



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

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ZionColumbiaCity

Pastors Zealant Article August 2022

“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father who is in heaven.”
[Matthew 5:13-16]

Very recently, I received an email from a dear pastor friend of mine in Florida, from Pastor Rick, the fellow that married Katie and I just a few years ago... lol. He wrote: “Charles Dickens said it: ***“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”*** Such are the times in which we live.

Someone has said that a pauper today lives better than a king did 125 years ago. And it’s true! On the one hand, we live in a time of technological marvels.

We can “Face Time” or “Zoom” through the marvel of the internet and connect with family, friends and peers as if they were sitting in the same room with us. That wasn’t possible a dozen years ago.

On the other hand, we live in a time when hatred threatens to tear apart our society. Despite all its benefits ... social media has made us cranky, inconsiderate, demanding, suspicious, and accusatory. If you want to get your blood pressure rising ... spend a few minutes on Twitter. Doesn’t matter what your personal feelings or beliefs are. You are bound to be annoyed by something.

We live in dangerous times with hot spots all over the globe. At any moment things could spiral out of control in North Korea, Hong Kong, anywhere in the mid-east or Africa. Look at what is happening in Ukraine. Horrible!

I don’t have to say much about politics because we all know how divided America has become. We’re four months out from the mid-term elections, twenty-eight months from the presidential elections, and the temperature has already been rising for months. Who knows what tomorrow’s headlines will say? It seems almost everyone is angry about something.

If there was ever a time for the church to stand up and be counted ... this is it. But if anything ... our influence seems to be waning. Polls show that church membership has dropped sharply in the last two decades (from 70% to 50%) and actual weekly church attendance has dropped to just 22%.

Perhaps in an increasingly secular world, we should not be surprised that the church has lost its influence. There are many reasons for this, I am sure, but one stands out to me. The church has lost its influence because Christians have neglected their responsibility to be salt and light in the world. And as we have neglected to be what God has called us to be ... the world has decided to ignore us.

Jesus says we are to be “the salt of the earth.” We are to be the salt flavoring a tasteless world and we are to be the salt that preserves a decaying world. I am sure Jesus had no illusions about the world because He knew its true character. It’s not a pretty picture. I suppose it never has been. Today we have the most advanced technology. Every day brings new breakthroughs in medicine, science, and communications. And yet ... at the same time the moral climate grows darker and darker.

Make no mistake about it. We live in a morally decadent society. It is like a piece of meat left out all day in the sun. The decay is slow at first ... and then suddenly the whole thing is rotten, smelly.

What does it take to arrest the spread of evil? Salt. That’s what Jesus was talking about. As long as the salt stays in the shaker ... it can’t do any good. When salt is sprinkled into the soup where it belongs, two things happen: it dissolves and the character of the soup is changed forever. As a salty Christian, you may disappear into insignificance ... but your saltiness can change the world for the better.

A handful of salty Christians can change a classroom, a neighborhood, an office, a company, and even a nation.

But that is not the whole story. Jesus also calls us to be “the light of the world.” What does light do? It penetrates. It reveals. It exposes.

Most people hate being alone in the darkness especially when we are in a strange place. You lie in bed trying to go to sleep when suddenly you hear an odd sound in the darkness. You strain to see ... but you can only make out vague shapes. Darkness distorts reality. Everything looks different. It is only when you turn on the light that you see things as they really are.

But here’s the thing about light. If you turn on the light in an empty room it will dispel the darkness ... but no one will see it. You can live like a Christian in secret ... but no one is going to be helped. If your light is going to make a difference ... it must shine before men ... not in an empty room. Somebody must see the light before it will do any good.

And here’s the really neat thing. When you shine your light ... God gets the credit because light does not call attention to itself. Think about it. Light provides illumination so that other things can be seen as they really are. When people see a beautifully lit city, they don’t discuss the lights; they marvel at the city, its architecture, its buildings, its landscape. When they gather around a Thanksgiving table laid out with a feast, they don’t praise the light by which they eat; they give credit to the cook who prepared the meal.

When our light shines to those around us ... they see the beauty of our good works, the darkness falls away, and God gets the credit.

This is a good word for those of us who tend to despair about the overwhelming cultural darkness. We can't do much in and of ourselves to abate the cultural slide. But we can let our light shine. We can live for Christ. We can serve others in simple ways as Christian brothers and sisters.

So don't despair! Don't give up! It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. The world IS dark and it IS getting darker. So, it's time to shine our light. It's time to be salty saints and bright-light believers.”

Interestingly, these same thoughts we shared this past Sunday during the Adult Bible Study when looking at the Lord's Prayer. We have the most awesome conversations during our Bible classes (both on Sunday mornings and on Thursday evenings when we resume later this month!). I cannot encourage each of you enough... even if you come just to listen. Learning takes place. Faith is increased. And your salt increases in its saltiness.

See you in church, soon!
Pastor Phil Rittner

Board of Directors Meeting

July 19, 2022

Meeting called to order by Head Elder, Phil Coons with four (4) members (Chuck, Jill, David and Katie), one (1) ex-officio member (Pastor Rittner) and one (1) guest (Phil C.) present.

Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with prayer.

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

Receiving Treasurer: reported by Chuck Cooper

	June 30, 2022	YTD
Unrestricted Offering Receipts	\$ 5,878.00	\$ 36,934.00
Restricted Offering/ Miscellaneous Offering Receipts	\$ 426.35	\$ 30,487.75
On-Line Giving Receipts	\$ 2,811.00	\$ 18,453.00
Dividends	\$ 19,307.64	\$ 20,860.18
Interest	\$ 4.75	\$ 20.02
Total Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 8,689.00	\$ 55,387.00
Total Restricted Receipts	\$ 426.35	\$ 30,487.75
Total Receipts	\$ 28,427.74	\$ 106,754.95

Jill Coons made a motion to accept the April report as presented. David Merryman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Disbursing Treasurer: reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings as of	June 30, 2022
General Checking/Savings	\$ 100,343.87
Youth	\$ 13,109.24
Restricted Funds	\$ 48,879.06
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$ 213,858.08

Statement of Activity

	June 30, 2022	YTD
General Budget	\$ 2,109.52	\$ 16,070.77
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 19,321.37	\$ 41,809.50
Youth	\$ 3,546.42	\$ 916.44
Net Revenue	\$ 24,977.31	\$ 58,796.71

Katie Rittner made a motion to accept the April report as presented. David Merryman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Elders: Meeting held July 17, 2022
Meeting opened with prayer.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

A special thank you to Ralph and Mary Sexton for fixing the raining to the East entrance.

The church bell has quit working. Will be looked into.

PEW cushions have been installed.

A reminder that a Wednesday evening service will be held on August 3rd. Next evening service will be on September 7th.

Another car show will be coming in September (the 24th).

A proposal will be made to Pastor Tom Zimmerman to assist with the Pastoral duties here at Zion. What's in the proposal will be revealed later on.

Average attendance for June was 50.

Meeting was dismissed with the Benediction.
Respectively submitted,
Stephen Smith (Sec.)

Phil Coons provided a few additional updates:

The water fountain has been ordered.

The youth refrigerator is kaput. The suggestion has been made to purchase a new fridge for the kitchen and the current kitchen fridge should go to the youth. David Merryman made a motion to purchase the new fridge. Chuck Cooper seconded. The motion passed. Dan Knuth will be contacted for assistance.

Board of Education: No report

Board of Christian Outreach: No Report

Board of Stewardship:

The extra offering envelopes we receive are undated and unmarked. After the meeting, the Board will place them in the pews

Board of Youth:

The youth who attended the LCMS Youth Gathering (formerly known as the National Youth Gathering) have each written a thank you note to the members of Zion. They are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please stop to read them.

While at the LCMS Youth Gathering, Zion's youth had the opportunity to pack a box of CPH books to be sent home to Zion to be used as outreach for a variety of ages. The youth would like them to be provided to visiting children. Pastor will work with the youth to facilitate handing them out. This is a great opportunity as we have many new families visiting and joining us.

Pastor:

- Rev. Tom Zimmerman has accepted the offer from the Elders of Zion. Beginning in August, on the 1st Sunday, Pastor Phil will be teaching the Adult Bible Study, Pastor Zimmerman will preach and both Pastor Phil and Pastor Zimmerman will conduct the worship service. On the 3rd Sunday, Pastor Phil will be gone.
- **Please note, Pastor Zimmerman is NOT interested in a call. He is here to help Pastor Phil.** He just wants to stay active in the ministry and to help out.
- A Hope Center would like us to do a Baby Bottle Campaign. This will be passed on to the Sunday School and the Board of Education.
- We have received an update on the LCMS to Ukraine help that we contributed to.
 - The LCMS has issued grants for humanitarian aid and refugee support in parts of Romania, Latvia, Germany, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.
 - The LCMS is providing transitional housing and has set aside nearly \$300,000 for subsidized rental expenses in Romania for the next 2 years.
 - The LCMS continues to focus on planting churches and teaching the Lutheran faith – especially for displaced people seeking comfort and relief for the souls.
 - Our partner church in Germany, Selbständige Evangelisch – Lutherische Kirche (SELK), has created a position to manage the church's refugee care programs.

- A Lutheran school in Slovakia immediately accepted displaced Ukrainians in the early stages of the war. This school continues to provide a Christian education for refugee children. The LCMS has provided support for this to continue.
- The Google search report for June remains positive.
 - 69 people have interacted by searching us out on Google
 - 393 people have viewed our business profile on Google
 - 74 searches were made (Lutheran church-Missouri synod; churches in Columbia City Indiana; Zion Lutheran church Columbia City; Missouri synod; church)
 - 27 people have clicked on the link to our website
- Our Facebook page has been extremely popular. Between June 23 and July 20:
 - 232 posts have been interacted with
 - 91 have been engaged with (commented on or shared)
 - 1 new page like
 - 2 new people have checked in that they were here.

If you do want to tag the church, please make sure you are tagging the correct Zion. There is an old page out there that has not been active for a long time and no one knows who the administrator is to deactivate the page. You can find us by typing in @ZionColumbiaCity on the search bar. Or, here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/ZionColumbiaCity>.

- The current issue of *For the Life of the World* (FLOW), there is an article by Josh and Michael Dub and by Trena Merryman. *For the Life of the World* is the quarterly magazine published by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, (CTSFW) and is free if you would like to receive it.
- Jerry and Pastor Phil met with a carpet company to get an estimate to replace the carpet. Our carpet is over 20 years old.
- The Board of Directors has requested a quote for the interior painting of the sanctuary.
- The pew cushions have arrived and been placed. If you are interested in any of the old one's check near the coat rack outside of the bathrooms for any remaining and help yourself.

Unfinished/Old Business:

None

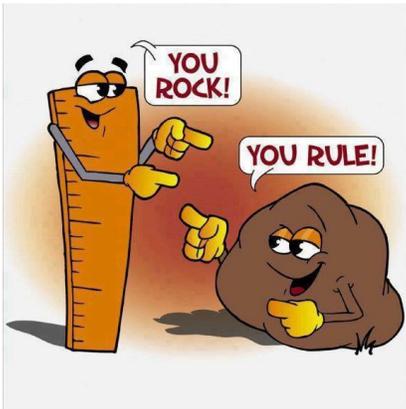
New Business:

None

With no further business, Jill Coons made a motion to adjourn. Chuck Cooper 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



GIVING THANKS!!!

The Board of Outreach would like to thank everyone for their donations for the personal care kits. 13 complete kits were mailed to Lutheran World relief. We had extra combs and toothbrushes which will be donated to Mission 25 (formerly the lighthouse).



THANK YOU everyone for your support in helping to get OUR youth to the Youth Gathering in Houston. -Youth Group
(Cards from the teens that went are also posted on the board in the Narthex.)

“This is to the church and anyone else who helped fund, plan and allow us to go on this trip. Thank you. Even though we were a small group of 4 teens, we were allowed to go on this trip. Thank you to those who donated or helped the corndog booth; thank you to those who planned the trip; thank you to parents who let us go all the way from Indiana to Texas without them; and thank you especially to Mr. & Mrs. Coons for taking us. Lots of Thank Yous,”
~~Kaden Decker

“I would like to thank the congregation for supporting the youth in this new chapter with the King of Kings. We as well as 20,000 other youth grew closer with our Lord over the past few days learning how he is in all things.” ~Kirbyana

“Zion Lutheran, Before I attended this gathering, I was afraid to speak about God. Fully let him into my life and share my story with others. This gathering gave me hope, the confidence to love God publicly, and showed me that none of us are perfect and God is in all things including our brokenness. Although I do not attend this church regularly, I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity, the memories, and the growth. This trip has given me a new perspective and I’m proud to say I can’t wait to share what happened with everyone. Thank you to the church, the pastor, Jill & Phil for taking us.” ~ Brooklyn Babler

“Dear Zion Lutheran Church, thank you for giving me the opportunity to go on this trip. I had lots of fun and it was a great way to connect to God. Thank you” ~Ethan Crutchfield

LADIES AID

Aug 4th & Aug 18th @ 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Group

Please remember in your daily prayers:

Lois D, Linda H, Maxine L, Janice K, Jeanine S, Dortha, Jack & Joanne L, Ralph K, Shane, Ralph B, Tim & Sandra R, Ralph S, Steve S, Bob E, Tonya S



2 Connie Forrester
2 Jeanine Slavicek
5 Michael Sexton
6 Ralph Sexton
10 Justin Yann
11 Austin Rittner
13 Jerry Lahrman
18 Micaiah Marin
18 Jason Doehrman
18 Kenneth Knuth
23 Jennifer Harter
23 Sharry Wiehe
23 Myra Hartman
28 Rachel Degitz
30 Melanie Pressler
31 Andy Hart

13 Phil & Jill Coons
20 Shawn & Sara Schuller
21 Matt & Rachel Degitz
26 Rev. Phil & Katie Rittner
27 Austin & Taylor Rittner
29 Robert & Judith Kovacs

Logan Bachelder
Mathieu Hartman
Judith Kovacs
Cari Knuth
Emerson Knuth
Jerry Lahrman
Nolan Lahrman
Timothy Sexton
Christine Woodhouse
Nikki Harris
Micaiah Marin
Ariella Rittner



HIGHLIGHTING UPCOMING EVENTS



AUG 3rd Monthly Wednesday 7pm Worship Services begins and the next Wed. service will be Sept 7th!

ALSO Jerry is not getting any younger, he is 'hinting' that he would like for some volunteers to help with the landscaping...aka mowing. The mower is here, gas is here and it is a rider! Let  know if you are interested in helping him out some with the mowing. Possibly every other month??? Thanks



Good news!!! There are now 6 people (1 of which is me!) signed up for Krogers!

Thank you, but I bet more than 5 of you shop at Krogers!!!!

I also know we got more donators through amazon; I know it is hard at times to always remember to put in Smile.Amazon.com and not just amazon.com... I forgot on Prime day...ugh big dollars.... but I returned a lot of that stuff cause of fit etc. and reordered at smile.amazon.com. SO please sign up at both... I actually bookmarked smile.amazon.com to not forget again. We are getting free money due to people signing up and using the Kroger card. It is not a ton, but it is free and I'd rather it go to us than to Kroger or Amazon! lol If you need help let me know!

DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR KROGER CARD AND AMAZON ACCOUNT!

2 EASY ways to make Money for the CHURCH

Don't forget that there are 2 easy ways to **donate free money** to the church

If you shop Amazon, use the link and the church will get a donation from amazon. You are not charged for this, but you must use **smile.amazon.com** If you use our link you just have to click that you want to support the church, you only do this once. Then each time you log on to smile.amazon.com, you will automatically have the church as your charity.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-6041630>

To Use the Kroger Community Rewards Program:

Simply go to visit <http://www.kroger.com>.

Once logged into your Kroger account, look towards bottom of page for community rewards tab, then you can search for **ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** either by name or **NA108** and then click Enroll.

New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a *rewards card*, get your card from the service desk.



LET ME KNOW:

If you have anything you want to include in the Zealant, let me know.

You can always email me, I'll get back to you rather quickly. If you move or get a new phone number, let me know. If you want to buy a cookbook when they come in, let me know. If you have questions on how to sign up for the Kroger card rewards program, let me know. If you need something added to the bulletin, let me know.

Out of the mouths of babes.....



Dear God,

Thank you for my baby brother, but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before, you can look it up!

Joyce



Dear Mr. God,

I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart, I had to have 3 stitches and a shot.

Janet

Dear God,

Is it true my father won't get in heaven if he uses his golf words in the house? Anita

Dear God,

Did you mean for giraffes to look like that or was that an accident? Norma

Dear God,

Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works out ok with me and my brother.

Larry

August 2022

September 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3 Pastor's in Office Altar Guild Mtg 930a Worship Service 7pm	4 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp Pastor's in Office	5	6
7 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Srvc W/Holy Communion 1130am Board of Outreach	8	9	10 Pastor's in Office	11 Pastor's in Office	12	13
14 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Srvc 1130am Board of Education 1130a Elder's Mtg	15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	16 7p - Board Meeting	17 1 st day of school WCCS Pastor's in Office	18 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp Pastor's in Office	19	20 Strides of Hope '22 A Hope Center walk Morsches Park 8:30am
21 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Srvc W/Holy Communion	22	23	24 Pastor's in Office	25 Pastor's in Office	26	27
28 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Srvc 1130am Board of Youth RALLY DAY & New member meal	29	30	31 Pastor's in Office	1	2	3