ZION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH &
PRESCHOOL





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 director 2020@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

If you must speed on the highway, sing these hymns loudly:

5 mph over the limit: "God Will Take Care of Me"

10 mph over: "Guide me, O Great Jehovah"

 $15~\mathrm{mph}$ over: "Nearer My God to Thee"

20 mph over: "Nearer Still Nearer"

25 mph over: "This World is Not My Home"

30 mph over: "Lord, I'm Coming Home"

35 mph over: "Precious Memories"

From the Pastor

Vestments, crucifixes, processions, statues, sitting and standing, the sign of the cross, kneeling, chanting, and more. To a newcomer to a Lutheran service, the liturgy, the language, and the ceremonies can all feel a little...ahem...weird. And, truth be told, they are. For that matter, they're meant to be.

The Church is her own culture. It's not Latin or American or German. It's otherworldly. Literally. The Church embodies a culture of another time in a foreign land. As some theologians have observed, the Church is a colony of the future, living as an outpost in a foreign land, under a different King, with a different language, and a guaranteed future.

So when compared with what we experience in our Monday through Saturday lives, the things of Sunday morning should feel a little weird.

But why do we do what we do? Article XXIV of the Augsburg Confession begins,

¹ Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among ² us, and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved, save that the parts sung in Latin are interspersed here and there with German hymns, which have been added ³ to teach the people. For ceremonies are needed to this end alone that the unlearned be taught [what they need to know of Christ]. (AC XXIV 1-4)

Continued from page 1.

When the first Lutherans were accused of abolishing the Mass (just another term for the Communion service, which we more commonly call the Divine Service now), they said, "Actually no; we don't abolish the Mass. We observe it with *greater* reverence than our adversaries. And we keep all the usual ceremonies in the service because those ceremonies teach people what they need to know about Christ."

Even if. You don't know why we do this or that particular ceremony (Why does the pastor kneel at the altar for instance? That's *weird*.), it is still retained to teach you something about Christ. And whether you're a lifelong Lutheran or new to this comforting confession, there's always something more to learn.

The Liturgy also guards you against a bad sermon or a pastor with a hobby horse to ride or an axe to grind. If I or any other pastor drops the ball and fails to preach Christ crucified for the forgiveness of your sins (1 Cor. 1:23-25; Luke 24:46-47), the whole service—from the Invocation to the Benediction—has been doing exactly that—preaching and delivering Christ crucified to you. If the sermon's ever dull or confusing, it's ok to zone out and focus on one of the many crosses or crucifixes around. They silently preach a more eloquent sermon than any golden-tongued preacher.

Though Pastor Clayton and I share a common adherence to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as a common approach to presiding at the Altar, there will doubtless be some little things I do that he did not or that I don't do that he did. The same will be true of the next pastor called and installed after this vacancy. But everything each pastor does in the service is intended to teach you about Christ. So, if I do something confusing or different, I am always glad to explain why and what about Christ that ceremony is intended to teach.

A ceremony, like a picture, is worth a thousand word sermon. They preach Christ and Him crucified.

In Christ's Service and Yours,





In the August meeting, the youth group had a devotion about friendship. We also had sandwiches and chips for lunch, and we played a game called "Murder in the Dark".

The mum fundraiser has ended as the youth members get their final sales. Orders will be delivered to the church parking lot this month, and the youth will deliver the mums to the buyers. We greatly appreciate all who bought mums since the money will help the youth to save up for future conferences we will attend.

TROM THE BOARD OF MAAAGE

The Board of Finance recently distributed donation statements reflecting your personal givings through the end of June. Through the end of July, Zion is running behind budget approximately \$17,000.00. Total General Fund donations through the end of July were \$152,289.80 compared to the budgeted amount of \$169,410.00. If you have any questions or concerns, please see a Board of Finance member. (Karen Eldridge, Deb Heck, or Cheryl Sax)

We invite you to join us for our first meeting of Fall on Thursday, September 19, at 7 PM!

It will be a great meeting! We will have a short devotion by Pinky Ahner, a short business meeting, and then go through the shoe and sewing kit donations we received throughout the summer. If any shoes need a little attention, we will take care of that.

The meeting will end with refreshments and a surprise auction! This is something that has been a lot of fun for us. You can bring a gift of baked goods, candles, or another gift item; wrap it in birthday wrap, Christmas wrap, gift bag, etc. We will bid on the items UNOPENED, and that's where the fun is!! All profits go to our mission efforts.

Please join us and see for yourself what an inspiring and fun group we are—all in serving our Lord!!



Are you ready for choir to start up again? We certainly are! Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, August 28th at 7:00 PM. Chimes rehearsals will begin two weeks later, on September 11th at 8:00 PM. We are in urgent need of two new ringers for the chime ensemble, as well as all voice parts for the Senior choir. Please join us!

Membership Changes

Baptisms:

Shiphrah Elaine Jiang Patterson

Puah Sandra Jiang Patterson

Transfer In:

Bennett Bales (B)

Briar Bales (B)

Board of Ed

We are looking forward to a great year in Sunday School and the Preschool! We are in the midst of planning our annual Fall Fest, and we have some great new ideas! Watch for announcement of date and events of the Fall Fest to be held in October.

We are collecting the names and addresses of all our college students, so we can mail encouraging letters and small gifts throughout the school year. There will be a notebook on the table in the Narthex for names and addresses or you can e-mail the information to Hosklin81@gmail.com. Thank you.

Linda Hoskins

We are excited about our 2024-2025 preschool year! Our school year will begin with parent orientation sessions on Thursday, August 29th. This is a great opportunity for preschool parents to meet the staff, receive information for the new school year, and ask questions. This will also give students and parents the opportunity to see the classrooms.



Our first day of class will be Tuesday, September $3^{\rm rd}$. Classes run from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

Miss Amy (Benjamin) and Miss Christy (Reese) will be returning to the four-year-old classroom and Miss Wendy (Schulz) and Miss Becky (Barnes) will be returning to the three-year-old classroom.

We look forward to another year of fun serving families of Mascoutah and the surrounding area. We thank God for the continuing support of our preschool parents, Zion's Board of Christian Education, Church Council, and the wonderful congregation.

Zion Preschool's Parent's Morning Out Program is returning for its 4th year! Zion PMO is open to all children ages 2-5 twice a month on Friday. For more information or to register your child, contact Vikki Harms at zionpreschoolmascoutah@gmail.com

Our preschool fundraiser this year is once again Butter Braids, Cookie Dough, and Pizzas. Who doesn't love a good butter braid?! These products arrive frozen and can be prepared for the coming holidays. Beginning in September the order form will be in the Narthex every Sunday after church and during the week through Sunday, October 6th. You can also order online at: https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/71afdfe5-205a-4ace-87a8-48d8716dac75 or check out our Zion Preschool Facebook page for a direct link to the website.

All orders will be available for pick-up on Saturday, October 19th at 9:30 a.m. at the Preschool South Street doors. The money we raise will help us purchase additional toys and equipment for the gym. Thank you to everyone for helping to support our program.

God Bless, Vikki Harms Zion Preschool Director



Dear friends in Christ,

Well, change has begun. Pastor Clayton has left, and Pastor Hemmer is our Vacancy Pastor. Other changes were made to our scheduled times, 9:45 for Sunday School and Bible Study and 11:00 for Worship time, to accommodate Pastor Hemmer's schedule, as he is also the Pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Fairview Heights. These service time changes are not permanent and will go back to our regular times when God leads us to our new Shepherd.

The thing we need to stress is, be patient. This process will take some time. If you have any concerns or questions, please approach or contact one of the Elders and we will be happy to answer anything you ask, or we will find out the answer if we don't know.

Once again, we as Elders ask for your patience and prayers in this process.

Your friend in Christ, Ray Kemezys







The children participated in Rally Sunday on August 25th and got to enjoy a donut with their teacher and a lesson from CPH on the 10 Commandments. "God wanted His people Israel to live as sweet a life as possible, so He gave them 10 Commandments for being "sweet" to

Him and "sweet" to others. The Ten Commandments are not simply a list of "do nots." They are a recipe to make life sweeter than any doughnut. I pray that each of you will memorize this

recipe. Then all of you will see just how sweet life can be when we follow God's lead."

Anna Pannier Sunday School Superintendent





Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. "Garbage in, Garbage out." In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the Lutheran Service Book has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness, For dull content with warmth and sheltered care, For songs of praise for food and harvest press, While of Your richer gifts we're unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.



??? Who Do I Contact???

ADULT NEW MEMBER/INSTRUCTION

Pastor 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

Pastor Hemmer 618-946-6465

EVANGELISM QUESTIONS

Bessie Fick 515-230-9937 Joe Bloomquist, Elder 618-954-9462

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

Pastor Hemmer 618-946-6465 Geoff Phillips, Elder 618-978-2616

SPIRITUAL CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

Pastor 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

Pastor Hemmer 618-946-6465 Dan Eads, Elder 618-623-2760

YOUTH GROUP

 Kris Huth
 618-267-3951

 Jen Lara
 618-530-8827

 Marianne McDaniel
 618-789-1602

 Rhea Sax
 618-558-0515



September 1 "The One"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Universe does not have a plan for your life-but God does! (Genesis 24:14)

September 8

"Conditioned by the Unconditional"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God's forgiving love for you in Christ is love that your accomplishments can't enhance and your failures can't diminish. (Genesis 25:23)

September 15

"Bent Necks and a Better Brother"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Book of Genesis is no fairy tale. It depicts real people--people like us, with half-truths, crooked ways, and sore necks--but also the God Who created us and bears with us because He loves us. (Genesis 27:35-36)

September 22

"All He Has to Say"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The story of Jacob's Ladder is not a prompt for us to climb higher; it's a promise that God comes down to our level. (Genesis 28:15)

September 29

"Love at First Sight, Love That Lasts"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola God loved us at first sight, from eternity. And He has given us Jesus so that we can know His love. (Genesis 29:20)







- 09/01 Tom Heck
- 09/03 Reese Roehrig
- 09/04 Beatrice Lockwood
- 09/05 Christelle Bretz
- 09/06 Wyatt Bigley
- 09/08 Grant Ahner
- 09/08 Dan Eads
- 09/09 Ken Knutson
- 09/10 Jon Robinson
- 09/12 Mark Hatcher
- 09/14 Ian Hutchinson
- 09/15 Garrett Sax
- 09/15 Adam Twenhafel
- 09/15 Grace Wambold
- 09/17 Joe Lancey
- 09/17 Amy Lin
- 09/18 Ahren Kneschke
- 09/21 Zackery Schreiber
- 09/22 Danny Trout
- 09/22 Angie Walter
- 09/26 Mike Rehfeldt
- 09/27 Jordan Rehfeldt
- 09/27 LaVonne Evers
- 09/30 Zachary Hinrichs
- 09/30 Jeff Zimmermann



09/04 Dustin & Anna Pannier

09/05 Andy & Rhea Sax

09/06 Mike & Angie Twenhafel

09/22 Danny & Joyce Trout

09/23 Mike & Jordan Rehfeldt

09/30 Geoff & Robin Phillips



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1 Elders

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- Dawn & Phoebe Corey
- 22 Mary Kay Krausz
- 29 Karen Eldridge



09/01 Amy Lin

09/02 Parker Roehrig

09/03 Dawn Corey

09/06 David Rowold

09/10 Johnathan Clayton

09/12 Nathan Schreiber

09/15 Alaina Gryga

09/17 Isabella Allen

09/17 Candy Andres

09/17 Kynan Drinnon

09/18 Cierrah Lovett

09/18 Daniel Mileur

09/18 Ella Sax

09/22 James Barnard

09/22 Shannon Barnard

09/24 James Rehfeldt

09/24 Larry Richards

09/27 Lauren Twenhafel

09/28 Brennan Magers

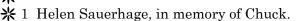
09/29 Connor Hatcher

09/?? Tom Heck





owers for <u>September</u>



★ 8 In celebration of Grant Ahner's birthday.

1 Helen Sauerhage, in memory of Chuck.

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8 In celebration of Grant Ahner's birthday.

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22

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29 Geoff & Robin Phillips, in celebration of their **

31st wedding anniversary.

米米米 31st wedding anniversary.





Devotion: "Resonate" (Pinky Ahner)

Activities: Surprise Auction

LWML Sunday, Oct. 6 LWML District Convention Sept. 13-14, Centralia

Hostesses: Lita Timmerman

Melody Thomsen



Council Meeting Minutes Zion Lutheran Church August 8, 2024

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

Opening prayer and devotion by Pastor Hemmer.

Roll call: Pastor Jeffrey Hemmer, Laurie Fournie, Mark Hatcher, Debbie Heck, Linda Hoskins, Jean Kemezys, Ray Kemezys, Jon Robinson, and Nancy Peterson (to make presentation on David's Harp: A Center for Musical Development)

July Council meeting minutes approved by email.

Pastor's report: (Pastor Hemmer)

- •Did hospital visits. Did nursing home visits with Pastor Clayton. Held service at Brightly.
- •Has meeting scheduled on August 11th following the service for 7th and 8th graders and their parents to find a time that will work for catechesis and to establish expectations.

Nancy Peterson gave presentation on David's Harp Music Academy, an organization that helps LCMS churches establish parish-based music conservatories. Will give presentation to Voters at the meeting on August 15, 2024.

Board of Finance report: (Debbie Heck)

●Budget YTD: \$169,410.00 •Actual YTD: \$152,289.80

Treasurer's report: (Laurie Fournie)

- •First Federal Savings Bank: \$108,404.74
- •First Federal Savings Bank Money Market: \$40,220.45
- •Edward Jones account: \$72,472.80
- \bullet General Fund: \$44,739.30

MMSP to approve Treasurer's report.

Board of Education report: (Linda Hoskins)

•Preschool:

- •Current enrollment: 16 in the 3-year-old classes with a few openings on Mon/Wed.
- •The 4-year-old class had been full, but with Wingate School expanding their Preschool classes, 4 of our pre-registered students got accepted into their free program. Vikki is advertising new openings through social media and word of mouth.
- •Current bank balance: \$58,250.57
- All staff return to work Monday, August 26th. Parent orientation will be Thurs., Aug. 29th.
- •Zion Preschool has officially received exempt licensing status through DCFS on July 24. This will need to be renewed every two years.

•Sunday School:

- •July attendance was 157, with offering of \$163.75.
- •Quarter 2 Mission totals \$151.13.

•Youth Group:

- •The Youth Group now has adult directors. Marianne McDaniel, Kris Huth, Rhea Sax, and Jen Lara will be working together to aid the Youth Group.
- •The annual mums sale is being held, and all orders are to be in by August 24. Unlike last year, all mums must be pre-ordered. There will be no extra mums for sale on day of pick-up.
- •BOE: Our next meeting will be August 20, and we will begin planning the Fall Fest.

Continued from previous page.

Board of Elders report: (Ray Kemezys)

- •Plan is to combine Friendship Sunday and Rally Sunday and have a potluck lunch.
- •Recommend following Synod guidelines for Pastor Hemmer's salary. (We are responsible for 50% of his total salary.) **MMSP** to approve.
- •Synod is paying for his insurance.

Board of Trustees report: (Mark Hatcher)

- •Church & Preschool Janitorial Position Opening
 - •Ray Kunkel is retiring after roughly 25 years of service (he started with the old Church in 1999)
 - •His last day will be 15 Aug. (It was 8 Aug. He offered to extend a week.)
 - •Recommend giving him a plaque and/or letter of appreciation.
 - •A personalized gift could be appropriate. (Suggest a Golden Ratchet.)
 - •Council agrees on letter and gift and recommends spending up to \$100.
 - •Will put notice in bulletin advertising the janitorial position.
- •Senior Youth room leak: We didn't locate the exact location of the leak, but we found it did come from the opposite corner of the same wall, and damaged some of the drywall in the room. City reported 7.2" of rain, nearly non-stop. Many places had water damage. Carpet is dry now and didn't appear to take on any water in our most recent storm. Conference room had wet carpets in two outside corners. Dry now. May have to check the roof for proper drainage.
- •Security monitor in choir loft (no change)
 - •Need to load software (old software didn't port to the new hardware correctly).
- •Smart Boards: 3 of 4 Smart boards are installed, less some cosmetics, power and cable management. USB cable can use the laser curtain to work as a mouse or pointer without special drivers, but didn't work on my laptop or Chrome book. Additional experimenting is necessary. Pens should work for presentation software that supports the functionality.
- •Routine Maintenance:
 - •Sanctuary light burned out over altar, bulb broke during attempted replacement. Will take some time to fix this one.
 - •Elevator routine service on shaft equipment was done July 26, no mention of water problems.
 - •Both Waste Management accounts have been settled and show \$0 due. Special thanks to Lionel for all the additional leg work and phone calls.
- •Priorities:
 - •Parsonage walk-through.
 - •Girl's toilet need to install additional flushometers and paint the peeling stall door.
 - •Re-tile stairway landings, starting with the balcony stairway.

President's report: No report.

Old Business: None

New Business: Linda Hoskins would like to resign the Helping Hands program. Only one member has requested help in the last 1½ years. It was decided that the Elders will handle any requests for members' needs.

Next Council meeting: September 5, 2024 7:00 p.m. Voter's meeting next Thursday, August 15, 7:00 p.m.

MMSP to adjourn meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

In His Service, Jean Kemezys



Zion Lutheran Church 101 S. Railway Mascoutah, IL 62258

BIBLE STUDY

Address Service Requested

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

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Sunday 12:15 to 1:00 PM

Worship Topics This Month

Sept. 1 — 14th Sunday after Trinity — Luke 17:11-19

Sept. 8—15th Sunday after Trinity—Matthew 6:24-34

Sept. 15 — 16th Sunday after Trinity — Luke 7:11-17

Sept. 22 — 17th Sunday after Trinity — Luke 14:1-11

Sept. 29 — 18th Sunday after Trinity — Matthew 22:34-46

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