

THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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Christ
is
Risen!



PASTORS'
CORNER

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He IS Risen! Hallelujah!

Easter Blessings and Easter Greetings! In just a couple days, it'll be Easter 2021! As any Lutheran might ask, 'What does this mean?' Easter is our celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day after his Crucifixion. Easter is the fulfilment of the prophecy that our Messiah would be persecuted, die for our sins, and rise on the third day. (Isaiah 53). Jesus died for me and you and yet He lives, an assurance that you too will live forever!

On Easter Sunday, Vicar and I will celebrate the theme "Come And See!" in our sermons. Yes, come and see the empty tomb where they had laid Him who died upon the cross! You could do that even today you know... venture over to Israel and travel to the Holy Sepulcher which has been celebrated for nearly two thousand years as one of the holiest places in the Holy Land: the place where Jesus was crucified and the nearby tomb where He was laid to rest for three days – that is until He walked from that place, lifted alive by the glory of God!

Last Sunday in our Adult Bible class, we had a wonderful discussion about the thousands of people from around the world that venture to Jerusalem, entering that ancient church 365 days a year, before Covid struck. Think about that for a moment. The waiting line within the Crusader-era church winds around for hours on end! The tiny Coptic chapel built over the tomb allows but 5 or 6 people into it, and then only two can squeeze low into the narrow tomb, stand before the smooth, granite slab which once held the lifeless body of Jesus Christ. And the people "coming to see" Jesus' tomb are from ever nationality, race, religion and creed. But why is that? Why are so many drawn to a burial place used a long, long time ago? Why do they come?

Why did the women arrive at the tomb themselves that Easter morn? They went there to see Jesus. They ran and told the disciples, who themselves ran to the tomb hoping to see... Jesus. And now for over two centuries, millions and millions of people have been told of Him having risen from the tomb and yet so many still flock from all corners of the world to see what? To answer, I can only speak for myself. I have gone there, an immense blessing afforded me twice in my lifetime, to the place celebrated as my Lord's resting place after He died for me upon the cross. And I'll tell you the truth: I stooped low and entered the tomb expecting to see Jesus.

Imagine my surprise will you! He wasn't there! He is risen! Hallelujah!

On Sunday, April 4th, 2021, we will celebrate joyfully Easter Sunday. As a matter of fact, every Sunday of the Year and every day of our lives we celebrate Easter! Our Savior and Redeemer lives! That's what Easter is all about. I am privileged and blessed by God to be with you here on such a wonderful day! To share with you that Christ has been raised from the dead reuniting you and I with God our heavenly Father – forgiving our sins, rescuing us from sin, death, and the devil, and granting us everlasting life – with Him!

I'll see you in church, soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner



Board of Directors Meeting March 16, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Ralph Brooke with five (5) members, one (1) ex-officio member and two (2) guests present.

Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with a devotion from the Return to the Lord Lenten series and prayer.

Minutes: Chuck Cooper made a motion to accept the February Board of Directors Meeting minutes printed in the March Zealant with no corrections. Jill Coons seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Receiving Treasurer: reported by Chuck Cooper

	February 2021	YTD
Unrestricted Offering Receipts	\$ 7,483.00	\$ 12,439.00
Restricted Offering/ Miscellaneous Offering Receipts	\$ 121.25	\$ 877.36
On-Line Giving Receipts	\$ 1,522.00	\$ 4,127.00
Dividends	\$ 259.65	\$ 539.90
Interest	\$ 1.96	\$ 4.05
Total Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 9,005.00	\$ 16,566.00
Total Restricted Receipts	\$ 121.25	\$ 877.36
Total Receipts	\$ 9,387.86	\$ 17,987.31

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

Disbursing Treasurer: reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings as of **February 28, 2021**

General Checking/Savings	\$ 54,170.05
Youth	\$ 9,523.38
Restricted Funds	\$ 16,373.08
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$181,136.58

Statement of Activity

	February 2021	YTD
General Budget	\$ 4,169.56	\$ 5,337.73
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 286.65	\$ 1,248.54
Youth	\$ (94.94)	\$ (94.88)
Net Revenue	\$ 4,361.27	\$ 6,491.39

Chuck Cooper made a motion to accept the report as presented. Katie Rittner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Elders:

Elder Meeting for March 10, 2021

Meeting was opened with prayer.

Order of Business:

We received a new Red Cross blood drive schedule.

Due to Pastors upcoming surgery all Wednesday Evening services will be suspended starting on Wednesday, April 7th until further notice.

Talked about the church sign being in need of repairs. Phil C. said we would look into it.

Reminder of serviced on Easter Sunday at 8:00 am and at 10:15 am.

The Whitley County Health Fair will be held on Saturday, June 19th.

Meeting closed with the Benediction.

Respectively submitted,
Stephen Smith (Sec.)

Phil C. is following up with Fort Wayne Sign Company regarding the sign (they bought out the company that originally installed the sign).

Ralph has offered to help Phil C. with the Elder duties until the return of Steve.

Trustees:

Semi-annual HVAC service will be done on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

Board of Education:

Board of Christian Education meeting was held on March 14, 2021 those present were Barb Lahrman, Kenny and Barb Knuth, Vicar Tim Benzinger and Judy Gilbert.

Opening Devotions: Vicar lead us in prayer

Minutes: Were approved

Sunday school Report: Average attendance

Student

Adults

Feb 6

Feb 7

Missions:

Our mission for March and April is Whitley County Energy Association. So far we have collected \$28.75

We collected \$181.66 for KFUD Radio Station

Old Business: On Palm Sunday we are having a light luncheon after our service.

New Business: We will be having a health fair on June 19, 2021.

Pastors Report: Pastor will be having knee surgery after Easter Holiday. Vicar Tim Benzinger, Fieldworker Aaron Ferguson will be filling in along with some guest Pastors.

Library Report: No report

Next meeting is April 11, 2021.

Respectively submitted by Judy Gilbert

Board of Christian Outreach: No report

Board of Stewardship: No report

Board of Youth:

Old Settlers will be held in person this year. The Corn Dog Wagon will be in place and we will need volunteers to help with the running of it.

Pastor:

1. **Previous Request for \$500.00 for Live-Stream Licensing**

- a. We have determined that Zion needs no further licenses than what we currently have through CPH in order to live-stream. There are a handful of hymns that we will not be able to live-stream and we will make sure not to use them or if we do to pause the live-stream during that hymn.

2. Sanctuary Wireless Microphones

- a. Current system needs replacement/enlarging.
 - i. Transmitters are becoming worn (wires/etc.)
 - ii. Currently we only have 2 transmitters, whereas we have 3 people conducting worship.
- b. A comparable system is available at Amazon.com, with everything needed at a price of \$300.

Chuck Cooper made a motion to spend up to \$300.00 to replace the transmitters. Katie Rittner seconded the motion. Discussion was held to ensure we have enough to cover the expense and since we do not need additional licensing. Chuck Cooper amended his motion to spend up to \$500.00 to replace the transmitters. Katie Rittner reaffirmed her seconding of the motion to the new amount. The motion passed.

3. Whitley County Health Fair

- a. We have thus far signed up a few 'venders' to come, including the Whitley County Health Department, the Hope Center, B.A.B.E., Fort Wayne Orthopedics (FWO), The Lutheran Foundation and others. At present we have approx. 15-20 other invitations out to hear from.
- b. It is hoped to have a couple of fire departments supplying trucks/ambulances for static displays; we're asking the police and sheriff's office and State Police to attend as well.
- c. Primary funding has not as yet been found for Zion to provide some materials for this health fair, such as yard signs and other advertising; a 'give-away' from Zion such as personalized pens/bags, and maybe a healthy snack of some kind.
- d. A few volunteers from Zion could be used to help with parking directions on-property and inside giving tours, minding our display table with Zion's literature and giveaways, etc.
- e. Advertising: 30 yards signs from Espich Printing here in Columbia City (actually best price found so far!) is \$12.50 per sign = \$375; \$200 - \$300 for either plastic bags, and \$? for the snack idea. Post and Mail advertising is estimated at \$320. A rough total could be about \$965.00.
- f. The Lutheran Foundation has stated it's too late to submit for a grant from them for this health fair this year, but subsequent years they could certainly completely fund such an event.

g. Can Zion pay for this ourselves?

4. **2021 – 2022 Vicar at Zion**

- a. Our request for another Vicar has been submitted to the Indiana District LC-MS for another Vicar to start on August 1, 2021.
- b. The assignment service for when we meet our new Vicar will be held at Concordia Theological Seminary on April 26, 2021. Everyone is invited to attend, as Pastor and Vicar Tim will be there for sure!
- c. Pastor and 5 members of the congregation recently completed a Vicar Evaluation Inventory Survey on Vicar Tim's performance in items such as his preaching abilities, sociability, appearance, etc. Pastor has one more evaluation to complete near the end of Tim's Vicarage in June-July.

5. **Camp Lutherhaven**

- a. They are having their "SUMMER CAMP EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ENDS APRIL 1ST! Get the lowest prices on Lutherhaven's summer programs by registering before April 1st for the Early Bird Discount!"
- b. 3 - 5-day camps are available starting at \$340 per child.
- c. Can we do something for our youth here at Zion? Perhaps our confirmands, or high school youth?
- d. They also offer family, men's and women's retreats throughout the year... couldn't we consider our adult members as well?

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business:

The Board of Directors held discussions about the cancellation of the Easter breakfast between Sunrise and Late service on Easter Morning. Since we have the space in the gym to distance the tables and we have the capability to serve buffet style with proper precautions in place, the Board of Directors will be hosting breakfast Easter morning between services. Breakfast casseroles, pancakes and sausage will be prepared for service. Anyone interested in donating please place items in the fridge or freezer in the kitchen no later than Good Friday, April 2.

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

Pastor Rittner closed the meeting with the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary



MEMOIRS OF A VICAR

John 19.30 “When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’ And he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

John 19:30 is the only location in scripture that records these words, “It is finished.” What does “it is finished” mean, and why did Jesus say it? This is a broad question, but as we look towards Easter season and the time leading up to Pentecost, this phrase is the climax to Jesus’ ministry, here on this earth and as it continues in heaven, and his work of atonement.

Jesus’ suffering and death took place according to God’s will. This is the cup that Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, **“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will” (Matt 26.39).**

Like a lamb led to the slaughter, Jesus patiently endured suffering to finish the work of salvation. His death was received on behalf of your sinful nature and separation from God. One of the aspects I love of the book of Leviticus is to see the fulfillment of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you remember from last month’s Zealant, I spoke of Aaron’s sons- Nadab and Abihu. In the consequences of treating God’s holiness as a mere common thing on earth, by cause and effect, God, who is an all-consuming fire (Deut 4.24), consumed them and not their offering.

There is this deeper conversation intertwined in the book of Leviticus how God wants to dwell among his people, but because God is so Holy- any type of uncleanness, whether spiritually or physically was lethal to humanity. Thus, being said, people had to often times separate themselves from family and loved ones for a minimum of 7 days so they did not contaminate their loved ones which could cause an accidental death sentence in God’s presence.

Contamination happened through physical touch from person to person, or person to household items. Chapters 11-15 speak of ritual purity for the people of Israel. Leviticus is often understood by the vast majority of the world as a harsh law. Many people often glance over the book of Leviticus as silly and irrelevant, or poke fun at the things recorded in it, but Leviticus in all seriousness is in fact GOSPEL. Leviticus shows us that Animal Sacrifices were God’s means of Grace for forgiveness of Sins. As it is recorded in Ezekiel 33.11” **Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked...**” God established these rules so God could bless his people and dwell among them safely.

When a person was separated from the congregation of the people of Israel, it was an extreme loneliness much like we experienced last Easter during Covid lockdown. We were absent from the fellowship of believers and we were absent from the table of the Lord’s Supper to receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation. Leviticus records, God’s presence and blessings was located in the tabernacle, a person who was unclean had to dwell outside the camp in a place of safety, but away from family and loved ones.

After the discharge, disease, or uncleanness has ended accompanied with the time of purification, usually 7 days, the person had to “show themselves to the priest” and then offer an animal as a sacrifice, which was prescribed by God, to gain entrance back to the congregation of the people and thus allowing them to return to God’s temple to receive his blessings.

Yes, the animal was specific (generally speaking- pure, without blemish one year old male, first born), God who is the creator of life, gave the lives of certain animal species as substitutes for mankind that would Atonement (“Cover”, as the blood poured out and covered the altar) for the uncleanness and of an individual. The “pure spotless” life of the animal covered for the life of the individual’s impurity.

Because sin is so rampant, and uncleanness is so rampant, sacrifices happened often, multiple times a day, multiple times a week.

“It is finished” shows on multiple levels that not only has O.T. prophecy been fulfilled for the coming Messiah, but the final sacrifice (pure, without sin, first born of the virgin Mary, only begotten son of God), the final atonement, the final covering for the sins of the whole world has been fulfilled.

“It is finished” means that everything that belongs to the work of salvation is completed.

“It is finished” means that Jesus was willing to die, he wanted to give abundant life (John 10.10b) to all who believe in his name. Christ’s willingness to die shows just how valuable you are to God. On the scale of humanity, death itself is unpleasant, and terrible.

“It is finished” means now the Holy Spirit, God the 3rd person of the trinity now dwells with us safely, and blesses us daily, sanctifies us, and produces faith through the hearing of God’s word, and purifies our conscience. As the explanation to the 3rd article of Apostle’s Creed states, *“in this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.”*

“It is finished”

LADIES AID

Rejoicing and being thankful that the ladies have now been able to resume sewing of cancer bed pads. Dues to weather, we were unable to sew both January and February. We are feeling secure wearing masks and having only 2 people at the 8’ tables, more than the 6’ recommended distance. We have 100 pads sewn and ready to be returned to Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana. Due to health reasons, Gloria and Maxine have not been able to sew with us but hoping they will be able to again soon.

We thank Jerry Lahrman for donating the plastic for the cancer pads. We are fortunate, as having plastic is a problem for many of the sewing groups.

Easter cards to all Zion’s sick and shut ins are ready to be mailed.

Confirmation gifts will be ordered for all confirmands.

SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

May Jesus’s victory over death encourage you in your life, reminding you that nothing is impossible with Him

HAVE A BLESSED EASTER.

Saturday April 10th, 2021 @ St. Peter's Lutheran Church Huntington, **The Fort Wayne LWML Three Zone Rally**. Registration & Breakfast starts at 8:30am. Registration Fee: \$6.00 "Sing to the Lord, Bless HIS name" Psalm 96:2 Speaker: Natalie Reynolds. Information or to advise your going, Let your Secretary- that's me!- know before April 1st.

UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

04/01/2021	7pm	MAUNDY Thursday Worship w/ Holy Communion
04/02/2021	7pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
04/04/2021	8:00 am	EASTER SUNRISE w/ Holy Communion
	9:00 am	EASTER SUNRISE BREAKFAST
	10:15 am	EASTER w/ Holy Communion
04/17/2021	2-4pm	Kenny & Barb 50 th Wedding Anniversary
04/30/2021	10:00 am	Red Cross Blood Drive-Online Appt www.redcross.org

LÕÕKING AHEAD»»»»»

05/04/2021	10:00 am	Red Cross Blood Drive-Online Appt www.redcross.org
05/06/2021	9:00 am	Ladies Aid Sewing Group- Mtg in Gym

NO Wednesday Worship Service Until Further Notice!



Letters and Cards- We get newsletters from missionaries and cards from Seminary Students from time to time that are posted to the bulletin board near the Library & Secretary's office. Check them out as they are changed out as we receive them.

PowerPoint and Music – with Scott serving at Faith Lutheran, Churubusco, we will no longer have anyone other than Katie to run the PowerPoint during worship weekly. Also, if Katie is called away for Seminary business, there will be no one to run the computer with the music for worship. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let Pastor Phil or Katie Rittner.

Call for Nominations. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please see Ralph Brooke or Pastor Rittner (the nominating committee) for more information.

NO Wednesday Worship Service Until Further Notice!

Please remember in your daily prayers our Members in Nursing Homes and those at home:

Sandra Barrett, John & Lois Duffy, Linda Hobkirk, Maxine Lott, Bill Niedermeyer, Tim & Sandra Rueger, Willie & Karen Scheumann, Jeannine Slavicek, Jack & Joanne Lane, Ralph & Barbara Keiper, Lynn Kyler.

Those serving our Country in the Armed Forces: Jason & Ashley Weatherly.



Jada Burton
Donald Gilbert II
Lily Lane
Austin Rittner
Jacob Zielinski
Jacob Mullett
Ethan Crutchfield
Ralph Brooke
Vicki Western
Stephen Smith



2 Samuel Mullett
11 Jada Burton
14 Vicar Tim Benzinger
16 Jasper Foldenauer
17 Nannette Hart
17 Stephen Smith
19 Zachary Wilburn
22 Judy Gilbert
22 Casandra Sexton
29 Zoey Clark



3 Kenny & Barb Knuth
4 Ralph & Mary Sexton
5 Dennis & Bonnie Pease
11 Ervin & Verna Doehrman
23 Wm. & Juliette Branning
25 Tim & Sandra Rueger
30 Bryan & Nanette Hart



Thursday @ 7:00
P.M at Church

Come & Celebrate Kenny & Barb Knuth's 50th Wedding Anniversary! A reception will be held in the gym from 2pm & 4pm on April 17th, 2021. All are invited, they request no gifts or cards, There will be a memory book available.

Congratulations to the Newlyweds

April 2021

March '21							May '21						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
28 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service	29 Pastor's Day Off	30	31 NO SERVICE TONIGHT	1 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp 7PM-MAUNDY SERVICE	2 7PM-GOOD FRIDAY SVC	3 Pastor's Day Off	
4 EASTER 8 am -SUNRISE SERVICE 9am- Breakfast 10:15am - EASTER Service 11:30am - Bd of Outreach	5 Pastor's Day Off Pastor Surgery	6	7	8 7pm-Bible Study ☐	9	10 Pastor's Day Off	
11 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Education	12 Pastor's Day Off	13	14 8pm - Elder's Mtg Zealant Items Due	15 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp 7pm-Bible Study ☐ TAXES DUE	16	17 Pastor's Day Off 2-4pm Kenny & Barb Knuth 50 th Anniversary Reception	
18 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - VOTER's MTG	19 Pastor's Day Off	20	21	22 7pm-Bible Study ☐ Earth Day	23	24 Pastor's Day Off Martha Williams Gym Reserved.	
25 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Youth	26 Pastor's Day Off	27	28	29 7pm-Bible Study ☐	30 Red Cross in Gym www.Redcross.org Arbor Day	1 Pastor's Day Off	
2	3	Notes					