



THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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For God so lo**V**ed the world
That He g**A**ve
His on**L**y
Begott**E**n
So**N**
That whoever
Believes **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish
But have **E**verlasting life

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Jesus is my
Valentine!

Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the Name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ! It may be obvious to some that the great “holiday season” is now past; and its time to go on with living our everyday lives; but....

You know that we are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves us is never alone. That's because faith is a living, busy, and active thing. It inhales all of God's riches in Christ and exhales this in love and service to the neighbor. Jesus tells us: **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** (Mt 22:37–39, ESV)

But who is my neighbor? If you get right down to it God, in His mercy, has placed us into three distinct communities: society, family, and the church (*not just Zion!*). That means we have a duty to those around us in each of these communities. We pray often for the people in these three communities. We rejoice with them in times of joy and suffer with them in times of sadness. And we give to them from the income that God provides as we are able and as they have need.

So we pay taxes to our governments so that they may do the work that is needed for our neighbors in society. We give to our families so that they have food and clothing, house and home, even educations. And we give to our church—our local congregations—so that the gospel may be preached and the sacraments administered for us and others.

The beauty of this is that God smiles upon all that giving. When you pay your taxes, God is pleased that you have served your neighbor who needs what the government provides. When you provide for your family, God is pleased. That you have helped your neighbor with the necessities of life by sharing with them what He has given to you, God is pleased. And when you give to your local congregation to support the ongoing preaching of the gospel and the distribution of the Holy Sacraments, God is pleased. To all this giving, He says to you, **“Well done, my good and faithful servant.”**

Looking at giving in this light makes it a joy to give. The joy is multiplied. There is joy in you because you have served your neighbor in his need. There is joy in your neighbor for God has answered their prayers through you. And God rejoices and is pleased with it all. It might just make the humdrum of grocery shopping and mortgage payments a bit more joyous. It might even make April 15 tolerable (St. Paul had to have this pep talk with the Romans, also, **“This is why you pay taxes....”** Rom. 13:6). And it surely will make the envelope placed into the offering plate a joyful thing.

It has been the hope of those you have elected to serve on the Church Council you would notice in each week's bulletin that which is needed each week to meet our budget.

We have had difficulty doing so. Yea, it's unfortunate that we have to talk about our giving; about caring for our neighbor; and for the sharing of the Gospel message here in Columbia City – but yet Stewardship is an active and living reality in our church.

Indeed, God is pleased with you! You are saved by faith alone because of Jesus Christ. And that saving faith is never alone. It is busy and active. It serves the neighbor in society, family, and church with free and cheerful giving. If you were to count the number of times Jesus says “Go” in the Gospels, you'd see your faith is active and alive, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

See you in church!

Pastor Phil Rittner

LENT

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10th
Service @ 7:00 pm

Pastors do Round Robin

Feb. 17th
Pastor Yeager

Feb. 24th
Pastor Kuhlman

March 2nd
Pastor Mommens

March 9th
Pastor Winegarden

March 16th
Pastor Rittner

Voter's Assembly Minutes January 17, 2016

Kenny Knuth called the meeting to order due to Ralph Brooke having a health issue. Twenty four members were present.

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer.

Kenny noted an error in the church minutes. It should have read; Chuck Cooper instead of Church Cooper is the new Receiving Treasurer. Patsy Decker made the motion with Barb Knuth 2nd the motion to adjust the error. The motion passed.

Receiving Treasurers Report:

Chuck Cooper presented the report for the month of December.

Budgeted Receipts: \$7092.50

Non-budgeted Receipts: \$700.47

Total offering: \$7792.97

Dividend Income (Mar.-Nov.) \$1657.28

Interest: \$1.02

Total Receipts: \$9451.27

Katie Rittner made a motion to accept the report as submitted Kim Yann 2nd, the motion passed.

Dispersing Treasures Report:

Jill Coons presented the report for December.

Checking (Lake City): \$7092.50

Savings (Lake City) \$13,806.28

Joyful Response Checking: \$333.67

Lehmburg Legacy: \$68,241.51 value of funds as of November 30, 2015

Youth (District account): \$297.20

Youth Checking: \$926.22

Youth Savings: \$7862.61

Total Checking/Savings: \$94,260.62

Profit & Loss: Jan.-Dec. 2015 Income:

\$105,057.83 Expenses: \$89,405.40

Net Income: \$15,652.43

Other Income: \$5036.23

Other Expenses: \$9881.12

Total Net/Other Income: \$14,917.35

Total Net Income: \$735.08

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

Elders Report:

Steve Smith gave the report. No meeting. Pastor has asked for a realignment in his housing/salary due to taxes. The adjustment will be: Salary \$13,720.00 and Housing: \$24,000.00. There is NO budget change. Steve Smith made the motion to accept the changes, Kim Yann 2nd, motion passed.

Board of Youth:

Jill Coons reported that the New Years event was canceled due to lack of participation. Also discussed was a Saturday Cookie/Snack making day.

Board of Trustees:

Dan Knuth gave the report. The pole building is finished and the corndog wagon has been moved in. There will be an increase in insurance of approx. \$624.00 per year. Monies in the Lehmburg Legacy Fund were moved from high interest yield to fixed interest due to loss in value.

(Voter's minutes continued)

Board of Education:

Kenny Knuth gave the report. The board met January 19, 2016.

Sunday School December attendance: students 8 and adults 12.

Missions: Nov/Dec WLAB FM 88.3 Radio station total \$252.07 has been submitted. Jan/Feb will be Lighthouse Mission.

The board appointed Kenny Knuth as Sunday School Superintendent, Barb Knuth as assistant Superintendent.

The board is looking for someone to take over care of the library.

There were good comments on Congregational Christmas, the board is looking into doing a similar service for Palm Sunday.

VBS materials have been ordered.

Appointed of 2016 board members Judy Gilbert - Secretary and Barb Lahrman - Chairperson.

Year End Reports have been submitted for Board of Education and Sunday School.

Stewardship: No report.

Board of Outreach:

Kim Yann said the items collected during the Christmas season have been delivered. Joyce Reidt asked if collections could continue due to cuts in the Lighthouse funding. This will be looked into.

Pastor's Report:

Constitution has passed the Constitutional Committee and has been forwarded to the District Board.

There will be a Leadership Training Day for all Board and Council Members on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016 from 8:30am to Noon with Pastor Robinson.

There will also be a Building Bridges Seminar date to be set later.

Pastor will do the Ash Wednesday Service then we will "Round Robin" with the following Pastors conducting the other Wednesday Night Services.

Pastor Mommens St. John's Columbia City, Pastor Kuhlman Immanuel Avilla, Pastor Yeager Zion Garrett, and Pastor Winegarden Shepherd by the Lake Syracuse,.

Door signage for the Church is almost complete.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Kim Yann made a motion to adjourn with a 2nd by Steve Smith, motion passed.

Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectively Submitted Joyce Reidt (Sec.)

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

All officers and committee members of Zion (including Ladies Aid, Youth, Education, Pastor, Altar Guild, etc.) will meet with Rev. Robinson on Saturday, February 13th, beginning at 8:30 AM for the conclusion of the Goal Setting discussion per the Revitalization Program approved last year. We should finish around noon.

Winter Church Closing Information: In the event our weather turns bad, and we find the need to cancel our church activities - we invite you to check out WANE-TV, Channel 15 in Fort Wayne, and WOWO Radio for information about Zion's closings. We've entered into the age of automation with these resources, and it'll be quicker and better to notify everyone.

Of course, you are more than welcome to contact Pastor Phil (by Home/Cell/FaceBook/Text) for information or your concerns about whether or not we'll have church on any given day the weather appears iffy. Note, we'll also follow the general thinking of many others who plan to close the day before a significant storm may occur - so we'll make the cancellation notices the day or night before, as well as the morning of.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

February 2016

Sunday School classes will be making Valentines for Zion's shut-ins on January 31st and February 7th. This is a wonderful outreach ministry for our children to share Jesus' love with others.

A total of \$252.07 was collected for the Christian radio station WLAB 88.3 FM.

Jan/feb mission project is supporting The Lighthouse in Columbia City/. There is a donation box across from the mailboxes to collect health and hygiene products for the Lighthouse, also. See Kim Yann or Peg Brooke for more information.

Lessons for February:

- 7th—"John Prepares the Way"
- 14th—"The Baptism of Jesus"
- 21st—"The Temptation of Jesus"
- 28th—"Jesus Calls Philip and Nathaniel"

Sunday School Stats –December 2015:

Class Attendance:

Preteen—83.3%

Preschool—75% (Banner Class)

Junior High—66.7%

Ladies Aid/LWML Meeting January 23, 2016

Six members attended the 1 PM meeting. President Kathaleen Reese opened the meeting with a Prayer for the New Year. She and members continued with a Devotion taken from Psalm 95 which gave honor and praise to God.

President Reese led the Bible Study taken from the Winter 2015 LWML Quarterly entitled "How Great Thou Art." The hymn by Carl Boberg, a Swedish minister who wrote the poem he called "O Store God"- "O Mighty God." Several years later he heard his poem being sung to the tune of an old Swedish melody. It went forward then with an English Missionary Stuart Hine who modified it and expanded the words and music. It was on then to a Dr. J. Edward Orr in India

where the Naga Tribes People sang it. Dr. Orr took it to California to Tim Spencer who contacted Mr. Hine to have it published and recorded. Billy Graham's George Beverly Shea introduced the song first in Toronto, Canada, but then in 1957, it was sing again by George Beverly Shea 99 times for the Billy Graham NYC Crusade.

Bible passages were read by members to show the meanings of this hymn's verses. It showed the greatness of God to be awesome.

Awesome is used 30 times in the Bible—mostly in connection with God. Things God has done brought out his creation. (Members shared a favorite pae in God's creation). The great act of our Heavenly Father—who sent his son Jesus to die for our sins and there by his grace we have our salvation. Remembering our baptism, the sacraments and God's word we can keep the faith in the living hope God will take us home to heaven. A Christian Response should be to let God be exalted for his mighty acts when we make joyful music and songs. God's love is forever!

Business Meeting:

The secretary's November minutes were accepted as printed in the Zealant. Joan Lane read her treasurer's report and it was accepted with a motion by Lois Duffy and 2nd by Maxine Lott.

Correspondence:

Thank you letters were received for Christmas 2015 monetary gifts given by Lutheran Hour, LAMP, LAMB-Latin American Mission, Worship for Shut-ins, Lutheran Military Vets and Families, Concordia Seminary, Bethesda Lutheran Communities, Community Christmas and Lutheran World Relief.

Committees:

330 cancer pads were sewn in 2015. President Reese told about the special lunch and program at the Cancer Services Volunteer Breakfast attended by 9 of Zion's sewers. A "cool" lunch bag was given to each attending. Mission projects: Continuing stamps and labels, cancer pads, soap collection , and card tops for Passages. Will be choosing to work possibly for health kits, school kits and the Seminary needs at the Co-op.

(continued on next page)

(Ladies Aid continued)

Did You Know from the Internet:

President Reese read: “Your shoes are the 1st thing people subconsciously notice about you;” “Six people in the world look exactly like you, and there is a 9% chance you will meet them;” and “People who laugh a lot tend to be more healthy.”

Christmas Party 2015:

Nine attended the annual Christmas Party at Hal’s Tri-Lakes Restaurant on De. 20th. The theme of the party was “Bells.”

Dates to Remember:

3-Zone Spring Rally to be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne on April 16th.

Valentine Bake Sale:

To be held on Sunday the 14th of February. Please bring items to sell before or after the service.

The Ladies Aid:

Has chosen to stay as they always have, even though the membership is down to 6 or 7 attending. There are nine members.

Programs & Hostesses for 2016:

President Reese asked members to fill in the monthly meetings and most were filled in.

The Red Boot Mission:

Please continue this mission of adding the dimes according to each month’s number for the year.

Members read a special Closing Prayer for the New Year in unison to close the meeting.

Fellowship Time:

A “winter” theme for the table also brought platefuls of snacks, tiny cupcakes and cheesecakes served by President Reese and Marty Williams.

Submitted by Lois Duffy, Secretary



**Valentine
Candy / Bake Sale
by Ladies Aid—LWML**

**Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016
after service**

Monies go to Missions

**If anyone would like
to help donate items for
this project, bring to
kitchen Sat. or Sun. a.m.
and mark Ladies Aid.**

Thank You!!

~SUGGESTIONS~

**Pink Carmel Corn/Pop Corn
Pink Vanilla Fudge
Heart Shape Sugar Cookies
Cupcakes
Vanilla Chocolate Sprinkled
Pretzels
Pink/Red Rice Krispie Treats
Valentine Candy Kabobs
Cookies w/pink, white, red
M&M’s
Valentine Candy Cones
Valentine Trail Mix
Strawberry Oreo Valentine
Cookies**

**Look for other suggestions on
Pinterest**

**SPECIAL PRAYER
REQUESTS**
for

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



The Oaks:
Patricia Neidermeyer

Renaissance Village:
Dorothy Ummel

Peabody Home (Memory Care):
Alberta Warnick

North Ridge Village Nursing and Rehab Center:
Bob Gallmeyer

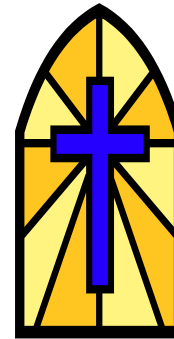
Summit City Nursing and Rehab:
John Duffy

The Cedars:
Max Cotner

Those at home:
Sami Blomquist, Linda Hobkirk, Jim Jackson,
Bill Neidermeyer, John Pullen, Wayne Reese,
Tim & Sandra Rueger, Willie & Karen Scheu-
mann, Jeannine Slavicek, and Michael Sexton

Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

Chris Decker, Alex Hart, Joshua
Rittner, Jason & Ashley Weatherly
and Dayne Zielinski



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 Wednesday



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

SERVING IN
FEBRUARY 2016

USHERS

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

ACOLYTES

7th—Kyler Bills
14th—Emma Mullett
21st—Ryan Bills
28th—Mason Knuth

GREETERS

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

ALTAR GUILD

Betty Wilkinson

BIRTHDAY'S

1 John Myers	13 Phyllis Myers
3 Martha Essex	15 Tim Rueger
5 Shianne Brooke	16 Terry Frick
7 Sarah Schneider	19 Hailey Puckett
8 Karen Scheumann	21 Verna Doehrman
8 Melody Reese	21 Bryan Sexton
9 Jason Huguenard	21 Riley Coons
9 Jack Lane	22 Regan Decker
12 Ralph Kieper	28 Alex Hart
	27 Mariah Adkins

BAPTISMS

Ge'Onna Decker	Summer Hart
Christopher Decker	Larry Haugk
Tracy Decker	Jack Lane
Caleb Decker	Melody Reese
Nicholas Decker	Sandy Rueger
Bradley Hart	Tim Rueger
	Cooper Steele


ANNIVERSARIES

24 Sean & Ge'Onna Decker



for
Thursday
Bible Study
7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2016

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							
7 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	8		9	10 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm Elders ✝	11 Bible Study 7 pm	12	13 All Officers & Committee Members meet 8:30 am w/Pastor Robinson
14 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bd. of Education 11:15 am Ladies Aid Bake Sale	15		16 Council 7 pm	17 Round Robin Lenten Service 7 pm	18 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am LWML 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm	19	20 Outreach 10 am
21 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	22 Zealant Items Due		23	24 Round Robin Lenten Service 7 pm	25 Bible Study 7 pm	26	27
28 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Outreach (event)	29						