



# THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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## Pastor's Corner

My wife and I have been trying to clean up our garage for this coming winter; lots of boxes yet to go through, stuff to get rid of, and my tools...oh my gosh! I have got so many tools over the years, I HAVE to get them organized. Looking around my garage yesterday, I noticed one tool hanging on the wall, and I had to chuckle. It was a shovel. Or, to some, it is a “spade”. The reason for my chuckle is that I need to do that more often: call a “spade a spade”. Not sure where the saying originated, but it sure seems appropriate today.

Over the last three and a half years, many of my monthly Zealant articles have been on the topic of “**Stewardship.**” In my reading and studying (especially for our Revitalization plans...), I found the following I’d like to share with you:

“Dr. Howard Bushnell gave expression to a genuine need in our twentieth century Christianity when he said, “One more revival is needed—the revival of Christian stewardship!” Borden Parken said, “Philosophy is chiefly a disease of words. We have all but succeeded in making that of stewardship. Stewardship has suffered such confusion of tongues that most people become tongue-tied when compelled to be explicit about it.”

Stewardship is viewed by many in our circles as a way of raising money rather than a way of life. The word is used with frequent emphasis as a prelude to the every-member canvass in the fall and then tucked rather indifferently into mothballs for another year.

Dr. Walton H. Greever...defines stewardship as “the practice of the Christian religion.” He writes, “Christian stewardship is what I do after I have once said, ‘I believe!’ It’s the response of my whole life to Christ out of gratitude for an amazing love that meant death on the cross. It’s the giving of everything I am and everything I have to Him, as He directs. It’s total commitment. It’s the fruitage of my life. It’s faith in action . . . “

Luther defines stewardship by saying that Christ suffered and died for me in order “that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him . . .” The Apostle Paul put it this way: “For me to live is Christ. . . . He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again. . . . Ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. . . . Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

When a person becomes a Christian, he is a new creature. He dies unto sin and lives unto God. His chief purpose in life is to glorify, exalt, and magnify the Lord. Into such a life Christ has entered through faith; He lives in it and manifests Himself through it. Christ is the axle about which such a life turns; He has pre-eminence in that life; He is “all in all.” The Christian has “a mind through which He speaks; a hand through which He helps.” Christ is central in the Christian’s play, his work, his plans and ambitions.”

In our world today, 2015, it is no different than it was in 1951 when Dr. Herrmann wrote this manual for pastors. There is still the ever declining membership in our churches; there are still fewer and fewer people actually participating in true evangelism; and, calling “a spade a spade”, even we here at Zion Lutheran Church in Columbia City give mere lip service to the Commandments of God and adhere less and less to Holy Scripture – God speaking to us “in his big letter.”

**THE CHIEF STEWARD**, A MANUAL ON PASTORAL LEADERSHIP, By J. E. Herrmann; Issued by THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD, DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP, MISSIONARY EDUCATION AND PROMOTION, ST. LOUIS 1951; Page 9.

In our Church Council meetings and our Voter's meetings, there has always been (since I've been here) the call for a report from the “Stewardship Committee.” Then, there's always a long, silent pause, and then we move on to something else. That “spade”, if you will, is hanging somewhere in the basement of the church gathering a great deal of dust. There has been little spoken of or discussed regarding our Stewardship of the grace we oh so badly seek and beg for from God, our Creator and our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Yet, God continuously pours out that grace in abundance! I know I often take it for granted and fail to remember to thank Him for...well, simply keeping me alive to this point. And now He wants this poor miserable sinner to be His Under-Shepherd to this flock of folks in Columbia City?

Very shortly, you are going to hear more about an idea for evangelism outreach here at Zion. Stewardship and Evangelism and Outreach are all tied together. Six people gathered recently with an idea of holding a “Block Party” for the community around us; and the planning has begun. It has been determined that to conduct this block party we will need (at a minimum!) 30 people helping out. No, we're not going to do things WE enjoy doing. We're going to do things GOD wants us to do. Stewardship. Outreach. Evangelism. We'll be needing people to help out with setting up; cleaning up; operating a popcorn machine; helping folks park their cars; someone to monitor the bouncy tents; someone to cook corndogs; want to paint little kid's faces? And of course there's more. It's called showing the love of Christ. It's being the Stewards of God's grace to reach out to the community around us. [Note: there are significant demographics showing a very large percentage of this community are “un-churched” yet “spiritual” and “religious”; just they have no church home.]

I'd like to point out that I'm not begging anyone to help. I am asking you all to help out. And – God has already repeatedly commanded you to. Believe it or not, despite your condition or place in this world – **all** of you have an ability to help in one way or another. Everyone associated with Zion Lutheran Church comes here because we say we believe. We repeatedly pronounce how friendly we are and how loving we are to one another. What one and all need to do is allow the good works the Holy Spirit has enabled you...you know, all those nice things you think about doing for others but never get around to doing them – and for no reward...you do them. Paul said to the

(Pastor's Corner continued)

Thessalonians: **“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ”.**(1 Thess. 1:2-3)  
You participate in sharing the love of Christ. That's what it means to help out. That's what it means to volunteer for a board or committee at church. That's what it means to not let the same people do all the work over and over again. Stand up and say *“hey, let me give you a break! I'll do that!”* I can guarantee you those people won't take the break: they'll welcome you alongside them as we go forward together!

I'm reminded of the time an inmate at the jail asked me “how many times does Jesus say “go” in the New Testament? Hundreds my friends. Hundreds of times – and even to His own disciples Jesus had to repeatedly tell them to **“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”** And He says that to us as well. **“So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”** (James 2:17)  
You know, like that shovel hanging in my garage...

People in this world of ours have friends. They have families, workplaces, and acquaintances. Folks want a church to attend where they can hear the love God has for them. They need a church where they can see the love of Christ working in people's lives. Sure they want to feel good...but they also want to know the truth. And so do you.

See you in church!

Pastor Phil Rittner



**Special Voters Meeting  
August 16, 2015**

Kenny Knuth called the meeting to order.  
Pastor opened with prayer.

The amendments to the new constitution were discussed.

Kenny Knuth asked for a motion to accept the amendments. Larry Haquk made the motion with Joan Lane <sup>2nd</sup>.

The vote was made and the motion carried. The amendments will be added to the new constitution, then printed and sent to district for approval.

Sami Blomquist moved for the meeting to adjourn with Chuck Cooper <sup>2nd</sup> meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted

Joyce Reidt (sec.)

**Council Minutes  
August 18, 2015**

Kenny Knuth called the meeting to order.  
Pastor read from 1 Corinthians, and gave opening prayer.

A correction from the July voters meeting should read that Kenny Knuth, Gayle and Kurt Goshorn are members of the nominating committee. Ralph Brooke made a motion to correct the error and Steve Smith 2nd the motion. The motion carried.

**Receiving Treasure Report:**

Karen Scheumann gave the report.  
Receipts for July 2015 \$8849.46. Motion was made by Willy Scheumann to accept the report as read, Judy Gilbert 2nd. The motion carried.

**Disbursing Treasurer Report:**

Jill Coons read the report, the total for checking/savings \$112,880.30.

Furnace loan payable \$1844.09, Jill noted that this item might be paid off by years end.

Total expenses for July \$10,034.79 with year to date \$48,509.22.

Net income for July \$1987.32 with a year to date \$8005.02.

There was a discussion on adding a line item for funeral dinners under reimbursed expenses.

Karen Scheumann made the motion to accept the report as read and Joyce Reidt 2nd. Motion carried.

**Elders Report:**

Steve Smith gave the report.

There were no transfers.

The constitution was discussed, also whether or not large print hymnals could be purchased, and the elders are still looking into the purchase of a CD recorder so that services may be recorded. Letters were received by Steve Hill to speak to the congregation on child exploitation. Also a letter was received from the Gideon Society to speak to the congregation.

Also discussed the next phase of revitalization.

Average attendance for church Sundays—58, and mid-week—17.

The next meeting is September 9th.

The meeting adjourned.

**Trustee Report:**

Dan Knuth gave the trustee report.

He received the beneficiary papers from the Harriet Redman donation of \$1000, these will be sent in order to cash the CD and receive the monies.

Life Line has asked once again to use our facility, the month of December has been set.

Also a pole light needs repair as well as the railing to entrance of the 'west door.'

(Council minutes continued)

**Board of Education:**

Judy Gilbert gave the report.

There was no meeting in July; the next meeting is August 23rd.

Rally Day is set for September 13th and Oktoberfest is set for October 3rd.

**Board of Outreach:**

Peg Brooke reported that Monica Koldyke ordered our AED from the Red Cross on August 18, 2015.

There will be a board meeting August 22nd and all boards are encouraged to send a member as they will be working on plans for a Reformation grant that is being offered. the grant must be turned in by November.

**Stewardship:**

There is no stewardship committee at this time, but the proposed budget was discussed as well as conformation costs and tithing envelopes.

**Board of Youth:**

Jill Coons gave dates for upcoming activities.

August 22nd the youth will be going to the water park.

Dates for a youth lock in are being discussed.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor reported that the Altar Guild has requested Money for the purchase of a new fair linen (Altar Cloth).

Representatives of the Childs, Redman and Stanley families will be contacted to see if their donations may be used for this purpose.

A date of October 24th has been set to bring Pastor Robinson back to finish up our goal setting. Copies of the new constitution were given to members of the council to proof read so that it may be sent to District for approval.

With no further business Ralph Brooke made a motion to adjourn and Joyce Reidt 2nd, the motion carried and the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted  
Joyce Reidt (sec.)

**REMINDER**

For those who order items  
for church purposes, please make sure to  
fill out the voucher and turn it into  
Jill our (Dispensing Treasurer)  
before the bill comes.

This way she can put the voucher with the  
bill when it comes  
and knows who's it belongs to.

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**



**Rev. Phil Rittner**

**Cell Phone: 260-415-9078**

**(I text if you'd like!)**

**Email: [revrittner@reagan.com](mailto:revrittner@reagan.com)**



## Outreach/Revitalization

August 22, was the beginning of Zion Revitalization. Five Members and Pastor Rittner met to discuss what ways our church can move forward in spreading the word of our Lord. Attending were Kim Yann and Peggy Brooke from Outreach, Marty Williams from Ladies Aid and Altar Guild, Ken Knuth representing Board of Ed, and Ralph Brooke from Elders.

With the help of a grant that Zion will apply from LCMS Reformation 2017 a Block Party will be held in May 2016. Many steps need to be done before we can apply for the grant by November 16<sup>th</sup>.

To receive this grant we have to donate money, staff, and in kind donations. Having the Corn Dog wagon facilities, and a young man who can donate the sound system we have a good start. The most important thing is we need support from the congregation of their time and talents for that day. We are asking at least 30 members to agree to help with this great evangelistic outreach project.

What is a block party? It is an outdoor fair with a way to meet our neighbors. It can have bouncy houses, cotton candy, food, music, snow cones, games, and a pray tent, with the opportunity to talk and meet our community and tell them about God's love. We ask that you pray for Zion's revitalization and moving forward with showing God's love to those in our community.

# "OKTOBERFEST"

## Zion Members & Friends

**Will be on October 3rd at the Home of Kenny/Barb Knuth,  
4279 E Lincolnway – 244-6065 from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M.**

**The Board of Christian Education sponsors this yearly event and supplies the hotdogs/buns/condiments and hot chocolate.**



**Please bring along:**

- Beverage (if you don't want hot chocolate)
- Dish to share (salad or dessert)
- Lawn chairs
- Family/friends

**We will have the event RAIN or SHINE!**

**Hayrides are available for children. Dress for the weather!**



# "Rallying Around the Good News of Jesus Christ"

**RALLY DAY  
SUNDAY, SEPT. 13, 2015**

**Sunday School Staff installed at 10:15 a.m. Worship:**

**Pastor Phil—Adult Bible Class; Catechism Class**

**Janice Klopfenstein—Music**

**Ralph Brooke—Receiving Treasurer**

**Katie Rittner—High School Teacher**

**Kenny Knuth—Preteen Teacher (Grades 3-8)**

**Barb Knuth—Primary Teacher (Nursery—Grade 2)**

**Judy Gilbert—Board of Christian Education member**

**Barb Lahrman—Board of Christian Education appointed member**

## CATERING

**our pulled pork lunch @ 11:30 a.m. will be  
Donald & Nancy Gilbert**

**Board of Education  
will furnish the drinks and dessert**

**ENJOY  
an afternoon of games,  
a giant obstacle course,  
and BINGO!**







# SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

## September 2015

The Fall Quarter Sunday School Lessons will cover how  
“God Protects His People in Egypt and the Exodus.”

Sept. 6—”Joseph and His Brothers”

13—”Joseph’s Troubles”

20—”Joseph Feeds Egypt”

27—”Joseph Forgives”

Sunday School Missions for September and October will support the Wittenberg Project to honor our Lutheran Heritage as we approach the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation by nurturing and strengthening the faith of Christians and introducing the Christian faith to non-Christians.

Rally Day is September 13th. Theme is “Rallying Around the Good News of Jesus Christ” Sunday School Staff will be installed in the 10:15 worship service. Families are encouraged to come to Sunday school, Worship and enjoy a catered meal and entertainment for the afternoon.

Upcoming in October is OKTOBERFEST on Saturday, October 3rd from 4:00—8:00 p.m. (see details in this issue of the Zealant.)

Sunday School Stats—July 2015

Class Attendance:

Preteen Class—62.5% (Banner Class!); Primary Class—50%.

Perfect Attendance: Emerson Knuth and Mason Knuth

Sunday School Pins: Mason Knuth (7-year pin!)



**SOAP FOR LWR** – Ladies Aid-LWML will be collecting bars of soap – any size – for Lutheran World Relief this year. (LWR accepts new bars of any brand, in its original wrapping). If you would like to help in this mission project, you can place the soap in the box across from the mailboxes. THANK YOU!

## Thank You



The Board of Outreach  
Thanks those who helped  
with monies towards the  
AED Fund. Monica  
Koldyke has ordered an  
AED from the Red Cross.

## New Address

Jennie Childs  
570 N. 400 W.  
Columbia City, IN 46725  
260-327-3218

## Those serving in the Armed Forces

We would like to know  
how they are doing?

Parents & Grandparents  
if you would share any information,  
please let us know so we can get it in the  
October newsletter.



**for**  
**Thursday**  
**Bible Study**  
**7 p.m.**



The Oaks:  
Patricia Neidermeyer

Renaissance Village:  
Dorothy Ummel

Peabody Home (Memory Care):  
Alberta Warnick

SPECIAL PRAYER  
REQUESTS  
for

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

Those at home:

Sami Blomquist, Bob Gallmeyer, Linda Hobkirk, Jim Jackson, Bill Neidermeyer, John Pullen, Wayne Reese, Tim & Sandra Rueger, Willie & Karen Scheumann, and Michael Sexton

Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

Jessie Contreras, Chris Decker, Alex Hart, Joshua Rittner, Matt Shoda,  
Jason & Ashley Weatherly and Dayne Zielinski

# SERVING IN SEPTEMBER 2015

## USHERS

6th—Mike Gerbers  
13th—Steve Smith  
20th—Mike Gerbers  
27th—Ralph Sexton

## ACOLYTES

6th—Kyler Bills  
13th—Mason Knuth  
20th—Logan Bachelder  
27th—Nick Decker

## GREETERS

6th—Joyce Reidt  
13th—Lois Duffy  
20th—Pat Decker  
27th—Kathaleen Reese

## ALTAR GUILD

Betty Wilkinson

## POWERPOINT

6th—  
13th—  
20th—  
27th—

## COFFEE HOUR

6th—  
13th—  
20th—Judy Gilbert  
27th—

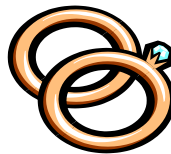


**Please sign-up on bulletin board for the empty spaces !!!!**



## **BIRTHDAY'S**

1 Cheryl Thiele  
2 Nicholas Decker  
2 Patricia Niedermeyer  
5 Brandon Maley  
7 Maxine Lott  
8 Madison Cook  
8 Bonnie Pease  
9 Kurt Goshorn  
9 Matthew Shoda  
14 Kyler Bills  
15 Tracy Decker  
18 Linda Hobkirk  
20 Lois Duffy  
23 Amanda Brothers  
24 Katie Rittner  
28 Kim Yann



## **ANNIVERSARIES**

8 James & Janet Jackson  
28 Toby & Lindsey Lepper

## **BAPTISMS**

Jeffery Clark  
Latishia Carpenter  
Jason Doehrman  
Connie Forrester  
Janice Klopfenstein  
Tom Knuth  
Monica Koldyde  
Maxine Lott  
Emma Mullet  
Wm. Niedermeyer  
Patricia Niedermeyer  
Luke Pressler  
Jennifer Harter  
Bonnie Spoerke  
Sharry Wiehe



# SEPTEMBER 2015



| Sunday   | Monday                          | Tuesday            | Wednes-                                     | Thursday   | Friday      | Saturday   |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|--|-------------|--|
| 6<br>S.S. 9 am<br>Worship w/Communion<br>10:15 am<br>Bd. of Ed. 11:30 am       | 7<br>Labor Day<br>Office Closed | 1                  | 2<br>Wed. Evening<br>Service 7 pm           | 3<br>Ladies Aid<br>Sewing 9 am<br>Bible Study 7 pm | 4           | 5  |
| 13<br>Rally Day<br>S.S. 9 am<br>Worship 10:15 am<br>S.S. Installation 10:15 am | 14                              | 15<br>Council 7 pm | 9<br>Wed. Evening<br>Service 7 pm<br>Elders | 10<br>Bible Study 7 pm                             | 11          | 12   |
| 20<br>21 S.S. 9 am<br>Worship w/Communion<br>at 10:15 am                       | 21<br>Cheryl vacation           | 22                 | 23<br>Wed. Evening<br>Service 7 pm          | 24<br>Bible Study 7 pm                             | 25          | 26   |
| 27<br>S.S. 9 am<br>Worship 10:15 am<br>Trustees 11:30 am                       | 28<br>ZEALANT<br>ITEMS<br>DUE!! | 29                 | 30<br>Wed. Evening<br>Service 7 pm          | October 1st  | October 2nd | October 3rd<br>Oktoberfest at<br>Ken & Barb<br>Knuth's |

