



Cell: 260-415-9078 (Text or call)

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

## THE ZION ZEALANT

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

Phone: (260) 244-5513 Tonya Stanford, Secretary

E-Mail: [zionccdq@gmail.com](mailto:zionccdq@gmail.com)

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ZionColumbiaCity](http://www.facebook.com/ZionColumbiaCity)

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### Pastor's Corner

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me—Epiphany! We all know and adore the “Twelve Days of Christmas” song. We enjoy the challenge of trying to remember every part. Children especially enjoy singing it. This beloved song brings to mind the tradition throughout the history of the church to celebrate twelve days of Christmas, beginning with Christmas Day on December 25 and ending on the day of Epiphany, traditionally celebrated on January 6. On that day the Christmas tide flows into the season of Epiphany.

Epiphany comes from two Greek words *epi* and *phaino*. Together the two words mean “to show forth” or “appear.” In the Epiphany season the church focuses on showing forth or making known to the whole world the newborn Christ as “God in the flesh.” Epiphany uncovers who Jesus is and so forms the foundation for understanding what he has done for us, the focus of the Lent and Easter seasons.

Four events from Jesus’ life are highlighted through the readings during Epiphany: the visit of the Magi to Jesus sometime after his birth (Mt 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mt 3:13-17; Mk 1:4-11; Lk 3:15-17, 21-22), the miracle of changing water into wine at the wedding of Cana (Jn 2:1-11), and the transfiguration of our Lord (Mt 17:1-9; Mk 9:2-9; Lk 9:28-36). The theme of “making Christ known to all nations” is found in the account of the Magi and continues to show itself in the other readings during the Epiphany season.

The theme of “making Christ known to all nations” comes to our doorstep as members of the church. We are invited not only to recall the truth that Jesus died and rose for the whole world but to act on it by witnessing to all people, including those across the street, in our family, in the same aisle of the grocery store, and in the cubicle next to us. We can take seriously this Epiphany theme of “making Christ known” by focusing on Jesus’ way of witnessing. In his book, *Speaking of Jesus: Finding the Words for Witness* (Fortress Press, 1982), Richard Lischer highlights five ways that Jesus himself spoke the gospel to others. We can use these five ways as an example when applying the theme of Epiphany to our lives. We can also use these five ways as a mirror in which we see how we have often failed to “give a reason for the hope we have in Christ” (1 Pet 3:15). In this way we can be positioned to turn to the foot of the cross and receive God’s forgiveness in Christ. Jesus’ five modes of communicating the gospel, according to Lischer, are paraphrased as follows:

**Dialogic:** He was an active listener and used the questions of the other person as a way to understand that person and probe that person’s heart (cf. Mk 10:17-18).

**Holistic:** Jesus was concerned for the whole person—body and soul. He forgave the sick and healed the sinners. And so we are called to forgive others (Mt 18), continuing the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:10-19).

**Situational:** Jesus was “on location.” He went to where the people were—the bank, the city park, the local store, the neighborhood—and reached out to them in their life situations (Mt 4:18-25; Lk 19:1-10). He didn’t wait for them to come to church. And so we can bring the gospel of all healing, peace, and comfort to people.

**Simple Language:** Jesus communicated in simple language and often spoke in parables employing common, everyday objects from the life and work of the people to make his points (Mt 13; Jn 7:37-39).

**Decisive:** Jesus moved people to repentance (Mk 1:15). We often hear the saying, “Jesus loves you just the way you are.” This is true. However, he also has no plans of leaving us “the way we are.” This is how much he loves us.

I pray that all of you have a blessed Epiphany season. Celebrate it through study and devotions; worship and participation in the Holy Sacraments. Though, in the middle of all of these celebrations I pray that we also “become all things to all men” (1 Cor 9:22) as we make Jesus known to our family members, our friends, neighbors, and our coworkers. May we join the shepherds on that first Christmas to glorify and praise God for all the things we have heard and seen (Lk 2:20).

See you in church, soon!

Pastor Rittner

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### Meeting Minutes

## Board of Directors Meeting 12/27/2022

Meeting called to order by Dave Wiehe, President with three (3) members (Dave, Jill, and Katie), one (1) ex-officio member (Pastor Rittner) and two (2) guests present.

Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with a reading from St. John 1:1-18 and prayer.

**Minutes:** Jill Coons made a motion to accept the November Board of Directors Meeting minutes printed in the December Zealant with no corrections. Dave Wiehe seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Receiving Treasurer:** reported by Jill Coons for Chuck Cooper

**November 30, 2022**

**YTD**

Unrestricted Offering Receipts	\$ 11,071.22	\$ 73,803.57
Restricted Offering/ Miscellaneous Offering Receipts	\$ 906.89	\$ 36,674.42
On-Line Giving Receipts	\$ 3,642.00	\$ 34,547.00
Dividends	\$ 366.10	\$ 22,760.50
Interest	\$ 12.55	\$ 53.99
Total Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 14,713.22	\$ 108,350.57
Total Restricted Receipts	\$ 906.89	\$ 36,674.42
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 15,998.76</b>	<b>\$ 167,839.48</b>

Katie Rittner made a motion to accept the November report as presented. Jill Coons seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Disbursing Treasurer:** reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings as of	<b>November 30, 2022</b>
General Checking/Savings	\$ 145,372.48
Youth	\$ 6,874.76
Restricted Funds	\$ 17,672.12
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$ 210,375.63

Statement of Activity

	<b>November 30, 2022</b>	<b>YTD</b>
General Budget	\$ 8,814.96	\$ 31,299.57
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 269.03	\$ 36,056.32
Youth	\$ 120.24	\$ (4,468.04)
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 9,204.23</b>	<b>\$ 62,887.85</b>

Katie Rittner made a motion to accept the November report as presented. Jill Coons seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Elders:** No Meeting held December 11, 2022

Average attendance for November:

Sundays	44
Thanksgiving Eve	12
Advent Midweek	15

Stephen Smith (Sec.)

The bell has been fixed.

All of the basement windows that were ordered have been replaced and are paid for. They look great!

Painting of the sanctuary will begin January 9 and last 2 weeks. The company will tape and cover everything during the week and will uncover for worship during the painting process.

Peggy Brooke came in to ask the Board of Directors for a decision on 2 color choices for the chancel wall color. The Board of Directors decided a light green would be a good color choice to help brighten up and give an accent to the chancel wall.

### **Board of Education:**

The Board of Christian Education met on Sunday, December 17 with members Barb Lahrman, Kenny Knuth and Barb Knuth.

Minutes from November meeting were approved with no changes.

Sunday School average attendance for November: Students – 5 Adults – 12  
November and December missions collected for Lutheran World Relief Hurricane totals \$273.11 as of December 11. The missions project for January and February 2023 will be for Fort Wayne Lutheran Social Services.

Thank you to Pastor Phil and Deaconess Katie for a wonderful and inspiring Congregational Christmas Celebration on December 11. And thank you to Patsy Decker for compiling the children's treat bags. Donations were much appreciated for these treat bags.

Zion will be celebrating Jesus' Baptism January 8<sup>th</sup> with refreshments served right after Sunday School opening. Classes will begin by 9:15am. The baptismal chain may be presented in the church sanctuary in a different fashion this year due to possible painting in progress.

Upcoming 2023 dates for Board of Christian Education were scheduled (dates are subject to change):

**January 8 – Jesus' Baptism Celebration**

**January 29 - February 5 – Valentine Outreach project**

February 12 – Board of Education meeting following worship

March 12 - Board of Education meeting following worship

**April 2 – Palm Sunday/New Member Potluck**

April 9 - Board of Education meeting following worship

May 7 - Board of Education meeting following worship

June 11 - Board of Education meeting following worship

July 9 - Board of Education meeting following worship

August 13 - Board of Education meeting following worship

September 10 - Board of Education meeting following worship

**September 17 – New Member Welcome**

October 8 - Board of Education meeting following worship

**October 14 - Octoberfest at Knuth's**

November 12 - Board of Education meeting following worship

December 10 - Board of Education meeting following worship

**December 17 – Congregational Christmas Celebration**

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Knuth, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent

**Board of Christian Outreach:** No meeting held.

**Board of Stewardship:**

If anyone is in need of their annual giving report, please contact Chuck Cooper

**Board of Youth:** No report

**Pastor:**

1. Internet searches for the church in the last month is still very high, over 50% are done on mobile devices. For the month of November in a Google search, 58 people asked for directions, 1 person called, 23 people continued on to the church website, 364 people looked at the profile and 88 people searched for Zion, Zions, Missouri synod, churches in Columbia city Indiana, Lutheran church Missouri synod. This is in addition to 74 people going straight to the church website ([www.zionlutherancc.com](http://www.zionlutherancc.com)) in the month of November.

2. What are we (the congregation) doing for the mission field? How do we get the youth in the door... Some brainstorming ideas were thrown out and Pastor Phil will be going to a local housing area to talk to the manager to see about setting about a one day VBS for the children of the area in mid-spring. More details will come soon after Pastor talks to the manager.

**Unfinished/Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

With no further business, Katie Rittner made a motion to adjourn. Jill Coons seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Rittner closed the meeting with the Aaronic Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary

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### **LADIES AID**

December was a busy month for the Ladies Aid group. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> was our final sewing day for the year 2022. Dec. 2 was the Annual Volunteer Breakfast that was once again held after a 2 year break due to Covid. The breakfast was held at Cerutis in Ft. Wayne with a delicious sit-down breakfast. Our sewing group from Zion was recognized as having sewn the cancer bed pads continuously since 1985 and had just completed 10,870 bed pads. Doris Williams was one of the very first sewers in 1985 and now her dgtr. In law, Marty Williams, and granddaughter, Peg Brooks are also sewing with us.

The Ladies Aid Annual Christmas party was held on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at Tri Lakes Restaurant. 15 ladies attended and enjoyed great fellowship and a gift exchange. Kathaleen presented a short program on "Symbols and Legends of Christmas" and read some trivia and special thoughts of Christmas including "Take Time".

A special gift made by Linda Williams was given to each person present. Jan Gleason conducted the gift exchange and used the Christmas symbols as matching gift tags. All were happy to have Lois Duffy with us. The party ended with a special Christmas prayer said by all present.

Christmas cards and enclosures were sent to all Zion's sick and shut ins. Special visits were made to Gloria Nimtz, Maxine Lott, and Lois Duffy.

**There will be no sewing sessions during the month of January 2023.** We will resume sewing on Feb.2, weather permitting.

### **SERVING WITH GLADNESS**

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#### **SPOTLIGHT ON ZION'S MARY MARTHA ALTAR GUILD**

We extend an open invitation to those who may be interested in participating in our group activities. Here at Zion the Mary Martha Altar Guild continues to provide a service by preparing the linens, filling the candles with oil, and setting up the altar for worship services, including baptism and communion. We also assist at funerals and weddings. At Easter we fill the sanctuary with lilies and flowers by funds donated, and at Christmas we help in decorating the church, including aisle candles for the candlelight service.

If you would like to donate flowers to be put on the altar for a given Sunday to signify a special occasion, such as, a birthday or anniversary, we have provided a sign-up sheet in the narthex. The only exception is during the Lenten season. We can assist you with the process.

As a group we meet four times a year, with meetings in February, May, August and November. Our current members are Marty Williams, Betty Wilkinson, Mary Sexton, Peg Brooke and Verna Doehrman. Please feel free to ask any of us if you have any questions or if you would like to join.

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Please remember in your daily prayers:

Lois D, Linda H, Maxine L, Janice K, Jeanine S, Jack & Joanne L, Ralph K, Ralph B, Ralph S, Steve S, Tonya S, Bob B., Bill E., Gloria, Ann, Shane and Kathy

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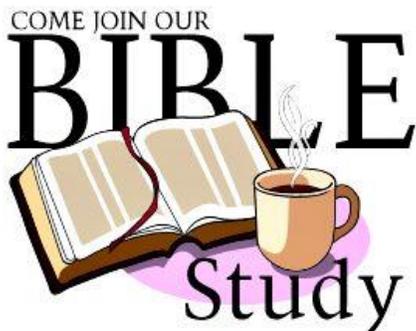
Linda Hobkirk  
Pastor Phil Rittner  
Katie Rittner



1 Scott & Christine Woodhouse  
3 Jack & Joan Lane  
4 Ryan & Laura Doerffler



2 Isaac Doerffler  
2 Mason Knuth  
4 Christopher Decker  
4 Nikki Harris  
4 Levi Hartman  
6 Caleb Decker  
7 Phil Coons  
15 Spencer Rossow  
16 Bradley Hart  
17 Sandra Rueger  
24 Scott Woodhouse  
30 Mathieu Hartman  
30 Harper Zielinski



**Thursday Night Bible Study**  
**@ 7 pm.**



## **LEARN ABOUT ZION** by Peggy Brooke

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For the last few months, I have been working on the history of Zion Lutheran Church. While going through some records I found a narrative that Pastor James Haugen gave during our celebration in 2006. In the next few months, I will continue to show the generations of Zion. There are four parts, so I am going to put one in the Zealant each month. You can see the pictures of some of these early ministers in the library right inside the door.

I also just heard that the Baptist Church who owns the original Zion on Ellsworth was sold in 2022.

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### **1846-1886 THE FIRST GENERATION**

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In the 1840's Columbia City was known as Columbia. Early Missionary Pioneer, Fredrick Wyneken, had Columbia on his regular list. This led the way to students preaching at the county seat of Whitley County. Rev J.K.D Loche writes of the adventures of one of the students, George Strecafus, who was in Whitley County in August of 1846. Dr. Shiler sent him to Whitley County where he visited two German settlements. At that time, the fever was raging so violently that it struck six or seven people in one house and sixteen in another. He gave Christian burial to four German women, two of which had arrived from Germany four weeks earlier. He baptized several children, only to watch them approach death. It seems the blessing of his presence was important there. Strecafus, himself, came down with fever. He lay in bed eleven days at Columbia, and three days in the wilderness. Strecafus and the other students worked hard and suffered much to serve Jesus.

During the first generation, the Civil War played an enormous role. In 1861 the seminary was moved to St Louis to keep the operation going. This was to keep the seminarians from getting drafted. This also made it necessary to call a pastor, which was Rev. Gotthiff Chr. Reichardt. He moved to Columbia City and began to serve on June 16, 1861. He was a pastor also of our sister congregation St. John's on the Eel River. This lengthy tenure was the only time that the congregation shared a pastor. St John's is the daughter of St Peters in Huntington and Zion is a daughter of St Paul's in Fort Wayne. Rev. Reichardt was born in Beurdus Saxony, Germany, December 28, 1822, and came to New York in June of 1845.



**If you have any changes in your address, phone or email** – please let Tonya know so the phone directory maybe updated. Also, if you would email ([Zionccdq@gmail.com](mailto:Zionccdq@gmail.com)), call (260-244-5513) or drop a note off (in mailbox slots) to the church office with your birthdates, baptism date (if known) and anniversary dates. I am updating the church records and we have new members as well. Thank You for your cooperation, Tonya

**Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University** will be ‘taught’ at the church for 9 Sundays by Dan Knuth. Starting Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 through Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm to 2:30pm. For more information: Dan Knuth email at [djknuth73@gmail.com](mailto:djknuth73@gmail.com)

Just a reminder and to let all our new members be aware, we do offer online giving, convenient, secure and confidential. Can use credit cards or direct withdrawal (ACH). Just scan this QR code and create your account.



The **Concordia Theological Seminary KANTOREI** will lead music for the season of the Epiphany at Concordia Theological Seminary Kramer Chapel on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:00 pm. The Kantorei is a men’s choir of students studying for the pastoral ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Directed by Kantor Kevin Hildebrand. For more information, visit [www.ctsfw.edu](http://www.ctsfw.edu). Flyer on bulletin board for other dates and times.

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Winter Trivia: (answers under calendar)

What is the coldest temperature ever recorded in the United States?

- a) -50\*    b) -60\*    c) -70\*    d) -80\*

What is an extreme fear of snow called?

- a) hydrophobia                      c) cryophobia  
b) chionophobia                    d) thermophobia

Which other planet experiences snowfall?

- a) Mars                                  c) Pluto  
b) Mercury                            d) Uranus

# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - Bd of Outreach New Year's Day	<b>2</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7pm - Woship Service	<b>5</b> 9am No sewing this month 7pm-Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Pastor's Day Off
<b>8</b> 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service <u>Jesus Baptism refreshments</u> <u>after service</u> 11:30sm Elder's Mtg	<b>9</b> Pastor's Day Off Schools back in session	<b>10</b> Red Cross 	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7pm-Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Pastor's Day Off
<b>15</b> 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion	<b>16</b> Pastor's Day Off MLK Day	<b>17</b> Board Mtg 7pm	<b>18</b> Zealant Items Due	<b>19</b> 9am No sewing this month 7pm-Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Pastor's Day Off
<b>22</b> 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Youth Mtg	<b>23</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7pm-Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Pastor's Day Off
<b>29</b> 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service MATINS	<b>30</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7pm-Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Pastor's Day Off
<b>5</b> 9am - Sunday School	<b>6</b>	Notes	Answers: 1. d) -80 2. b) chionophobia 3. a) Mars			