



THE ZION ZEALANT

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

Phone: 244-5513 E-Mail: zionccdq@embarqmail.com

Web Page: <http://www.zionlutherancc.com/index.html>

Lent



In This Issue

- * **Pastor's Corner**
- * **Lent**
- * **About our Lent Service and Holy Week/Easter**
- * **S.S. Scoop, Needs of the Church, Zion's Family Tree and VBS**
- * **Remember in Prayer and Choir Practice**
- * **Ladies Aid/LWML**
- * **Serving, Birthday's, Anniversaries and Baptism's**
- * **March Calendar**



Spring greetings! Yes, I'm hoping and praying for spring. We've set too many records for snowfall and cold these past few months... Below is an article posted in a blog called "Truth Notes" I have read. The author says what so many feel important to the church these days. This article has spread like wildfire among pastors of the LCMS because it is so true. I invite you to take a moment and read what Ruth has to say about "Church Growth", and the secret to achieving growth in the church.

POSTED BY RUTH MEYER IN DEVOTIONAL, ENCOURAGEMENT, FAMILY LIFE

I have an unusual family. Allow me to explain before any family members reading this get offended. We are unusual because we're so, well... normal. Take my dad's side of the family. He is one of six children. That generation married and had kids, so my cousins and siblings and I total 18. Now our generation is getting married and having kids, and so far there are 30 and counting in the next generation. Here's the thing- of all of us, there are no black sheep, no rebels, no skeletons in the closet, and all of us get along- no family feuds or rifts or anything. And we are all actively living out our Christian faith. Now imagine what would have happened had my grandparents *not* raised their children to know Jesus. What would have happened if they hadn't made church a priority, both on Sundays and at home throughout the week? Think of the difference they made in the lives of generations to follow. Counting spouses, that's roughly 70 people so far. If my grandparents hadn't passed on their faith, that's 70 less people active in the kingdom of God. Parents, take note of this. You are affecting countless future generations by your example (or lack thereof) in teaching the Christian faith. Yes,

children can grow up and decide on their own to leave the church, and I know people whose adult children have done just that. It grieves them to no end. But that's on their children, not on them. In the meantime, parents teach and live the faith while your kids are at home. Make it so natural that they continue in their own faith when they leave home.

So here's the secret of church growth: the family. Not flashy enough? Maybe not, but it's true. Think back to your confirmation class. How many of those classmates are still active in church today? To the best of my knowledge, 80% of my classmates no longer regularly attend church, and probably haven't for years. That's tragic. And I'd bet the statistics from your class are probably similar. Consider how much bigger the church would be if those Confirmands who vowed in front of the entire congregation to remain faithful unto death actually meant those vows. Sadly, most of those who have fallen away were those whose parents dropped them off each week for catechism class but never actually went to church themselves. Parents, this is serious business. Do not expect the church to do in an hour a week what you refuse to do in the remaining 167 hours. Kids learn more about the faith by watching you than they will during church or Sunday School. That's not to say the church is irrelevant. Not at all. But *you*, parents, have the biggest impact. If church isn't a priority for you, it won't be for them either. If you go to church casually and do little at home to pray, learn Bible stories, memorize Bible verses and the catechism, chances are they'll follow suit. Like I said, this is serious business.

So what's a parent to do? Teach your kids Bible stories from the time they are babies. Read age appropriate devotions with them. Ask them for prayer requests and pray with them often. Teach the catechism so that when they get to confirmation class the memory portion is review. We used to go around the table each night and my brothers and I took turns quoting the Ten

Commandments and meanings after dinner. It was invaluable. I still remember them all today. When my dad (a pastor) was teaching confirmation class one day, the Confirmands were complaining that they had to memorize the *entire* Apostles' Creed. My dad brought in my first-grade brother, who quoted the whole thing without blinking an eye. One student grumbled, "Yeah, well, that's because he's in church every Sunday." Exactly. Play Christian music in the car and at home. I'm a classical church musician, so I want my kids to know the rich hymnody of our church. I play CDs of hymns in the car, and just started doing so with the carpool kids as well. (I'm not sure what the 8th and 9th grade boys think of that, but it's good for them as well.) CPH has some great resources in this category. They have a [*Hymns of the Church Year*](#) CD that has hymns for all the seasons, sung by children. They have [*Evening and Morning*](#), a CD that includes the music of the liturgies found in *Treasury of Daily Prayer*. CPH also has the catechism set to music in a CD called [*Sing the Faith*](#). Just the other day my friend's five-year old sang me the meaning of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed. Kids have an amazing memory, especially when things are set to music. Use that to your full advantage. Listen to [*Lutheran Public Radio*](#), a great free resource available on the internet and via app for your phone. Teach your kids these things while they are young. Remember, your faith isn't just about you. It's about the next generation, and the next, and all those following. Do everything in your power (with God's help, of course) to see that the faith doesn't stop with you. *This* is the kind of church growth that produces solid, mature Christians. It's a huge responsibility, but God is by your side the whole way, nurturing each precious soul to grow His Church.

[<http://truthnotes.net/2014/02/17/the-secret-to-church-growth/#more-199>; accessed February 19, 2014]

I wholeheartedly invite your comments and suggestions! We've also continue praying about and learning more about our District's 'Revitalization Project' as we near our next Voter's Meeting to bring this question to a vote. Blessings to each of you as we begin another season of Lent: our preparation for the glorious gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ, upon the Cross and His resurrection from the tomb – so that our relationship with almighty God would be restored and we too would see everlasting life in Paradise! See you in church!

Pastor Phil Rittner

**No Church Council
held in February
due to bad weather.**



**Sunday, March 9th
Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**Don't forget to set your clocks
ahead 1 hour
before you go to bed on Saturday!
Otherwise you will be
late for church on
Sunday!!**

LENT



**March 5th—Ash Wed.
7:00 pm**

**Sunday, Lent 1—March 9th @ 10:15 am
Wed. Service @ 7:00 pm**

**Sunday, Lent 2—March 16th @ 10:15 am
Wed. Service @ 7:00 pm**

**Sunday, Lent 3—March 23rd @ 10:15 am
Wed. Service @ 7:00 pm**

**Sunday, Lent 4—March 30th @ 10:15 am
Wed. Service @ 7:00 pm**

**Sunday, Lent 5—April 6th @ 10:15 am
Wed. Service @ 7:00 pm**

**Our Wednesday Lenten Services
will be a series on “Our Crucified King.”**



Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday, April 13th
Service @ 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday, April 17th Ser-
vice w/communion
@ 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 18th
Service @ 7:00 pm

EASTER Sunday, April 20th
Sunrise Service @ 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast
(immediately following service)

S.S. @ 9:00 am

Easter Service @ 10:15 am

*(both services will have
Communion)*

ABOUT OUR LENT WORSHIP SERVICES:

Beginning with Ash Wednesday (March 5, 2014) and continuing until Easter morning (April 20, 2014), our services may appear a bit different. Most notable will be the omission of musical accompaniment for portions of the Liturgy we would otherwise normally sing (we'll still use the organ for singing of hymns). These will be spoken responses within the Liturgy. We'll also omit placing flowers upon the Altar during Lent. And there's good reason for these temporary changes. As stated in "Lutheran Worship History and Practice":

"Lent is a time to reflect upon baptism, a time for rebirth and renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter. [These changes] and the resulting austerity reminds worshipers to be about something special – spiritual cleansing and deepening of devotional life. It is a time for the discipline of learning and growing in faith, for repentance and for prayer, even for fasting to practice self-control and to heighten one's awareness of Christ. It is intended that the special consideration of Christ's suffering and death, so emphasized in Lenten practices...be [even more] concentrated in the week of Palm Sunday to Easter."

If you've any questions or concerns about this practice, please feel free to speak with Pastor Phil.

Midweek Bible Study

@ Church 7:00 pm

(Every Thursday)

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



Sunday School Scoop

March 2014

March begins the Spring Quarter of Sunday School lessons and Lenten Season:

- 2—"The Transfiguration"
- 9—"The Temptation of Jesus"
- 16—"Jesus Teaches Nicodemus"
- 23—"Jesus and the Samaritan Women"
- 30—"Jesus Heals a Blind Man"

Sunday School missions for January & February have supported the Whitley County Energy Assistance Program. As of February 16th, we collected \$162.76. It takes \$150.00 to assist one family, which we will surpass. Thank you for your gifts!

Mission project for March & April will be Worship for Shut-ins.

S.S. STATS for January 2014
 Class Attendance:
 Primary Class (Banner Class!) - 75%
 Preteen Class—66.7%
 Jr./Sr. Class—50%

Perfect Attendance:
 Emerson & Mason Knuth

Needs of the Church

Altar Guild is in need of a Brass Candle Stand for the Christ Candle.

Donations are welcomed.



Vacation Bible School will be held July 7-11, 2014

For those of you scheduling your vacation times this summer.

Please put VBS on your calendar for your children/grandchildren, friends or neighbors to come; and for yourself to help out as a teacher or volunteer.

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

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 mail-box. So she can place them on the tree.
 Thank you.





The following Shut-In Members, in Nursing Homes or those who are ill (hospital or at home): Janet Blomquist, Sami Blomquist, Barb Cotner, Linda Hobkirk, Bill & Patricia Neidermeyer, Sharon Reid, Ruth Ryan, Michael Sexton, Charles Stanley, Dorathy Ummel, Alberta Warnick and Mary Wilkinson.

Those Serving in the Armed Force:

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

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS for

Ladd Slavicek Family, Ladd went to be with his heavenly Father on 2/25/14.

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

Alex Hart has been deployed MEU.

(Marine Expeditionary Unit)

An MEU is made up of ground, aviation and logistics combat elements, all operating under a unifying command element. MEUs are trained and prepared to launch a range of operations on extremely short notice.

Chris Decker, is a Colonel Commander for the 78th Mission Support Group, at Robins AFB, Georgia. He leads 1,400 personnel that provide essential base operating support functions which enable effective law enforcement; security; civilian and military personnel; education services; family services; information management; child care and youth activates; community activities; lodging; fitness; food services and mortuary affairs.

The group provides base-level management of key logistics support and infrastructure to include vehicle management, supply fuels, and contingency planning/execution.



will be on Saturday's at 10:30 am
until further notice.

All are welcome to join!

Ladies Aid-LWML Meeting February 20, 2014

Six members attended the 1 P.M. meeting. Guest speaker was Sami Blomquist.

President Kathaleen opened the meeting with prayer. She also read a New Year Prayer. Vice President Marty Williams presented a Mite incentive taken from Internet LWML. She gave each member a small cloth LWML red boot. Inside were directions for gathering mites through the year and then to be brought to the annual Christmas Party.

President Reese introduced Sami Blomquist who is Katie Rittner's mother, and who has had 29 years in the criminal justice system as a nurse. A graduate nurse, Sami started out by working in a sheriff's office in 1984-1985 in Jacksonville, FL.

She went on to work in the jail which was built in 1963. From 1985-2006 she did nursing, sick call, intake screening, med passes, was Director of Nursing and Administrator. Came to Indiana in 2006 as Administrator at Wabash Valley Correctional Institution.

Telephone calls for inmates were collect only then. Basically, the inmates were told what to wear, their job, their bed and lights-out. The Commissary was limited. To ensure meds were swallowed properly, cigarettes were sometimes offered. She was escorted everywhere in the jail. Three times she was "hit." There were always medical problems especially with return inmates always needing their meds again. The Florida Inspection was intense. As many as five agencies checked them out. Inmates there of the 1800-1900 count needed medical checks or intake. These inmates wanted many things, but a lot were not able to be given. However, how you treated the inmates did make changes. Many who were arrested, you could tell how they spent their lives. Sami recalled there was a gang of five who they know were trouble. With 150 arrest from 1950-2000 for alcohol and drug charges. Some inmates would do a crime to get back into the jail basically for the winter to get meds and food.

Sami was advised never to get caught up with any of the inmates. The bigger the crime the more whiney the inmate. Sometimes it seemed like doing nursing home work. Actually, they do

not have choices in jail or prison. So many times in her perspective it could change to "not medically necessary." At one time two disgruntled inmates knocked her off her chair (3 murders between them) and she was sued, but the inmates did not win. About the meds given at the new jail in 1991, it was built in pods with a quarantine evaluation area. For handling the meds it went from taking a 3 tray cart to what is used now in hospitals – a 6 drawer on wheels.

Sami rotated shifts with the officers and she had a good relationship with them. There was an annual screening for the meds and physicals for each inmate.

Sami explained how the criminal justice works: Jails were for pre-trial after being arrested. Then Prison time was after the trial and sentencing. The Prison Farm was for those sentenced for 1 year or less. These inmates would have to provide their own meds and then they were checked out. They would also work for the furlough programs where they would work, but then had to give 25% to the prison.

Sami started at the Pendleton State Prison in 2008. The high crime areas were separated by age groups. Otherwise for the jails, it is divided up by age and misdemeanor. She said that 80% of those in rendition left the prison feet first. In the prison clinics there could be 1 nurse and 1 inmate or 3 staff and 1 inmate and sometimes windows connected to the clinic would allow the staff to monitor. No nurses were really hurt; however, Sami and all prison nurses had to take self-defense training before starting their jobs.

Inmate contact with out-siders was by use of telephone and all contraband checked. All contact visits are patted down. Even Sami was patted down every working day herself. In some areas there were no visits allowed. There is a very large book of rules for prisons. Meals had to be given no more than 12 hours apart. Also how many officers on each shift.

Other information: Indiana now has one piece jump suits for inmates. Inmates now have their own visit schedules. Pendleton is a level 4 prison and Michigan City a 5, whereas Chain of Lakes is a level 1. No accounting or billing for inmates. The Prison Ministry (which Sami supports) is where the programs are tempered with what the inmate did.

Sami answered questions of the members.

(continued on next page)

The Business Meeting: The secretary's minutes for November and the Christmas Party Report were accepted. Joan Lane gave her 2-page report for Oct. 17-Jan1, 2014 and for Jan. 1, to Feb. 20, 2014. Marty Williams made a motion to accept the report and Maxine Lott 2nd the motion. There was no meeting in January because of the snow.

Correspondence: Thank you letters for the Ladies Aid Christmas money donations came from Worship for Shut-ins, Whitley County Community Christmas (President Reese read their long note), the Salvation Army, LAMB, The Bethesda Lutheran Committees: LAMP, Luther World Relief, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministry Inc., the Lutheran Hour and Seminarian Logan Landis.

Committees: 300 cancer pads were sewn at Zion in 2013. Jennie Childs does the collecting of Stamps for Missions and the Coupon Labels. They are now both collected in the large box across from the mailboxes. Marty Williams is preparing 8 quilts for knotting in June.

Cheer: Joan Lane had purchased cards and gifts for Christmas and Valentine's Day for shut-ins. Coming up—St. Patrick cards and for Easter a little basket which will be delivered by members.

Internet Fun: President Reese entertained with some things 4-8 years olds say what Love is: Example: "Love is the feeling you feel before all the bad stuff gets in the way" (age 5) and also "Love is my Mommy makes coffee for my Daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is ok. (age 7).

More Reporting on 2013: President Reese said 10 persons had attended the Cancer Volunteer Breakfast September 26th. (Each was given a wooden spoon). The Christmas Party at Hal's Tri-Lakes Restaurant was reported so enjoyable that the 2014 Christmas Party will be scheduled there again. Please read the 2013 Year Book Ladies Aid Section to see what the Ladies Aid-LAML does all year.

Just Completed: The Valentine Bake sale on February 9th: sales came to \$138.75 to be used for missions.

Upcoming: Mission projects of the quilts and soap collection for Lutheran World Relief will continue. A new project of using the front part of Greeting cards (no writing on the back) to be sent to the St. Jude's Ranch for Children, 100 St. Jude's Street, Boulder, NV 89005. More later about this.

A Donation Request: A letter came asking to assist in the cost of helping a woman who is being helped by LAMB (Latin American Mission Board). The woman would be given long lasting effective treatments to correct lymphedema. Pictures of her illness were passed for member so see. Lois Duffy made a motion to send a gift for this woman and Joan Lane 2nd the motion. \$25.00 was suggested and the vote was unanimous. Dr. Weaver's Chili Supper will be April 12th where anyone can meet her.

Members shared an LWML "A Years-worth of Human Care Ideas" and another New Year Prayer was said in unison.

A President's Day table theme brought members a piece of Fruit-cocktail cake with a little US flag on top plus trial mix and yogurt raisons served by President Reese. A gift was given to Sami Blomquist for her most interesting program. Members happily accepted Sami as a new member of the Zion's Ladies Aid-LWML.

Submitted by Lois Duffy, Secretary



SERVING IN MARCH 2014

USHERS

2nd—Ralph Sexton
9th—Steve Smith
16th—Willie Scheumann
23rd—Mike Gerbers
30th—Ralph Sexton

ACOLYTES

2nd—Nick Decker
9th—Jacob Zielinski
16th—Ryan Bills
23rd—Shianne Brooke
30th—Morgan Sawyer

GREETERS

2nd—?
9th—Lois Duffy
16th—Pat Decker
23rd—Kathaleen Reese
30th—?

ALTAR GUILD

Mary Sexton

BLOOD PRESSURE

Pat Decker

POWERPOINT

2nd—Larry Haugk
9th—Kim Yann
16th—?
23rd—?
30th—?

COFFEE HOUR

2nd—Kim Yann
9th—Gloria Nimtz
16th—Pat Decker
23rd—Lois Duffy
30th—?

BIRTHDAY'S

3 Mike Gerbers
3 Morgan Sawyer
5 Christian Bender
5 Judy Hart
6 Anna Peppler
10 Alysa Sawyer
11 Jordan Allen
11 Bonnie Spoerke
13 Ryan Bills
13 Peggy Brooke
14 Adrian Kimmel
14 Dorothy Ummel
15 Alisha Kimmel
19 Melissa Bender
19 Jessie Contreras
21 Jennifer Knuth
22 Thomas Auer
22 Ge'Onna Decker
25 Barbara Kieper
25 Joan Lane



27 Harriet Redman
28 Adam Braun
28 Melinda Puckett
31 Geoffry Gerbers

BAPTISMS

Miriah Adkins
Thomas Auer
Joshua Braun
Christian Bender
Ryan Bills
Verna Doehrman
Ralph Kieper
Mason Knuth
Maddox Lahrman
Anna Peppler
Ashton Peppler
Amanda Welch
Kassidy Welch

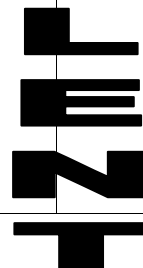


ANNIVERSARIES

23 Jerry & Barb Lahrman

MARCH 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/communion 10:15 am Youth Bible Study 7:00 pm	3	4	5 Ash Wed. Evening Service 7:00 pm	6 Ladies Aid Sewing 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm @ church	7	1 Choir 10:30 am
						8 Choir 10:30 am
9 S.S./Staff 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Youth & Bd. of Ed 11:15 am	10	11	12 Lenten Evening Service 7:00 pm Elders will meet after the service	13 Bible Study 7:00 pm @ church	14	15 Choir 10:30 am
16 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/communion 10:15 am	17	18 Church Council 7:00 pm	19 Lenten Evening Service 7:00 pm	20 Ladies Aid Sewing 9:00 am LWML 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm @ church	21	22 Choir 10:30 am
23 S.S./Staff 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Trustee 11:15 am Blood Pressure 11:15 am	24 Zealant Items Due!	25	26 Lenten Evening Service 7:00 pm	27 Bible Study 7:00 pm @ church	28	29 Choir 10:30 am
30 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am	31					



**RETURN
TO THE
LORD**