



# THE ZION ZEALANT

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

Phone: 244-5513 E-Mail: [zionccdq@embarqmail.com](mailto:zionccdq@embarqmail.com)

Web Page: <http://www.zionlutherancc.com/index.html>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ZionColumbiaCity](http://www.facebook.com/ZionColumbiaCity)

Cell Phone: 260-415-9078 (I text if you'd like!)

Email: [revrittner@reagan.com](mailto:revrittner@reagan.com)

## *Greetings in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!*

The Lord spoke to Isaiah saying, **“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”** (Is 43:18–19). St. Paul said to the Corinthians, **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”** (2 Co 5:17). Psalm 34:8 says, **“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”** And, in his Revelation, St. John heard **“... he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”** Also he said, **“Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”** (Rev. 21:5.)

It is a New Year, just as it has been a new year for each of Christ’s believers since Him who died for you rose from the dead that glorious Easter morn! But even earlier than that, when Jesus was beginning His ministry, St. Luke said Jesus **“... lifted up his eyes on his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.”** (Lk 6:20–23). You are among Christ’s disciples. Each of you. The true joy of the creation of all new things come through our Savior.

Katie and I rejoice with all of you gathering here at Zion Lutheran Church in Columbia City... for all the wonderful benefits we each receive from God in His Holy Word and His blessed Sacraments.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Phil Rittner

# Church Council Meeting

## December 17, 2019

Meeting called to order by Scott Woodhouse with six (6) members present.  
Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with prayer.

**Minutes:** Steve Smith made a motion to accept the November Voter's Meeting minutes printed in the December Zealant with the following correction: *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.* Pastor Rittner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Receiving Treasurer:** reported by Chuck Cooper

	November 2019	YTD
Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 10,169.00	\$ 104,506.56
Restricted/ Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 798.54	\$ 110,151.40
Dividends	\$ 360.24	\$ 3,505.42
Interest	<u>\$ 11.08</u>	<u>\$ 62.48</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 11,338.86	\$ 218,225.86

Steve Smith made a motion to accept the report as presented. Pastor Rittner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Disbursing Treasurer:** reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings	November 2019
General Checking/Savings	\$ 19,333.07
Youth	\$ 9,749.47
Restricted Funds	\$ 12,189.36
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$ 173,963.81

### Statement of Activity

	November 2019	YTD
General Budget	\$ 1,031.95	\$ 12,485.17
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 1,013.43	\$ 93,942.73
Youth	<u>\$ .24</u>	<u>\$ (3,401.06)</u>
Net Revenue	\$ 2,045.62	\$ 103,026.84

Chuck Cooper made a motion to accept the report as presented. Steve Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Elders:** Steve Smith

December 11, 2019 Meeting opened with prayer.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

Discussed congregational help with the readings during our morning worship service.

Discussed using the services of Prayer and Preaching and Responsive Prayer located in our Lutheran Service Book (hymnal) during our Wednesday worship service.

Pastor discussed his last circuit meeting that was held in Corunna.

Discussed if any response was received from the letters that was sent out to some of our delinquent members.

Red Cross will be at Zion on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Average attendance for November was:

Sundays	49
Mid-week	11

Meeting was closed with the Benediction.

Respectively submitted,  
Stephen Smith (Sec.)

**Trustees:** No report received.

**Board of Education:** No report received.

**Board of Christian Outreach:** No report

**Board of Stewardship:**

Online giving is going very well!

**Board of Youth:**

Dodgeball game was a HUGE success! Corndogs were served and circuit youth brought desserts to share.

**Pastor:** Pastor Rittner

1. We need to vote on a proposed Constitutional Amendment to the LC-MS. The church council can vote (yea/nay) for our vote to be sent into the Synodical Office in St. Louis.

Katie Rittner made a motion to accept the LC-MS Synodical Constitutional Amendment. Chuck Cooper seconded. The motion passed. The Constitutional Amendment was approved for the LC-MS Synodical Office.

2. We need to file the paperwork establishing Zion's Lay Delegate to the Lutheran Life Villages. This item needs to be mailed tomorrow.

Much like our delegate to Lutheran Foundation, this is a voluntary position and currently we have no one in the position.

3. Mennonite Mutual Church Insurance came by and offered a free inspection and quote, claiming they can normally beat other national insurance companies. Perhaps we take a look?

After brief discussion, it was decided to stay with Brotherhood Mutual (our current provider) as our rates have not increased. Plus, with it being a local company with nationwide coverage, it is believed there is better assets available in case of need.

4. Council should consider giving away our playground equipment or tearing it down and disposing of it; as any insurance company will now require considerable investment of funds (approx. \$12,000-\$15,000) to bring it up to 'code'. Pastor has someone who will disassemble it and remove it for free....

Steve Smith made a motion to remove the playground equipment and the liability from the church grounds. Chuck Cooper seconded the motion. The motion was passed. The interested party will be contacted to remove it as soon as possible weather permitting.

5. We need to move forward with the proposed new Constitution for Zion. After January first, we'll have no one in the position to sign legally for the church. The recent meeting to discuss the proposal had few questions, but overall those attending suggested passage of the new Constitution and form of church governance (Board of Directors model).

The new Constitution will be presented for a vote at the January 19, 2020, Voter's Meeting.

6. Our Vicarage Application is about ready to turn into the Indiana District LC-MS. Any last questions for pastor and our president before sending it in?

With no questions, the final will be signed and turned in next week.

**Unfinished/Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

With no further business, Katie Rittner made a motion to adjourn. Jill Coons seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor Rittner closed with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary

---

## **LADIES AID**

December has been a busy month for our group. We sent Christmas cards and gifts to Zions' sick and our shut ins.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, our sewing group attended the Cancer Services of N.E IN Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at Ceruti's in Ft. Wayne. It is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cancer Services of N.E. IN, and each volunteer in attendance was given an umbrella with the cancer logo on it. The different groups of volunteers were recognized, and Zion was honored with sewing our 10,000-cancer bed pad. An interesting history of the 75 years of the organization was given, and we were entertained with the Apple Jack Cloggers.

Our annual Ladies Aid Christmas party was held on December 19<sup>th</sup> at Tri Lakes Restaurant with 17 in attendance from Zion, Living Waters, South Whitley, and Columbia City. We were entertained by Kathaleen with some Christmas Trivia and she read a humorous take on the 12 Days of Christmas. She told how this strange carol came into being. From 1558 to 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly, so someone wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. The hidden meaning was known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol had a code word for religious reality, which the children could remember such as the partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments. The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and so on through the twelve drummers drumming symbolizing the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

Some interesting items about the Snowman, a beloved symbol of Christmas was given. The different parts of it stood for various religious significance such as the circular balls represent God's everlasting Love, the white snow stands for purity of souls filled with God's Grace, the scarf suggests the warmth of God's tender care. The top hat reminds us always to keep faith our top priority. The carrot, broom, pieces of coal, twigs for arms all have a religious significance.

The group enjoyed a gift exchange with a snowman attached to each gift, and each person present received a special gift made by Linda Williams. A great time was held by all, and the party ended with all saying a special closing Christmas prayer. We were surprised and elated to see Peg Brooke who took time off work to come to the party as she has attended nearly every party we've had through the years.

# Sunday School SCOOP

Zion's Sunday School sent out 18 Christmas cards to members and friends of Zion who are not always able to attend worship. Thank you to all who signed the cards.

January 2020 celebrates Jesus's Baptism on Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Christian Education will provide refreshments after worship service on the 12<sup>th</sup> in recognition of our Saviors baptism as well as Zion's members' baptisms. Our baptismal chain will be hung in the sanctuary the month of January. Take a few moments to find your name on the chain links.

September and October mission collection supported Columbia City Interfaith Lighthouse mission. Thank you for your support. We collected \$241.96. We are collection for the months of November and December for the Latin American Mission Board (L.A.M.B). As of December 15<sup>th</sup>, you have donated \$252.57! Thank you!

Thank you for your donations for the children's treat bags at the congregational Christmas Celebration and to Patsy Decker for preparing them!

## **Sunday School STATS (November 2019)**

Class attendance: Catechism-50% (Banner Class)

Elementary-37%

High School-25%

Sunday School Pins: Gilliana Knuth- 2year pin!

---

## **Random Fun Facts**

In 2011, Russia passed a law that finally acknowledged beer as an alcoholic beverage. Until the bill came into force in 2013, anything below 10% volume of alcohol was considered foodstuff, quintessentially a soft drink like Coca Cola.

---

A natural gas vent in Iraq known as The Eternal Fire has been burning continuously for over 4,000 years, and is mentioned by Herodotus, Plutarch, and in the Old Testament's Book of Daniel.

---

## UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS

---

**January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020** –In recognition of our Saviors baptism as well as Zion’s members’ baptisms, refreshments will be served following the worship service. January 12<sup>th</sup> celebrates Jesus’s Baptism.

**January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – **VOTER’S MEETING** following worship on this day. Plan on staying to learn about the plans for the church and then vote on the plans. It’s important to come to these meetings.



### 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: Martha Essex, 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



2 Mason Knuth  
4 Christopher Decker  
4 Levi Hartman  
6 Caleb Decker  
7 Phil Coons  
11 Trenton Pease  
12 Maddox Lahrman  
13 Dyllynn Lepper  
15 Spencer Rossow  
16 Bradley Hart  
17 Sandy Barrett  
17 Sandra Rueger  
19 Belinda Peppler  
24 Scott Woodhouse  
30 Mathieu Hartman

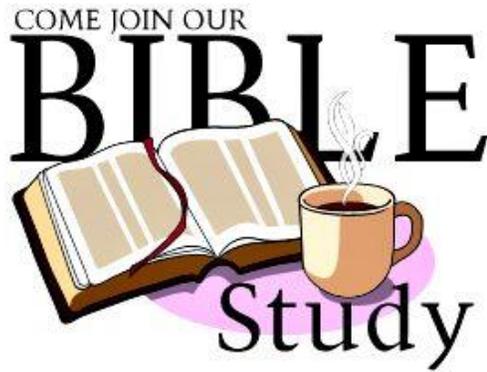
Happy Anniversary

3 Jack & Joan Lane



Justin Bachelder  
Linda Hobkirk  
Zane Lepper

COME JOIN OUR  
**BIBLE**  
Study



Thursday @ 7:00 P.M

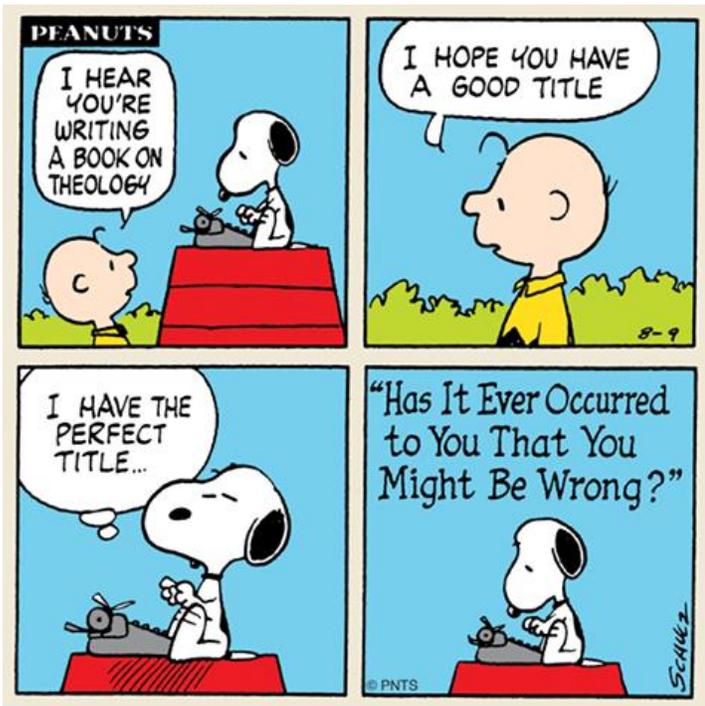
**SERVING AT CHURCH**

**Ushers:** 5<sup>th</sup> Steve Smith  
12<sup>th</sup> Ralph Sexton  
19<sup>th</sup> Steve Smith  
26<sup>th</sup> Ralph Sexton

**Greeters:** 5<sup>th</sup> Kathaleen Reese  
12<sup>th</sup>  
19<sup>th</sup> Pat Decker  
26<sup>th</sup> Peggy Brooke

**Acolytes:** 5<sup>th</sup> Lily Lane  
12<sup>th</sup> Kaden Decker  
19<sup>th</sup> Kirby Coons  
26<sup>th</sup> Jacob Mullett

**Altar Guild:** Verna Doehrman



**Worship Services**

**SUNDAY**

Sunday School—9:00 a.m.  
Worship—10:15 a.m.  
w/Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

**WEDNESDAY**

Worship—7:00 p.m.  
w/Communion  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

# January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 Pastor's Day Off	31	1 No Service Tonight	2 9am Ladies Aid Sewing 7pm-Bible Study	3	4 Pastor's Day Off
5 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - Bd of Outreach	6 Pastor's Day Off	7	8 7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion 8pm - Elder's Mtg	9 7pm-Bible Study	10	11 Pastor's Day Off
12 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Education <b>JESUS BAPTISM</b> Refreshments after service	13 Pastor's Day Off	14	15 7pm - Worship Service  Zealant Items Due	16 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp 7pm-Bible Study	17	18 Pastor's Day Off
19 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - VOTER's MTG	20 Pastor's Day Off	21	22 7pm Worship Service with Holy Communion	23 7pm-Bible Study	24	25 Pastor's Day Off
26 9am - Sunday School  10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Youth Mtg	27 Pastor's Day Off	28	29 7pm - Worship Service	30 7pm-Bible Study	31	1