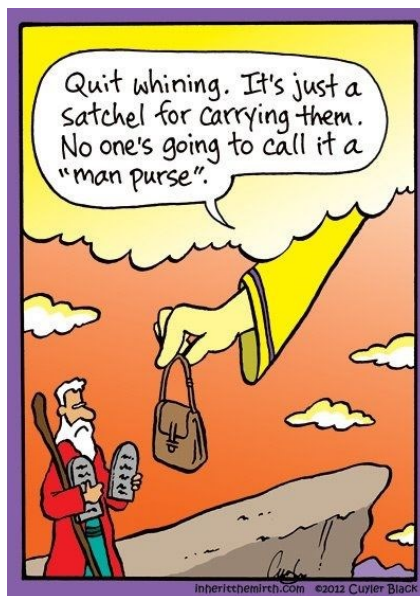
Find us at @ZionMascoutah on  
Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram



**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*



*From the Pastor*

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

As you have probably noticed, I am not a big fan of change. So often, change is destructive in nature. Much that is good and right is lost, and in its place comes something that is inferior or even outright wrong or sinful. As the hymn, "Abide with Me" says, "Change and decay in all around I see." Due to sin, the basic nature of change in our world is from better to worse, from order to disorder, from health to disease, from strength and flourishing to debilitation and decay, and then to death.

Yet, the resurrection of Jesus gives us hope. Death is not the final word. God can and does reverse the march of disorder, debilitation, decay, and death. All that is good, right, and holy, will be born anew. We can have hope in the resurrection.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ, Pastor Clayton



## Palm Sunday



## YOUTH GROUP LEADER NEEDED

The youth group needs your help! For several months now, the youth group has been without a leader. We need one or two people to step up and be a leader and advisor for our wonderful youth of this church! Please consider taking on this most important role in our church. If you are willing or have any questions, please reach out to Linda Hoskins at 618-210-6987. Thank you.

Need a HELPING HAND? DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE OR TO THE GROCERY STORE? DO YOU NEED SOMEONE TO RUN SOME ERRANDS FOR YOU, OR PERHAPS SOME HELP WITH LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING? REACH OUT TO HELPING HANDS BY CALLING LINDA HOSKINS AT 618-210-6987.







# Youth NEWS



During our March meeting, we had some of our highest numbers of youth attendance that we've had in a while! It was great to see this community come together to share in God's Word. We had a great devotion on luck provided by Pastor Clayton, and we played a great game of 'leprechauns in a pot' (sardines) as well as searched around the church basement to find hidden chocolate coins in honor of St. Patrick's Day. This month, we will be putting together homeless bags! These will be assembled and then put out for the congregation to distribute. We can't wait to see more youth at these events!



## CHOIR NEWS

Thank you, choir, for the wonderful music throughout Holy Week and Easter!  
*The Hallelujah Chorus* was a joy!

The choir will be singing during the services on April 14th and 28th, as well as at the hymn festival on the afternoon of April 14th. Rehearsals will return to the regular Wednesday 7:00 PM time, but we will not rehearse on April 17th to enable everyone to listen to the speaker from the Dominican Republic.

### Membership Changes

**Baptisms:**  
Ava Kaye Tubbs

**Transfer In:**

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# BOARD OF ED

We held our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23rd. We would like to thank all our volunteers who helped with this wonderful event for the children.

Our next project is sending gift cards to our college students before Spring finals start. It is not too late to get your student added to the list if you haven't done so already.

We are sad to announce that our Preschool Director, Vikki Harms, has given her resignation. She has done a great job and we will miss her tremendously. We will begin a search for a new director and ask for prayers from the congregation to guide us in finding the right person for this job.

Linda Hoskins

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Rise up  
and  
Pray

- LUKE 22:46 -



I hope you all had a happy Easter! Our school year is flying by! As we begin the month of April, we are excited to continue to learn about the season of Spring! We hope to get outside and visit the park more often!

We are in the middle of 2024-2025 preschool registration. We have just a few spots available in our Monday/Wednesday 3-year-old class. If you or someone you know are interested in registering your 3-year-old, you can contact me at [zionpreschool-mascoutah@gmail.com](mailto:zionpreschool-mascoutah@gmail.com).

God Bless,  
Vikki Harms  
Zion Preschool Director



# Elders Corner

As Spring arrives, many of us have already started "spring cleaning." While the weather warms, it may be time to open the windows, and conduct some cleaning up around the house or outside. The warmth also allows us opportunities to enjoy some time outside, while preparing our lawns, cleaning out vehicles, and all the activities we could not do during the colder months. If you are like me, all of this starts with a good checklist! A checklist allows us to visualize things to do or projects, and then gives us a good feeling of accomplishment as we mark items off on the checklist.

It may also be a time to review or develop a checklist of prayer and devotion.

Here is a start:

1. Am I starting and ending each day with prayer and devotion?
2. Am I reflecting on the goodness of life, and what I have to offer to others?
3. Am I attending Bible Study, Sunday School (if applicable), and Church Service regularly, and am I prioritizing my time to allow attendance in church?
4. Am I being kind to others and helping where needed?
5. Am I following the Scripture and thriving as a Christian?

Perhaps these apply to you, and you may even have others to develop into your own checklist. I would love to hear your ideas, and to talk to you about what is on your checklist of prayer and devotion!

In Christ, Geoff Phillips

SUNDAY

*1 Peter 4:10-11 - "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord."*

SCHOOL

Do you know what is coming? Do you love children? Wow, do we have an opportunity for you! We are looking for help with Summer Sunday School. Could you help one Sunday or a month of Sundays in the Summer? This allows the dedicated teachers we have through the school year a well-deserved break. We will have lessons available for you to use, or you can use your own after reviewing with us. Can you help us? Please talk to Anna Pannier or Dawn Corey.

We are also looking for help with VBS. The Corey family has generously volunteered to coordinate VBS this year, however, they will still need extra hands to make it all happen. The kids love VBS, but it can't happen without YOU! Please reach out to Robert or Dawn Corey if you would like to volunteer some time.

In early March, the Sunday School children received and colored Lenten donation boxes. They collected a total of \$73.95 which will be donated to Lutheran World Relief.

Anna Pannier, Sunday School Superintendent



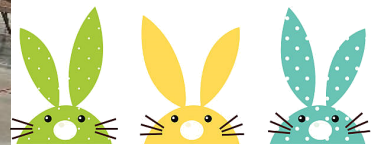
# ZION'S ANNUAL FAMILY EASTER EVENT

Zion held their Annual Family Easter Event  
on Saturday, March 23, 2024.

The event began with a light breakfast, and included  
crafts, music, hunting Easter eggs, and most important-  
ly, hearing the story of Jesus' death and resurrection!  
Over 40 children participated in this event this year.



Over 40 children  
and their parents  
participated in  
Zion Lutheran's  
Annual Family  
Easter Event.



Annie Laird helps  
her daughter,  
Agnes Laird, with a  
resurrection-themed  
craft.







Lori Clayton shared the good news of Jesus' love for us, shown in His death and resurrection, with the children attending the event.

# Happy Easter!



Cary Robinson and Rosemary Peterson led students in singing songs about Jesus' resurrection.





### ***Whose Is It Anyway?***

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So, a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

*You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.*

Your neighbor’s possessions are his: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.





# ??? 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, Elder 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, Elder 618-623-2760

## **YOUTH GROUP**



Please continue  
to support the  
Mascoutah Food  
Pantry.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

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

**April 7**

**"Raise the Flag"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Learn how the followers of Christ are raising God's flag in the world. (Acts 1:1-11)

**April 14**

**"Breathe In, Breathe Out"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez

The Holy Spirit breathes life into the Church and the Church breathes that life out to the world, with the love of Christ.

(Acts 2:42-47)

**April 21**

**"More Than He Bargained For"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Acts 3:6)







## Birthdays

04/01 Gail Frey  
 04/01 Emily Wambold  
 04/02 Tony Lara  
 04/02 Joshua Snyder  
 04/03 Kinsley Yankey  
 04/04 Lynne Schreiber  
 04/06 Bryan Benner  
 04/06 Ezri Linnertz  
 04/06 Cecily Peterson  
 04/07 Dawn Ahner  
 04/07 Adrianna Biebel  
 04/11 Jeremy Linnertz  
 04/11 Erica Richards  
 04/11 Kent Snyder  
 04/14 Johnathan Orr  
 04/15 Hannah Drinnon  
 04/18 Brooklyn Baro  
 04/18 Karen Eldridge  
 04/19 Orra Lee Meyer  
 04/20 Damon Chaffin  
 04/20 Ray Kemezys  
 04/20 Amy Morra  
 04/21 Elizabeth Bretz  
 04/21 Todd Fournie  
 04/21 Ryan Haas  
 04/21 Jamie Wilhelm  
 04/22 Ben Eatherton  
 04/23 Crystal Gugelmeyer  
 04/24 Stacia Ahner  
 04/24 Heather Brand  
 04/24 Rylan Ganey  
 04/27 Michael Ganey  
 04/27 Isabeau Harris  
 04/27 Melody Thomsen  
 04/29 Rachel Lancey



# APRIL

## Wedding Anniversaries

04/01 Robert & Dawn Corey  
 04/17 Jerry & Marleen Purdin  
 04/22 Tom & Cheryl Sax



## Flowers for April

7

14

21

28

# FLOWERS needed!

## God bless you

### LWML ~ April 18

**Devotion:**  
**"Prophets and Angels"**  
 (Laurie Knutson)

**Activities:**  
 District Spring Retreat  
 Camp Wartburg, April 20

**Hostesses:**  
 Lee Hinton & Annie Laird



## Baptismal

## Anniversaries

04/01 Steve Hollenkamp  
 04/01 Cary Robinson  
 04/01 Jon Robinson  
 04/02 Zachary Lorton  
 04/03 Callan Crismon  
 04/05 Brianna Clark  
 04/05 Jean Kemezys  
 04/07 Eldon Ahner  
 04/08 Solomon Hatcher  
 04/09 Marleen Purdin  
 04/10 Wilma Fischer  
 04/11 Michelle Underwood  
 04/12 Tony Timmerman  
 04/13 Emily Jensen  
 04/13 Sue Kandler  
 04/13 Patrick Lange  
 04/13 Kara Simon  
 04/13 Lisa Weekley  
 04/15 Bailee Hollenkamp  
 04/16 Pinky Ahner  
 04/16 Jacob Gibbs  
 04/19 Samuel Clayton  
 04/19 Gail Frey  
 04/20 Isaac Robinson  
 04/22 Sharon Hosler  
 04/23 Bryan Benner  
 04/23 Dusty Gibson  
 04/23 Dylan Gibson  
 04/23 Laquitta Gibson  
 04/23 Kyle Manera  
 04/24 Ernie Lockwood  
 04/24 Blake Twenhafel  
 04/25 Karl Bretz  
 04/25 Calista Hosler  
 04/25 Dalton Wambold  
 04/26 Emily Wambold  
 04/28 Dawn Ahner  
 04/28 Marsha Baro  
 04/29 Terry Twenhafel



**Council Meeting Minutes  
Zion Lutheran Church  
March 7, 2024**

Call to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening prayer and devotion by Pastor Clayton.

Roll call: Pastor Clayton, Joe Bloomquist, Mark Hatcher, Linda Hoskins, Jon Robinson,  
Mike Twenhafel, Jean Kemezys

February Council meeting minutes approved by email.

**Board of Finance Report:** No report.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- First Federal Savings Bank: \$103,583.21
- First Federal Savings Bank – Money Market: \$40,081.12
- Edward Jones Account: \$70,454.12
- General Fund: \$58,996.58
- MMSP to approve Treasurer's report.

**Board of Education Report:**

- Sunday School: Attendance for February was 239 with \$166 collected for offering.
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 23.
- Youth Group: Dress sale was held in February and \$ 950 was raised.
- Preschool: Director Vikki Harms has submitted her resignation, effective at the end of this school year (June). Board of Ed will begin process of recruiting to fill the position.
- Two long church pews in Preschool hallway need to be removed for Fire code purposes. Suggestion was made to offer them to congregation for free will donation and if no one is interested to try to sell them.
- Abby McDaniel would like to revamp the Senior Youth room as a Girl Scout project. Will present her proposed plan at the April Council meeting.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Official Acts:
  - Baptism of Kinsley Rose Yankey, January 14, 2024
  - Baptism of Kennedy Marie Yankey, January 14, 2024
  - Baptism of Clayton James Beville, February 18, 2024
- The Numbers:
  - Visits: 57 (49 members and 8 non-members)
  - Congregational Meetings and Activities: 21
  - Circuit/District/Synod Events: 29
  - Community Contacts: 0



*Continued from previous page.*

- Request for Josh and Nancy Peterson to attend the 2024 Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music, held at Concordia University Nebraska (Seward, Nebraska) July 9-12, 2024. The cost is \$350 per person. MMSP to fund Josh and Nancy Peterson attending this, up to \$800.

- Evangelism Committee is planning for the next Apologetics Workshop, to be held at Zion on Saturday, October 12, 2024. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Nancy Almodovar, leader of “Lutheran Girl Apologetics” from Montana.

**Board of Elder’s Report:** Voter list has been updated.

**Board of Trustee’s Report:**

- Preschool:
  - One toilet in girls’ restroom still needs repair.
- Parsonage:
  - Garage door was replaced today and torsion spring installed on second door.
  - Still need to get a new refrigerator.
  - Heat is working reliably now. Will look into an annual maintenance agreement.
- Grinder Pumps in basement bathrooms – all 4 floats have been replaced.
- Routine maintenance:
  - Generator was checked, checked oil and started it manually and let it run a bit.
  - HVAC filters were changed.
  - Burned out lightbulbs in Sacristy were changed.

**President’s Report:**

- Final pictorial directory has been approved and sent off.
- Dianne Helbig would like to apply for Voting membership. MMSP to approve.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

Next Council meeting - April 4, 2024

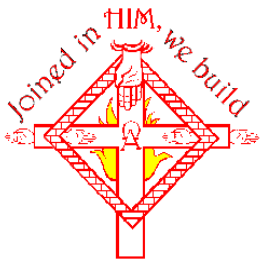
Voter’s meeting - April 11, 2024

MMSP to adjourn meeting at 8:05 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**

**April 7 — Second Sunday of Easter — John 20:19-31**

**— “That You May Believe”**

**April 14 — Third Sunday of Easter — John 10:11-16**

**— “A Shepherd Unlike Any Other”**

**April 21 — Fourth Sunday of Easter — John 16:16-22**

**— “Where True Joys Are Found”**

**April 28 — Fifth Sunday of Easter — John 16:5-15**

**— “Receiving Help from the Helper”**

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