



THE ZION ZEALANT

Zion Lutheran Church, 101 E. North St., Columbia City, IN 46725

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"I've received the following email from Rick Schneider (a member here at Zion), and I wanted to share it with you all. Blessings to each of you as we enter the New Year! See you in church!

Pastor Phil Rittner"

Dear Zion family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I wanted to stop for a few minutes to talk with you and let you know that all is well in the Schneider household, as we approach the end of 2013. (Already?!? Where has this year gone?)

I have been busy, keeping the kidz squared away, running my household, and getting ready to apply for readmission to the Seminary. In preparation for that return, I have been communicating with the Seminary and my advisors, and one of the ways that I am preparing is by taking on another formal fieldwork assignment.

I am now serving as a fieldworker with Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, one of the "urban" parishes here in Fort Wayne. Serving with and under Pr. Russ Dewell, I am honing my homiletical skills, and assisting with other duties in the parish as he sees fit. It is a fun time, and rewarding, although a little interesting at times too. Pr. Dewell is actually a little younger than I am, and is a chaplain as well, in the Army Reserve.

Joshua is doing well, completing his fall coursework, and looking forward to a break

in the classroom routine. In addition to attending IPFW full-time, he is teaching percussion at both Norwell High School and Carroll High school, in their marching programs. He has also been serving as a life guard at the "Y", and most recently, has been returned for his final marching season with North Coast Academy in Saginaw, where he is the section leader for the tenors.

Sarah, well, she is still Sarah.☺ She returned to Red Wing and Southeast Tech this year to continue her education in instrument repair. After she completed the Band Instrument Repair program, she decided to broaden her horizons by learning Guitar Repair and Manufacture. By May of next year, she will have built both an electric bass guitar, as well as an acoustic guitar. She is already planning to return for a second year in this program next year. She is also still working at the "Y" in Red Wing.

I am still working with Bethesda Lutheran Communities as well, and should be at least until I have been reaccepted into the Seminary. It remains a fun and dynamic job, with few dull spots as we serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as the churches and parishes where they attend.

On to the next task, I need to run for now.

We wish each of you a very blessed holiday season, through this time of Advent as we approach the manger, in which we will see that God has come to us, and indeed, remains with us every day!

Sincerely, we remain
The Schneiders (Rick, Josh, and Sarah)

Church Council 12/17/2013

Steve Smith called the meeting to order with 6 members in attendance. Pastor gave devotions based on Luke Chapter 1. Minutes from the 11/19/2013 Church Council meeting were approved as printed in the Zealant.

Receiving Treasurer's report: Willie Scheumann presented the report. It was approved as read

Dispersing Treasurer's report: Jill Coons presented the report. She did not have a current bank statement to reconcile and post interest. The report was approved as presented.

Steve Smith made a motion to approve the request for transfer of Michael Braun to St. John's. Willie seconded, the motion was approved to be presented to the Voter's

Elder's Report: Rev. Geoffrey Robinson presented a program dedicated to the revitalization of congregations in the Indiana District. This program contains over 25 points to consider to help in meeting congregational mission goals. If Zion would consider doing this it would take the full cooperation from all our members. A decision will be made in January on participation. Christmas Day services will be held starting at 9am. Average attendance in November was Sunday 59 and weekday 22.

Trustees: No report

Outreach: A special gift will be handed out Christmas Day.

Board of Education: Missions project for December Philippines' relief totaled 65.25. Logan will be doing a children's message on Advent and will explain the meaning of Advent. Pat Decker will hand out treats to the children after the service. 4 confirmation thank you notes were received. Jesus' Baptism will be celebrated during Sunday school on 1/12/14 with refreshments being served. VBS theme for 2014 is Gangway to Galilee.

Youth Report: The youth went caroling on December 7th and came back to the church and made God boxes. They hope to go Christmas Caroling on the 22nd at the Oaks. A ski trip is planned for January 4th with St. John's. 5 kids will be participating and other than the cost of a meal and a snack, St. John's has a grant that will be all the other costs. In February they plan to go ice skating at Headwater's park.

Pastor's report: Directory proof will be arriving by the end of the week.

Old Business: Pastor mentioned that we need to make decision on the Lemburg extension fund.

New Business: Jill questioned the cost of membership at Sam's club based on last year's purchases. This issue will be referred to the trustees as the only bills she paid was for janitorial supplies. Steve Smith wanted to thank Kim Yann who will be going out of office as recording secretary. This position still needs filled.

There being no further business, Kim made a motion to adjourn, Peggy seconded, motion passed. Pastor closed with prayer.

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

Special Voter's Assembly **12/22/2013**

A special voter's assembly was held after services to present the 2014 budget. Kim Yann made a motion to accept the budget as presented, Peggy Brooke seconded. Brief discussion was held before voting. Motion passed.



SUNDAY **SCHOOL** **SCOOP** **January 2014**

Thank you to our field worker, Logan Lande3s, for delivering the Advent Children's Message and worship sermon on Dec. 8th. And thank you to Pat Decker for preparing all the Children's treat bags that were enjoyed by the children and youth.

Missions is supporting the Philippines Disaster through Lutheran World Relief. Totals collected \$101.85 thus far for November & December will be sent in January. A project for January & February 2014 will be determined at the Board of Education meeting on January 12th.

We will celebrate Jesus' Baptism in Sunday School opening on January 12th

along with Zion's Baptism's. Following the opening, classes will enjoy some refreshments before dismissing to class.

Lessons for January 2014:

5th—"The Boy Jesus in the Temple"
12th—"The Baptism of Jesus" (celebration in the gym @ 9:00 a.m.)
19th—"John Prepares the Way"
26th—"Jesus Calls the First Disciples"

S.S. STATS—November 2013

Class Attendance:

Primary (Banner Class!) - 100%

Preteen—87.5%

Jr/Sr High—50%

Perfect Attendance:

Emerson & Mason Knuth

Join us in 2014 for the Sunday School Hour from 9:00—10:00 a.m. It's a family affair!

Baptism Sunday will be celebrated during Sunday School opening 9:00 a.m.) on January 12, 2013 with Zion's baptisms and refreshments.



Midweek Bible Study

@ Rueger's 7:00 pm

Starting
January 9th!

Zion Ladies Aid Christmas Party December 19, 2013

The party was held at Hal's Tri-Lakes Restaurant and twelve attended the noon lunch. Members were Kathaleen Reese, Melody Reese, Marty Williams, Maxine Lott, Gloria Nimtz, Jennie Childs, Lois Duffy and Zion's Peg Brooke. Guests introduced were Nancy Love and Dixie Goodrich. From Living Water's Ladies Aid who came were Jan Gleason and Mary Metzger.

Kathaleen Reese read the table prayer and she and Melody Reese did some Christmas readings (some serious and some with humor) before and after the meal.

The Week Before Christmas:

It told of how busy everyone can be with the material things at Christmastime and how it can over-shadow the Christ child in the manger, our Savior whom the angels announced.

The Advent Wreath:

Children were told the meaning of the 3 purple candles on the Advent Wreath and then were asked, "Does anyone know what the pink candle means," after a long pause, a little girl asked, "Are they expecting a girl?"

Fractured Christmas Carols:

Members read along and did a little sing along, for example: "Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly," "With Jelly Host Proclaim" and "Sleep in Heavenly Peas" from the total of sixteen.

The Best Gift:

It told about those people we send our Christmas Greetings to. Those people are a part of having them some time in our lives. Therefore those cards, notes and letters to them and from them—mean: we all are not forgotten.

Star of Wonder:

A little girl's part in a Christmas play was to hold up a "Star" and she did so over the manger with Jesus, for the shepherds who came to the manger and for the wise men. She said she had the main part in the play because she showed everyone how to find Jesus. Thus we should also show others by being the light to the path to Jesus.

The Gift Exchange:

It was given by Lois Duffy and Jan Gleason who passed out the gifts marked with matching Christmas stickers.

There Will Always Be a Christmas:

Kathaleen read the poem which emphasized Love, to be a Giving person and always find joy in the worship and adoring of the Christ child.

A Christmas Closing Prayer was said in unison.

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



Year End Reports!

Attention all Committee's
year end reports will
be due Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014

Cheryl has put your committee minutes
in your mailbox.

The chairman or secretary of each
committee should go over these minutes
and highlight the important things
from the past year.

Then get them back to Cheryl
so she can start working on them
for the Year End Report.

Also need reports from Pastor, Council
President and Dispersing Treasurer

If you have any changes

in your address, phone number, or e-mail
address, please let Cheryl know.

She will be working on the 2014 phone
directory in the coming weeks.

Church Mailboxes

Please check your mailboxes for Christ-
mas
cards and gifts. Also with the end of the
year
here, please clean out your mailboxes!

GREETERS

New 2014 lists are up for Greeters and
Flower Chart. If you're willing to greet
for a few Sunday's or all year,
please sign up!

Flower Chart

If you would want to buy flowers for a
special Sunday being that it might be your
Anniversary, in Honor of someone, Birth-
day, etc., please check with the Altar
Guild.

Coffee Hour & PowerPoint Charts

Coffee Hour & PowerPoint Charts for
2014 area now up.
Please sign up!

Anyone interested in being an Usher?

Our dedicated ushers would like
to have a little break!

Only once a month
(unless there are 5 Sundays)
that you would have to usher.

If interested please let Cheryl know!
If you work sometimes on Sundays, we
can work around your schedule.

Youth Ski Trip Jan. 4th



Helping Our Neighbors

This past year, the Whitley County Ministerial Association assumed direction of the **Whitley County Energy Assistance Fund**, believing that the Fund was meeting a great need in our community.

We are coming to the end of 2013. For some it has been a very good year, and for others, they have made it through. For others yet, they may be quite concerned as to whether they are able to provide for some basic human needs. Some of your churches provide or supply for food pantries in our community--that is great! But others may have a need to supply their home with essential heat and light.

Many families have been helped, yet there are always more. **A family may receive one \$150 grant per year**--and this is paid directly to the utility involved, not to the individual or family receiving aid. At our November meeting, the Ministerial Association agreed that for the time being, the Energy Assistance Fund would **limit our help to \$100 per situation per year**. While this cuts back on the amount of help we can give, it broadens it out a bit.

Now, many of you know that \$150, let alone \$100, doesn't go very far in helping folks. You can see what your own family spends for heat and light in a month. We are trying to arrange some fundraisers to help supply the funds for Energy Assistance.

There are approximately 70 churches in our community. If each church could help out in some way to supply some of the funds necessary to help our neighbors in need, it would be a BIG help to the Energy Assistance Fund. Or if there are individuals that would like to help out in anyway possible (any amount helps).

So, will you help your neighbors?

You can give your donation to Pastor Phil and he will make sure it gets to the Energy Assistance Fund.

The following Shut-In Members, in Nursing Homes or those who are ill (hospital or at home): Sami Blomquist, Barb Cotner, Linda Hobkirk, Jack & Joan Lane, Patricia Neidermeyer, Sharon Reid, Pastor Phil Rittner, Ruth Ryan, Karen Scheumann, Michael Sexton, Charles Stanley, Dorathy Ummel, and Alberta Warnick.



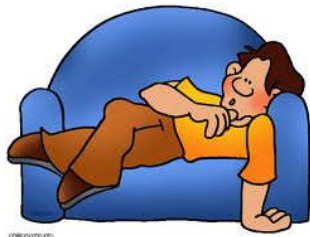
Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

Eric Childs (Afghanistan), 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.

However you celebrate
New Year's Eve,
have a good time and be safe!!



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR



2014



SERVING IN JANUARY 2014

USHERS

5th—Ralph Sexton
12th—Willie Scheumann
19th—Steve Smith
26th—Mike Gerbers

ACOLYTES

5th—Jacob Zielinski
12th—Ryan Bills
19th—Shianne Brooke
26th—Morgan Sawyer

GREETERS

5th—?
12th—?
19th—Pat Decker
26th—Kathaleen Reese

ALTAR GUILD

Pag Brooke

BLOOD PRESSURE

Monica Koldyke

POWERPOINT

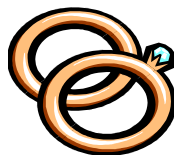
5th—?
12th—?
19th—?
26th—?

COFFEE HOUR

5th—?
12th—?
19th—?
26th—?

BIRTHDAY'S

? Thomas Wilburn
2 Mason Knuth
4 Christopher Decker
6 Caleb Decker
7 Phil Coons
11 Trenton Pease
12 Maddox Lahrman
16 Bradley Hart
17 Sandy Barrett
17 Sandra Rueger
19 Belinda Peppler
20 Penny Braun
25 Larry Haugk
28 J. Wayne Reese
30 Matheiu Hartman



ANNIVERSARIES

3 Jack & Joan Lane

BAPTISMS

Justin Bachelder
Brian Brooke
Jennie Childs
Jessi Contreas
Linda Hobkirk
Janet Jackson
Jay Johnson
Angela Kimmel
Katie Rittner
Rev. Phil Rittner
Irma Rogers
Ashton Steele
Jennifer Wilcoxson





JANUARY 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Ladies Aid Sewing 9:00 am	3	4 Youth Ski Trip
5 Epiphany S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	6	7	8 Elders 9:00 am Wed. Evening Service 7:00 pm w/Communion	9 Midweek Bible Study @ Rueger's 7 pm	10	11
12 S.S./Staff 9:00 am Celebrate Jesus' Baptism 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Youth 11:15 am Bd of Education 11:15 am	13	14	15 Wed. Evening Service 7:00 pm	16 Ladies Aid Sewing 9:00 am LWML 1:00 pm Midweek Bible Study @ Rueger's 7 pm	17	18
19 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Voter's Assembly 11:15 am	20	21	22 Wed. Evening Service 7:00 pm w/Communion	23 Midweek Bible Study @ Rueger's 7 pm	24	25
26 S.S./Staff 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Trustees & Blood Pressure 11:15 am	27	28	29 Wed. Evening Service 7:00 pm	30 Midweek Bible Study @ Rueger's 7 pm	31	

