

**ZION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH &
PRESCHOOL**



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**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, X, 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

364 days of the year: "Do NOT eat anything you find on the ground."
Easter: "Go and search in the dirt for candy a strange giant bunny left for you, kids!"

One Easter, a father was teaching his son to drive when out of nowhere a rabbit jumped on the road. Slamming on the brakes, the son said, "I nearly ruined Easter! I almost ran over the Easter Bunny." His father replied, "It's okay son—you missed it by a hare."

From the Pastor

Fire-Breathing Lions

You know you're a great preacher when people remember you by your nickname, *the Golden-mouthed*. That's what "Chrysostom" means. St. John Chrysostom was a 4th century Greek church father, whose sermons are still read today for their beauty, wit, and clear confession of Christ crucified for sinners.

In a sermon on Jesus words in John 6, confounding the Jews by promising to give His flesh as true food and His blood as true drink, food and drink which is the medicine of immortality, Chrysostom preached,

Let us then return from the [Communion] table like lions breathing fire, having become terrible to the devil; thinking on our Head [Christ] and on the love that He has shown for us.... Our Lord says: 'I feed you with My own flesh, desiring that you all be nobly born, and holding forth good hopes for your future.... I have willed to become your Brother. For your sake, I shared in flesh and blood, and, in turn, I give you the flesh and the blood by which I became your kinsman.' This blood causes the image of our King to be fresh within us. It produces beauty unspeakable and prevents the nobleness of our souls from wasting away.... It nourishes our souls and works in them a mighty power. This blood, if rightly taken, drives away devils, and keeps them far from us, while it calls the angels and the Lord of angels to us. For wherever they see the Lord's blood, devils flee, and angels run together. (Homily 46 on John 6)

Continued from page 1.

Like lions breathing fire, having become terrible to the devil, thinking of Christ.

Whether we know it or not, this is how the devil perceives us as we return from the altar after the Holy Communion. Our lips may have a lingering bit of sweet wine, but the devil knows this is the Blood of Christ, the blood by which he was eternally defeated, the Blood at which the demons run back to hell in terror, the Blood with which we were redeemed. The bread may have tasted like a stale cracker, but the devil knows it was the very Body he was unable to keep in the tomb, the very Body that descended to hell to proclaim victory, the very Body given as the propitiation for our sins.

No other food can do this. It was St. Ignatius of Antioch, who was a disciple of John the Evangelist (the guy who wrote the Gospel that bears his name), who coined the phrase to describe the Lord's Supper "the medicine of immortality." The crucified and risen from the dead Body and Blood of Jesus cure what has plagued humanity since the Fall into sin. They cure death. As Jesus promised, "Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:54).

Those who have fed on the Body of Christ from His altar breathe fire against the demons. They have power to endure suffering or temptation of every kind because they have been fortified by the only Body to withstand every one of the devil's attacks and the only Body to endure the pure hell of the cross. This medicine cures every ill. As we pray in the post-communion collect, it strengthens us in faith toward God and in fervent love toward one another.

That's a terrible forgiving fire to the devil that he would keep our lips and tongues from touching. He hates the Lion of Judah, and he hates those who are little fire-breathing lions fed from the conquering Lion Himself.

In Christ's Service and Yours,

Pastor Hemmer



CHOIR NEWS

The choir will be singing four times during the month of April:

April 6: The Lamb, the Lamb

April 13: There Is a Redeemer

April 17 (Maundy Thursday): Let Us Break Bread Together

April 20: Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom



In February, the Youth Group had their formal dress sale! They were able to raise over \$1200 which will help the youth pay for their summer conferences. Thank you to all who helped with sale, spread the word, shopped, or even made a donation. We really appreciate all the support from the congregation.

We also had our monthly meeting where we made Easter cards that will be brought to the nursing homes closer to Easter time. A big thank you to Kayla Hinton for coordinating that service project.



Youth News

Membership Changes

Baptisms:
Clara Schack

Transfer Out:

Hello Sunday School families, Happy Easter! Alleluia, He Is Risen!

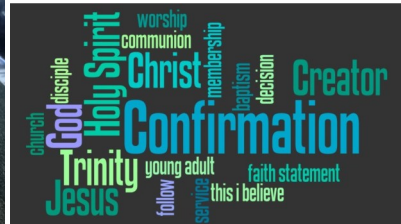
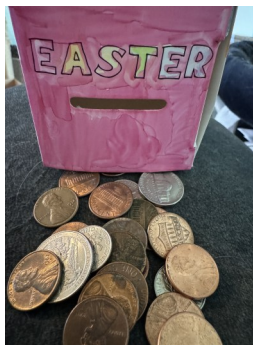
What a wonderful, busy time of year it is. There are so many lessons we get to teach our children this time of year about our Savior, Jesus Christ, who has died and risen for us. The Sunday School staff will hang black ribbons in the sanctuary on Maundy Thursday after service and replace them with colored ribbons before the Easter Celebration. If you'd like to help hang ribbons, please reach out to me.

We have 3 of our Sunday School youth being confirmed this year: Trey Harris, Chloe Pannier, and Ella Sax, will all be professing their faith. Congratulations to these 3 youth for all of their hard work and dedication.

Don't forget to return those Lenten donation boxes either on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

Also, summer is quickly approaching, and we already have a volunteer to run the summer classes. The theme for summer Sunday School will be The Parables.

Dawn Corey, Sunday School Superintendent



Happy Easter! Our school year is flying by! As we begin the month of April the students will continue to learn about the death and resurrection of Jesus.

We are so excited about the beginning of Spring! We have been able to get outside and visit the park. We look forward to more of that!

We are in the middle of 2025-2026 preschool registration. We do have spots available in both our 3-year-old and 4-year-old classrooms. If you or someone you know are interested in registering your 3-year-old, you can contact me at zionpreschooldirector2020@gmail.com.

God Bless,
Vikki Harms, Zion Preschool Director



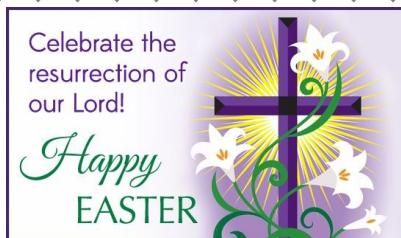
Lent is a somber celebration, of sorts, a 40-day period of penitential preparation for Easter. Many focus on the start of warmer weather, fish fries, and the upcoming start of baseball season. Another consideration is to focus on celebration and a reset.

“The Hand of the Lord Daily Devotions for Lent and Easter” is a wonderful reflection and refresher of the books of Exodus with daily readings, devotions, and prayer. Exodus recounts the life of Moses, liberation of Israelites from slavery, and devastations via plagues and the Red Sea Crossing. Of the many daily challenges that we face, we may celebrate and realize that Jesus Christ rescued us from our bondages to sin. This guide is a great way to celebrate God’s love, just as God stepped in to rescue those who could not rescue themselves. When we see the works of the world, it seems so overwhelming that we do not see God in the exact way we want to, but after reflection, we may further realize our call to patience, suffering, and trusting in the Lord’s mighty hand.

To reset, a good starting point is the midweek Zion services. This year, Pastor Hemmer is delivering messages on the six chief parts of Luther’s Small Catechism during each of the midweek services. Resetting our beliefs and focusing on topics such as the Apostle’s Creed and Lord’s Prayer (as examples), to which many can recite while half asleep, afford us the wonderful opportunity to reset, relearn, and recenter ourselves in our faith towards God and towards each other.

Opportunities to celebrate and reset should be deliberate, not taken for granted, and utilized as growing in our faith towards Christ.

In Christ, Geoff Phillips



Board of Ed

Springtime greetings from the Board of Education! As we spend this Lenten-tide reflecting on Jesus’ sacrifice for us, we look joyfully to Easter. We’re planning our annual Easter Egg Hunt, and after that, we’ll look ahead to Vacation Bible School this summer. Both events promise to be great time for everybody. Be on the lookout for them!

In Christ,
Bob Eldridge

March 14, 2025

Mr. Jeffrey Fick, Call Committee Chairman
Mr. Jon Robinson, Chairman of the Congregation
Members of Zion Lutheran Church Mascoutah, IL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

After much prayer, reflection, and seeking the Lord's guidance, it is with great joy and deep humility that I accept the divine call to serve as Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Mascoutah, IL.

Throughout our conversations via Zoom, the letter extending this call, and the blessed time we shared together this past weekend, I have been profoundly moved by Zion's excitement for the future, the confidence you have expressed in my abilities, and your heartfelt attention to the needs of my family. The way my family and I felt so welcomed and loved by you all has left a lasting impression upon our hearts.

Your deep desire to reach both members and those outside our fellowship, your commitment to strengthening the faith of our youth amidst the many attacks of Satan and the doubts that plague them, and your love for beautiful, God-honoring music all affirm your dedication to being faithful to our Lord and His Word. These shared priorities, along with much discussion and prayer, have made clear to me that the Lord is leading me to serve among you.

It is with great anticipation and reliance on Christ that I look forward to walking with you in faith, proclaiming the Gospel, administering the Sacraments, and shepherding the flock entrusted to me. May God bless our ministry together, that His name be glorified, His people strengthened, and His kingdom advanced.

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich

7621 Englewood Drive
Lincoln, NE 68510

(402) 209-3900

pastor.dietrich@redeemerlincoln.org

John 3:30

??? Who Do I Contact ???

ADULT NEW MEMBER/INSTRUCTION

Pastor Hemmer 618-946-6465

ALTAR GUILD

Lita Timmerman 618-806-2617

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Bob Eldridge 618-566-4841

Cary Robinson 618-420-7276

BOARD OF FINANCE

Cheryl Sax 618-806-7290

Deb Heck 618-792-0723

Ken Frey 618-566-7294

CHURCH BUSINESS

President — Jon Robinson 618-420-6978

V. President — Randy Thomsen 571-550-1046

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Pastor Hemmer 618-946-6465

EVANGELISM QUESTIONS

Bessie Fick 515-230-9937

Dale Wehmeyer, Elder 618-566-8114

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: Tom Sax 618-401-3490

S-Z: Dale Wehmeyer 618-566-8114

STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS

Ray Kemezys, Elder 618-971-8691

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent— Dawn Corey
619-995-2401

Assistant Superintendent—
Mark Krausz 618-588-4917

THRIVENT

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

Glenda Pike 618-806-3656

TRUSTEES/BLDG. MAINTENANCE

Trustees@ZionMascoutah.com

Lionel Timmerman 618-806-8993

Andy Sax 618-530-7294

Gail Frey 618-806-7294

WORSHIP QUESTIONS

Pastor Hemmer 618-946-6465

Tom Sax, Elder 618-401-3490

YOUTH GROUP

Kris Huth 618-267-3951

Jen Lara 618-530-8827

Marianne McDaniel 618-789-1602

Rhea Sax 618-558-0515



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

April 6

"Better Than I Deserve!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Keith Haberstock

- Jesus didn't deserve to die on a cross, but He died and rose again in order to give us better than we deserve. (John 12:1-11)

April 13

"In the Middle"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

- In Jesus, God showed up smack in the middle of life with forgiveness, love, and a promise never to leave us. (John 19:18)

April 20

"A Risen Christ and a Clean Room"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

- The risen Christ has folded Death up and put it in its place. Now Christ invites you to trust in Him and find place and purpose in His new creation. (John 20:5-7)

April 27

"Through Locked Doors"

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

- When Jesus shows up, it's no longer "us vs. them," because Jesus is for everyone, even if everyone is not yet for Jesus. (John 20:19)

Please
continue
to support the
Mascoutah
Food
Pantry.





Birthdays

04/01 Gail Frey
 04/01 Emily Wambold
 04/02 Tony Lara
 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



Altar Guild

Schedule for April

13 Mary Kay Krausz
 17 Joyce Hendrix &
 Cheryl Sax
 20 Dawn Corey &
 Phoebe Corey
 27 Gail Frey

April

Wedding Anniversaries

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



Flowers for April

6 Kim Drinnon, in memory of Roger Drinnon.

13

20 In celebration of Easter.

27 In memory of Eldon Ahner.

HE IS NOT HERE



LWMC Meeting:

April 24th, 7:00 PM

Devotion: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Joyce Hendrix)"

Special Mission Offering:
Mascoutah Food Pantry

Activities: Easter, April 20
Confirmation Plaques

Hostesses: Marlene Lockwood &
Laurie Knutson



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
 04/08 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
 04/19 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 6, 2025**

Called to order at 6:59 p.m. (Randy Thomsen)

Roll call: Bob Eldridge, Laurie Fournie, Pastor Hemmer, Ray Kemezys, Jon Robinson, Randy Thomsen, Lionel Timmerman, and Jean Kemezys

February Council meeting minutes were approved by email.

Opening devotion and prayer (Pastor Hemmer).

Pastor's report: (Pastor Hemmer)

- Pastoral activities: Divine Services (2), Prayer office (1), Catechesis (3), Council meeting, Elders meeting, member visits/calls (3), Shut-in visit-Alice Witte
- Upcoming: Lenten Wednesdays – 6 p.m. midweek prayer office
- Maundy Thursday Divine Service – 6 p.m.
- Good Friday Service – 6 p.m.
- Easter Vigil (jointly with Bethany at Bethany) – 7:30 p.m.
- Easter Day 11 a.m. Divine Service
- 2 upcoming baptisms – Clara Schack (3/16), Evelyn Farmer (end April/early May)
- Confirmation – April 27
- Gave update on SID Convention

Board of Finance report: (Laurie Fournie)

- Budget YTD: \$48,520.00
- Actual YTD: \$43,373.23

Treasurer's report: (Laurie Fournie)

- First Federal Savings Bank: \$169,712.08
 - First Federal Savings Bank – Money Market: \$40,251.37
 - Edward Jones Account: \$74,442.34
 - General Fund: \$84,771.93
- Still working on comparing property insurance premiums.
- MMSP to accept Treasurer's report.

Board of Education report: (Bob Eldridge)

- Beginning planning for Easter Egg Hunt activity, and looking for volunteers to help.
- Still looking for a volunteer to lead VBS.
- Youth Group: Held meeting on February 23 and had a devotional on John 3:16.
 - Group made Easter cards for delivery to Brightly and/or Marka the week before Easter.
 - Formal dress sale complete on March 2, and resulted in a profit of \$1,245.
 - Next meeting scheduled for March 16.
- Sunday School – February attendance 162, February offering \$116.00

Board of Elders report: (Ray Kemezys)

- Elders have decided to postpone the post-service Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month during the vacancy period. Once we have a new Pastor, we will discuss the issue further.
- Discussing possibility of opening up the job of collecting the offering to anyone 7th grade

Continued from previous page.

and up, male or female. Will discuss further at their next meeting.

- Checking into holding Memorial Day service at chapel at cemetery and looking for a speaker.

Board of Trustees report: (Lionel Timmerman)

- Routine maintenance:
 - Replaced several light bulbs in Preschool and Church.
 - Repaired light fixture in conference room.
 - Cleaned janitor's room.
 - General cleanup of parsonage.
 - Youth room repairs complete, ready for Abby McDaniel redecorating.
 - Annual fire extinguisher inspection completed 2/18/25.
 - Lead testing of parsonage water to begin April-required every 6 months.
- Upcoming projects:
 - Preschool restrooms – received plumbing estimates, awaiting carpentry estimates.
 - Reseal parking lots (need ~ every 3 years).

President's report: (Jon Robinson)

- Got final approval from SID of our revised Constitution.
- Held special voter's meeting on February 16th and Voters approved calling Pastor Joel Dietrich.
- Council will meet with Pastor Dietrich and family on Saturday morning.
- Church ad info in Mascoutah Herald has been updated.
- Per our Constitution, each board will provide an annual written outline to the Council, due at next month's meeting.

Old Business:

- Property update: - Move of house by church parking lot being scheduled for June according to new owner.
- Renovation of Preschool restrooms - Plumbing estimate in, awaiting other estimates.
- Church insurance-Laurie working on comparing property insurance premiums.

New Business:

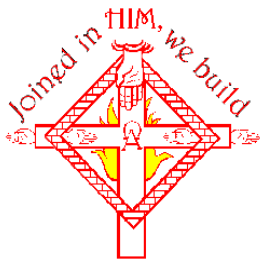
- Zion Constitution action items. Updating signature cards.
- Endowment board has operating procedures in place. Board members are Lionel Timmerman, Ted Ahner, Matt Krausz.
- Discussed April Voter's meeting agenda items.
- MMSP to have Tom Sax fill the vacant Elder position and complete the term.
- Jon, as President, will start meeting regularly with Pastor Hemmer.
- As per our Constitution, Council members will submit their reports and any agenda items prior to Council meeting.

Next Council meeting April 3, 2025, 7:00 p.m. and next Voter's meeting April 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

MMSP to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

In His Service, Jean Kemezys



Zion Lutheran Church
101 S. Railway
Mascoutah, IL 62258

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

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Sunday 9:30 AM & 12:30 PM

Address Service Requested

Worship Topics This Month

April 2—Fourth Lent Midweek—Matthew 3:13-17

April 6—Fifth Sunday in Lent—John 8:42-59

April 9—Fifth Lent Midweek—John 20:19-23

April 13—Palm Sunday—John 12:12-19

April 17—Maundy Thursday—John 13:1-15 (34-35)

April 18—Good Friday—John 18:1-19:42

April 19—Great Vigil of Easter @ Bethany, Fairview Heights

April 20—Resurrection of Our Lord—Mark 16:1-8

April 27—Second Sunday of Easter—John 20:19-31

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