



THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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Rev. Phil Rittner

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We've all heard that stewardship is giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. For God has given us everything we have and enjoy as we confess in the meaning to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. And what we confess first among those is that God gives us **"our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses."** Only then do we confess that he gives us material things. Thus the time, talents, and treasure the Holy Trinity places before our eyes is the fact that we're to give something of all of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have and indeed everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

The problem is, we replace one little word with another little word—when we replace the word and with the word or. When speaking of Stewardship, it's always written with the and, but when we read it, we read it with the or. Thus, this quite helpful trinity, which extolled that everything that we have and are is a gift from God, and which is to be pressed into the service of God in His church, turns into a trinity that we think we can pick and choose which of the trinity we use into the service of God. The giving of our time, talents, and treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, or treasure. Uughh.

Then... the questions arise: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasures? Or perhaps it is the other way around: Can we give our treasure and not of our time and our talents? How about, can I get away with just giving of my time? How about just loaning the church my talents...just this one time? Isn't 'stewardship' just pastor trying to fill the offering plate? And just how much are we "supposed" to give – of our time? Our talents? Our treasure?

These are all the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and our talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three! We're not supposed to pick and choose one or the other. *What's the right way to consider 'Stewardship'?* The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. They are all given to us – our time, talents, and our treasures

- and we are to press them all into God's service for the benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits, proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner: we sing in a choir, we help on a committee, we volunteer to help decorate, we help visit shut ins... Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things to us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, AND treasures as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings in which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasures to our families, our society, and to our church, our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price—with the holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything—His time, His talents, and His treasure,—to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love—time, talents, and treasures together.

See you in church, soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner

p.s. I share these notes on Stewardship for our Zealant newsletter, because, quite frankly, we have no one serving on our Board of Stewardship. We haven't since I've been here. Perhaps after prayer and careful meditation – someone from among the ranks would see that we do need a committee to help the saints of Zion Lutheran Church in Columbia City with Stewardship...

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. '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 or Text) for information or your concerns about whether or not we'll have church on any given day the weather appears iffy. 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.

Chuck Cooper made a motion to accept the report as presented and Peg Brooke 2nd, the motion passed.

Elders: Pastor Rittner gave report due to Steve Smith's absence.

Steve Smith agreed to be secretary for the coming year.

New Pastor/Elder visitation schedule has been drawn up for the first part of 2017.

A new visitor comment card was received, the couple stated they were impressed with the friendliness of our congregation, also they like the stained-glass windows, the use of overhead projector, and the guided singing (we had no organist that week).

Average Attendance for December 2016: Sundays: 50 (one service canceled), Mid-week: 20 (three Advent services), and Christmas Eve: 88

Meeting was closed with prayer.

Trustees: Dan Knuth.

Dan met with the insurance company, some increases were made. Theft increased to \$2100 from \$1500, Disappearance/destruction increased to \$25,000 from 5000. A total increase in insurance payment to \$122.20 from \$37.72.

Jim Mullet is working to get our existing fire extinguishers recertified, and extra extinguishers for the church as well as more smoke detectors and CO2 detectors. A map will be made as to where these are located.

Batteries need replacing in the Exit signs more information to come at next meeting.

A new copier is needed, Dan will get quotes. Katie Rittner made a motion to let the trustee replace the old copier due to necessity, Chuck Cooper 2nd, the motion passed.

Board of Education: Barb Knuth.

The board did not have a formal meeting in December but were in touch.

The Congregational Christmas Program scheduled for Dec. 18th was canceled due to inclement weather, it will be used for December 2017.

Sunday School made Christmas cards for Shut-ins, 18 packets were mailed, also the 14 military letters written by VBS students were mailed to Fort Wayne Veterans Hospital with Christmas wishes designed by Tommy Wilburn.

Jesus Baptism was celebrated January 8th, the Board provided fruit, muffins, juice, etc.

Upcoming events – Sunday School children will be making Valentines on January 29th and February 5th for Shut-ins.

The Board of Education is looking for someone to take care of the library, if you are interested contact Barb Lahrman or Pastor.

Sunday School States: November: Students 7 and Adults 14

 December: Students 8 and Adults 17

Missions: \$128.22 was collected for the Liberian Children's Ministry through New Life Church Ft. Wayne. Mission for January/February Whitley County Energy Assistance through the Whitley County Ministerial Assoc.

VBS will be in the evening this year with the theme "Mighty Fortress, In Jesus the Victory is Won." Dates to be announced.

Board of Outreach: Peg Brooke.

The board met Jan. 14th with 4 members. February will be friendship month, bring a friend to church. On Feb. 26th we will have a brunch following church.

The Block Party was discussed, a vote will be held at the next voters meeting as to whether we will continue this ministry.

Thank you to the youth for making cookies for coffee hour.

The board is asking everyone to give their stories of when or how God led you to Zion? A form will be in the bulletins and Zealant. Deadline will be Feb. 19th so we can type up all information and put it in a packet to give out on Friendship Sunday (2/26).

Youth: A meeting will be held after church Jan. 22nd. Bring ideas.

Stewardship: We need to put a Stewardship meeting together.

Pastor's Report:

Phyllis Myers has been moved to the Oaks. Dorothy Ummel is doing well at 98 years' young.

We are in need of a full-time organist.

Kathaleen Reese and others are no longer able to continue with our LWML. Kami Wilburn and Katie Rittner will take the reins, more to follow.

Unfinished Business:

Ralph Brooke asked for a motion to release Mike Gerbers from the Elders committee, Katie Rittner made the motion Chuck Cooper 2nd, the motion passed

Ralph Brooke asked for a motion to release Jared Wilkinson from his position, but remain as a counselor. Jill Coons made the motion and Barb Lahrman 2nd, the motion passed.

The nomination committee asked for a motion to accept Jared Wilkinson to the Elders committee, Barb Knuth made the motion and Kami Wilburn 2nd, the motion passed.

The committee also asked to accept Dave Weihe as Recording Secretary.

New Business:

Kim Yann made a motion asking for door special offering to help a Christian family who is behind in their rent, (2016 we did not adopt a family at Christmas.) Barb Lahrman 2nd, the motion assed.

Peg Brooke asked for a vote on whether or not to have a block party this will be tabled for 2-3 weeks.

Phil Coons made a motion to take \$2000 from the garage sale monies and placed into an emergency account, for unexpected need of funds (i.e.: projector repair, organ repair, etc.)

With no other business, Barb Lahrman made a motion to adjourn, Joyce Reidt 2nd, the motion passed.

We closed with prayer.

Respectively submitted Joyce Reidt (sec. of council)

CHURCH KEYS



Those members who are not in office must turn in their church key so that the incoming officers can have a key.

Plus, anyone who has a (gold) church key that is not on any committee must turn theirs in!

Make sure all keys are turned in to the office.

Ladies
Aid

HELP! The Ladies Aid need old sheets. They can be white, colored or printed. To be used for cancer pads.
Put in tub across from mailboxes. Thank you!



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

February 2017

Sunday School classes are making Valentines for Zion's Shut-ins and friends through February 5th during Sunday School. This is a great mailing ministry to brighten someone's day!



Mission money for January and February is supporting the Whitley county Energy Assistance Program. Many families struggle this time of year to meet their heating bills.

Lessons for February:

- 5th – “Jesus Calms a Storm”
- 12th – “Jesus Heals Jairus’ Daughter”
- 19th – “Jesus Walks on Water”
- 26th – “Jesus Heals a Blind Man”

Sunday School Stats – December 2016

Class Attendance: All classes had 50% attendance.
(There were only 2 Sundays of Sunday School in December)

Perfect Attendance: Zachary Wilburn

February is Friendship Month

Board of Outreach would like for you to give us your story or stories on how & when God led you to Zion. Was there a special person who invited you? Did you grow up at Zion? Tell us who influenced you in God's work. Then put them in Peg Brooke's mailbox by Feb. 19th. We will then type them up and put them in a booklet to be passed out on Friendship Sunday (Feb. 26th). We will also have a brunch after the service.

“When and How God led you to Zion?”

Please put this in Peg Brooke's mailbox by Feb. 19th.



The Oaks:
Patricia Neidermeyer

Renaissance Village:
Dorothy Ummel

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, Wayne Reese, Tim & Sandra Rueger, Willie & Karen Scheumann, and Jeannine Slavicek.

Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

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

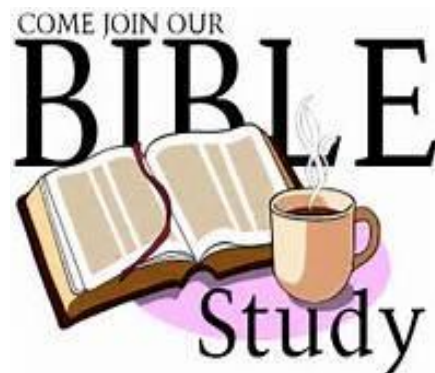
SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

For
Steve Smith, Judy Gilbert & Patsy Decker
Their sister Rita passed on Jan. 12th.
John Myers
His wife Phyllis passed on Jan. 17th.
. . . 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



Thursdays @ 7 p.m.

Bible Trivia Questions:

How many people did Jesus feed with five loaves of bread and two fish?

After Jesus was arrested, which apostle disowned him three times?

Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby?

Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body after the crucifixion?

FEBRUARY

SERVING AT CHURCH

Ushers

- 5th – Mike Gerbers
- 12th – Ralph Sexton
- 19th – Mike Gerbers
- 26th – Steve Smith

Acolytes

- 5th – Kyler Bills
- 12th – Zack Wilburn
- 19th – Hailey Braun
- 26th – Lily Lane

Greeters

- 5th – Kathaleen Reese
- 12th –
- 19th – Pat Decker
- 26th –

Altar Guild

?

BIRTHDAY'S



- 1 John Myers
- 3 Martha Essex
- 5 Shianne Brooke
- 8 Karen Scheumann
- 8 Melody Reese
- 9 Jason Huguenard
- 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
- 27 Mariah Adkins
- 28 Alex Hart

BAPTISMS



- Eric Childs
- Ge'Onna Decker
- Christopher Decker
- Tracy Decker
- Caleb Decker
- Nicholas Decker
- Bradley Hart
- Summer Hart
- Larry Haug
- Jack Lane
- Melody Reese
- Sandy Rueger
- Tim Rueger
- Cooper Steele
- Jared Wilkinson
- Scott Woodhouse

ANNIVERSARIES



- 24 Sean & Ge'Onna Decker

FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Wed. Eve. Service 7 pm	2 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am Bible Study 7 pm	3	4 Altar Guild 9:30 am
5 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Outreach 11:30 am	6	7	8 Wed. Eve. Service 7 pm Elders	9 Bible Study 7 pm	10	11
12 S.S. 9 am Worship 10:15 am Bd. of Ed. 11:30 am	13	14	15 Wed. Eve. Service 7 pm	16 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am Bible Study 7 pm	17	18
19 S.S. 9 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	20	21 Church Council 7 pm	22 Wed. Eve. Service 7 pm	23 Zealant Items Due Bible Study 7 pm	24	25
26 Transfiguration of our Lord S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Brunch after worship	27	28	March 1 st Ash Wed. Eve. Service 7 pm			

Answers to Bible Trivia:

About 5000 men

Peter

Simeon

Joseph of Arimathea

