



THE ZION ZEALANT

Zion Lutheran Church, 101 E. North St., Columbia City, IN 46725

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★
JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS

Pastor's December 2014 Zealant Article

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Advent 2014 has begun! What a joyous time when we celebrate the birth of our dear Savior! Right off the bat...I want you all to be sure to join us for a wonderful worship celebration on Sunday, December 14th: our own Congregational Christmas Celebration! During the worship service that morning we'll share hymns, carols, and readings focusing on our Lord's birth and, well, pump one another up into the joyous spirit of the season!

At our last Voter's meeting, it was suggested I bring folks up to date on the Revitalization program we're undergoing. Listed below are the Prescriptions offered by the Revitalization team from the District for us here at Zion. Also noted in italics then are my comments as to where we're at with that particular item:

1. Cohesiveness in mission and ministry

A. The annual Planning Council as defined by the constitution shall determine this year's activity for September 2014 to August 2015, immediately. This meeting shall be called by the Chairman of the congregation.

B. All activities within the church must be approved by the Church Council and then presented to the Voter's Assembly for final approval as the congregation's constitution mandates. This procedure should be followed immediately.

C. Pastor Rittner will conduct leadership training for the congregational leaders by January 31, 2015.

**We have already sent to all boards and committees a blank calendar for 2015, asking everyone to fill out all activities for the year they have scheduled; we'll compile a "master calendar" for approval at the January 2015 Voter's Meeting. This will help greatly with our scheduling and planning for the entire year. I have also requested information regarding the leadership training portion of this Prescription – which our Church Council will begin in January of 2015.*

2. No known stated goals for the congregation

* The congregation will schedule a goal setting seminar to be led by Rev. Geoffrey L. Robinson for the purpose of helping congregational leadership develop short term and long term goals for the future. This will be scheduled by Pastor Rittner in consultation with his officers and Rev. Robinson. This must be scheduled by May 31, 2015.

**This we need to address, seriously. I personally have a short-term goal of beginning this right after the New Year.*

3. Congregational Outreach Efforts

A. Pastor Rittner will lead the congregation in an evangelism Bible Study starting in January, 2015 (Suggestions for appropriate material can be obtained from the Indiana District Outreach Office.)

B. The congregation will schedule a Building Bridges Seminar (personal evangelism instruction) to be held by April 18, 2015. (Contact the Outreach office of the Indiana District – LCMS for scheduling.)

**A resource book for this Bible Study (which we'll begin in the Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings on January 4th, 2015) has been purchased and all are invited to attend! The 'Seminar' has yet to be approached.*

4. Constitutional Improvements/organizational structure improvements

* The President of the congregation will with consultation with the Pastor appoint a constitution committee to review the constitution for possible revisions. The work of the constitution committee shall be presented to the Voter's Assembly for approval prior to submission to the Indiana District – LCMS constitution committee for approval. This shall be done by October 1, 2015.

(It is suggested to consider a model constitution as an example of how to structure the congregational constitution.)

**This we need to do. Back in our home parish, several years ago, I partook of helping to plan an update to our congregation's Constitution. It was indeed some work – not exhausting though – but upon completion they had a viable, workable, understandable and up-to-date Constitution for the congregation. Good Shepherd also had a great decrease in membership over the years as we have – and rewriting the Constitution not only made sense, but it brought the folks closer together as everyone had a better understanding of the church and her mission. Our Constitution here at Zion needs updating. I look forward to helping this endeavor shortly!*

5. Facility and usage

A. The Board of Trustees shall determine the cause of the musty and stagnant odor emanating from the basement of the church and recommend to the Church Council and the Voter's Assembly possible solutions. This recommendation must be given by December 31, 2014. **Our Trustees have begun looking into this item – and one item they have addressed is purchasing dehumidifiers for the basement.*

B. The President in consultation with the Pastor will appoint a task force (including representation from the youth of the congregation) to study the signage inside and outside the church. This task force will also recommend improved signage for the parking lot and the primary church entrance and other areas in the church. This shall be completed by July 31, 2015.

C. The Board of Education and the Board of Trustees will recommend to the Church Council a plan for a more effective way for usage of the basement area of the church. This shall be done by October 1, 2015.

**Items b. and c. have not yet been looked into as of this writing.*

There you have it, an update as to where we're at right now with the Revitalization. I'll again remind everyone that we've voted (unanimously!) approving to begin this Revitalization program. I do so remind you in the effort to stimulate and encourage each of you to pray for our church. Ask that God would continue to bless and preserve this mighty and wonderful congregation of saints and sinners here in Columbia City. Ask that The Lord would instill within each of us the strength and abilities to carry out that which He has asked us to do: distribute His Means of Grace: His Holy Word and Sacraments to all nations! Pray that your leadership here at Zion will be blessed in their work for Christ's Church; and that many will be enlivened and refreshed to enter into service of our Lord – that more of you will step forward and lend a hand here and there. And, by the sweet grace of our God almighty, we will share in the Light of Life, the love of God in His Son, even Jesus Christ our Lord!

See you in church!

Pastor Phil

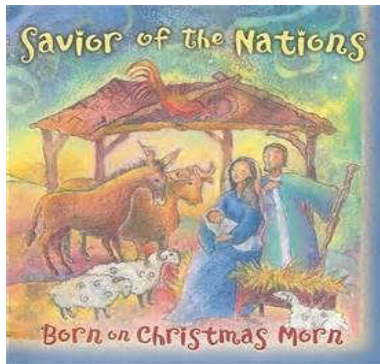
p.s. Joyous Advent and Christmas blessings to all!

Advent & Christmas Services



Wed. Evening Advent Services 7 pm

12/3 - 12/10 - 12/17



12/14 Sunday Service

Congregational Christmas Celebration

10:15 am



12/24

Christmas Eve

Service 7 pm



12/25

Christmas Day

Service 10:15 am

Church Council

The regularly scheduled Council Meeting that was to be held Tuesday, Nov 18, was cancelled due to conflicting schedules of a few members and to the cold weather.

All Council members were called, notified, and agreed to the decision. All topics and issues will be reserved for the next Council meeting to be held as scheduled for December 16th.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
LADIES AID ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

December 18, 2014

12:00 noon

At

**Tri Lakes Restaurant
CSR 9 at curve at Shriner Lake**

Bring a \$3-5 gift for gift exchange

**ALL LADIES INVITED
Enjoy food—fun—fellowship!**

**For reservations and more info
Call Kathaleen Reese 260-327-3911**

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting November 20, 2014

Four members and guests Peg Brooke and Linda Williams attended the 1 pm meeting. Vice President Marty Williams opened the meeting with prayer. A devotion "The Good Shepherd" from Portals of Prayer was read by Peg Brooke. The secretary's October minutes were approved. Joan Lane read her treasurer's report and it was accepted with a motion by Lois Duffy and 2nd by Maxine Lott.

Committees

11 quilts were delivered by Kathaleen Reese to the Lutheran World Relief truck on Oct. 15th. She also took 80 cancer pads to the N.E. Cancer Services and brought back 80 to sew. The Cancer Volunteer Breakfast will be held on December 5th.

Cheer

Joan Lane announced the Poinsettias are ready to pick up for the People to Remember Christmas gifts. Members volunteered to deliver the gifts after Dec. 1st. Joan read the Monetary Christmas Gift list and it was accepted with a motion by Marty Williams and 2nd by Maxine Lott. Also approved was \$20.00 donation for the Church Hall Christmas Tree Fund going to a local family as announced by Peg Brooke.

Election

Vice President Marty Williams and Treasurer Joan Lane both accepted to remain in office for the next two years and it was accepted by the Ladies Aid Group.

Dates to Remember

Christmas Party will be held at Hal's Tri-Lakes Restaurant on December 18th.

Valentine Bake Sale is February 8, 2015 after the Sunday service.

North Zone Rally is October 10, 2015 at Bethlehem Sub. Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and the meal prayer.

The meeting was followed with members creating Christmas cards with Linda Williams and Peg Brooke.

A fall theme table décor for fellowship time also brought Pumpkin Roll served by Marty Williams. Joan Lane won the table prize.

Submitted by Lois Duffy, Secretary

Sunday School Scoop

December 2014



The Congregational Christmas Celebration is December 14th during the 10:15 Worship Service. The theme "Savior of the Nations Comes," follows the Advent theme this year. There will be familiar Christmas carols, special music, a children's song and readings. Make it a family affair and celebrate the coming of the Christ Child!

The Winter Quarter Sunday School lessons for December are:

7th—"An Angel Visits Mary"

14th—"An Angel Visits Joseph"

21st—"The Birth of Jesus"

28th—"The Presentation of Jesus"

The Missions Project for November & December is supporting the Training of K-9 Comfort Dogs for LCMS Chaplains. Our total as of November 16th is \$57.46. The total for the Lighthouse was \$235.48.

S.S. Stats for October 2014:

Class Attendance

Primary—75% (Banner Class!)

Preteen & Jr. High—62.5%

Sr. High—41.7%



Our Shut-Ins

**If you would like to send them
a Christmas Card.**

Rita Smith
990 E. Hanna St.
Columbia City, IN 46725

Charles Stanley
413 N. Wolf Rd., Apt. 106
Columbia City, IN 46725

Pat Niedermeyer
The Oaks #123
411 N. Wolfe Rd.
Columbia City, IN 46725

Harriet Redman
1175 E. Luther Dr., Apt 16
Crown Point, IN 46307

Alberta Warnick
Peabody Home
400 W. 7th St.
North. Manchester, IN 46962

Dorothy Ummel
Renaissance Village
6050 S. 800-92
Ft. Wayne, IN 46814

Tim & Sandra Rueger
1283 W. Stone Ridge Dr.
Columbia City, IN 46725

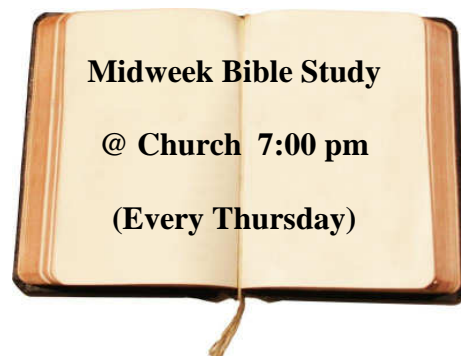
Linda Hobkirk
16 Linda Lane
Columbia City, IN 46725

Pastor Marvin Rastl
c/o Ron Rastl
2624 Santa Rosa Dr.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46805

Worship Service

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

WEDNESDAY
Worship—7:00 p.m.
w/Communion
2nd & 4th Wednesday



Dimes For Missions

Last January, Marti gave all the Ladies Aid-LWML members a “little red stocking sack” to be filled with dimes for missions. The total for a year amounts to \$7.80 to be brought to their Christmas Party on Dec. 18, 2014.

Anyone else who would like to participate can put their dimes in an envelope with your name. Put your envelope in the Ladies Aid Mite Box in the hallway opposite the mailboxes and a Thank You will be sent to you.

Christmas LWML - Though Christmas is far off we know it won't be shocking to put a dime into the toe of your LWML stocking. Since February is the second month you'll put in two you see. And when March comes along it will call for three. With April over, you will have four. Next comes the pleasant month of May, when you will add five more. Six dimes in June, seven in July and in August there will be eight. More going into the stocking, September is nine, October is ten. Eleven in November, December calls for twelve. Surely you will remember your stocking is full with seventy eight dimes in all. Or if you put a few more in we won't mind at all. Now bring your Christmas stocking, be sure you don't forget. To your regular LWML Christmas Party and make it your best one yet.





The following Shut-In Members, in Nursing Homes or those who are ill (hospital or at home): Sami Blomquist, Linda Hobkirk, Patricia Neidermeyer, Harriet Redman, Tim & Sandra Rueger, Michael Sexton, Rita Smith, Charles Stanley, Dorathy Ummel, Alberta Warnick and Pastor Marvin Rastl.

Those Serving in the Armed Force:

Jessie Contreras (Stateside),
Chris Decker (Stateside),
Alex Hart (deployed MEU),
Joshua Rittner (Stateside)
Matt Shoda (Stateside),
Jason Weatherly (Stateside)
Dayne Zielinski (Stateside)

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS
for

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

Christmas Flowers to Decorate the Sanctuary

If anyone would like to cheer up the sanctuary with flowers for Christmas, you're more than welcome to do so!! (Make sure your name are on them.)

It can be a potted plant or a cut flower arrangement. The choice is yours.

Please have them at church before December 21st and place them in the Library.

You may take them home anytime after Sunday, Dec. 25th Christmas Day!



To all my friends here at Zion:

Your acts of kindness and your continual prayers have been so appreciated this past year. Presently I am doing quite well.

Thank you and God Bless You!!!

Joan Lane



SERVING IN DECEMBER 2014

USHERS

7th—Mike Gerbers
14th—Willie Scheumann
21st—Ralph Sexton
28th—Steve Smith

ACOLYTES

7th—Nick Decker
14th—Ryan Bills
21st—Shianne Brooke
28th—Kyler Bills

GREETERS

7th—Laura Gerke
14th—Lois Duffy
21st—Pat Decker
28th—Kathaleen Reese

ALTAR GUILD

Verna & Betty

BLOOD PRESSURE

Monica Koldyke

POWERPOINT

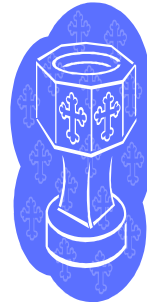
7th—Larry Haugk
14th—?
21st—Larry Haugk
28th—?

COFFEE HOUR

7th—?
14th—?
21st—?
28th—?

BIRTHDAY'S

2 Charles Stanley
6 Wilmer Scheumann
6 Janet Jackson
7 Brian Brooke
8 Richard Lane
10 Joshua Schneider
16 Justin Bachelder
17 Jason Gomez, Jr.
19 Cooper Steele
22 Rev. Phil Rittner
29 Donald Gilbert II



BAPTISMS

Tabitha Frick
Linda Gerbers
Daniel Knuth
Lydia Kyler
Julie Pressler
Gretchen Pressler
Lindsey Lepper
Sara Sawyer
Wilmer Scheumann
Bryan Sexton
Kami Wilburn
Kim Yann

ANNIVERSARIES

12 Kurt & Gayle Goshorn
26 Donald & Judy Gilbert

Rev. Phil Rittner - Cell Phone: 260-415-9078 (I text if you'd like!)

Home Phone: 244-3371 Email: revrittner@reagan.com

December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Pastor at Circuit Meeting	3 Advent Service 7:00 pm	4 Ladies Aid Sewing 9:00 am	5	6
7 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Bd. of Ed. 11:30 am	8	9	10 Advent Service 7:00 pm Elders	11 Bible Study 7 pm	12	13
14 S.S./Staff 9:00 am Worship Congregation Christmas Celebration 10:15 am Youth 11:30 am	15	16 Church Council 7 pm	17 Advent Service 7:00 pm	18 LWML Christmas Luncheon at Hal's Tri-Lakes	19	20
21 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	22 Zealant items due!	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7 pm	25 Christmas Day Service 10:15 am	26	27
28 S.S./Staff 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Trustees 11:30 am Blood Pressure 11:30 am	29	30	31 New Yea4r's Eve Service 7:00 pm			