



THE ZION ZEALANT

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In This Issue

- * **Pastor's Corner**
- * **Voter's Assembly Minutes**
- * **Sunday School Scoop**
- * **Ladies Aid Bake Sale, Thank You,
Roses and Zion's Family Tree**
- * **Remember in Prayer & Poems**
- * **Serving, Birthday's, Anniversaries and
Baptism's**
- * **February Calendar**





“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:16–17, ESV) As your pastor, I hold very much to the very Word of God the apostle Paul spoke in his letter to the Romans: ‘I am not ashamed of the Gospel, neither!’ And neither should you!

In much the same manner in which I can boldly stand before you on Sunday morning from the pulpit and declare you (and I!) to be poor, miserable sinners; I can here today state quite emphatically that many of you also seem to be ashamed of the Gospel. Now don’t feel bad...I’m guilty of it as well – from time to time. But that doesn’t make it right.

“What do you mean pastor???” I mean that by our actions and how we conduct ourselves here at Zion: we fall short of showing God, the community in which we live, and ourselves that apparently we are ashamed of the Gospel because we don’t display much of a love for it. Sorry...it does require some action from us as Christians. Period. And it is not that we’re talking about ‘work’s righteousness’ either. Be it that our conduct in our devotional life at home doesn’t exist; our prayer life consists of what pastor prays in church on Sundays; our jobs and God-given vocations are merely a means to an earthly end – and not for the glory due our Creator; and how do we, as individuals; as a church; as Christians share the message of Christ crucified for the life of the world? None of this - if completed - would mean an insurance to get into heaven! God has taken care of that! But God commands us to “do” many things. But **“...there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”** (Romans 3:22–23, ESV).

“How so???” 1. I’d invite you to talk to our nominating committee and see what they’ve gone through the past few years in trying to get folks to step forward and take a place on the church council or one of the many boards we have. 2. Come, sit in on one of our many church council meetings and witness the discussions over how are

we going to meet our pledge to the Indiana District or any other worthwhile and deserving mission project. 3. Have you ever seen the preparations folks do for teaching your children in Sunday School, only to have one or two show up any given Sunday? That’s being “ashamed of the Gospel.” Now...please keep reading. It’s not all gloom and doom. There are many, many wonderful and absolutely fabulous things taking place given through the grace of God and the Holy Spirit!!! We’ve added another well attended worship service! We’ve had growth in a number of areas: the ladies have continued great work for cancer patients; adult Bible study is a blast!; my goodness...I get down on my knees and thank the Lord almighty for the mighty blessing of serving you folks here at Zion!

But what can we do to make it even better? We can revitalize our congregation. We CAN grow: both spiritually and numerically. We can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors and friends – simply by our love for the sweet Gospel that **“...God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”** (John 3:16–17, ESV) Yes, by the grace of God that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die and rise from the tomb so you and I (and the whole world!) could live forever in Paradise. What a joy! What a delightful blessing!

To revitalize our congregation would require (yes: require) us to work together. ALL of us. Each and every member of our church would need to participate. There’s no ‘*shooting for 50%*’. Or maybe 80%. Our goal has to be that 100% of our congregation would partake of some portion of the revitalization program offered by our Indiana District-LCMS through the Rev. Geoffrey Robinson. Note the following excerpts from the District’s pamphlet about this wonderful program:

*Revitalization will help your church do a self - study to see where you are.

*Revitalization will help your church see the mission field which God has given you.

*Revitalization will help you make positive changes so that you can grow spiritually.

*Revitalization will help you get back into the Word of God.

*Revitalization will help you become intentional in your service to Christ.

*Revitalization will help your pastor shepherd the congregation.

*Revitalization will help you make positive changes so that you can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ within your mission field!

There would be ample opportunities for each and every one of us to participate in a portion of this process: from attending one of the Bible studies; stepping up and helping complete the congregational survey; and even just praying that our church and her members would grow in their faith and the Holy Spirit would bring more folks through the doors of this wonderful and beautiful church to worship with us. Read here what the president of your congregation (who, along with your board of Elders and Pastor all agree this is a well worthwhile program for us here at Zion) has said:

“When was the last time, here at Zion, a Board, Committee, or Chairperson has set a long-term goal? Or, even any short term goals for Church year 2014? Many members of Zion have very good talents and successes with various events; and we are blessed with this.

Yet all of us need to learn to set goals. Realistic goals that can be achieved; to encourage spiritual growth and that have a positive impact on our family, fellow members, neighbors, and our community. Growth must occur. Our “Gospel Light” must shine and be seen. Our own Constitution states in Article II Section A.:

The purpose of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Inc. shall be that of a ***“religious organization established and maintained, not for profit, but to promote and spread the Christian religion and to maintain the public ministry through public and private administration of the means of grace, in accordance with the doctrines, faith, and beliefs of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, as set forth in the Declaration of Creed of this Constitution.”*** (From Article II, A.; PURPOSE AND RIGHTS, Page – 1, of our church’s Constitution of March 15, 2007.)

Fortunately we have an opportunity to participate in a Revitalization Program, the Indiana District Revitalization Program. This is a chance to evaluate all aspects of your Church and ourselves.”

In the next couple of weeks you’ll find in your mailboxes a pamphlet about this program; and you’ll be hearing more about it in announcements, a mailing, and even some power point displays. Pray about your church. Pray that we can work together and strengthen and revitalize all who worship here. Most of all, pray that God would continue to bless each of us as we walk together and send His Holy Spirit to enable us to share the wonderful Gospel message of salvation for all people! God bless each of you! See you in church!

Pastor Phil Rittner

Voter's Assembly 1/19/14

Jeff Braun called the meeting to order with 17 members were in attendance. Pastor opened with prayer. Willie Scheumann made a motion to accept the minutes from the December church council meeting as printed in the Zealant. Joyce Reidt seconded, motion carried.

Receiving Treasurer's Report: Karen Scheumann gave the receiving treasurer's report. Kim Yann made a motion to accept, Kenny Knuth seconded, motion carried.

Dispersing Treasurer's Report: Karen gave the report for Jill Coons. Kim made a motion to accept Katie Rittner seconded, motion carried.

Elder's Report:
Steve Smith made a motion to approve the motion of transfer of Michael Braun and family to St John's, Kenny seconded, motion carried. Willie was elected President and Steve Smith secretary. The Elder's yearend report has been submitted. Bulletin's will no longer be used at Wednesday evening services. In the future, church members should rely on local media (TV or WOWO) for cancellation of any services or they can still call the Pastor or any of the Elder's.

(continued on next page)

Trustees Report:

The pole barn will be started in March or April, depending on the weather and the contractor's schedule. The sacristy project is waiting on the contractor to report the price and schedule the start date. The contract is up for the copy machine. We did receive a new contract for 48 months at \$143 a month. Trustees will be looking at our options; to replace the copy machine, keep it with the contract, or keep it without the contract. As previously was announced, the Lumburg fund's rate of 7.5% is expiring the end of April and the church needs to decide how to invest it. The committee met to discuss moving it into a custodial account, to be renamed the Lumburg Legacy Fund. Dan Knuth made a motion to move the LCEF Lumburg fund into a new LCMS Foundation custodial account to start the process of creating an endowment fund. Katie seconded, motion carried. Dan made a motion to keep the same administrative committee with the new fund, Kim seconded, motion carried. Jeff commended the trustees for all their work this past year.

Board of Education: No report

Board of Outreach: No report

Board of Youth:

Dan and Jenny Knuth are passing on the leadership of the Youth to Phil and Jill Coons. They will still be involved. The youth did go on the ski trip. They have more activities planned with St. John's.

Pastor's Report:

Shut ins are doing well. Wednesday night services are going well. If we want to get more directories, we would need to place a minimum order of 50 for \$100. Pastor read a letter from the Red Cross thanking us for being a last minute location for a blood drive. The letter will be posted on the bulletin board.

Unfinished Business:

A new secretary is still needed.

New Business:

Thanks to all those who helped clean sidewalks during the recent storms, which includes Steve Smith, Kenny Knuth, and Jerry Lahrman. Jeff asked if any board members or chairman had any goals for 2014? He used that to introduce us to the Indiana District Revitalization Program. It is a program that would help Zion with growth. There is a

second similar program in the area, called Transferring Church's Network, which costs \$4000. Jeff gave a small power point on the Revitalization program. Pastor discussed the program, which starts with a questionnaire. The focus is on growing spiritually. Jeff asked that we all pray about the program, and we can discuss again at the next Voter's Assembly. It was suggested that we include information on the program in the bulletin, in the Zealant, and in a special mailing.

There being no further business, Willie made a motion to adjourn, Marty Williams seconded, motion passed. Pastor closed with the benediction.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

February 2014

This month means Valentines for Sunday School classes. We will be creating some hand made Valentines for our shut-ins during Sunday school on February 2nd and 9th. Join us for this outreach ministry.

The mission project for January and February is through the Whitley County Ministerial Association for Energy Assistance for local community. Many families are being hit hard this winter due to frigid conditions.

Total for the Philippines Disaster Fund was \$161.65. Thanks to you all!

Lessons for February:

2nd—"Jesus Blesses Zacchaeus"

9th—"Darcas Glorifies God"

16th—"Onesimus and Philemon"

23rd—"Ananias Cares for Saul"

S.S. Stats for December 2013

Class Attendance:

Primary (Kg-Gr 2) - 75% Banner Class!

Preteen (Gr 3-6) - 62.5%

Jr/Sr High—45%

No Perfect Attendance or pins.

Sunday School begins each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the gym for opening prayer and songs. Classes are finished by 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Phil Rittner
Cell Phone: 260-415-9078
(I text if you'd like!)
Email: revrittner@reagan.com

**Valentine
Candy / Bake Sale**
by Ladies Aid—LWML

Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014
after service

Monies go to Missions

**If anyone would like to donate items for this
project, bring to kitchen Sat. or Sun. a.m.
and mark Ladies Aid.**

Thank You!!



ROSES

To the Usher's who
are here faithfully
each service.
Thank you!

To the persons that
area cleaning snow
from our sidewalks.
Thank you!

Thank You!

We want to thank everyone in our church family
for remembering us these past three months with
your prayers to our Heavenly Father for our recovery.

Also, thank you for all the get-well cards, Christmas cards w/notes, phone calls and cookies!
When you belong to the same church for 50 +
years you sure "accumulate" some wonderful
friends.... doesn't hurt to have your Pastor's Family
for neighbors either.

Thank you again and we do love all of you—keep
praying.

Joan and Jack Lane

Zion's Family Tree

We have gotten our Directory
pictures and I'm sure you have
some Christmas pictures, so
lets get some new pictures for
our Family Tree.
We need an update!
Place the new picture in Marty
Williams mailbox. So she can
place them on the tree.
Thank you.



Worship Services

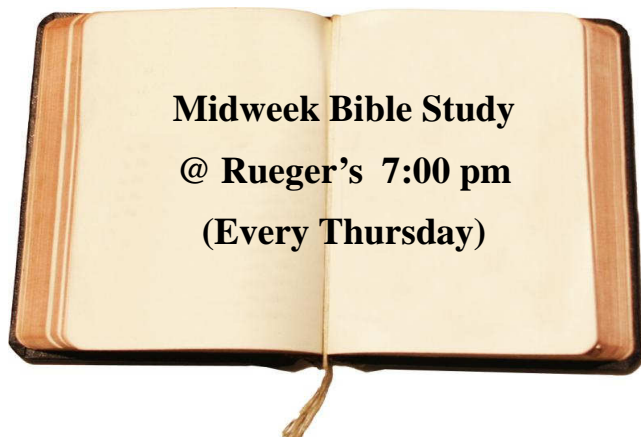
SUNDAY

Sunday School—9:00 a.m.
Worship—10:15 a.m.
w/Communion
1st & 3rd Sundays

WEDNESDAY

Worship—7:00 p.m.
w/Communion
2nd & 4th Wednesday

Midweek Bible Study
@ Rueger's 7:00 pm
(Every Thursday)





Remember in Prayer

The following Shut-In Members, in Nursing Homes or those who are ill (hospital or at home): Sami Blomquist, Barb Cotner, Linda Hobkirk, Patricia Neidermeyer,

Sharon Reid, Ruth Ryan, Michael Sexton, Charles Stanley, Dorathy Ummel, and Alberta Warnick.

Those Serving in the Armed Force:

Eric Childs (Stateside), Jeffery Clark (Stateside), Jessie Contreras (Stateside), Chris Decker (Stateside), Alex Hart (Stateside), Joshua Rittner (Stateside), Matt Shoda (Stateside), Jason Weatherly (Stateside) and Dayne Zielinski (Stateside)

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

. . . and anyone else we have not mentioned that might be in our hearts. . . . Lord, hear our prayers.

**Happy to report that
Eric Childs is now back in the States
at Fort Knox.
Thanks to all who
prayed for him while in Afghanistan.**



God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs

You Are Often In My Thoughts

Love is a command
That Christians are called to do;
Our Lord says "Love your God,
And love your neighbor, too."

Some people are easy to love;
They are human rays of sun;
They light up every life,
And encourage everyone.

You are in that group,
So I sincerely want to say:
You are often in my thoughts;
Happy Valentine's Day!

By Joanna Fuchs

SERVING IN FEBRUARY 2014

USHERS

2nd—Ralph Sexton
9th—Steve Smith
16th—Willie Scheumann
23rd—Mike Gerbers

ACOLYTES

2nd—Payton Coons
9th—Chris Brooke
16th—Alisha Kimmel
23rd—Logan Bachelder

GREETERS

2nd—?
9th—?
16th—Pat Decker
23rd—Kathaleen Reese

ALTAR GUILD

Verna Doehrman

BLOOD PRESSURE

Marty Williams

POWERPOINT

2nd—Larry Haugk
9th—Kim Yann
16th—Phil Coons
23rd—Peg Brooke

COFFEE HOUR

2nd—Kim Yann
9th—?
16th—?
23rd—?

BIRTHDAY'S

3 Martha Essex
4 Sharon Reid
5 Shianne Brooke
7 Sarah Schneider
8 Karen Scheumann
8 Melody Reese
9 Jason Huguenard
9 Jack Lane
12 Ralph Kieper
15 Tim Rueger
16 Terry Frick
19 Bob Downen
19 Hailey Puckett
21 Verna Doehrman
21 Bryan Sexton
21 Riley Coons

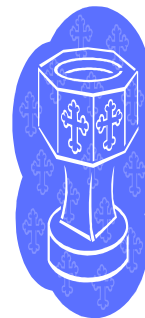


ANNIVERSARIES

24 Sean & Ge'Onna Decker

BAPTISMS

Ge'Onna Decker
Christopher Decker
Tracy Decker
Caleb Decker
Nicholas Decker
Bradley Hart
Summer Hart
Larry Haugk
Jack Lane
Melody Reese
Sandy Rueger
Tim Rueger



Brrrr!

FEBRUARY 2014



***Bundle
Up!***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	3	4	5 Wed. Service 7:00 pm	6 Ladies Aid Sewing 9:00 am Midweek Bible Study 7 pm @ Rueger's	7	8
9 S.S./Staff 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bd. of Ed. & Youth 11:15 am Valentine Candy/Bake Sale by Ladies Aid	10 Pastor at Seminar Donaldson, IN	11 Pastor at Seminar Donaldson, IN	12 Elders 9:00 am Wed. Service w/Communion 7:00 pm	13 Midweek Bible Study 7 pm @ Rueger's	14 	15
16 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	17	18 Church Council 7:00 pm	19 Wed. Service 7:00 pm	13 Ladies Aid Sewing 9:00 am LWML 1:00 pm Midweek Bible Study 7 pm @ Rueger's	21	22
23 S.S./Staff 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Trustees & Blood Pressure 11:15 am	24	25	26 Wed. Service w/Communion 7:00 pm	27 Midweek Bible Study 7 pm @ Rueger's	28	