

**ZION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH &
PRESCHOOL**



May 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



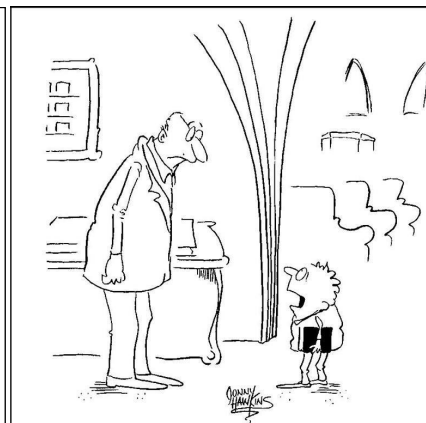
**A Congregation
of The
Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod**

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

Humor



"Eugene, you've shared the same prayer request for 47 years. Now either forget about it, or buy yourself a pony!"



"I slept in church because I'm striving to be more like God, and on the seventh day He rested."

From the Pastor

For the last few months, I have been helping a faculty member at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis redesign one of the worship classes for future pastors. As with everything I do, I am constantly thinking about how this applies to the life of the congregation at Zion. One of the primary books used for the worship class is *Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service*, by Dr. Arthur Just. I would like to share some of the insights I have learned from this book with you this month.

First, think of the meaning of the title of the book itself, *Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service*. This suggests that when we gather for the Divine Service at Zion, to receive the Word and Sacraments, we are participating in heaven itself. I like to think of heaven as being in the presence of God, and that is exactly what happens in the Divine Service in the Word and Sacraments. Jesus comes to us. Jesus is again with His people. Being in the presence of God is being in heaven. When the Word and Sacraments are present at Zion, then Zion becomes a portal, a point of contact, with heaven itself. We see the basis for this in Scripture and in the liturgy.

Continued from page 1.

John 1 provides a very clear teaching that Jesus is with us in the Word. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 14). Jesus and His Word are one in a profound and real way, as John points out.

This is also taught in the liturgy, as we sing the “Gloria in Excelsis” just before the Scripture Readings in the Divine Service. The “Gloria in Excelsis” comes from Luke 2:14, the song that the angels sang to the shepherds outside Bethlehem to announce that Jesus was born. The angels sang to say that Jesus was with His people in the manger, and we sing the same song to say that Jesus is with us in the Word. God is with His people, we are in the presence of God, we are experiencing heaven on earth.

It is very clear that Jesus is with us in the Lord’s Supper. Matthew records that in the Upper Room just before He was betrayed and arrested, Jesus took bread and wine and said, “Take, eat; this is My body...Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant” (Matthew 26:26-28). Jesus comes to be with us physically with His body and blood in the Lord’s Supper.

This is also taught in the liturgy, as we sing the “Sanctus” just before we receive the Lord’s Supper. The “Sanctus” comes from Isaiah 6:3 and Matthew 21:9. In Isaiah 6, the prophet is given a vision of heaven with God in His heavenly temple. Isaiah is brought into the very presence of God, and he hears the angels singing, “Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.” In the Lord’s Supper, we too are brought into the physical presence of God in His earthly temple, the church, as He comes to us in bread and wine. We sing the same song in the presence of God on earth as Isaiah heard the angels singing in the presence of God in heaven.

The “Sanctus” then shifts to Matthew 21:9, which records the events of Palm Sunday. The crowds greeted Jesus entering Jerusalem with the words, “Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” We sing these same words as we recognize that Jesus comes to us, humble and lowly in bread and wine just as Jesus entered Jerusalem humble and lowly, riding on a donkey. All this points to the theological truth that in the Lord’s Supper, we are enjoying a little slice of heaven on earth. God is with His people, we are in the presence of God, we are experiencing heaven on earth.

Dr. Just, in the book *Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service*, writes, “In worship, as God reminds the Church and the Church remembers, eternity unfolds in earthly time” (Just 227). When we remember that being in the presence of God is what heaven is all about, then we can see how special our time together in the Divine Service at Zion is each week. We are brought into the very presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in His Word and in the Lord’s Supper. Jesus, as is His constant desire, comes to be with His people. God is with us, and He desires to be with us. Let us make it our focus and our highest priority to be with Him each week, to receive “the gifts of Christ in the Divine Service.” There is no greater blessing and joy than to experience “heaven on earth” in the Word and Sacraments each week.

In Christ,
Pastor Clayton

YOUTH GROUP News



At the April meeting, the youth group put together 82 homeless bags for the congregation to help distribute. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies! Please take one from the narthex if you haven't already had a chance. We want them to go out into the community and help others! We also played "Head, shoulders, cup," and the game got competitive, but we had a lot of fun.

Also, Abby McDaniel has gotten approval to redo the youth room in the basement for her Girl Scout Gold Award Project! We look forward to seeing the exciting changes in store. This project will involve a lot of the youth, and it will be an exciting change coming in the next year.

At the May meeting, we plan to finish off the school year with one last service project of making cards for the nursing homes. Elections for student leadership will also be taking place.



CHOIR NEWS

Our hymn festival was a success, with excellent musical contributions from both the choir and brass! As we finish out this season, we are already looking forward to the next choir year, which will begin in late August. We will also have a couple of choir Sundays throughout the summer (you can put July 21 on your calendars for sure). There will be multiple open positions in our hand chime ensemble next year, so please contact Nancy Peterson if you are interested in joining this fun group!

During the month of May, the choir will sing twice for worship:

May 5: How Great Thou Art

May 12: The Power of the Cross

Membership Changes

Youth Confirmation:
Lily McDaniel
Rosemary Peterson
Blake Twenhafel
Dalton Wambold

Baptisms:

Transfer Out:

Lori Clayton (C)
Isaiah Clayton (B)
Samuel Clayton (B)
to Good Shepherd Lutheran,
Collinsville, IL



Board of Ed

The Board of Education sent gift cards to our college students to celebrate the end of the school year. We give thanks for the tradition of shared knowledge, and pray for guidance in tempering knowledge with wisdom, compassion, and integrity. We pray for our students to walk faithfully in their vocations and honor the glory of the Lord.

Linda Hoskins



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me..." Mark 10:14. This has been a wonderful school year. It is hard to believe that it is almost over and many of our students will be moving on to kindergarten. It is exciting to see how much they have matured and how much they have learned. The staff and I loved our time with all the students this year. Thank you to the members of Zion, our Board of Education, and our preschool parents for your continuing support.

Registration for next year began in early March. We still have a few openings for three-year-olds. If you or someone you know would like to register your child, you can email me at zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com.

We will end our school year with our annual Graduation on Tuesday evening, May 14th. Our 2024-2025 school year will begin on Tuesday, September 3rd. Parents will receive letters in August as a reminder. May God bless everyone with a happy, restful, and safe summer!

God Bless,
Vikki Harms, Zion Preschool Director



Greetings, to my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Spring is upon us, and many changes are in the air. Trees, plants, and flowers are growing and blooming. Farmers have been out in the fields planting their seeds and after 18 plus years we will be looking to call a new shepherd to lead our congregation. We wish to express our gratitude to the many years that Pastor Clayton has led us and nurtured us in God's Word. We will greatly miss him, and the entire Clayton family. We wish them well on their new journey.

The next days, weeks, months, or even a year or two will lead us into many soul-searching times. We pray that God will give us the strength and guidance to call the Pastor that will lead us for many more years to come. Give our call committee insight to what our congregation needs and wants in our new shepherd. Let us have patience and strength in the process and reap the rewards of our new Pastor. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to your Elders and we will answer or get you an answer to any questions you might have.

Your friend in Christ,
Ray Kemezys

*Elders
Corner*

*do everything
in Love*

1 Corinthians 16:14



Summer Sunday School is 12 weeks, 6/2 through 8/18. We need volunteers to sign up to teach Sunday School classes throughout the summer, this allows our faithful teacher who serve us throughout the school year a well-deserved break. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please reach out to Anna Pannier or Dawn Corey if you have any questions.

*SUNDAY
SCHOOL*

We are in need of a Sunday School teacher for the school year beginning 8/25/24 running through the end of May next year. This teacher is for the kindergarten through 2nd grade class. This class averages about 8-10 students each week and the curriculum is provided. In the past, we have had some members join forces to share the responsibility for the year, teaching classes on a rotating schedule. If interested, please contact Anna Pannier or Dawn Corey.



*Signing up to teach a couple Summer Sunday School classes would be a great way to try your hand at teaching!

Anna Pannier

stewardship

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without technically lying. You tell just enough of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing how close we can get to sinning without technically going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.



God is good!

??? 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.



May 5

"Rejoicing On the Way"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes

God empowers His people to share the Gospel with those they meet along the way.

(Acts 8:28-39)

May 12

"Unforecastable"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

It's been said that God's call often comes as a surprise. In Acts 9, we meet three men who found themselves called in ways they could neither forecast nor control.

(Acts 9:31)

May 19

"Waiting, But Not Alone"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

Jesus leaves His followers waiting for Him to return but He promises they will not be left alone. (Acts 2:1-21)

May 26

"Penultimate Sacrifice"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Memorial Day honors those who made "the ultimate sacrifice" in service to country, but there was one Sacrifice infinitely greater.

(Acts 10:1-2)



Birthdays

05/01 Jerry Phillips
 05/02 Kylie Beville
 05/03 Andrew Benner
 05/03 Debbie Root
 05/04 Dale Wehmeyer
 05/05 Emily Matthews
 05/06 Laith Fanous
 05/06 Jack Morra
 05/07 Isabella Allen
 05/08 Alaina Gryga
 05/08 Karen Haas
 05/08 Madelyn Krausz
 05/09 Lilah Fanous
 05/09 Joseph Rueter III
 05/10 Elizabeth Orr
 05/10 Isaac Robinson
 05/10 Brooke Rowold
 05/11 James Trame
 05/12 Brennen Magers
 05/12 Reagan Magers
 05/13 Nick Morra
 05/14 Meghan Hahn
 05/14 Luke Lara
 05/14 Aurora Merritt
 05/14 Brielle Merritt
 05/15 Bessie Fick
 05/17 Shirley Braeutigam
 05/17 Brennen Dunn
 05/17 Ken Frey
 05/17 Patrick Lancey
 05/19 Marsha Fulton
 05/19 Carolyn Rowold
 05/19 Kay Zimmermann
 05/20 Geoff Phillips
 05/21 Kristen Benoist
 05/23 Karl Bretz
 05/27 Amanda Bigley
 05/27 Joe Crismon
 05/27 Shea Suedmeyer
 05/28 Penny Eatherton
 05/28 Alana Fanous
 05/29 Marion Kneschke

Growing in
GOD'S Love

May

Wedding Anniversaries

05/02 Edward & Joyce Linn
 05/14 Ken & Laurie Knutson
 05/22 Darren & Lindsay Murphy
 05/25 Damon & Stacey Chaffin
 05/25 Tom & Alicia Hinton
 05/25 Earl & Temple Linnertz
 05/26 DC & Joyce Hendrix
 05/27 Matt & Emily Wambold
 05/29 Bryan & Julie Benner
 05/30 Jeff & Kay Zimmermann

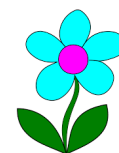
Flowers for
May
 * 5
 * 12 Joyce Hendrix, in honor of
 * her mother, Dorothea Propeck.
 * 19 Jon & Cary Robinson, in hon-
 * or of Jon's dad, Van Robinson.
 * 26

Altar Guild Schedule for May

5 Abigail Clayton
 12 Cheryl Sax &
 Becky Wachtman
 19 (Communion for
 Pentecost), TBD
 26 Lesley Eads

Baptismal Anniversaries

05/01 Janice Conklin
 05/01 Ray Kemezys
 05/02 Dustin Pannier
 05/03 Jamie Wilhelm
 05/04 Taylor Crismon
 05/08 Stacia Ahner
 05/08 Erica Popp
 05/10 Ivar Peterson
 05/12 Heather Brand
 05/12 Robert Corey
 05/12 Joseph Rueter III
 05/13 Ben Eatherton
 05/14 Lionel Timmerman
 05/15 David Hinrichs
 05/17 Debbie Root
 05/19 Luke Lara
 05/20 Isabeau Harris
 05/21 Kylie Beville
 05/21 Emma Brand
 05/22 Karen Haas
 05/22 Dale Wehmeyer
 05/26 Jack Morra
 05/27 Ken Frey
 05/28 Brooklyn Baro
 05/31 Daniel Bretz



LWML
May 16th



Devotion:

"The Ones Serving the One"
 (Becky Wachtman)

Activities:

Discuss possible
 summer project-
 Orphan Grain Train kits?

Hostesses:

Lori Clayton & Bessie Fick

**Council Meeting Minutes
Zion Lutheran Church
April 4, 2024**

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

Opening prayer and devotion by Pastor Clayton.

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

Guests present for Girl Scout Gold Award project presentation: Abby McDaniel and Lindsay Murphy.

March Council meeting minutes approved by email.

Presentation by Abby McDaniel on her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Requires 80 hours of work, leading a team on a project to redo the Youth Room in the basement. Lindsay Murphy will be her mentor for the project. Abby can't accept monetary donations for the project but can accept donations of the materials for the project. **MMSP** to approve Abby McDaniel's Girl Scout Gold Award project to redo the Youth Room in the basement.

Board of Finance report:

- 2024 Budget YTD: \$ 73,411.00
- 2024 Actual YTD: \$ 72,236.36
- Lenten collections for Benevolences totaled \$ 2,789.03. Elders will decide how this is distributed.
- Money was donated to Memorial Fund, specifically to be put toward a new church sign.

Treasurer's report:

- First Federal Savings Bank: \$ 104,073.40
- First Federal Savings Bank – Money Market: \$ 40,108.20
- Edward Jones account: \$ 70,454.12
- General Fund: \$ 59,810.07

MMSP to approve Treasurer's report.

Board of Education report:

- Sunday School:
 1. March attendance was 349, with \$ 262.11 collected in offering. Lenten donation boxes totaled \$230.89 to go to Rev. Jonah Domenichelli.
 2. Summer Sunday School – current teachers will have the summer off so will be recruiting volunteers to teach. Curriculum for summer has been ordered.
 3. Two current teachers that partnered teaching one class will not be returning to teach this fall so will be looking for a replacement(s).
 4. Teacher appreciation gifts will be given to the teachers.
- Board of Education:
 1. Easter Egg hunt was a success. 40 children attended.
 2. Will purchase Visa gift cards to send to college students before Spring finals.
 3. VBS will held July 8-12, under the direction of Dawn Corey.
- Youth Group: Still looking for volunteer(s) to lead Youth Group.
- Preschool:
 1. 3-year-old class - 17 enrolled for next year.
 2. 4-year-old class - 20 enrolled plus a waiting list.
 3. Mike Twenhafel reported Preschool Director Vikki Harms is considering to stay, with more responsibilities. Will discuss at Voter's meeting next week.

Continued from previous page.

Pastor's report:

- Official Acts: Baptism of Ava Kaye Tubbs – March 3, 2024
- The Numbers:
 1. Visits: 35 (30 members and 5 non-members)
 2. Congregational Meetings and Activities: 16
 3. Circuit/District/Synod Events: 29
 4. Community Contacts: 0
- Hymn Festival at Zion Sunday, April 14, 2024. Area pastors will do hymn commentaries.

Board of Elders report:

- Discussed how the beginning of the Pastoral Call process is carried out. Call committee will begin to be assembled in near future but the call process will not be started until August. Pastor explained the process of how a list is compiled of Pastors to consider calling.
- Working on collecting attendance numbers for the year.

Board of Trustees report:

- Elevator:
 - Inspection went well. No write-ups.
 - 2025 inspection will require smoke detectors to be tested/witnessed by inspector. This is a 5-year requirement, after next year we will likely sync it with the pressure valve test.
- Smart Boards:
 - Mounted board and projector in Fellowship Hall – not wired up yet.
 - Projector has been getting use in Sr. Youth room.
 - Still looking into what it takes to use the 'smart' features.
- Routine Maintenance:
 - Exterminator comes monthly, 3rd Friday – may supplement basement if necessary.
 - Changed burned out lightbulbs in Sanctuary.
 - Planning a work day in May to include power washing building and sign.
- Priorities:
 - Fixing toilet in girls' restroom.

President's report: Church pictorial directories are here.

Old Business: None

New Business: Frank and Jennifer Jeffries have requested voting membership. MMSP to approve.

Voter's meeting Thursday, April 11, 2024.

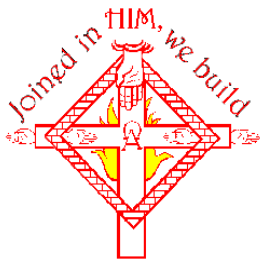
Next Council meeting Thursday, May 2, 2024.

MMSP to adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

In His Service, Jean Kemezys

SERVE THE **LORD** WITH GLADNESS!



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

May 5 — Sixth Sunday of Easter — John 16:23-33

“Ask...And You Will Receive...?”

May 12 — The Ascension of Our Lord — Luke 24:44-53

“Wrapping Things Up”

May 19 — The Day of Pentecost — John 14:23-31

“Pentecost Is All About...”

May 26 — The Holy Trinity — John 3:1-17

“Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus”

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