

*ZION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH &
PRESCHOOL*



**August
2024**

ECHO

**101 South Railway
Mascoutah, IL 62258**

VACANCY PASTOR:

- Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer
Email: jeffhemmer@gmail.com or
Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org

MUSIC DIRECTORS:

- Josh & Nancy Peterson

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

- Vikki Harms
Email: zionpreschool
director2020@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

*Introducing
Zion's
Vacancy
Pastor*



Zion's new Vacancy Pastor will be the Rev. Jeffrey B. Hemmer. In addition to filling the vacancy at Zion, Pastor Hemmer serves as pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Fairview Heights, IL, where he has served since 2011. Pastor Hemmer is also an assistant to the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Pastor Hemmer joined the president's staff in August 2021, while continuing to serve as pastor of Bethany, Fairview Heights in a part-time capacity.

Born in Belleville, Ill., Hemmer received a B.A. in English from Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, Neb., and an M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Concordia Seminary, working on a dissertation on the theology of body and the theology of place. His other theological and academic interests include biblical masculinity and the function of Christian fathers, the role of the resurrection in Christian ethics, and martyrdom and the cross-shaped Christian life.

Hemmer is the author of *Man Up!: The Quest for Masculinity* (CPH, 2017); *Behold the Man!* Lenten and Easter sermon series (CPH, 2019); *A Noble Army* sermon series on the martyrs (CPH, 2020); and assorted other articles, essays and posts.

Hemmer and his wife, Laura, live in Fairview Heights, Ill., while they restore an 1860s farmhouse in Caseyville, Ill. They have eight children.



**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".

NEW SERVICE TIMES FOR ZION **BEGINNING AUGUST 4th**

Starting on August 4th Zion will shift service times one hour later. The Divine Service start time will be at 11:00 AM and will remain at 11:00 AM moving forward. Bible Study and Sunday School will start at 9:45 AM. The reason for this change in Sunday School, Bible Class, and Divine Service times is that Pastor Hemmer continues to serve Bethany Lutheran in Fairview Heights. Bethany Lutheran has previously had Divine Service at 9:30 and Bible Class at 10:45. Bethany is moving their Divine Service and Bible Class times earlier, and Zion is moving times later, to accommodate for Pastor Hemmer being able to serve both congregations. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND FLEXIBILITY!**

YOUTH GROUP

At the July meeting, the youth group had a devotion on change and anxiety, played “link tag,” and enjoyed some pizza! It was a great way to kick off the new year with the new members joining in.



It’s also time for the Mum Fundraiser again! These funds help the youth pay for the cost of the conferences we attend. This money greatly helps offset the cost for the families, so we really appreciate all the support. The youth are all selling 9” mums from Ahner’s for \$12 each. There will only be pre-sales this year. We will not be selling extra on the day of pickup, so please get your orders to a member of the Youth Group. Checks can be made out to “Zion Lutheran Youth Group.” Pick up will be in the church parking lot (date to be determined). All orders need to be in by August 24th. Thank you for all your support of the youth!



CHOIR NEWS

Mark your calendars for the first choir rehearsal of the 2024/25 season! Practices will resume on Wednesday, August 28th, at 7:00 PM. Whether you’ve been a member for many years or are just now finding yourself in a position to come, please join the choir!

We are also in need of at least three new chime ringers. To be part of the hand chime choir, you need some very basic note reading ability. It's a great opportunity for both kids around 5th grade or older and adults. Rehearsals for hand chimes will begin on Wednesday, September 11th at 8:00 PM. Please contact Nancy Peterson (618-973-8169) if you are interested.

Membership Changes

Baptisms:

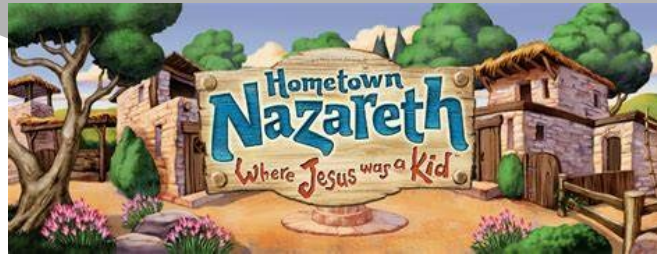
Re-affirmation of Faith:

Adult Confirmands:

Katie Queen

Tommy Baro

Cohen Bales



Hometown Nazareth VBS 2024 was a success! We had about 42 children spend the week with us exploring Nazareth and learning about Jesus when he was a kid just like them. The children learned that Jesus had a family, a name, a home, went to church, and served others just like they do.

The children gave offering donations to go to Nazareth Village in Israel. It's an open-air museum in Nazareth, Israel, that reconstructs and reenacts village life in Galilee in the time of Jesus. We had about \$720 in offerings collected.

Thank you again to everyone who gave of their time to help make the week run so smoothly and to all who donated to Nazareth Village. Also, thank you to the Mascoutah Mc Donald's for their donation.

In Christ, Robert and Dawn Corey



ELDERS

CORNER

One of the charges and responsibilities of the Zion Elders is to care for the Pastor and his family, and to ensure the Pastor is prepared and engaged with the congregational members.

On behalf of the Zion Elders, this is an appreciation post for Pastor Clayton and the entire Clayton family who have provided so much to our congregation, our families, and our communities.

Behind the scenes, many may not realize the amount of time, self-study, discipline, and effort it takes to care for a congregation from a pastor standpoint. Pastor Clayton has far excelled in every area, and the Clayton family has also done so much for us. We pray for the future of the Clayton family, and we are in deepest appreciation for all you have done for us here at Zion!

In Christ,
Geoff Phillips



Things are gearing up for the beginning of our 2024-2025 preschool year. We have one spot open in our 4-year-old class and just a few openings in our Monday/Wednesday 3-year-old class. If you or someone you know is interested in registering a child for preschool feel free to contact me at zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com

The preschool staff and I are looking forward to the start of school. We will be hosting Parent Orientation/Meet & Greet sessions with our families on Thursday, August 29th. Our first official day of school is Tuesday, September 3rd.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

God Bless,
Vikki Harms
Zion Preschool Director



stewardship



Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians’ joy filled Jerusalem’s need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it is God’s work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!



??? Who Do I Contact ???

ADULT NEW MEMBER/INSTRUCTION

Vacancy Pastor Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer
618-946-6465

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

Vacancy Pastor Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer
618-946-6465

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 Hemmer 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

Vacancy Pastor Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer
618-946-6465
Geoff Phillips, Elder 618-978-2616

SPIRITUAL CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

Vacancy Pastor Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer
618-946-6465

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

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

WORSHIP QUESTIONS

Vacancy Pastor Rev. Jeffrey Hemmer
618-946-6465
Dan Eads, Elder 618-623-2760

YOUTH GROUP



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org

August 4

"Jesus' Resurrection: God's Public Guarantee"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Archives August: A crucified Savior, a resurrected, living Lord: the public guarantee of God, at work in the world for you. (1 Corinthians 15:17-19)

August 11

"God's Peacemakers for a Troubled World"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Archives August: Don't let anger, disagreement, and stress damage your relationships. Hear how God changes troublemakers into peacemakers. (Philippians 4:4-13)

August 18

"The Child Glad to Be Born"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Archives August: The Child Who wanted to be born can make you glad to be alive! That joy for living comes when you hear His story. (Luke 2)

August 25

"When the Monsters Come"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Archives August: We can never be too vigilant against the devil's attacks but in Christ we can always be confident that the victory is ours. (Job 40:15-41:34)

Please continue
to support the
Mascoutah
Food Pantry.





Birthdays

- 08/01 Rainer Bretz
- 08/01 William Bretz
- 08/02 Peggy Lange
- 08/02 Daniel Mileur
- 08/02 Benjamin Pannier
- 08/03 Karen Harstick
- 08/04 Makenna Gryga
- 08/06 Daryl Underwood
- 08/07 Ramona Witte
- 08/10 Michael Chaffin
- 08/10 Alicia Hinton
- 08/11 Samer Fanous
- 08/11 Cary Robinson
- 08/13 Kynan Drinnon
- 08/13 Sylvia Phillips
- 08/13 Aspen Sax
- 08/15 Cindy Seering
- 08/16 Lucas Orr
- 08/17 Josh Peterson
- 08/17 David Rowold
- 08/20 Candy Andres
- 08/20 Stacey Chaffin
- 08/21 Derek Schanz
- 08/25 Gloria Peterson
- 08/25 Hunter Phillips
- 08/27 Lauren Twenhafel
- 08/29 Johnathan Clayton
- 08/29 Chloe Pannier
- 08/29 Larry Richards
- 08/30 Justin Linn
- 08/31 Ella Sax



Wedding Anniversaries

- 08/03 Tony & Jen Lara
- 08/08 John & Sylvia Phillips
- 09/09 Ralph & Jennifer Biebel
- 08/14 Mark & Mary Kay Krausz
- 08/17 Gary & Marsha Fulton
- 08/27 Ray & Jean Kemezys



*Flowers
for
August*

4
11
18
25

Flowers needed

25 Kemezys, in celebration of their wedding anniversary and the Phillips family, in celebration of Hunter's 25th birthday.




Baptismal Anniversaries

- 08/03 Phoebe Corey
- 08/03 Rhiannon Corey
- 08/04 Ainsley Fournie
- 08/04 Gary Fulton
- 08/06 Aurora Merritt
- 08/06 Brielle Merritt
- 08/07 Abigail Benner
- 08/08 Alan Kneschke
- 08/09 Karen Harstick
- 08/10 Angie Twenhafel
- 08/11 David Hutchinson
- 08/11 Sarah Hutchinson
- 08/11 Cheryl Sax
- 08/15 Ian Robinson
- 08/16 Amanda Kemezys
- 08/16 James Trame
- 08/20 Rick Meredith
- 08/21 Austin Murphy
- 08/21 Geoff Phillips
- 08/23 Peggy Lange
- 08/25 Beth Twenhafel
- 08/29 Tyler Hinton



HE LEADS ME
beside quiet waters

psalms 23:2

*Altar Guild
Schedule for August*

- 4 Elders
- 11 Lesley Eads
- 25 Gail Frey



LWML:
August 15th

Sing at Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Centers
5:00 PM

Dinner at Mascoutah Steakhouse afterwards.

**Council Meeting Minutes
Zion Lutheran Church
July 9, 2024**

Call to order at 7:00 p.m. (Jon Robinson)

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

Opening prayer and devotion by Pastor Clayton.

June Council meeting minutes approve by email.

Pastor's Report: (Pastor Clayton)

- Official Acts:
 - Wedding of Cecily Peterson and Daniel Johnson, June 29, 2024.
- The Numbers:
 - Visits: 34 (25 members and 9 non-members)
 - Congregational Meetings and Activities: 9
 - Circuit/District/Synod Events: 24
 - Community Contacts: 0

- Higher Things Conference in Mequon Wisconsin was wonderful.
- Thank you to Council members! (I think I have attended over 200 Council meetings in the past 19 years!) Thank you for your faithful service!

Board of Finance Report: (Karen Eldridge)

- Budget YTD: \$146,822.00
- Actual YTD: \$128,637.24
- Memorial Fund designated for a new church sign has \$10,805 so far.

Treasurer's Report: (Laurie Fournie)

- First Federal Savings Bank: \$109,679.46
- First Federal Savings Bank – Money Market: \$40,220.45
- Edward Jones Account: \$71,475.44
- General Fund: \$48,181.79

MMSP to approve Treasurer's report.

Board of Education Report: (Linda Hoskins)

- Preschool:
 - The four-year-old class is full, with one on waiting list. Three-year-old class is full on Tuesday/Thursday, with a few openings on Monday/Wednesday. Current bank balance is \$65,137.84, and is expected to decrease over the summer due to staff being paid over 12 months. Vikki is looking at creating a Lunch Bunch program to be held on Tuesdays after school. Children will bring their own lunch and have a play-time. This will run 11:45 to 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday School:
 - Attendance for the month of June was 176.

Continued from previous page.

- \$232.00 was collected in offering. Mission total is \$151.13, still undecided what to use mission money for. May add it to VBS mission.
- Still no volunteer for the open Sunday School teacher position for this fall.

Elder's Report: (Joe Bloomquist)

- Discussed the catered lunch for Pastor Clayton's last Sunday, July 28, 2024. Motion was made to fund the farewell luncheon for Pastor Clayton on July 28, 2024, for two entrees at \$16.95 per person (with Roy-El Catering) and also to pay \$200 for a pastor to serve at Bethany in order for Pastor Hemmer to be here that day, if Elders so choose. MMSP Recommend free will offering for the luncheon.
- Call committee meets this Thursday with President Scharr. First step will be a self-assessment.

Trustee's Report: (Mark Hatcher)

- Dead bat in Sanctuary – Dave Hurling will look for signs of bats and possible entry points next Friday on their regular monthly visit. They spray for insects and inspect for bugs/mice on the 3rd Friday each month.
- Security monitor in choir loft – Picked up new hardware. Need to load software.
- Parsonage – AC compressor cleaned, thermostat set to 78.
- HVAC – AC failed during the Peterson wedding. Weeke responded, reset breaker and it worked fine after that. Panel said it had a frozen valve. Compressors are clean. We should probably replace some insulation around pipes.
- Routine maintenance:
 - New brighter light bulb in safe room, we can replace fixture if more light is needed.
 - Broken toilet handle in cry room.
 - Couple toilet flapper valves deteriorated in basement.
 - Power washed sign and two sides of building.
- Priorities:
 - Parsonage walk-through.
 - Girl's toilet – need to purchase additional flushometers.

President's Report: (Mike Twenhafel)

- Halfway through the year, Council members should start looking for replacements for their positions.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

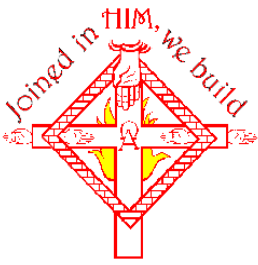
Next Council meeting – August 8, 2024

Voter's meeting, August 15, 2024

MMSP to adjourn at 8:19 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

*****NOTE CHANGE IN TIMES*****

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Sunday 9:30 to 10:45 AM

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday 9:45 to 10:45 AM

**SUNDAY SCHOOL &
YOUTH BIBLE CLASS**

Sunday 9:45 AM

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday 11:00 AM In-Person
and on Facebook

Worship Topics This Month

Aug. 4 — Tenth Sunday after Trinity — Luke 19:41-48

Aug. 11 — Eleventh Sunday after Trinity — Luke 18:9-14

Aug. 18 — Twelfth Sunday after Trinity — Mark 7:31-37

Aug. 25 — Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity — Luke 10:23-37

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