

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL



AUGUST  
2026



**101 South Railway  
Mascoutah, IL 62258**

## **PASTOR:**

- Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich  
Email: revdietrich@aol.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*

**How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?**  
*Change?*

**How can you tell you're at a Lutheran potluck?**  
*The dessert table has its own zip code.*

**Why did the family sit in the same pew every Sunday?**  
*Because they'd already broken it in!*

**What kind of lights did Noah have on the ark?**  
*Floodlights!*

**Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?**  
*Because he knew there was something fishy about it.*

**How long did Cain dislike his brother?**  
*As long as he was Abel.*

## *From the Pastor*

### **One Nation Under God**

August begins with a special milestone for our community. From July 31 through August 2, Mascoutah celebrates the 100th year of its Homecoming und Augustfest. For a century, generations of volunteers have given their time and talents to bring neighbors together for parades, food, music, fellowship, and fun. This year's Stars and Stripes Parade is a nod to our nation's 250th birthday, celebrating the blessings we share as Americans.

Homecoming is an appropriate name for such a celebration. People who have moved away return to see family and friends. Neighbors gather along Main Street. Familiar faces meet again. Stories are remembered, traditions are passed down, and new memories are made. For a few days, our community pauses to remember where we have come from and to give thanks for the people who make Mascoutah a wonderful place to call home.

*Continued on the next page.*

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As Christians, a homecoming celebration can also remind us of something greater. Although God has given us earthly homes, communities, and a nation to cherish, Scripture teaches that “our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20). Our earthly celebrations are temporary, but Christ has prepared an everlasting home for everyone who trusts in Him. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has forgiven our sins, made us members of His family, and promised to bring us safely home.

This year’s Stars and Stripes Parade celebrates the 250th anniversary of the United States. Our nation has received many blessings from God: freedom, peace, prosperity, and especially the freedom to gather openly around His Word and Sacraments. These gifts should never be taken for granted. Many sacrificed greatly to establish and preserve them. We honor that sacrifice when we use our freedom responsibly, serve our neighbors faithfully, and give thanks to the One from whom every good gift comes.

For generations, Americans have confessed that we are “one nation under God.” Those words are more than a patriotic slogan. They remind us that no nation, ruler, political party, or citizen is above God. We are all accountable to Him. Our nation is not our savior, nor does God promise that America will always be powerful or prosperous. Our Savior is Jesus Christ alone. Yet God does work through earthly governments to restrain evil, preserve order, and protect our neighbors.

Therefore, Christians should be among the most faithful citizens. We honor those in authority, obey just laws, care for our communities, serve those in need, and pray for our nation. St. Paul urges “that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions” (1 Timothy 2:1–2). We pray not because our leaders are perfect, but because they need the wisdom, mercy, and guidance that only God can provide.

Being “under God” also calls us to humility and repentance. We have not always used our freedoms well. We have often placed personal desires above the needs of our neighbors. We have allowed political divisions to produce anger and contempt. We have enjoyed the freedom to worship while sometimes neglecting worship altogether. Yet God calls us back to Himself. In Christ, He forgives our failures and renews us to love and serve one another.

August also brings another kind of homecoming as students, teachers, administrators, and staff return to school. New classrooms, teachers, schedules, and expectations can bring both excitement and anxiety. As another school year begins, we remember the words of the psalmist: “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

Education is about more than grades, test scores, athletics, or preparing for a career. It is also an opportunity to grow in wisdom, responsibility, patience, and service to others. We pray that our students will work diligently, treat classmates with kindness, respect their teachers, and remember that their identity and worth are found not in their achievements but in Christ. We pray that teachers and school staff will be granted wisdom, endurance, compassion, and joy in their vocations. We also pray that parents will faithfully teach the Christian faith at home and bring their children regularly to the Divine Service and Sunday School.

As Mascoutah celebrates 100 years of Homecoming and our nation continues to celebrate 250 years of independence, let us receive these milestones with gratitude. Let us thank God for our community, our country, our schools, and all who serve within them. Above all, let us remember that every earthly blessing points us to the Giver of all good things.

May God bless Mascoutah, preserve our nation, guide our schools, strengthen our families, and keep us steadfast in the saving faith until the day when Christ welcomes us to our eternal home.

-Pastor Dietrich

**The Shoe That Grows** is a shoe that adjusts in four places to expand five sizes, protecting a child's feet longer than any other shoe can.



The five-size adjustable shoes can be purchased through Because International for \$20. Imagine giving a gift that can be worn by a child for YEARS and/or passed on to other children! This is a GREAT gift!

You can order these shoes through Because International:

1415 1st Street South  
Nampa, Idaho 83651  
208-697-4417  
[info@becauseinternational.org](mailto:info@becauseinternational.org)



Mark your calendars for the start of the new choir season! Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, August 26, and continue weekly at 7:00 PM. We are especially in need of basses, but all voices are welcome. Hand chime rehearsals will begin on September 9, and there are a couple of ringing positions available.

### **Membership Changes**

**Baptisms:**

**Received into Membership:  
Follett family**

### **"Thank You for Volunteering"**

We are halfway through 2026; it's Summertime, and we're coming o some big events in our church and community. "Thank you for volunteering" is often said from the front of the church during announcements after a big Board of Education event like Easter Egg Hunt, VBS, or Fall Fest is completed. Big events require the extra time and energy of many people to make them successful after all, and of course those who participated deserve the appreciation. If you've helped with these and other church events, here's your official "Thank You" from a grateful Board of Education.

By the time this is printed, Zion's VBS, "Wake, Awake" will have been completed. This year's VBS gathered more than 30 volunteers from the church membership, with helping hands ranging from our Youth to our Elders, some returning to help again, and some helping for the first time with VBS. Each person played their part in ministering to our children at Zion, and some visiting children, too. As they say, "Teamwork makes the dream work", and you did just that. When volunteers work together, relationships are built, friendships are forged, and cooperation creates camaraderie. These are the blessings beyond completing the tasks at hand. I feel this every time I work with Board of Ed members. If you haven't volunteered lately, consider stepping up and joining in. There is much to do, from large projects to small, all needing volunteers to make them a success.

Sometimes, the everyday volunteer...the ones who continue every week, doing the tasks, preparing the lessons, working on the budget report, communicating with the committee, calling on the elderly, corralling the children, practicing the music, preparing, serving and cleaning up the food...these volunteers don't always get the thank-you they deserve. Take a moment to say, "Thank you for Volunteering" to these volunteers, too. Thank the Sunday School teachers, Youth-Group parents, the Men's and Ladies' group leaders, Bible study teachers, Council members, church musicians, and various committee members. Consider the roles they play in continuing the good work of our church and prayerfully consider where you might best fit into a volunteer role in the future. Before you know it, it will be a new year, and more volunteers will be needed to continue the work. Step up. You'll be blessed in it.

Again, to all you who have stepped up, "Thank you for volunteering".

Cary Robinson, BOE Chair

# Board of Ed

Things are gearing up for the beginning of our 2026-2027 preschool year. Our 4-year-old class is full at the time, but we do have a few openings in our 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](mailto: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 27<sup>th</sup>. Our first official day of school is Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

God Bless,  
Vikki Harms  
Zion Preschool Director



# ELDER'S CORNER

Greetings to all.

This month I'm just going to give you three things that have gotten me through some rough times. Hopefully they will help you as reminders that God is always with you.

Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

This I say and think about during times of distress: One night in a dream, I walked with the Lord by the beach. There were two footprints, mine and the Lord's. But during tough times, I just saw mine and I wondered why. So I asked the Lord, "Why leave me alone when I was down? The Lord said, "My precious child, I never left you during your times of trial and suffering. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

In closing, I am reminded of the words from a beloved hymn: Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see! Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come. His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail and mortal life shall cease, Amazing grace shall then prevail in heaven's joy and peace.

May God's grace be with you all in the joy of knowing He is there for you.

Ray Kemezys, Elder

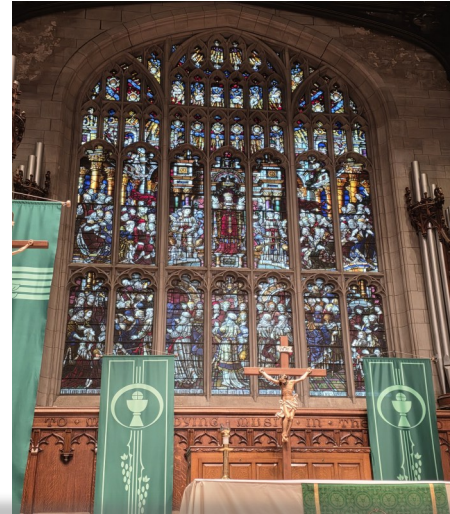
## ~OFFERING USHERS~

PLEASE REVIEW THE SCHEDULE BELOW.

IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO SERVE ON YOUR ASSIGNED DATE, KINDLY LET ONE OF THE ELDERS KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SERVICE!

|        |                                                                  |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUG 2  | PAT & PEGGY LANGE, DUSTIN & ANNA PANNIER                         |
| AUG 9  | KEN & GAIL FREY, TONY & JEN LARA                                 |
| AUG 16 | LAURIE KNUTSON, BECKY WACHTMAN,<br>CANDY ANDRES, & JOYCE HENDRIX |
| AUG 23 | JOE & KATIE CRISMON, DARREN & LINDSAY MURPHY                     |
| AUG 30 | ALAN & JENNY KNESCHKE, MARK & CHRIS HATCHER                      |



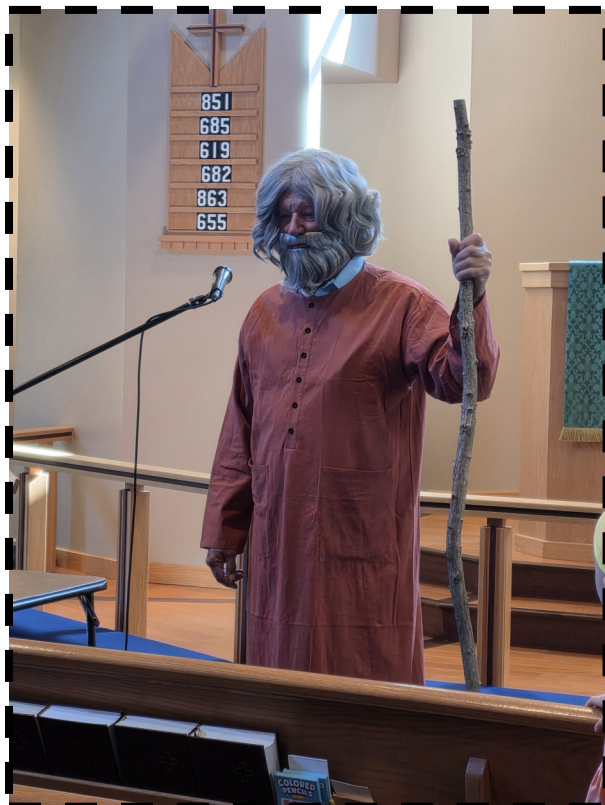


**Zion had 8 youth and 4 adults attend Higher Things at Washington University in St. Louis June 23-26.**





## Guest Speakers



OUR GUEST SPEAKERS FROM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL IN JUNE.  
MOSES  
(LIONEL TIMMERMAN),  
MARTHA WASHINGTON  
(MELISSA MCARTHUR),  
AND ABRAHAM  
(DALE WEHMEYER).



Did you know that since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 244 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 175 countries and territories???

In 2025 alone, Samaritan's Purse collected 12.2 million shoebox gifts globally!

Coming later this week, we have something very special to share about our program and we are SO excited!

Stay tuned...



**Unreached People Group:** a community with little to no access to the Gospel.

There are more than 7,000 of them worldwide, but here's the incredible part...📶

Last year alone, **431** of these groups were **engaged** through **shoebox gifts**!

Please pray with us for more open doors this shoebox season! 📦 ✨



In 2000, seven-year-old Tyrel Wolfe from Idaho packed a shoebox gift for Operation Christmas Child that was sent to the Philippines and received by Joana Marchan. Inside was a photo of Tyrel that Joana kept for years. In 2011, she found him on Facebook, and they began talking, quickly discovering shared values and interests. Two years later, Tyrel traveled to Manila to meet her in person, and their connection deepened.

He soon asked her father for permission to marry. On October 5, 2014, they were married on Tyrel's parents' ranch in Idaho.

Media: Tyrel Wolfe, Joana Marchan, Samaritan's Purse



# Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE





How many cartons can you fit on a bike? 📦



These faithful volunteers in Burundi know!

We praise God for our ministry partners who go to great lengths to reach children with the Good News of Jesus. 📦

Join us in praising God in the comments! 🙌



The \$10 suggested donation covers processing, transporting the shoeboxes to their destinations, providing material and training to leaders who then share the gospel in a child-friendly manner, and giving each child a copy of "The Greatest Gift" in his/her own language. That \$10 does a LOT!



Light is breaking through in Jamaica. 💡💛

As our Samaritan's Purse teams continue to work in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, 9,200 shoebox gifts have reached children affected by the storm. Each gift, a spark of hope in a season of loss. ✨

By adopting a shoebox gift, you help it reach the hands of a child who needs it. ❤️ Learn how: <https://bit.ly/49doZsv>





### **Define Your Life by How You Give**

■ *Originally Published in August 2023*

■ Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

■ Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

■ As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. ■ For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living have on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

■ But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of ■ God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, ■ “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

## **LCMS FAMILY MINISTRY**

*1 Thessalonians 5:11 – “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”*

August is a crazy time. Kids are going back to school, with all the activities and bustle. Parents are trying to make sure that their kids have all the things that they need to succeed in this new school year. In the midst of this time of new beginnings and transitions, it can be a challenge for a family to have meaningful connections with each other. Eating meals together can be a wonderful way to spend time together. In the midst of all the bustle and busyness, it is helpful to be intentional about having time as a family where you can connect. At the beginning of each week, plan what meals you will eat together as a family. Make the most of them by having a family devotion, encouraging each other, building one another up, or having a time of prayer.



# ??? Who Do I Contact ???

## **ADULT NEW MEMBER/INSTRUCTION**

Pastor Dietrich

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Lita Timmerman

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Cary Robinson

Alicia Dietrich

Jenn Jeffries

## **BOARD OF FINANCE**

Cheryl Sax

Ken Frey

Karen Eldridge

## **CHURCH BUSINESS**

President — Randy Thomsen

V. President — Jeff Fick

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Pastor Dietrich

## **EVANGELISM QUESTIONS**

Bessie Fick

Tom Sax, Elder

## **LADIES AID/LWML**

Pinky Ahner

## **MEN'S CLUB**

Ray Kemezys

Joe Crismon

## **MUSIC**

Choir/Organ- Josh & Nancy Peterson

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

Prayer requests - Contact Church Office

To be added to prayer chain please

contact Pastor Dietrich at

Pastor @ZionMascoutah.org

## **PRESCHOOL**

Director - Vikki Harms

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Kayla Hollenkamp

kayla\_hollenkamp@hotmail.com

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY QUESTIONS**

Pastor Dietrich

Tony Lara, Elder

## **SPIRITUAL CONCERNS/QUESTIONS**

Pastor Dietrich

## **Board of Elders:**

A-G: Ray Kemezys

H-L: Tony Lara

M-R: Tom Sax

S-Z: Dale Wehmeyer

## **STEWARDSHIP QUESTIONS**

Ray Kemezys, Elder

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Superintendent— Mark Krausz

Assistant Superintendent—

Marianne McDaniel

## **THRIVENT**

Lionel Timmerman

Glenda Pike

## **TRUSTEES/BLDG. MAINTENANCE**

Trustees@ZionMascoutah.com

Andy Sax

Gail Frey

Frank Jeffries

## **WORSHIP QUESTIONS**

Pastor Dietrich

Dale Wehmeyer, Elder

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Kris Huth

Jen Lara

Marianne McDaniel

Rhea Sax



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

**August 2, 2026**

**"Why Jesus Told Parables"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Archives August—Effective communicators tell stories to make a point. Hear how Jesus' parables point us to Himself. Mark 4

**August 9, 2026**

**"Extreme Neighborliness"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Gregory Seltz

Archives August—Jesus is the ultimate "Good Samaritan," the unlikely Rescuer who binds our wounds, carries us to safety, and pays the price through His cross. Luke 10:25-37

**August 16, 2026**

**"Look at Me"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Archives August—God hears our cry for justice, not as an indifferent judge, but as our merciful heavenly Father. Luke 18:1-8

**August 23, 2026**

**"Real Riches"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Ken Klaus

Archives August—It's not wrong to have possessions, but to love anything in such a way that it takes the place of God is spiritually deadly. Luke 12:15

**August 30, 2026**

**"Tell Me a Story!"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer

Archives August—God lavishly sows the seed of His Word. Responses vary. Mark 4:1-20, 26-34



Please  
continue  
to support  
the  
Mascootah  
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  
 08/10 Michael Chaffin  
 08/10 Alicia Hinton  
 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 Norma-Jean Follett  
 08/21 Derek Schanz  
 08/25 Gloria Peterson  
 08/25 Hunter Phillips  
 08/27 Lauren Twenhafel  
 08/29 Chloe Pannier  
 08/29 Larry Richards  
 08/30 Justin Linn  
 08/31 Ella Sax



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## Altar Guild Schedule

9 Lita Timmerman  
 23 Karen Eldridge  
 30 Joyce Hendrix

# August

## 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

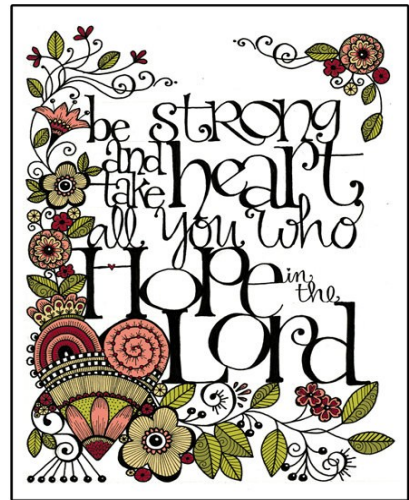
- 2 Peterson family, memory of Grover Peterson.
- 9 In thanksgiving for the gift of Holy Baptism.
- 16 In thanksgiving for the start of a new school year .
- 23 Kemezys, in celebration of their anniversary.

30



# 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 Taylor  
 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



## LWML: Aug 20th

Sing at Asst. Living Centers 5:00 PM  
 Dinner afterwards.

**Council Meeting Minutes  
Zion Lutheran Church  
July 9, 2026**

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm (Randy Thomsen)

Opening devotion and prayer (Pastor Dietrich)

**Roll Call:** Pastor Dietrich, Jeff Fick, Laurie Fournie, Gail Frey, Lee Hinton, Cary Robinson, Cheryl Sax, Tom Sax, Randy Thomsen.

**Pastor's Report:** (Pastor Dietrich)

●**Word and Sacrament Ministry and Pastoral Care and Member Visitation**

- Word and Sacrament ministry has continued through the Divine Service, pastoral visitation, and the care of souls entrusted to our congregation. I continue to make home, hospital, and rehabilitation visits as needed, along with numerous phone calls and individual conversations with members.
- During the past month, our congregation has prayed for many members, family members, and friends experiencing illness, surgery, recovery, and the death of loved ones. We have also rejoiced in births and other answers to prayers, giving thanks for the Lord's continued mercy.
- I continue to lead the monthly worship service at Brightly Senior Living. The residents remain grateful for the opportunity to gather around God's Word and receive pastoral care.

●**Teaching and Christian Education**

- Confirmation instruction and the Senior Youth Bible Study are on summer break and will resume this fall. Joe Bloomquist continues leading the Adult Bible Study during the summer months.
- Vacation Bible School is now less than two weeks away. Please continue spreading the word throughout the congregation and community, and keep our director, volunteers, teachers, students, and families in your prayers. Thank you to everyone who continues to volunteer their time and talents in preparation for VBS.
- Several of our youth recently attended the Higher Things Youth Conference. We give thanks for the faithful teaching, Christian fellowship, and encouragement they received alongside hundreds of Lutheran youth from around the country.
- Our preschool staff is enjoying a well-earned summer break while preparing for another school year of sharing Christ with young children and their families.

●**Outreach and Evangelism**

- Outreach continues through welcoming visitors, encouraging faithful worship attendance, and maintaining contact with members who have been absent during the busy summer months.
- We also look forward to receiving Stephen and Kayte Follett and their family into membership by Affirmation of Faith. Having been baptized and confirmed in the WELS, they will soon be welcomed into the fellowship of Zion. We thank God for continuing to gather His people around His Means of Grace.
- Preparations continue for Friendship Sunday and Rally Day on August 30 as we encourage members to invite family, friends, neighbors, and inactive members to worship.

●**Community and School Ministry**

- Planning continues for a Men's Steak Night and a 'Muffins for Moms' devotional gathering during the coming school year. These events will strengthen relationships within the congregation while providing opportunities to connect with preschool families.

●**Ministry Planning**

- Planning continues for our Apologetics Workshop, "Worship as Apologetic," on Saturday, September 12, from 8:15 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. We are pleased to welcome John Bloedel, Dr. Samuel Eatherton, and Rev. Dr. John Bombaro as presenters. We will continue

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promoting the conference throughout our congregation, circuit, and community, praying that it strengthens Christians to confess the faith and introduces others to the beauty and truth of Lutheran worship.

●**Pastoral Acts**

○We give thanks for the opportunity to receive Stephen and Kayte Follett and their family into membership by Affirmation of Faith in the coming weeks. We pray that the Lord richly bless them as they join in the life and ministry of Zion Lutheran Church.

●**Thanksgiving**

○I give thanks to God for His continued blessings upon Zion Lutheran Church and for the faithful service of our council members, officers, teachers, staff, musicians, volunteers, and every member who serves Christ through this congregation. May the Lord continue to bless the work He has entrusted to us.

**Board of Finance Report:** (Cheryl Sax)

- Budget YTD: \$163,280.00
- Actual YTD: \$141,976.24

**Treasurer's Report:** (Laurie Fournie)

- First Federal Savings Bank: \$40,083.24
- First Federal Savings Bank-Money Market: \$80,891.57
- Edward Jones: \$82,276.75
- General Fund: \$66,452.67
- The Preschool Rehab Fund currently reflects a balance of (9,255.07). We need to discuss options for eliminating this deficit, including the potential use of available funds from other accounts.
- The Preschool Fund currently reflects a balance of (9,951.34). However, this does not accurately represent the fund's position, as the preschool still owes reimbursement for May and June payroll expenses. Once those funds are received, the balance will improve accordingly.
- We recently received an invoice related to the safe deposit box that was previously closed. We need to investigate why the charge was issued and determine whether any action is required to resolve the matter.

MMSP to approve Treasurer's Report.

**Board of Education Report:** (Cary Robinson)

- The Board of Christian Education met on June 25, 2026. Our next BOE meeting is on July 30.
- Preschool**
  - The total current enrollment in the preschool is 33; there are 13 3-year-olds and 20 4-year-olds, with 5 on the waiting list.
  - Preschool bank account balance is \$52,435.77.
  - Summer camp will finish next week with Week #3.
  - Next school year: Staff return on August 24, Orientation on August 27, First Day on September 1. Tuesday Lunch Bunch will resume and PMO program will also.
  - Fall fundraiser will be in September, selling Butter Braids.
- Sunday School, Youth Group & Adult Bible Study**
  - Superintendent – Mark Krausz:
    - Summer Sunday School is going well with the Persons of Faith series. Characters being presented included Moses, Martha Washington, Abraham, Ruth/Naomi, Mary, Paul, and John Newton.
  - Youth
    - Youth attended Higher Things Conference in June. More to report on after the next BOE meeting.
  - Adult Bible Study – Randy Thomsen:
    - Bible Study is currently on hiatus and fall studies are being planned.



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●**Board News/Activities**

- VBS planning continues. Meetings are being held weekly, and materials are being bought and prepared. Advertisement has been submitted and registration continues. Currently, 15 students are enrolled, and we expect more this week and next before VBS starts. We have 33 volunteers.
- The time capsule event was originally planned to coincide with the July 4 celebration. However, due to the number of activities already taking place around that time, it has been combined with Rally Day.
- This year's Fall Fest is scheduled for October 17. Additional details and volunteer opportunities will be shared as the event approaches.
- 3-5 year goals:
  - We decided to make our 3-year goal to be a **study** on long-term plans for congregational education needs and church costs. This study would explore having a Lutheran DCE directing Preschool, Child, Youth and Adult Education; one paid position/role along with possible updates/renovation of education facilities, gymnasium, kitchen, and "land" use for long-term goals for Board of Education program at Zion.
  - We are also exploring the possibility of moving Zion Music Academy under the oversight of the BOE. If pursued, this change would require amendments to the church bylaws.

**Board of Elders Report:** (Tom Sax)

- The member deletion list has been finalized and will be presented for consideration at the next Voters' Meeting.
- Friendship Sunday and Rally Day have been combined this year and will feature a breakfast rather than a lunch.
- Two members were transferred out: Shiphrah and Puah Patterson.
- 3-year goal: One of our goals is to reestablish a Greeter Ministry to help create a welcoming environment for members and visitors.

**Board of Trustee's Report:** (Gail Frey)

●**Completed work:**

- New toilet installed off cry room.
- Trustees decided not to pay anyone to clean for rest of summer in the educational building.
- Purchased more supplies in June through Amazon.
- Frank's daughters have stopped mowing on additional lots due to the mess and danger. A new individual has been found that will mow the lot, but he will not do any trimming.
- Obtaining pricing on blinds for south classroom of educational building – advised church we will not be able to help with this expense this year.

●**Unfinished Work:**

- Waiting for third bid for parsonage roof (2026 goal).
- New concrete pad at east entrance of educational building.
- Tiles need replacing on choir loft staircase.
- Pastor's shower door not complete.
- Sidewalk north of parsonage still not replaced by city.
- Beginning to look for replacement ceiling tile if available.
- Concerns were raised regarding the office door's inability to lock properly. The lock has been a recurring issue over the years. Although it was repaired about five years ago, it has since failed again. We need to locate a locksmith that is willing and able to repair the lock mechanism.

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**President's Report:** (Randy Thomsen)

- Met with Pastor on June 8 to discuss church business.
- Completed audit of prior years' Voters' Assembly meeting.
  - Randy and Lee presented an analysis of Voters' Meeting attendance to assess the congregation's ability to consistently meet quorum requirements. The review showed that 49 out of 104 voting members attended at least one Voters' Meeting within the past year. The Elders will follow up with voting members who have not attended a meeting recently to determine whether they wish to remain on the voting membership roster, helping ensure the voting membership list accurately reflects active participation.
- Prepared after action report/lessons learned to facilitate Zion's LCMS Presidential nomination/electing official process in future years.
- Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison was elected LCMS President.
- 3-year goal: Conduct review of bylaws to ensure compliance by all council members and boards and consider revisions as appropriate.

**Old Business:**

- Property update: The property was recently featured in the Mascoutah Herald, and reports indicated that it may be several months before it is moved. We will need to inspect and fix the temporary orange safety fence to ensure the entire area is properly secured and restricted from access.
- A new stand for the Christ Candle is currently being constructed using wood that matches the altar and will provide improved stability.
- Zion Congregational Constitution and Bylaws submitted to Southern Illinois District for review and approval. Continue to monitor.

**New Business:**

- August Voters' Meeting Agenda
    - Voters' Meeting will take place on August 13 at 7pm.
  - Fall Church Events
    - Friendship Sunday, Rally Day, and the Time Capsule event will be held together on August 30 and will feature a breakfast.
    - Fall Fest is scheduled for October 17 and will include a chili cook-off.
  - During the Feed the Nations presentation, slides were projected onto the gymnasium wall, but visibility was not optimal. Discussion included the possibility of painting the wall white; however, it was noted that the brick surface itself contributes to image distortion. As an alternative, the council discussed purchasing a mini projector and speaker system.
- MMSP** to approve the purchase of a mini projector and mini speaker, not to exceed \$500.
- Nancy Peterson requested feedback regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation singing. We may explore the possibility of combining them with the rest of the Sunday School students.
  - Volunteers are needed to assist with the church's parade float for Mascoutah AugustFest (July 31 – August 2). The float theme will be Red, White, and Blue in recognition of the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Assistance is needed on Thursday, July 30, to help decorate the float, and a volunteer may also be needed to drive the truck. Due to the narrow route required to return the float to the church, participants will not be permitted to ride on the float.

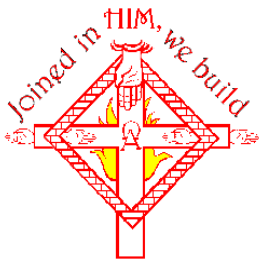
Next Council Meeting August 6, 2026, 6:00 pm.

Next Voters' Meeting August 13, 7:00 pm.

**MMSP** to adjourn at 8:18 pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Lee Hinton, Council Secretary



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**101 S. Railway**  
**Mascoutah, IL 62258**

**BIBLE STUDY**

Sunday 8:45 AM

**SUNDAY SCHOOL &  
YOUTH BIBLE CLASS**

Sunday 8:45 AM

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sunday 10:00 AM

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Sunday 8:30 AM

Wednesday 6:00 PM

**Address Service Requested**

**Worship Topics This Month**

**August 2 — Tenth Sunday after Pentecost—Matthew 14:13–21**

**August 9 — Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost—Matthew 14:22–33**

**August 16— Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost—Matthew 15:21–28**

**August 23—Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Matthew 16:13–20**

**August 30— Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Matthew 16:21–28**

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