

December 2020



VOLUME 61

ISSUE 12

THE ZION ZEALANT

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PASTOR's Corner

During worship on the First Sunday of Advent, we sang “Savior of the Nations, Come.” This hymn holds special meaning for many coming from the seminary in Fort Wayne recently, as one good professor of Church History tests everyone on memorizing this hymn! All 8 verses! I actually practiced it by singing it, and then of course I wrote it out perfectly on the test. Hooray.

There's more to this hymn as being used by many churches at the beginning of Advent: it was written for that very purpose. Ambrose of Milan wrote this beloved hymn sometime between 340 and 397 AD. There was great turmoil in the land as the Arians, those who denied the divinity of Jesus Christ and led by the evil Empress Justina, tried to invade one of St. Ambrose's churches. St. Ambrose refused to hand over the house of God to those who believe differently. No doubt worried over military reprisal from the Empress, St. Ambrose gathered his flock into the basilica to sing Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Col. 3:16) as they turned to the one true God, who could help them in their need. When the entourage sent by the Empress arrived, the soldiers are said to have been so moved by the singing that they put down their weapons and joined in the singing. An impressive example of how the Holy Spirit actively works within the church.

Martin Luther, in his time of turmoil, thought best to translate this hymn for the people to sing at the first Sunday in Advent; and a good friend named Johann Walter edited the 1524 hymnal where the tune itself first appeared. Prior to this, it was known more of a ‘chant’ done during worship. But as with so many of the core hymns of the Reformation which we still sing today, the most elaborate and important settings for Savior of the Nations, Come are from the sacred cantatas of J. S. Bach (1685-1750).

Our own turmoil of today seems no different of that which happened more than 1700 years ago. This has been a difficult year. Full of unexpected challenges, tragedies, and confusion. The other day as I prayed, I asked God how his people in ancient times might have given thanks in such a year. Maybe all along there has been great unrest in the land. As I prayed about this, I remembered the words of Job 1:21: **“Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”** Wow. It's easy to give thanks when things look good. There's a bright sunny future, the markets are soaring, the world all around is smiling. That was what Job's life looked like at the beginning of the book of Job. There was much to be thankful for. But then it all went away, as though the veil of stability was torn back with one fell swoop.

So it is for many of us. All that we thought was new has changed. We see the present differently, the future is uncertain. We wonder regularly, “What will happen next?” But tomorrow has enough trouble for itself. Today is the day the Lord has made. And this year is the year that the Lord has made. This year did not come from China, or from Trump, or from the Democrats, or any of the other usual suspects. It has come from God.

And so has this church, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbia City, IN.

*How much have we truly been shown this year?

*How much more have we seen our total dependence on God than in other years?

*How much more have we seen that the future is not ours to control?

We are merely actors on God’s stage.

*How much more have we seen that the reality to which we felt entitled was a figment of our imagination?

*How much more have we seen the frailty of our existence, our days, our jobs, or our families?

These things are painful, but they bring us to the place where we see more than ever how badly we need to surrender all of it to God. **“The Lord gives, the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”**

It’s all the more imperative we sing this old, time-tested hymn based on John 1 and Luke 2. We’re within the Advent of our Lord! I’m going to include the verses below for you to read (or sing! The tune isn’t too hard.) And while you’re reading it... think not just the celebrating as we do of Christ’s birth here on this earth, but of His Second Coming... for we’re still in the Advent of Jesus Christ!

Savior of the Nations, Come. (LSB 332.)

1. Savior of the nations, come, Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.
3. Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.
4. Then stepped forth the Lord of all / From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.
5. God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.
6. For You are the Father’s Son / Who in flesh the vict’ry won.
By Your mighty pow’r make whole / All our ills of flesh and soul.
7. From the manger newborn light / Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.
- ▲ 8. Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be / Now and through eternity.

Joy to the World, the Lord has come!

Pastor Phil Rittner



**MEETING
MINUTES**

Church Council Meeting

No meeting held due to not enough members in attendance.

Catechism Schedule

19-Oct	7	2nd commandment	Read Pg 67-73
2-Nov	8	3rd Commandment	Read Pg 74-80
9-Nov	9	4th Commandment	Read Pg 81-84
16-Nov	10	5th Commandment	Read Pg 85-92
23-Nov	11	6th Commandment	Read Pg 93-104
30-Nov	12	7th Commandment	Read Pg 105- 109
7-Dec	13	8th Commandment	Read Pg 110- 114
14-Dec	14	9th Commandment	Read Pg 115-119
4-Jan	15	10th Commandment & Conclusion	Read Pg 120-127
25-Jan	16	Creeds: Purpose	Read Pg 128-132
1-Feb	17	1st Article Creed	Read Pg 133-163
8-Feb	18	2nd Article Creed	Read Pg 164-194
15-Feb	19	3rd Article Creed	Read Pg 195- 230
22-Feb	20	Review of Creed and Oral (Midterm) Q	Review for Midterm oral quiz
1-Mar	21	Lord's Prayer: 1st-5th Petitions	Skim Pg 231-268
8-Mar	22	Lord's Prayer: 6th & 7th w/ Conclusion	Skim Pg 269-280
15-Mar	23	Quiz Lord's prayer & Means of Grace	Read Pg 281-284
22-Mar	24	Baptism Part 1	Read Pg 285- 296
29-Mar	25	Baptism Part 2	Read Pg 297-305
19-Apr	26	Confession & Absolution	Read Pg 306- 313
26-Apr	27	Office of the Keys & Oral Quiz	Read Pg 314- 321
3-May	28	Sacrament of the Altar- Natue & Benefit	Read Pg 322- 334
10-May	29	Sacrament of the Altar Power and how to receive - taste test	Read Pg 345-345
17-May	30	Prayers/ Duties/etc	Read Pg 346-350
24-May	31	Brief Review and Final Exam.	

Weekly Journals- Sermon notes from Sunday, Prayer requests, class notes, questions for next Monday class.

Oral Quizes - example: "What is the first commandment? What does it mean?"

Memorization is not manditory, learn by heart what the Catechism is saying, and be able to answer in your own words

The colors reflect the colors of the church year (Pg 377)

Green- represents the Christian life and growth in the faith.

Blue- Reminds us of the blessed eternal hope that is ours in Christ.

Purple/Violet- Reminds us of our need for repentance and preperation for the celebration of Easter.

Black- Reminds us of our sorrow at Christ's suffering.

Red- Represents the blood of Christ shed for our forgiveness.

Vicar Timothy Benzinger- 260-244-5513 (church)

MEMOIRS OF A VICAR

Christmas is just around the corner, and with that brings celebration of Advent and the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. This year for Wednesday Advent services @ 7:00pm, we will be looking at the family tree of Jesus and three different stories from scripture relating to His birth on that glorious morning. Jesus family tree can be read in Both Matt 1:1-17 (the genealogy of Jesus back to Abraham), and in Luke 3:23-38 (the lineage of Jesus all the way back to Adam in the garden of Eden).

We will be using the materials from CPH (Concordia Publishing House) for these Wednesday night services. The theme is “Jesse Tree.”

A “Jesse Tree” for those who are unfamiliar with its origin, is a way to prepare for the Advent season. My family does the Jesse Tree every year. There is a scripture reading accompanied by the hanging of an ornament symbolizing the life of Jesus and the fulfillment of his birth as Immanuel- God with us. Our family focus is to keep Christ in Christmas. As we decorate our tree, we see how God orchestrated the life of Jesus through His family tree.

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” Jesse was the father of David, Israel’s greatest king. And Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse’s family tree.

Midweek Advent 1: December 2, 2020

Text: Genesis 1:27; 3:8-15 (Tree with Fruit or Apple)

Midweek Advent 2: December 9, 2020

Text: Genesis 22:1-18 (Ram)

Midweek Advent 3: December 16, 2020

Text: Matt 3: 13-17 (Scallop Shell)

Come along with us, as we rediscover the beauty of Jesus birth by the telling of his family tree- in the Jesse Tree Advent series. The seed that was promised in the beginning in the book of Genesis is the beginning of the story of our Salvation.

LADIES AID

The Ladies began their first sewing of cancer pads since March 5th due to the Pandemic. It went very well with sewing in the gym – 2 persons to a table and all wearing masks. We will continue to sew as long as no further restrictions. It was great to be together again doing our mission project and enjoying our great fellowship. Instead of the Cancer Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast held annually at Ceruti’s in Ft. Wayne each year, there will be a drive thru at Cancer Services on Ludwig Rd December 4 to pick up your gift. Kathaleen will pick up the gifts for all 10 sewers to eliminate several in a vehicle.

A gift will be given to the Christmas Marketplace for the Concordia seminary students.

Due to the virus there will be no annual Ladies Aid Christmas Party this year. We will look forward to one next year!

SERVING WITH GLADNESS

THANKFUL FOR

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person. How long a minute is depends on which side of the bathroom door you're on.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?

Don't cry because it's over – smile because it happened.

We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird

names and all have learned to live in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.

I know God won't give me more than I can handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much.

You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.

UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

12/09/2020- Advent Worship Service with Holy Communion at 7PM

12/09/2020- Elder's Mtg at 8PM

12/15/2020- Board of Directors Mtg (Council Mtg) 7PM

12/16/2020- Advent Worship Service at 7PM

12/17/2020- Ladies Aid Sewing Grp 9AM

**12/20/2020- Congregational Christmas Worship Service with Holy
Communion 10:15 AM**

12/24/2020- Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion 7 PM

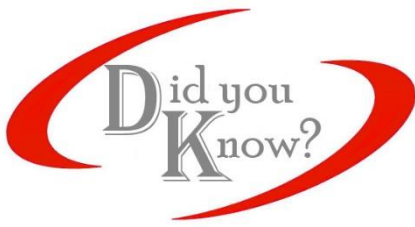
12/25/2020- Christmas Morning Worship with Holy Communion 9 AM

LÖÖKING AHEAD»»»»»

01/12/2020- Red Cross Blood Drive. Register online for a time

01/17/2020- Voter's Meeting after worship service 11:30am

01/22/2020- Red Cross Blood Drive. Register online for a time

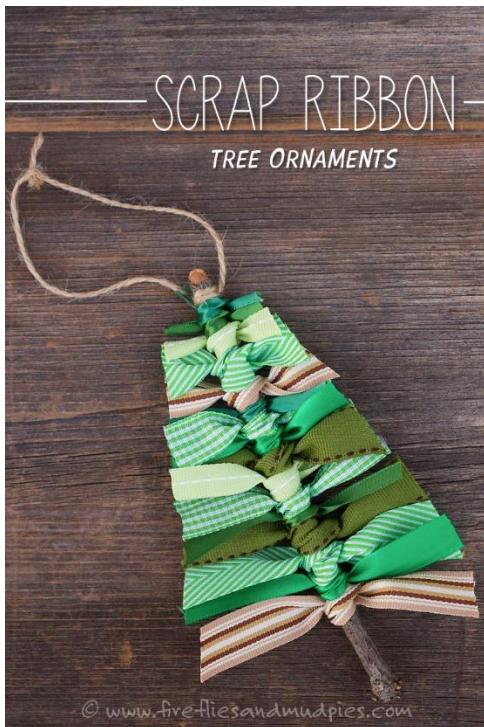


PowerPoint and Music – with Scott serving at Faith Lutheran, Churubusco, we will no longer have anyone other than Katie to run the PowerPoint during worship weekly. Also, if Katie is called away for Seminary business, there will be no one to run the computer with the music for worship. If anyone is interested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

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.

In April this year, construction began on a Solar Park here in Columbia City. It will be completed in early 2021. It will have the capacity to power over 600 homes in a year. If you want to see it, go to the Whitley Co. Senior Center across from Bones Theatre and you really cannot miss it!

DIY Scrap Ribbon Tree Ornaments



Materials Needed:

Straight Sticks or Cinnamon Sticks (6 inches long)
Scrap Ribbon (any pattern or color that you want)
Scissors, Twine, Hot Glue Gun, optional yellow button or sm rustic star, twig star etc.

1. Tie the scraps of ribbon down the twig/stick
2. Bunch up the ribbons close together. The ribbons will bend and slightly overlap. Gently tug them into place until you are satisfied with result.
3. Use sharp scissors to trim the ribbon scraps into shape of a Christmas tree.
4. If desired, melt the edges of the ribbon with a match to decrease fraying.
5. Hot Glue or tie a loop of twine to the top of the stick (tree)
6. If desired, top the tree with the yellow button, primitive star, metal star or wooden star
7. Your Scrap Ribbon Tree Ornament is complete and ready to hang in tree or give to friend.





Adalynn Branning
 Daniel Knuth
 Gretchen Grant
 Lindsey Lepper
 Sara Sawyer
 Wilmer Scheumann
 Kim Yann
 Donald Gilbert
 Janet Jackson



3 Zane Lepper
 6 Wilmer Scheumann
 6 Janet Jackson
 16 Justin Bachelder
 (18 Tonya Stanford)
 22 Rev. Phil Rittner
 25 Baby Jesus
 29 Donald Gilbert II



26 Donald & Judy Gilbert



Please remember in your daily prayers our Members in Nursing Homes and those at home:
 Sandra Barrett, John & Lois Duffy, Linda Hobkirk, Gene & Janice Klopfenstein, Maxine Lott, Bill Niedermeyer, Tim & Sandra Rueger, Willie & Karen Scheumann, Jeannine Slavicek, Jack & Joanne Lane, Ralph & Barbara Keiper, Lynn Kyler, Deaconess Katie Rittner and Steve Smith.

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



**Thursday @ 7:00 P.M
 at Church**










Office Hours are mostly 8:30am-12:30pm

December 2020



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

31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 	30 Pastor's Day Off	1	2 7pm - Worship Service	3 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp 7pm-Bible Study	4	5 Pastor's Day Off
6 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - Bd of Outreach	7 Pastor's Day Off	8	9 7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion 8pm - Elder's Mtg	10 7pm-Bible Study	11	12 Pastor's Day Off
13 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Education	14 Pastor's Day Off	15 7pm - Council Meeting	16 7pm - Worship Service Zealant Items Due	17 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp 7pm-Bible Study	18	19 Pastor's Day Off
20 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Congregation Christmas Celebration	21 Pastor's Day Off	22 	23 7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion 	24 7pm Candlelight Service 	25 9am Christmas Service 	26 Pastor's Day Off
27 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Youth	28 Pastor's Day Off	29	30 7pm - Worship Service	31 No Service 	1 No service 	2 Pastor's Day Off 