



THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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Rev. Phil Rittner

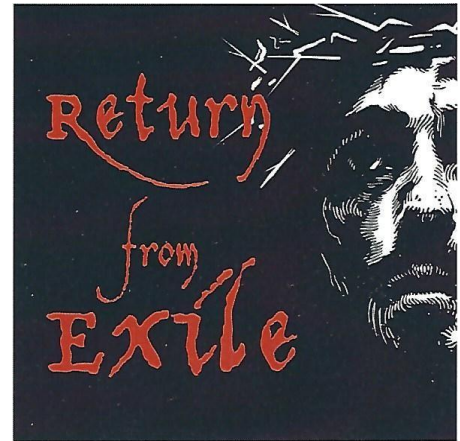
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Fellow Redeemed,

Here at Zion, once again we prepare to enter into the Lenten season as we journey through the Church Year. The Season of Lent begins this month of February 2018, with **Ash Wednesday** on the 14th we'll celebrate this wonderful day with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 7PM.

Lent, however, is its own kind of journey. Lent is the journey we make as we travel with Christ from the Mount of Transfiguration to Jerusalem where He will face the cross and the grave for our sakes. It is a very sobering trip, a journey that often struggles to find joy. But there is Easter!



This year our theme for our Lenten worship will focus upon the journey, but perhaps not in the way we usually walk it. Our overall theme will be **"Return from Exile: A Lenten Journey."** Much of what we'll be studying during this year's Season of Lent will be from a resource from Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Pulse from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, and published by CPH. Our Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings will follow this resource; as well as our mid week worship utilize portions of it too.

All journeys must have a starting point; and in the preaching and teaching this Lenten season, we will consider our starting point a land of exile. The land of exile from which we begin our journey is the wilderness of sin and death. Sin came into the world when our first parents were unfaithful and disobedient, eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve sinned, and we have inherited from them not only the sin itself, but also the result of that sin-separation from our Lord and God. From the first sin in the first garden, we have been exiled into the wilderness where we have wandered without any ability to find our way out.

This is the beginning of our journey: exile. But every journey also has a destination, an ending point. Our return from exile brings us into the promised land. Our relationship with our God is restored by Christ's sacrifice. Our destination, then, is the perfect place, the new garden, the courts of heaven- the ultimate destination which was established for us by His death and resurrection. There is great joy in the journey as we see where our returning brings us; but there is also a somber attitude when we consider what Christ faced on account of our sin.

All journeys consist of many events that take place between the journey's beginning and its end. Our Lenten journey is no different. Each leg of our Lenten journey begins in the Old Testament and then continues into the

New Testament, pointing us to the joy that is ours in Christ Jesus. Do not be surprised to discover that from the very beginning, yet outside the gates of the Garden of Eden, it is Christ who travels with us! He has always been our guide, from the very beginning, and He will journey with us to the very end. Indeed, He has even gone before us to prepare a heavenly dwelling place.

Life is full of journeys. Life itself is a journey. We enter this Lenten season contemplating the reality of our earthly journey but with eyes fixed on its destination-the empty tomb and the open gates of everlasting life. What joy there is in knowing that we do not walk this way alone!

My hope and prayer is that many of you will avail yourselves to this wonderful study, and participate in this journey during Lent.

See you in church!



Our 2018 Lent/Easter Celebration, entitled: **"Return From Exile"** will be as follows:

Ash Wednesday, February 14th: ***Heart to Heart: Sackcloth and Ashes to Robes of Righteousness*** – 7 pm

Midweek 1, Feb. 21st: ***Garden to Garden: Eden to Heaven*** – 7 pm

Midweek 2, Feb. 28th: ***Mountain to Mountain: Mount Moriah to Mount Zion*** – 7 pm

Midweek 3, March 7th: ***Out of Egypt: Through the Water*** – 7 pm

Midweek 4, Mar. 14th: ***Tree to Tree: The Tree of Life to the Cross*** – 7 pm

Midweek 5, Mar. 21st: ***Death to Resurrection: The Wilderness to the Promised Land*** – 7 pm

****No Wednesday Service on March 28th****

Maundy Thursday: ***Meal to Meal: The Passover to the Lord's Supper*** – 7 pm

Good Friday: ***Sin-Bearer to Sin-Bearer: The Day of Atonement to the Atonement*** – 7 pm

Easter Early Service: ***The Pit to the Pit: The Pit of Lions to the Tomb*** – 8 am

Easter Late Service: ***Welcome Home!*** – 10:15 am

Voter's Minutes

January 21, 2018

President Jared Wilkinson called the meeting to order with 20 members present. Pastor Rittner called the meeting to opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes: Kenny Knuth made a motion to accept the December 2017 minutes as printed in the Zealant, Larry Haguk 2nd the motion the motion passed. There is one correction to the minutes for the elders report as follows: it should read that a second letter was sent to people who have shown no interest in attending one of our services, not 2 letters were sent.

Receiving Treasurer: Chuck Cooper gave the report

Unrestricted Receipts	
December 2017	Year End 2017
\$8,746.00	\$ 92,120.56
Total Restricted/ Miscellaneous Receipts	
\$ 623.75	\$21,989.40
Dividends	
\$281.80	\$3,670.30
Interest	
\$ 2.65	\$ 19.56
Total Receipts	
\$9,654.20	\$ 117,799.82

Peg Brooke made a motion to accept the report as presented Joyce Reidt 2nd the motion, the motion passed.

Disbursing Treasurer: Jill Coons gave the report.

General Church Checking/Savings	
December 31, 2017	\$3,873.10
Youth Accounts:	
December 31, 2017	\$12,984.21
Total Restricted Funds:	
December 31, 2017	\$15,069.86
Lehmburg Legacy	
December 31, 2017	\$79,928.69
(Market value as of November 30, 2017 \$78,250.91)	

Net Revenue Year End:

General Budget	\$2,176.51
Non-Budgeted/Reimbursed	\$9,803.71
Youth	\$1,631.17
Total Net Revenue	\$13,611.39

Chuck Cooper made motion to accept the report as presented Steve Smith 2nd, the motion passed.

Elders: Steve Smith gave the report: There were no transfers. Ralph Brooke agreed to be Chairman of the committee for 2018, Steve Smith will remain Secretary. Duties of the elders here at Zion were reviewed.

Schedule for Lent:

Ash Wednesday February 14-(7p.m.)
Lenten Services February 21 & 28 (7pm)
March 7,14,21(7pm)
Maundy Thursday March 29 (7pm)
Good Friday March 30(7pm)
Easter Sunrise Service April 1 at 8am
Easter Breakfast 9 am **No Sunday School**

Blood Drive Dates: May 10, June 22, July 5, and August 30. Also, Life Line Screening June 5.

A letter was received thanking us for The Bible Stick Program.

Pastor will speak at Emmanuel Lutheran Church Fort Wayne on Sunday March 4. Rev. Dennis Geoff will fill in at Zion. He will lead Adult Bible Class with a topic concerning mental health and the church.

Zion will host Community Evangelism Canvassing again with Concordia Theological Seminary students and staff, St. John's Congregation, and Zion Members on Saturday April 21, 2018.

The New shut-in schedule is being prepared.

Average Attendance December 2017 (NO Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Services)
Sunday's 56 Midweek 10

Trustees: Dan Knuth: We are switching Insurance Companies from Guide One to Brotherhood Mutual. There will be a savings of Approx.\$300 a year.
The position of Church secretary is being filled by Kami Wilburn effective April 1, 2018. She will work alongside Cheryl a bit until then.
Dan is obtaining a quote for an electrician to wire the new ADA Door openers and also the pole barn, possible in the next two weeks.

Board of Education: Judy Gilbert: The board meet Jan 14, 2018.with six members present. Kenny Knuth lead the opening prayer.
Minutes: Approved

Sunday School Report: December 2017 Adult: 14 Students: 12
Sunday School Classes will be making Valentines for the shut-ins starting January 28.

Missions: We collected \$388.02 for the month of Nov/Dec for LCMS World Relief. Our mission project for Jan/Feb Will be Whitley County Energy Association.

Pastor: Adult Bible Class will start studying a Lenten theme February 18th.

Library: none

Old Business: Christmas program went well with a lot of positive comments made. Jesus Baptism was on January 7, 2018 it went well with good attendance. Installation of Church Officers was held January 14, 2018. VBS was discussed and also what kind of material to use.

New Business: A Sunday School procession was discussed for Palm Sunday. Barb Lahrman will continue as Board President, Judy Gilbert will remain as Secretary.

Board of Outreach: Peg Brooke: The Board of outreach meet with 6 members present. New Member Certificates will be given to Judy Kovac, and Barbara Wagner after service. Pastor announced that we will not be receiving a MEG grant this year to use for the Block Party. Discussion on ideas on how to raise monies for the party are in the works. Feb. 24 2018 Outreach is hosting progressive dinner party, we still need people to host appetizers, salads, and deserts see Kim, Monica or Peg for more information. The Board would like to thank Larry Haugk for his faithful service each Sunday doing the power point.

Stewardship: Jill Coons- The new tithing envelopes have arrived. We are still working on the on-line giving.

Board of Youth: Katie Rittner- The lock-in and cookies bake were cancelled due to weather. We are still looking into tobogganing before the season ends.

Pastor Report:

- We are in **Urgent** need of volunteers to operate power point during church services> See Pastor if interested.
- We also need volunteers to run music during service on Sunday mornings. Katie will begin traveling for the seminary several weekends in the coming months. See Pastor if interested.
- The Kendalville Circuit (which we are a part of) has elected a New Circuit Visitor Rev. David Easterday. He will installed at the Indiana convention in June.
- The Twenty-second Convention of The Indiana district of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will meet June 14-15 2018 at the Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne Indiana. Everyone is permitted to attend. If someone has a desire to be Zion's "Lay Delegate" Let Pastor know.
- The 67th National Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will be July 20-25 2019 in Tampa Fl. At the Tampa Convention Center. Our Circuit will soon be holding elections for Pastoral and Lay delegates. If you desire to represent the Kendalville Circuit please let Pastor know.
- There are several noteworthy happenings at Concordia Theological Seminary, especially for high school age students. Prayerfully consider a visit March 14-17 2018, also Phoebe Academy June 17-24 2018 for high school age women who might be interested in becoming a Deaconess. And also, Christ Academy June 17- 30, 2018 for young men interested in becoming a Pastor.

Services are also available daily at the seminary at 10 am at Kramer Chapel with sacrament on Wednesday and on feast days.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

With no other business Joyce Reidt made a motion to adjourn Pat Decker 2nd, the motion passed. Pastor closed with the benediction.

Respectively submitted Joyce Reidt (sec)





Sunday School classes will be creating Valentines at the beginning of class on January 28 and February 4. Let Kenny or Barb Knuth know if there is someone you would like to receive a Valentine packet.



Sunday School missions for January and February is supporting Whitley County Energy Assistance. This program helps families that are struggling to pay heating bills. Thank you for your offerings. Total collected for LCMS District Relief in Nov. & Dec. was \$388.02.

Sunday School Lessons for February:

- 4- "Paul and Timothy"
- 11- "Lydia"
- 18- "Paul and Silas in Prison"
- 25- "Paul sails for Rome"

Sunday School Stats for December 2017:

Class Attendance:

High School -45% (Banner Class)

3-way tie for second place with 40%- Preschool, Upper Elementary and Catechism classes.



Saturday, February 24, 2018

5:00 pm Appetizers/Salads

6:15 pm Main Dish

7:30 pm Desserts

YOU are invited
to a fun night with fellowship and food.

More information to come.

(We still need people to host the appetizers, salads, and Desserts: See Monic, Kim or Peg for more information.)

We are in **Urgent** need of volunteers to operate power point during church services>
See Pastor if interested.

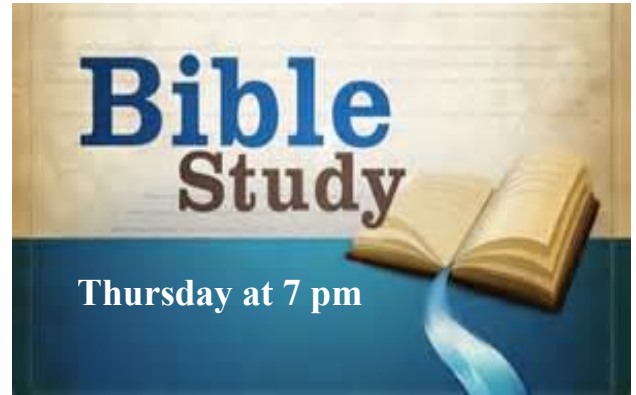
We also need volunteers to run music during service on Sunday mornings. Katie will begin traveling for the seminary several weekends in the coming months. See Pastor if interested.

CHURCH KEYS



Those members coming out of office must turn in their church key so that the incoming officers can have a key.

Please turn your key into the office. Thank you!



Church Closing Information: In the event bad weather strikes and we must cancel church services or activities: please tune to WOWO Radio or watch WANE-TV, channel 15 out of Fort Wayne for information about Zion having services or not. This has worked well in the past - but if you may still wonder whether or not we'll be here, feel free to call pastor!

Bible Trivia Questions:

1. In whose image was man created?
2. How many apostles did Jesus choose?
3. What are the wages of sin?
4. Who is the first mother mentioned in the Bible?
5. Who else, other than the wise men, came to visit Jesus when he was a small child?



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

1st & 3rd Sundays

WEDNESDAY

Worship—7:00 p.m.

w/Communion

2nd & 4th Wednesdays

Happy Valentine's Day!



FEBRUARY

SERVING AT CHURCH

Ushers

4th – Steve Smith
11th – Ralph Sexton
18th – Steve Smith
25th – Ralph Sexton

Acolytes

4th – Lily Lane
11th – Sam Mullett
18th – Hailey Braun
25th – Ethan Wilkinson

Greeters

4th – Kathaleen Reese
11th –
18th – Pat Decker
25th -

Altar Guild

Mary Sexton

BIRTHDAY'S



1 John Myers
3 Martha Essex
5 Shianne Brooke
8 Karen Scheumann
8 Melody Reese
9 Jack Lane
12 Ralph Kieper
15 Jeremy Grant
15 Tim Rueger
16 Terry Frick
19 Hailey Puckett
21 Trevor Braun
21 Riley Coons
21 Verna Doehrman
21 Bryan Sexton
22 Regan Decker
28 Alex Hart

BAPTISMS



Eric Childs
Ge'Onna Decker
Christopher Decker
Tracy Decker
Caleb Decker
Nicholas Decker
Bradley Hart
Summer Hart
Larry Haugk
Jack Lane
Melody Reese
Spencer Rossow
Sandy Rueger
Tim Rueger
Barb Lahrman
Jared Wilkinson
Scott Woodhouse

ANNIVERSARIES




24 Sean & Ge'Onna Decker

Did You Know This About Bartholomew?

- One of the twelve disciples.
- Son of Tolmai (Ploughman).
- Often identified as Nathaniel in John's Gospel.
- A close friend of the disciple Philip.
- Witnessed Jesus's Ascension.
- Present in the upper room on the day of Pentecost.
- Started and ministered to the early churches in the east.

FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Ladies Aid 9 am LWML 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm	2	3 Altar Guild 9:30 am Pastor's day off
4 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Outreach 11:30 am	5 Pastor's day off	6	7 Wed. Service 7 pm Elders	8 Bible Study 7 pm	9	10 Youth Ice Skating? Pastor's day off
Cheryl on vacation -----						
11 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bd. of Education 11:30 am	12 Pastor's day off	13 Council Meeting 7 pm	14 Ash Wed. Service 7 pm 	15 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am Bible Study 7 pm	16	17 Pastor's day off
18 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	19 Zealant Items Due!!! Pastor's day off	20	21 Lenten Service 7 pm	22 Bible Study 7 pm	23	24 Progressive Dinner 5 pm Pastor's day off
25 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Youth 11:30 am	26	27	28 Lenten Service 7 pm			

Answers to Bible Trivia:

1. God's
2. Twelve
3. Death
4. Eve
5. Shepherds

No items turned in:



Chris's Corner Ladies Aid