



# THE ZION ZEALANT

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Rev. Phil Rittner

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Fellow Redeemer,

I will regularly use different devotionals each day, depending on the season of the Church Year or merely the season outside the window might be. I even have a few daily devotionals emailed to me every day – which vary from those written by pastors and theologians to wonderful articles of faith shared by laity.

It's important to devote a good portion of each day to study of God's Word and to contemplate His will for you, and to pray He would thus give you the power to carry that out. Daily. And I've got to stress that I don't do so 'daily' merely because I'm a pastor and that's just what pastors do... I carry out devotions daily because that's what God wants me to do; and it's what is necessary to keep me from going totally bonkers.

You see, I'm just a guy – a human. I'm married; have several children and grandchildren; I have friends; and I have a yard to keep up, bills to pay, and two silly dogs (that love me a lot only because I spoil them) and a cat that, well, she's a cat. But I have a life to live, and I – like you – would really like this life to be wonderful. I'd like to get the most out of life. And, I want to serve God Who created me to care for others as I do for you, our family here at Zion. So, I devote a portion of each day to God's Word, prayer, and meditation on what He has said to me.

In one of my recent devotions, I cheated a little and read ahead a bit, so I could prepare this article for you, thus sharing a bit about Easter and it's greatness in our lives – for He is risen! He is risen indeed! Halleluia! [This is taken from a Lenten devotional written by four pastors I've come to know over the past few years, *"His Fullness We Have Received"* A Lenten Devotion on Spirituality Based upon the book "Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality for Today" By Dr. John Kleinig Rev. Marcus Baikie • Rev. Daniel Hinton • Rev. Chris Hull • Rev. Joshua Scheer.]

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Sunday

March 27, 2016

**Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:28-29)**

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! Today is the day we hear the Word of Christ about His victory over death. When He said "It is Finished."

He meant it. His Word and Work is trustworthy and certain.

That said, we don't see it. Christ defeated death, but it still darkens our

lives, creating sorrow and much anxiety. Christ forgives sin, but we continue to struggle. Christ gives holiness, but we just don't manage to see it in our lives.

This is an exercise in your spirituality, similar to the struggle of Thomas. Do you go by what you see, or by what you have heard? Christ has spoken about you. You have been baptized into His death and resurrection. You are in Him. You are holy and set apart, a treasured possession of the One who conquered death.

As that treasured possession you live out the life God has given you. The devil sees your reality better than you do, that is why he attacks and accuses. Often times folks will see it too, even though you may not. Even at the Last Day Christians will not fully understand just how much good God had done through them. From what we receive, we live, bearing Christ in the world around us.

Live by faith in what God has said about Christ and about what Christ has done for you. He is the root of your spirituality and He will also grow the fruit of it as well. Your spiritual life is rooted in the reception of the grace of God in Christ Jesus.

[Let us pray:] Lord Jesus Christ, in Your Resurrection You show Yourself to be victorious over all things, even death. Help me to live my Christian life by faith and not by sight. Help me to always stay connected to the way in which You bless us today, the Word and Sacraments that I may bear Your name in my daily life. Amen

I trust this enlightens your day and gives you strength. See you in church, soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner



## Council Minutes

March 20, 2018

Jared Wilkinson opened the meeting with seven members present. Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with a reading from John 14, and Prayer.

**Minutes:** Steve Smith made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Zealant, Kenny Knuth 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion passed. During discussion the following corrections were made to the minutes: Headings should have read Council Meeting February 20, 2018, under Old Business it should have read waiting on a comment not committee.

**Receiving Treasurer:** Jill Coons

Unrestricted Receipts	
February 2018	YTD
\$ 7,228.00	\$14,128.47
Restricted/Miscellaneous Receipts	
\$ 178.61	\$593.46
Dividends	

\$ 315.63		\$ 641.29
	Interest	
\$ 1.49		\$ 2.18
	Total Receipts	
\$ 7,723.73		\$ 15,366.03

Joyce Reidt made a motion to accept the report as presented, Kenny Knuth 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion passed. Kenny Knuth asked if choice dollars were listed under Thrivent?

**Disbursing Treasurer: Jill Coons**

Unrestricted Funds		
General Checking/Savings		\$1,375.79
Youth Accounts		\$12,915.59
Restricted Funds		\$ 14,614.02
Investments		
Lehmburg Legacy		\$80,498.32
(Market Value 1/31	\$78,773.96)	
Net Revenue		
February 2018		YTD
General Budget		
(\$1,205.60)		(\$2,622.46)
Non-Budgeted/Reimbursed		
(\$50.15)		(\$210.84)
Youth		
(\$68.80)		(\$66.62)
Total		
(\$1,324.55)		(\$2,480.24)

Kenny Knuth made a motion to accept the report as presented. Steve Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion passed. During discussion questions were asked about monies for installing door openers, and also how to motivate the congregation into giving to meet the budget.

**Elders: Steve Smith**

Meeting opened with prayer. New Membership lists were presented, dividing the congregation into three groups for each elder. Another letter was presented to be sent out to those members who haven't been to church in sometime. Discussed forming a security team here at Zion, with the offering of a safety training program. Average attendance February 2018: Sunday's 65 Midweek: 13 Meeting closed with the Benediction.

**Trustees:**

Jared Wilkinson read a letter from Dan Knuth. Dan Knuth tendered his resignation from the Board of Trustees effective March 20, 2018 due to his schedule. This will be voted on in the April voters meeting. Other discussion; we need electrical quotes for wiring the storage barn, wiring for the door openers etc.. Pastor offered to get these quotes, while searching for Dan's replacement.

**Board of Education: Judy Gilbert**

The board meet March 11 with five members present. Barb Knuth lead opening prayer. Minutes were approved. Sunday School Report: Attendance for February Adults-15 Students-14. Missions: We have collected \$27.81 for March/April for Lutheran Braille Translators. A check in the amount of \$ 224.56 was sent to Whitley County Energy Assistance for January/ February. No report for Pastor or Library. Old Business: We discussed decorations, crafts, snacks, and registration for VBS.

**Stewardship:** No report

**Board of Youth:**

Dodgeball is set for April 29, 2018 churches attending will be Zion, St. Johns, Shepard of the Lakes and possibly St. Peters (Warsaw).

**Pastors Report:**

1. We will receive the 2018 Indiana District LCMS Convention Assessment next month. (Unsure how much the per member assessment will be.)
2. The Lutheran Foundation has declined our latest grant request for a new sign. Any future ideas/ requests will require the following.
  - Registration to attend a Grant workshop.
  - Workshop attendance is required. Beginning in 2018, organizations are only now required to attend 1 workshop per year. Next meetings are April 11 at 5:30 pm- 7:00pm, or April 12 11:30am-1:00pm.
  - Concept Paper is submitted by the deadline date.
  - Missions Outreach Paper.
  - Download and complete the Mission Outreach Budget.
  - A committee reviews determines if the congregation should proceed with submitting the application.
  - TLF staff will send an email notifying the congregation of the Committees decision. If you are notified to proceed, and application link will be emailed.
  - Grant Applications including additional required documentation is submitted by deadline.
  - Grant Applications are reviewed and TLF Board of Directors makes the final decision on grant awards.
3. The LCMS Church Information Center has received inquiries regarding plans to active shooters in context of the church shooting in Texas. The LCMS Security Officer has provided the following online resources (links available in email Pastor received). U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Active Shooter Preparedness, also FBI-Active Shooter Resource. The Synod recommends congregations work with local law enforcement to put a plan together that works for you congregation. We have contacted Whitley County Sheriff's Department and are arranging a meeting with a few members to discuss security here at Zion. To provide full disclosure the following members at the meeting: Katie Rittner (certified active shooter trainer), Jeremy Grant, Jared Wikinson, Jim Mülle3tt, Michael Braun.

**Old Business:**

Katie Rittner submitted a request for funds for schooling. Also have we paid the remainder of the 2017 District pledge? We need to know whose names are on the Lehmberg Legacy if monies need to be moved.

**New Business:**

New Trustees will need to be found to replace Dan Knuth. We need a Security Team, we will follow up on new signage for the church. Discussion whether to remount the cross on the front of the church or replace it.

Jared made the directive to remove \$ 4,000 from the garage sale fund temporarily to pay \$3,000 to fulfill 2017 District pledge and \$ 1,000 to Katie for schooling. Changes will be made in the bulletin regarding budget.

With no other business Joyce Redit made a motion to adjourn Kenny Knuth 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion passed.

Respectively submitted Joyce Reidt  
The meeting closed with the Benediction.

## Zion Ladies Aid

# Easter Breakfast

9:00 a.m.- 10:00a.m.



Zion Ladies Aid sent Easter cards to all sick and shut ins. Get well cards were also sent to several of Zion's members.

A memorial gift to Zion's Altar Guild was given by the Ladies Aid in memory of Jennie Childs who went to be with her Lord on March 18.

Jennie was a faithful and active member of Ladies Aid and LWML attending many of the LWML rallies. She trimmed all the postage stamps and coupons for Bethesda while she was able. She also faithfully attended our sewing group sewing the cancer pads despite her failing eyesight. She will be missed by all of us.

Four members of our group attended the surprise 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Joan Lane on March 25 at the Botanical Gardens in Ft. Wayne.

We continue to "Serve with Gladness".



### Lessons for April

- 1- Noah and the Flood
- 8- God's Covenant with Abram
- 15- Abraham's Visitors from Heaven
- 22- Abraham and Isaac
- 29- Isaac and Rebekah

The Sunday School children will lead a Palm Sunday Processional at the 10:15A.M. worship service on March 25<sup>th</sup> followed by an Easter Chorus with congregational participation.

A total of \$224.56 was collected for the Whitley County Energy Assistance Program. Thank you to all who supported this local ministry. The Sunday School offering for March and April will support Lutheran Braille Ministries-translating scripture into Braille for the seeing impaired individuals. Our Sunday school offerings for the Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW): "For 75 years LBW has been providing Braille and Specialized Large Print Bibles and other Christian materials in over 30 languages...distributed to people with visual impairment in 120 countries!"

### Sunday school STATS for February 2018

#### Class Attendance:

High School: 88.9%(banner class!)

Upper Elementary: 75%

Catechism Class: 77.8%

Preschool: 83%

Perfect Attendance: Trevor, Tyler,  
Andrew and Hailey Braun; Mason Knuth



Spring Rally at Ascension Lutheran Church on April 7, 2018. "In Green Pastures" Psalm 23:1-2. It is scheduled to start at 8:30AM- 11:30 AM. Deaconess Rachel Jaseph of Shepard of the City Lutheran Church. Registration is due by March 30, 2018. Please contact Kami Wilburn and or Katie Rittner for further details and to register for the rally.

In June there will be a LWML Mitey Mite Walk Fundraiser at Valparaiso University. More details to come later.

### **From St. John's Lutheran Church: Up Coming Retreats at St. John's**

Please remember that at St. John's on April 14th, our witnessing seminar (all are invited to attend), from 8:30-12 noon with Pastor Robinson, and at St. John's on April 28, our women's retreat, from 8:30-4. Please let us know by the 14 how many women will be coming to the Retreat. My email is [diana.ranier@gmail.com](mailto:diana.ranier@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Have a Most Blessed Easter! HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

### **Chris's Corner**



"It's the most exciting thing to watch God work when I've asked him about something, to listen to Him and watch Him work. It's like this friendship, and it just grows and grows and grows and grows." - Chuck Swindoll

Featured author Chuck Swindoll is a non-denominational preacher whose writing is full of "uplifting messages from the Scriptures" and practical, Biblical attitudes to apply in everyday life. Our library features a number of his works (he's written over 90), including: [Dropping Your Guard](#), [The Grace Awakening](#), [Perfect Trust](#), [Strengthening Your Grip](#), and [Three Steps Forward Two Steps Back](#), and [Hand Me Another Brick](#), a look at leadership featuring the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

Look for the orange arrows in the non-Fiction Christian section in our library to point your way toward "truths of Scripture and ...message[s] of genuine hope and encouragement". If you'd like to learn more about Swindoll, visit [www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) for podcasts, devotionals, and radio stations in the Fort Wayne area that broadcast his daily program, Insight for Living.

"The remarkable thing is, we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day." - Chuck Swindoll

# Changing Footprints :

is collecting shoes for the needy: any size, condition or type accepted. (The collection Box just inside backdoor gym entrance)

## OUR MISSION:

Changing Footprints realizes the great need for shoes in our own community and around the world. We collect previously-worn and new shoes for distribution to homeless, disaster-stricken, and underprivileged people at home and abroad, regardless of race, religion, gender, or ethnicity.



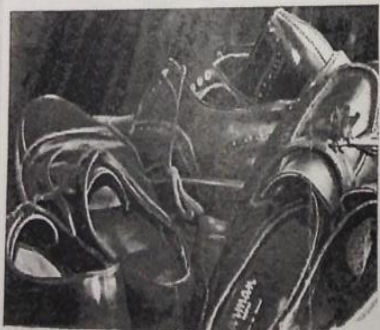
## OUR PURPOSE:

- 1 **Changing Footprints is a GREEN organization.** 50+ tons of used shoes (100,000 pairs) have been repurposed and did not end up in a landfill.
- 2 **Changing Footprints is a VALUES organization.** We offer the opportunity for children 5 and up to learn the joy of helping others through collecting and sorting shoes.
- 3 **Changing Footprints is a SOCIAL JUSTICE organization.** We provide shoes to prison release programs, domestic abuse shelters, job placement organizations, and more than 50 IPS after-school groups.

Donate any kind, any size, any condition, for example:

- Snow Boots • Soccer Shoes • Flip Flops • Crocs • Dance Shoes • Slippers
- Sandals • Sport Shoes • High Heels • Baby Shoes • Cleats • Work Boots

**Even damaged shoes are converted into playgrounds.**



Bible Trivia Questions: 1) What animal did Jesus cause to run into the sea and drown? 2) On what were the Ten commandments written? 3) What did Jesus sleep in after he was born? 4) What was man created from? 5) What did Jesus do to each of the disciples during the Last Supper?



Peabody Home (Hawthorn unit):  
Alberta Warnick

Brookdale (Assisted Living):  
John & Lois Duffy

Those at home:  
Tom Auer, Martha Essex, Linda  
Hobkirk, Gene Klopfenstein, Dortha  
Marsh, Bill Niedermeyer, John Pullen,  
Wayne Reese, Tim & Sandra Rueger,  
Willie & Karen Scheumann, and  
Jeannine Slavicek.

Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

Joshua Rittner, Jason & Ashley  
Weatherly and Dayne Zielinski

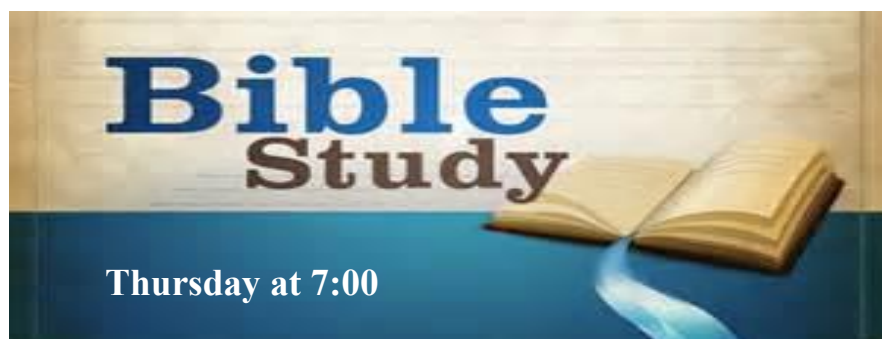
**SPECIAL PRAYER  
REQUESTS  
for**

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

**Worship Services**

**SUNDAY**  
Sunday School—9:00 a.m.  
Worship—10:15 a.m.  
w/Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

**WEDNESDAY**  
Worship—7:00 p.m.  
w/Communion  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays





# April

## SERVING AT CHURCH

### Ushers

1-Steve Smith  
8-Ralph Sexton  
15-Steve Smith  
22-Ralph Sexton  
29-Steve Smith

### Acolytes

1-Hailey Braun  
8-Eathan Wilkinson  
15-Emma Mullett  
22-Kirby Coons  
29-Lily Lane

### Greeters

1-Kathaleen Reese  
8-  
15-Pat Decker  
22-  
29-

### Altar Guild

## BIRTHDAY'S



2 Samuel Mullett  
3 Gene Klopfenstein  
12 Ethan Wilkinson  
16 Jasper Foldenauer  
17 Nannette Hart  
17 Stephen Smith  
19 Zachary Wilburn  
22 Judy Gilbert  
22 Casandra Sexton  
27 Christopher Brooke

## BAPTISMS



Hailey Braun  
Mike Gerbers  
Donald Gilbert II  
Jason Gomez, Jr.  
Gayle Goshorn  
James Jackson  
Richard Lane  
Lily Lane  
Ronald Puckett  
Austin Rittner  
Steve Wilkinson

## ANNIVERSARIES



3 Ken & Barb Knuth  
4 Ralph & Mary Sexton  
5 Dennis & Bonnie Pease  
10 Chris & Tracy Decker

## ANNIVERSARIES



11 Ervin & Verna Doehrman  
22 Brian & April Brooke  
23 Wm. & Juliette Branning  
25 Tim & Sandra Rueger  
30 Bryan & Nanette Hart

# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 8a.m. Breakfast 9a.m. (Youth helping), S.S. 9a.m. Worship w/Communion 10:15 a.m.  Board of Outreach	2   Pastor's day off	3	4 Wed. Evening Services 7 p.m.	5 Ladies Aid 9 am  LWML 6 pm  Bible Study 7 pm	6	7   Pastor's day off
8 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Bd. of Ed. 11:30 am	9 Pastor's day off	10	11 Wed. Evening Service 7 pm Elders	12 Bible Study 7 pm	13	14 Pastor's day off
15 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am  Voter's 11:30a.m.	16   Pastor's day off	17	18 Wed. Evening Service 7 pm	19 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am  Bible Study 7 pm	20 Zealant Items due.	21   Pastor's day off
22 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am	23   Pastor's day off	24	25 Wed. Evening Service 7 pm	26 Bible Study 7 pm	27	28 Pastor's day off
29 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Youth Dodgeball	30   Pastor's day off					

Answers to Bible Trivia: 1) Pigs (Matt 8:32) 2) Two tables of stone (duet 5:22) 3) Manager (Luke 2:7) 4) Dost of the ground (Gen 2:7) 5) Washed their feet (John 13:1-5)



No items turned in: