

THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

Ah, February. Finally, a slowed – down month of the year where we get a chance to catch our breath after all the holidays. But not so within the church of Jesus! With the month of February upon us, we're not away much from bountiful and blessed gifts of God in our worship. One of our members recently remarked there's only 328 days, 11 hours, and 40 minutes until Christmas 2020! That is of this writing... We're never far from the blessings of our Lord. Neither would you want to be! Almighty God, being faithful and just, has promised to bless us with innumerable blessings, through the atoning work of His only Son, Jesus Christ, and through the ever-present works of the Holy Spirit.

During this month of February 2020, we're going to hear from God's Holy Word about our Savior Jesus being Presented at the Temple. How "**the righteous and devout man of Jerusalem**" (Luke 2:22 – 32) named Simeon knew he'd then lived long enough to see his salvation, albeit the Savior was but a little child. We still to this day sing Simeon's song of praise following our seeing and tasting of God's salvation for all peoples.

We're going to delve into Jesus's proclamation that you are the "**salt of the earth.**" For by your righteousness exceeds that of non-believers; and that because of Jesus, in the eyes of God Himself, you are pure, holy, and indeed worthy of being "**called great in the kingdom of heaven.**" (Matthew 5:17 – 20.)

On Sunday, February 16th, we'll hear more from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The Gospel assigned for this day is Matthew 5:21 – 37: our Lord preaching on the worthlessness of your anger. Jesus specifically says that whoever is angry at another in God's kingdom will be called "**You fool! [You] will be liable to the hell of fire.**" (Mt. 5: 22.) I'm guilty. So are you; being angry about this person or that person not doing something the way you want it done or whatever. Jesus then says, without "[Coming] to terms quickly with your accuser" or anyone angering you, you will be handed "**... over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.**" (Mt 5:25).

Finally, at the end of the month, we will celebrate The Transfiguration of Our Lord. Martin Luther wrote of this event in the earthly life of Jesus that,

"The resurrection of the dead and the future glory and brightness of our bodies are shown [by Christ.]. For this was something very remarkable, that Christ was transfigured while yet in the mortal body, which was subject to suffering."

(Luther's Explanatory Notes on the Gospels, 101.)

The appearance of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah were shining like the sun! It was glory they were seen in, and by the 3 disciples. (I myself, having stood upon the cliff near King Solomon's palace, overlooking the Jezreel Valley, or Armageddon, which is in Israel; and looking across the vast valley you can easily see Mount Tabor, a high mountain which stands by itself. And I wondered as I beheld such a beautiful sight, what must our Lord's Transfiguration have looked like from this vantage point? History holds people inhabited the spot I was standing during the time of Jesus, so what did they see that night? It had to be amazing!)

No, February isn't a dull, uneventful month of the year. Nor is it the only month we celebrate the love in/of our life. It's laden with incredible sights, sounds, wonders and mysteries of God! Come! Come hear of His mercies, which are new every morning! See you in church! Soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner

**Voter's Meeting
January 19, 2020**

Meeting called to order by Scott Woodhouse with seventeen (17) members present.

Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes: Christine Woodhouse made a motion to accept the December Voter's Meeting minutes printed in the January Zealant with no corrections. Pat Decker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Receiving Treasurer: reported by Chuck Cooper

	December 2019	YTD
Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 12,843.00	\$ 117,349.56
Restricted/ Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 342.84	\$ 110,494.24
Dividends	\$ 250.12	\$ 3,755.54
Interest	\$ 4.76	\$ 67.24
Total Receipts	\$ 13,440.72	\$ 231,666.58

Katie Rittner made a motion to accept the report as presented. Judy Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Disbursing Treasurer: reported by Chuck Cooper

Check/Savings	December 2019
General Checking/Savings	\$ 24,149.75
Youth	\$ 9,750.96
Restricted Funds	\$ 12,340.24
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$ 174,130.95

Statement of Activity

	December 2019	YTD
General Budget	\$ 4,945.58	\$ 17,455.75
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 17,455.75	\$ 94,203.75
Youth	\$ 1.49	\$ (3,399.57)
Net Revenue	\$ 5,208.09	\$ 108,259.93

Peggy Brooke made a motion to accept the report as presented. Barb Knuth seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Elders: Steve Smith

January 8, 2020 Meeting opened with prayer.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The following people were sent letters a while back about their lack of attendance or participation here at Zion. Having received no response back from them the Elders recommend the following members be removed from our membership rolls.

Mike and Linda Gerbers
Kurt and Gayle Goshhorn
Richard and Monica Koldyke
Drake Scheumann

Pastor Rittner advised that he spoke with Mike Gerbers who requested a peaceful release.

Pastor Rittner advised that Kurt and Gayle Goshhorn have advised they are attending another church near their home.

Pastor Rittner spoke with Richard Koldyke and Richard advised he and Monica have joined Grace Lutheran Church as members.

Pastor Rittner spoke with Karen and Willie Scheumann regarding Drake and they advised to go ahead and remove him from the membership rolls.

Steve Smith made a motion to remove Mike and Linda Gerbers, Kurt and Gayle Goshhorn, Richard and Monica Koldyke and Drake Scheumann. Katie Rittner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Phil Coons has agreed to be President and Stephen Smith secretary of the Elders for 2020.

Average attendance for December was:

Sundays	46
Advent	19
Christmas Eve	52 (fog)
Christmas Day	14

Meeting was closed with the Benediction.

Respectively submitted,
Stephen Smith (Sec.)

Trustees: Company for stained glass windows coming from Michigan on Friday, January 24, 2020 to give an estimate regarding window repairs.

Board of Education: No meeting.

Board of Christian Outreach:

Collecting non-perishable hygiene donations during the month of February (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene items, etc.)

Board of Stewardship:

Online giving is going very well. There are 7 set up with recurring gifts!

Board of Youth: No report

Pastor: Pastor Rittner

Our shut-in's are doing well except Martha Essex who is under hospice care.

John Duffy is in the hospital.

At the Winkles meeting in Avilla with the pastors from our circuit there was a presentation by Cross Connections (an RSO of the LC-MS). They are now accepting insurance.

Symposia will be at CTSFW this week and Pastor Rittner will be attending. He will be in and out of the office. Call him if you need him.

Unfinished/Old Business:

Constitution change from Church Council to Board of Directors with 7 elected, 2 at-large (not on any other committee) positions. Pastor will be only advisory – no voting rights, is ready for approval and submission to the Indiana District Office for approval.

Christine Woodhouse made a motion to accept the new constitution. Chuck Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried. The new Constitution will be transmitted to the Indiana District Office tomorrow morning (January 17, 2020).

New Business:

None

With no further business, Steve Smith made a motion to adjourn. Judy Gilbert seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor Rittner closed with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary

Sunday School SCOOP

Sunday School classes have begun making hand-made Valentine's for Zion's Shut-ins. Students enjoy this outreach project.

We celebrated Jesus' baptism, as well as Zion's members baptisms on January 12th. Refreshments were enjoyed after worship service. The baptismal chain adorned the sanctuary. New members names of 2019 were added.

A total of \$348.02 was collected for the Latin America Missions Board(L.A.M.B) during the months of November and December 2019. The project we are supporting for January and February is Evergreen Lutheran Church and School in Detroit, Michigan. We are supporting their ministry of a daycare and elementary school where God's love and grace is share with the children and community.

Sunday School STATS

Class Attendance: Catechism - 60% (banner class);
High School – 50%
Elementary – 20%

Weird Laws in Indiana

In Indiana, you are not permitted to take baths between the months of October and March

Moustaches are illegal if you tend to kiss others. You need to Pick Kissing or a moustache!

UPCOMING FEBRUARY EVENTS

February 11th Blood Drive – Gym

February 14th Valentines Day

February nonfood items (shampoo, soap, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.) to given to the local food pantries.

Our church now offers **Online Giving**, a web-based electronic contribution application. We are providing this service so that you have the option to manage your contributions online or with your offering envelopes. Our offering envelopes will have a check box which will indicate "I've given online," you can use them to present during offertory at worship. This will start with the April Offering Envelopes. In the meantime, if you want to present an envelope during the offering, you can write, "I've given online."

This service is safe and secure. And it is convenient for you. Sign up for Online Giving by visiting our church website at www.zionlutherancc.com and select the Online Giving link or **scan this QR code**.



FYI: Some of your offering envelopes have specific programs that if you use them, your offering will go to that program. (VBS, Maintenance, Cushions, etc.) If you don't want your offering to fund that program, then mark it out and write general offering or whatever program that you may want to fund.



SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

For anyone that has not been mentioned, but they may weigh heavy on our hearts... Lord, hear our prayers.

The Hearth at Sycamore Village
(Assisted Living): John & Lois Duffy

Those at home: Linda Hobkirk, Gene & Janice Klopfenstein, Dortha Marsh, Bill Niedermeyer, Maxine Lott, Tim & Sandra Rueger, John Meyers, Willie & Karen Scheumann, Jeannine Slavicek, Shane Hoffman, Lynn Kyler, Ralph & Barbra Kieper and Rhonda Freeman.

Those Serving in the Armed Forces: Joshua Rittner, Jason & Ashley Weatherly



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- 1 John Myers
- 8 Karen Scheumann
- 8 Melody Reese
- 9 Jack Lane
- 12 Ralph Kieper
- 15 Jeremy Grant
- 15 Tim Rueger
- 16 Terry Frick
- 21 Riley Coons
- 21 Verna Doehrman
- 21 Bryan Sexton
- 22 Regan Decker
- 23 Wyld Jean Cook
- 26 Erika Marin
- 26 Vicki Western
- 28 Alex Hart



Holy Baptism

- Eric Childs
- Ge'Onna Decker
- Christopher Decker
- Tracy Decker
- Caleb Decker
- Nicholas Decker
- Bradley Hart
- Summer Hart
- Jack Lane
- Dyllynn Lepper
- Melody Reese
- Spencer Rossow
- Sandy Rueger
- Tim Rueger
- Barb Lahrman
- Scott Woodhouse

Happy Anniversary

24 Sean & Ge'Onna Decker



Thursday @ 7:00 P.M

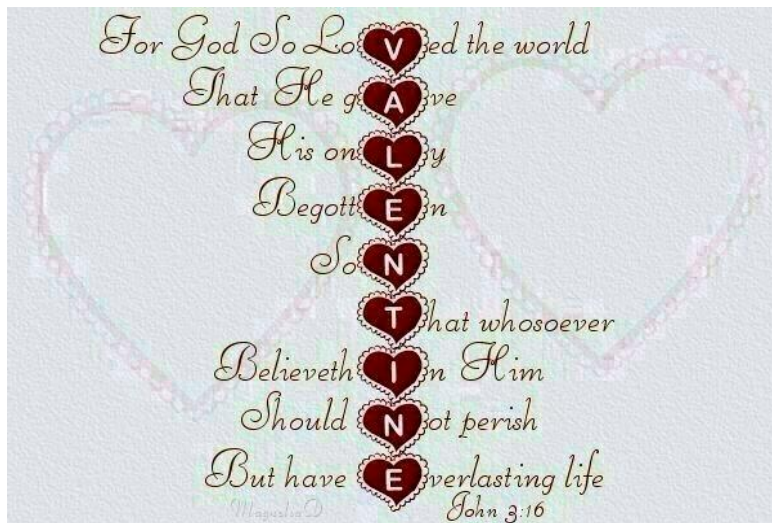
SERVING AT CHURCH

Ushers: 2nd Steve Smith
9th Ralph Sexton
16th Steve Smith
23rd Ralph Sexton

Greeters: 2nd Kathaleen Reese
9th
16th Pat Decker
23rd Peggy Brooke

Acolytes: 2nd Kirby Coons
9th Kaden Decker
16th Lily Lane
23rd Jacob Mullett

Altar Guild: Peggy Brooke



Worship Services

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 Wednesdays

The Disbursing Treasurer is not receiving voucher forms when things are ordered for use in the church with no indication who it was ordered for and why. Please fill out the forms and submit to the Disbursing Treasurers mailbox. Thanks

February 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service	27 Pastor's Day Off	28	29	30	31
2 S.S. Valentines 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - Bd of Outreach	3 Pastor's Day Off	4	5 7pm - Worship Service	6 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp 7pm-Bible Study	7
9 S.S. Valentines 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30 am Bd of Education	10 Pastor's Day Off	11 RED CROSS 	12 7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion 8pm - Elder's Mtg	13 7pm-Bible Study	14 Valentine's Day
16 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 7pm - Council Meeting	19 7pm - Worship Service Zealant items Due	20 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp 7pm-Bible Study	21
23 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Youth	24 Pastor's Day Off	25	26  ASH WEDNESDAY 7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion	27 7pm-Bible Study	28
1	2	Notes			

