

February 2019

VOLUME 60

ISSUE 2



THE ZION ZEALANT

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February Zealant Pastor Article

By the time you get this Zealant, I will have preached a sermon on 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31. Doesn't mean it's any less important now. Matter of fact, as I write this article, I haven't yet finished said sermon. Oh, I've completed quite a bit of the exegetical work needed. I've looked at the original language (Greek); and I have read a few commentaries regarding what St. Paul said to the Corinthians in that letter.

But the sermon will contain wording like, "*we all belong to the one body of Christ...*" We do. As Paul says,

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many." (1 Co 12:12–14).

And it's that way with this congregation. Zion is ONE body; though made up of many members. Paul also says, **"If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body."** (1 Co 12:19–20). And then Paul finishes up this Epistle with these words,

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.” (1 Co 12:27–31).

Anyone besides me see the obvious connection to what the good St. Paul is saying being compared to our church here at Zion??? One of the commentaries I read said that even the **“weakest part is invaluable”!** Just because you’re too old to get up and scrape the eaves of the church needing paint doesn’t mean you still don’t have something “valuable” to contribute to the whole congregation! Even though she might only be in high school, doesn’t mean she doesn’t have anything to contribute of value to the way this or that in the church ought to be!

Paul gives the illustrations of various body parts complaining about not being another. Like, the eye isn’t an ear so it’s no good. Or, the foot saying if it’s not a hand it can’t belong to the body. WRONG! All parts, ALL members contribute to the body of this congregation!

My favorite verses of Paul’s in this reading come in verses 18 – 20: **“But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.”** Did you hear that? It is GOD who has arranged all the members...!!! Not me the pastor. Not the Church Council or the groups of ladies or the youth or even the parents. It is GOD who has called each of us to be an essential part of this body of Christ – this church.

So, then who excludes who from attending church? Who is it then who decides who gets to do what or serve here or work on that? Accordingly, it is God who calls one to any position, place, job, office, or any capacity within the church. That means should you have this little, maybe subliminal voice in the very back of your mind that you ought to be helping with things at church (let alone even attending church services!), it’s God Himself speaking and calling you to do things. These are those good works the Holy Spirit **“calls, gathers, and enlightens”** us to do in the body of Christ.

Are all called to be missionaries? No, they're not. Are all called to speak out publicly the salvation won by Christ for the whole world? No. No everyone isn't. But many do have capabilities, abilities, and wherewithal to contribute something to Christ's church!

We each have been made holy by the blood of Jesus. We have each received God's solemn promise of heaven – forever and ever! We have each (those who have been baptized, Catechized and Confirmed!) given our vow to adhere and support the faith, even unto death (!) rather than fall away from it. So why then do not our pews swell to overflowing on Sundays? Why then do our committees and council have despicable response to support the church in all her endeavors?

A few days before writing this article, the State of New York passed a new law enabling abortions anytime up to the moment of birth. How on earth did they succeed in doing this most horrible feat of murder to the least capable of defending themselves? Because time has come when too many calling themselves Christian sit idly by allowing immoral and devilish acts go by without guidance from God almighty. The body of Christ... the hands, the ears, the feet, and all its members are not working as effectively as God has so created them to work. Look again at what St. Peter says about you and who you are now:

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9–10).

It's not a 'soap-box' folks. It's real life in the Church of Jesus Christ.

I pray ever so intensely that I see you in church. Soon.

Pastor Phil Rittner

Voter's Meeting

January 27, 2019

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbia City, Indiana
Voter's Meeting January 27, 2019

Meeting called to order by Scott Woodhouse, President.
Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes: There was an error in the December Council Minutes as reported in the December 2018 Zealant. The correction is to the Restricted/Miscellaneous YTD amount of \$10,010.28. The correct Restricted/Miscellaneous YTD amount is \$10,010.38. Ralph Brooke made a motion to accept the December 2018 minutes printed in the December 2018 Zealant with the correction stated. Kim Yahn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Receiving Treasurer: Chuck Cooper

	December 2018	YTD
Unrestricted Receipts	\$11,942.76	\$ 93,862.23
Restricted/ Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 244.85	\$ 10,255.23
Dividends	\$ 309.42	\$ 3,767.70
Interest	\$ 6.61	\$ 37.60
Total Receipts	\$12,503.64	\$107,922.76

Joyce Reidt made a motion to accept the report as presented. Pat Decker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Disbursing Treasurer: Jill Coons

Check/Savings December 2018	
General Checking/Savings	\$ 5,411.30
Youth	\$13,125.53
Restricted Funds	\$18,583.86
Lehmburg Legacy	\$74,958.23 (market value at 11/30/2018 \$70,414.84)

Statement of Activity

	December 2018	YTD
General Budget	\$ 4,772.04	\$ 780.31
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$(3,876.45)	\$(713.62)
Youth	\$ 4.39	\$ 296.32
Net Revenue	\$ 899.98	\$ 363.01

Chuck Cooper made a motion to accept the report as presented. Peggy Brooke seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Elders: Steve Smith

No meeting January 2019.

Transfer: The Elders recommend Zion grant the request for transfer of Larry Hauck from Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbia City, Indiana to Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Steve Smith made the motion to transfer, Ralph Brooke seconded. The motion passed.

Transfer: The Elders recommend Zion accept Vicki Western through Affirmation of Faith into membership. Steve Smith made the motion to accept, Chuck Cooper seconded. The motion passed.

Average Attendance for December 2018:

Sunday	49
Mid-week	15 (Advent)
Christmas Eve	61
Christmas Day	9
New Year's Eve	0

Trustees: Jeremy Grant

Many projects have been accomplished (exterior cross re-mounted, corn dog trailer, main entrance signage, lights replaced, some of the emergency signage). There are still projects in process (water heater replacement, emergency signage). There are some projects upcoming and volunteers would be greatly appreciated (exterior repairs and painting, replacement of basement windows).

Peggy Brooke asked if it was possible to remove the handicap signs from the front parking lot and put them in the back since there is no handicap accessible entrance in the front of the church. A follow up question was if it is possible place signage directing to the handicap parking and entrance. Jeremy will follow up and check on requirements to stay in compliance with the county and help our visitors.

Board of Education: No meeting held

Board of Christian Outreach: No meeting held

Board of Stewardship: No meeting held

Board of Youth: No meeting held

Pastor: Pastor Rittner

- Has communicated with and/or seen all shut-ins. All are doing well.

- Pastor will be out of town February 23 – March 4.
- Receives many calls from companies. Lifetouch has been inquiring about doing a new pictorial directory. It has been seven years since the last one. Inquired if there is any interest in doing a new directory, there were many interested. Pastor will follow up with Lifetouch to get something set up.
- Pastor is wondering if there is any interest in learning one of the other Divine Services in our hymnal. If anyone is interested, please let him know.

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business:

Jill Coons thanked Jeremy Grant for the list of needs he provided and for the work that has been completed.

Jill Coons thanked Jerry Lahrman for the funds that he provides through the garage sales held at the church, so we are able to do the repairs needed to the church.

Jerry Lahrman stated the original and continued intention of the garage sales is to fund projects and repairs for the church.

Some discussion about the continuation of the garage sale; this will be discussed further in the Church Council meeting and will be brought to the voter's assembly of Zion in the near future.

Scott Woodhouse laid out his hopes and plans for transparency and his intention to meet with all boards and committees in order to gain a better understand what each does and to try to reach out and help revitalize some committees to get more people involved.

As a reminder, each committee and board has a file in the church secretary's office. Please keep it organized, up to date and purge any records no longer needed. This is a great source for information.

With no further business, Joyce Reidt made a motion to adjourn. Judy Gilbert seconded. The motion passed.

Pastor closed with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary



Lessons for February 2019:

February 3rd- "John Prepares the Way"

February 10th- "The Baptism of Jesus"

February 17th- "The Temptation of Jesus"

February 24th- "Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael"

SCOOP

February 2019

Sunday School students will participate in our Valentin outreach program on January 27th and February 3rd to be shared with Zion's shut-ins and friends.

Missions the total collected for November and December 2018 missions was \$253.57 for the Wittenburg German project supporting the Whitley County Energy Assistance program. Thank you for your generous offerings.

Sunday School STATS – December 2018

Class Attendance: Catechism Class 60% (Banner Class) Jr. High and High School- 55% Preschool- Upper Elementary –26.6%

Chris's Corner



If you find yourself ...periodically ... looking for great, short reads to ... digest..., your church library has the genuine ... (wait for it...) article.

There are a number of magazines available in the library for your perusal. *The Concordian* (Concordia Wisconsin), *Arbor Light* (Concordia, Ann Arbor), *Concordia Seminary* (Concordia, St. Louis), and *For the Life of the World* (Concordia, Fort Wayne) all provide a look at the faculty, students, and events happening at your LCMS Seminaries and universities. Might I suggest Dr. Peter J. Scaer's article "Formed in Christ for Public and Witness Service" (*For the Life of the World* Summer18)? In the article, Dr. Scaer helps the Lutheran reader to consider the current social climate and its potential impacts on the Church. All four magazines are also available at no cost online.

Lutherans Engage showcases evangelization efforts, from Belize, to Texas, to right in our own Columbia City! Open the Fall18 edition for "Finding Forgiveness," to see the local efforts of your Lutheran community working with the Whitley County jail ministry (and perhaps to see a familiar face or two). *Lutherans Engage* is also available at no cost at <https://engage.lcms.org>. Other periodicals of note include *The Lutheran Witness*, *The Lutheran Journal*, and *Lutheran's Woman's Quarterly* (the publication of the LWML that includes Bible studies). No subscription is required to check them out of your library!

Take the Time (not really, we don't carry Time...) erm... take the *opportunity* to check out these publications today!



Peabody Home (Memory Care):
Alberta Warnick

Brookdale (Assisted Living):
John & Lois Duffy

Those at home:

Tom Auer, Linda Hobkirk, Gene Klopfenstein, Dortha Marsh, Bill Niedermeyer, John Pullen, Tim & Sandra Rueger, Willie & Karen Scheumann, and Jeannine Slavicek.

Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

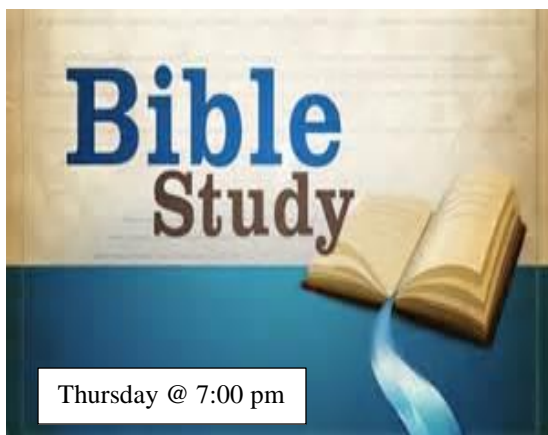
Joshua Rittner, Jason & Ashley Weatherly and Dayne Zielinski

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



February

SERVING AT CHURCH

Ushers

3rd- Ralph Sexton
10th- Steve Smith
17th- Ralph Sexton
24th- Steve Smith

Acolytes

3rd- Lily Lane
10th- Sam Mullett
17th- Hailey Braun
24th – Caleb Decker

Greeters

3rd- Kathaleen Reese
10th-
17th- Pat Decker
24th-

Altar Guild

BIRTHDAY'S



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

BAPTISMS



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

ANNIVERSARIES



February
24 Sean & Ge'Onna Decker



Bible Trivia Questions #1) How did Judas betray Christ? 2) Solomon judged wisely over the rightful mother of a child, but how did he determined who the child belonged to? 3) Whose Father was prepared to sacrifice him on an alter? 4) At the age of twelve, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. Where did his parents find him? 5) When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water; what did they think?

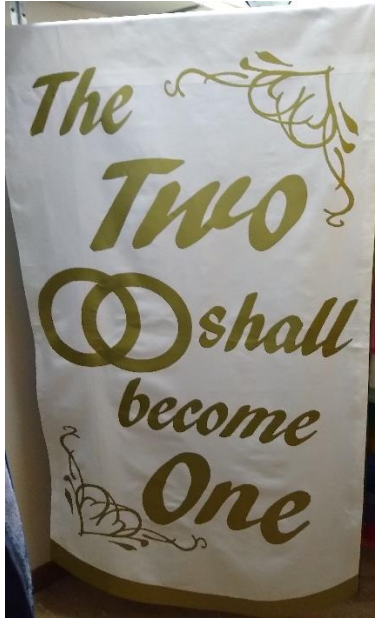
February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Altar Guild meeting Pastor's day off
3 9a.m. S.S.- create valentines Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Outreach 11:30 am	4 Pastor's day off	5	6 Wed. Service 7pm	7 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am Bible Study 7 pm	8	9 Pastor's day off -----
10 Make Valentine's during S.S. S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am 11:30 am Bd. of Education	11 Pastor's day off	12	13 Wed. Service 7 pm Elders Meeting after service	14 Happy Valentines Day! Bible Study 7 pm	15	16 Pastor's day off
17 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	18 Pastor's day off	19 Church Council 7pm	20 Wed. Service 7 pm	21 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am Zealant items are due! Bible Study 7 pm	22	23 Pastor's day off. Pastor will be out of town February 23 – March 4! ←→
24 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Youth 11:30 am	25 Pastor's day off	26	27 Wed. Service 7 pm	28 Bible Study 7 pm		→

Answers to Bible Trivia: 1) with a kiss (Luke 22:48) 2) Threatened to divide the child (with a sword) (1 Ki3:25) 3) Isaac (Gen. 22:9) 4) In the temple (Luke 2:42-46) 5) A ghost (Matt 14:6-8)



Thank you to Christine Woodhouse for designing and making the new wedding banner!
Zion Altar Guild



No items turned in:

