

**ZION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH &
PRESCHOOL**



May 2025



**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
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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

A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The Pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - Remember that God is watching." On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all the cookies you want -- God is watching the apples."

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off thy neighbor's wife."

From the Pastor

Though it's not on the Church's calendar, every American born of a woman (that's you) knows that the second Sunday in May is Mother's Day. The antecedent to our American Mother's Day is on the Church's calendar, though. Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, was the original Mothering Sunday in the UK. A tradition developed during the Middle Ages that, on that Sunday, those who had moved away would return to their mother parishes. Laetare offers an option for rose colored vestments (a break from the deeper, more somber violet of Lent), and—for one Sunday—flowers, absent for Lent, return to the altar for Laetare.

Who knows how long this secular observance will continue, though. In the state of Illinois, birth certificates no longer list "mother" and "father." Now it's "birthing parent" and "non birthing parent." I know one "birthing parent" who gets irate at the term. "Mother's Day" can be triggering to those who've bought into the delusion that the way to cure a young girl's dysphoria with her body is to remove her breasts and pay the premium for a surgeon's scalpel to "reconstruct" her reproductive organs into something less female looking.

It's pure madness, a real mental illness, being undiagnosed in favor of altering the body to match the delusion. I read a book a few years ago written by a progressive Jewish columnist for the Wall Street Journal, Abigail Shrier. In her book *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters*, Shrier attempts to answer the why question to the staggering rates of "Gender dysphoria" diagnoses, particularly among young girls.

Historically, childhood “gender dysphoria” (as the DSM-V now calls it) only affected 0.01% of the population, and almost all were boys. “Before 2012, in fact, there was no scientific literature on girls ages eleven to twenty-one having developed gender dysphoria at all” (Shrier xxvii). But now? In 2018, the number of teenage girls seeking treatment in the UK, for instance, rose by 4,400 percent! In America, it’s the same. And girls grappling with questions about whether they might actually be boys are clustered in social circles. But body dysphoria isn’t contagious. What’s happening?

Girls (and boys) are suffering. Some researchers have identified a “mental health crisis” among young girls, with spiking rates of suicide attempts, self-harm, depression, and eating disorders. Adolescence is hard. Teenagers live in increasing isolation from one another. Add to that the sharply critical lens that social media puts onto the quickly-changing body of a girl going through puberty, and you’ve got a recipe for such an epidemic.

Girls who discover the world of “trans influencers” on YouTube, Tik Tok, and Instagram are quickly lured in to this demonic deception.

If you are a parent of young girls, a grandparent, a godparent, a teacher, a youth leader, a pastor...you need to read this book. Shrier concludes with some very hopeful recommendations about how to guard young girls from this dangerous influence. Her final two recommendations quite touchingly and poignantly celebrate the uniqueness and beauty of girls, which we certainly affirm and celebrate, as well. Part of the beauty and goodness of creation is that God made male and female separate and unique. Their differences complement one another, and those differences are worth celebrating.

But, as excellent as her book is, Shrier is missing the heart of the solution. She misses the true solution because she doesn’t diagnose the problem completely. The problem is sin. So the solution is Jesus. Though the details vary from age to age and the devil assaults us in different ways throughout the stages of our lives, the solution for sin, for the brokenness of creation, for our universal dysphoria—knowing that all things are not as the Creator intended them to be—is Jesus.

That’s not too simplistic. It’s too often forgotten. Boys and girls alike live in a fallen world. They will contend with myriad temptations throughout their lives. And each one is designed to get them to break their baptismal and confirmation vows by abandoning the faith and leaving the Church.

And here’s somewhere we can heartily agree with Shrier. Among her concluding encouragements, she says, “Don’t Be Afraid to Admit: It’s Wonderful to Be a Girl...”

Becoming a woman means losing a body almost indistinguishable from a boy’s in terms of strength and solidarity and growing into one that is softer, more sexually inviting, but more vulnerable, too...Forced to rely on subtler talents, you develop them. You learn to strike with a glance; you learn to soothe with one, too. If done right, you fill your quiver with words, humor, intrigue, and emotion...Young women have more educational and career options today than they ever have. Remember to tell your daughter that. Tell her also that a woman’s most unique capacity—childbirth—is perhaps life’s greatest blessing...She’s lucky. She’s special. She was born a girl. And being a woman is a gift, containing far too many joys to pass up. (217-218)

God made men and women different. Their differences complement each other and lead to a more flourishing, fulfilling, free life. Those who want to make women do everything men do (and vice versa) are like vandals gray-washing the Creator’s beautiful masterpiece. They not only fight against the design of creation; they also make life uglier. The Biblical reality is not just true, it’s also beautiful.

So, not just on Mother’s Day, but also on the other 364 days of the year, let’s celebrate what God has uniquely given women to do, a holy calling He has never given to any man. He built her body for a beautiful, distinct purpose. When He opens her womb, He makes her a mother. The complementarity between men and women is not just sexual, but physical, emotional, and more. That’s how God designed it. And it’s what He called “very good.”

In Christ, +Pastor Hemmer



At our monthly meeting, our youth group had a devotion, enjoyed some snacks, and participated in a service project.

In our service project, we made around 60 homemade dog toys which will be donated to animal shelters around the area. We would like to thank anybody who brought old shirts which helped with the making of the toys.



CHOIR NEWS

Choir Schedule for May:

May 4: Christus Paradox

May 11: Come, Christians, Join to Sing

May 18: Psalm 150

At the service on May 18, the Senior Choir will be joined by children of the church for a combined choir anthem! During the Month of May, the choir will also be preparing for Pastor Dietrich's installation service which will be at 3:00 PM on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th.

Membership Changes

Baptisms:

Youth Confirmations:

Trey Harris

Chloe Pannier

Ella Sax

2025 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We're excited to announce that VBS will take place the week of June 16-20, 2025! Our theme this year is "Epic Australian Adventure," where Jesus will be our guide as we encounter amazing animals, lush landscapes, stunning sea life, and wondrous wilderness. VBS will be held in the evenings from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., and our opening celebration will begin at 6:00 p.m. Children from Pre-K through those who have just completed 5th grade are invited to participate. You can register online at <https://vbsmate.com/events/Zion2025VBS/30378> or sign up on the sheet located in the narthex.

If you would like to volunteer your time to help make this an amazing event, please sign up online at <https://vbsmate.com/events/Zion2025VBS/30378> or on the sheet in the narthex. Youth from 6th grade through high school are welcome and encouraged to help.

We can't wait to share this wonderful week with you! If you have any questions, please contact Lee Hinton at (618) 409-2772 or alicia.hinton.5@gmail.com.



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 onto kindergarten. It is exciting to see how much they have matured and how much they have learned. The staff and I have 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 openings for both classes. If you or someone you know would like to register your child, you can email me at zion-preschooldirector2020@gmail.com.

We will end our school year with our annual Graduation on Tuesday evening, May 13th. Our 2025-2026 school year will begin on Tuesday, September 2nd. Parents will receive letters in August as a reminder. May God bless everyone with a happy, restful, and safe summer!

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Spring Fundraiser last month! With donations from Zion Preschool families as well as Zion Church families, we were able to raise over \$3600. We will use these funds to purchase new Jesus Time Curriculum and learning materials and educational toys for the classrooms.

God Bless, Vikki Harms, Zion Preschool Director



CHRIST IS RISEN; HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Spring has arrived in all its glory. We give thanks to God for the change in weather that allows the trees, plants, grass, and the crops to grow.

Also, most importantly, we give God the glory for the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, was buried, and rose again to give us life everlasting. This assurance that we will be received into heaven is a great comfort to us all.

Finally, we also give God the Glory for sending us a new shepherd as we all know of Pastor Dietrich accepting the call to Zion. What great excitement that news has brought to our congregation. Truly God has shone down His glory to our congregation that he accepted our call on the first go around. Thanks to the Call Committee for their hard work through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Your friend in CHRIST,
Ray Kemezys

resurrection



Happy May Sunday School Families,
The children had lots of fun with our Easter activities. We had a fun Rotten Eggs devotion a craft and a rotten egg game.
Going into summer we will have a fun summer program all about the Parables. Due to scheduling changes unfortunately I no longer have the summer classes covered. I am looking for volunteers to help teach the classes. All the materials will be provided for you. Gadge is building the curriculum for the classes as a one room class and will have a craft each week. I will have a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Thank you.

Dawn Corey, Sunday School Superintendent





Stewardship in the Body of Christ

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.” This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every

member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.

Verses 6–8: “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.” Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!

??? 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 571-550-1748

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

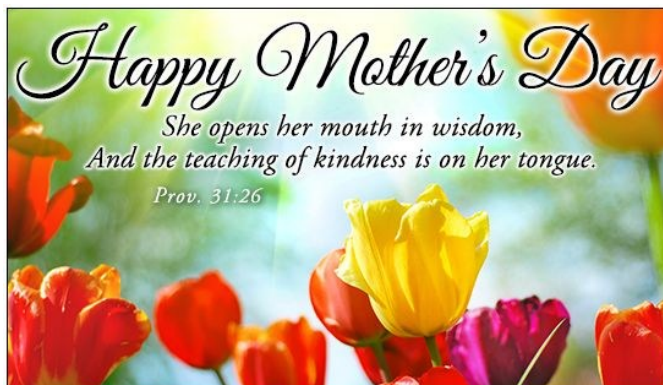
Marianne McDaniel 618-789-1602

Rhea Sax 618-558-0515



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

- **May 4**
- **"An Old Place, A New Beginning"**
- Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola
- God is the Searcher Who will not stop looking for us. In our lonely hiding place, He says, "I knew I would find you here."
(John 21:1-19)
- **May 11**
- **"How to Be Happy"**
- Lutheran Hour Speaker:
- Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
- Lasting happiness is found in surrender, rather than control. (John 15:11)
- **May 18**
- **"Truth That Takes Us In"**
- Lutheran Hour Speaker:
- Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
- Jesus is the Truth Who will take you in to live like He lives, planted in God His Father's love. (John 15:9)
- **May 25**
- **"What's Your Story?"**
- Guest Speaker: Rev. Gregory Manning
- Our difficulties often become the backdrop against which God reveals His faithfulness. Each challenge is an opportunity for Him to display His power. (John 9:1-11)





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
 05/30 Kathryn Underwood



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

- 4 Geoff Phillips, honoring Robin Phillips and all Administrative Professionals.
- 11 Glenda Pike
- 18 In loving memory of Joye Ahner Kansal.
- 25 Linda Hoskins, in memory of Greg Hoskins.

Altar Guild Schedule for May

- 11 Dawn & Phoebe Corey
- 25 Mary Kay Krausz



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 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



LWMC Meeting:

May 15th, 7:00 PM

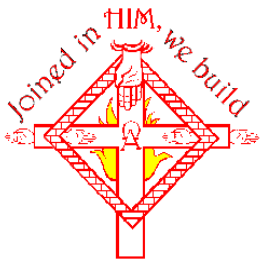
Devotion: "A Mighty Fortress"
(Candy Andres)

Special Mission Offering:
Camp Wartburg

Activities: Discuss possible summer project— Prayer quilts?

Hostesses: Joyce Hendrix & Dianne Helbig





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

May 4 — Third Sunday of Easter — John 10:11-16

May 11 — Fourth Sunday of Easter — John 16:16-22

May 18 — Fifth Sunday of Easter — John 16:5-15

May 25 — Sixth Sunday of Easter — John 16:23-33

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