



THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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PASTOR's Corner

Here in January, we're still within the Church Season of Christmas. During this past Advent, I had been asked by someone, "what ever happened to Joseph, Mary's husband?" Well, the Bible doesn't really say, but... Joseph does play an important role in the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Joseph is sometimes called the "forgotten man of the Christmas story." He tends to get lost in the story because of Mary, Jesus, the angels, the shepherds, the magi, and so many others. But Joseph is a very important character in the Christmas story. He carries out his role so well that he brings a beautiful harmony to the entire narrative.

Leonard Bernstein, the famous conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, was once asked which instrument was the most difficult to play. He immediately replied, "The second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find someone who can play second fiddle with enthusiasm --- that's a problem. And if we have no second fiddle, we have no harmony."

To me, Joseph plays the role of second fiddle in the Christmas story ... and he does it, perhaps not with enthusiasm, but with determination. He does it well.

After Mary had been visited by the angel and was told that she had found favor with God and that she was with child by the Holy Spirit, she returned to Nazareth and it was there that she began to show her pregnancy. Joseph must have been crushed. His beloved Mary --- pregnant! By whom had she become pregnant? must have been ringing through his mind. Of course, Mary knew that she was "**with child from the Holy Spirit.**" But as much as she tried to explain it to Joseph, he just could not understand. And truly, how could he?

Everything we learn about Joseph tells us that he was a devout man of God. Just as Mary loved God, so did Joseph. He must have had a wholehearted relationship with God. So, "**being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, he resolved to divorce her quietly.**" He knew this child was not his. He did not know whose child it was. But he did not want Mary to be disgraced. Even though he could have taken her to court and profited by divorcing her publicly or could have insisted that his dowry be returned to him, instead he resolved to divorce her quietly. This is justice tempered with mercy.

We could not blame Joseph if he felt taken advantage of or used or forgotten. After all, Mary claimed to have seen an angel. She claimed that she was with child by the Holy Spirit, whatever that meant. And she claimed that her cousin Elizabeth was also pregnant in her old age after her husband, Zechariah, had been told it would happen.

But there is no record of Joseph complaining at all. In fact, Matthew records that **"as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'"** [Matthew 1:20-21].

God never forgot Joseph. As Joseph continued to demonstrate righteousness and complete devotion to God, now was the time for God to reveal to him the part that he was going to play in the life of His Son, Jesus. God affirmed that Mary was indeed pregnant by the Holy Spirit, and that she would bear a son, whose name would be Jesus."

Joseph had continued to love, serve and worship God and God remembered him and chose him to be the earthly father of Jesus. Joseph, the quiet but strong carpenter, would be the guiding hand that would equip and prepare the Son of God for His earthly ministry. Joseph's faithful service to God was not forgotten.

So, Joseph, the forgotten man of the Christmas story, became second fiddle and also a wonderful example of trusting the Lord in every circumstance of life. Though he initially had no clue about all that was happening to Mary and Elizabeth and Zechariah, he trusted God. When the angel came to Joseph in a dream, things looked dark and dismal. But God had a plan for his loving, faithful, trusting servant. He was working behind the scenes.

No matter where you find yourself today, you can believe that **"all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose"** [Romans 8:28].

See you in Church, soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner

(Parts of this article is from a dear, dear friend of Katie and I's – Pastor Rick, who also married us!)



Church Council Meeting

December 15, 2020

Meeting called to order by Scott Woodhouse with ten (10) members and one (1) guest present.

Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with a reading from the Book of Revelation and prayer

Minutes: Kim Yann made a motion to accept the September minutes printed in the October Zealant with no corrections. Katie Rittner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Receiving Treasurer: reported by Chuck Cooper

	October 2020	YTD
Unrestricted Offering Receipts	\$ 5,951.00	\$ 70,374.50
Restricted Offering/ Miscellaneous Offering Receipts	\$ 216.00	\$ 13,095.94
On-Line Giving Receipts	\$ 2,004.00	\$ 24,577.00
Dividends	\$ 274.15	\$ 5,271.36
Interest	\$ 2.04	\$ 25.29
Total Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 7,955.00	\$ 94,576.50
Total Restricted Receipts	\$ 216.00	\$ 13,470.94
Total Receipts	\$ 8,447.19	\$ 113,344.09

Kim Yann made a motion to accept the report as presented. Judy Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Disbursing Treasurer: reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings as of **October 31, 2020**

General Checking/Savings	\$ 47,923.03
Youth	\$ 9,620.49
Restricted Funds	\$ 11,656.53
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$178,893.78

Statement of Activity

	October 2020	YTD
General Budget	\$ 1,032.12	\$ 17,412.89
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ (498.93)	\$ 10,258.31
Youth	\$.06	\$ (130.47)
Net Revenue	\$ 533.25	\$ 27,540.73

Kim Yann made a motion to accept the report as presented. Chuck Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Receiving Treasurer: reported by Chuck Cooper

	November 2020	YTD
Unrestricted Offering Receipts	\$ 10,461.00	\$ 80,835.50
Restricted Offering/ Miscellaneous Offering Receipts	\$ 525.90	\$ 13,621.84
On-Line Giving Receipts	\$ 2,755.00	\$ 27,332.00
Dividends	\$ 299.68	\$ 5,571.04
Interest	\$ 2.03	\$ 27.32
Total Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 13,216.00	\$ 107,792.50
Total Restricted Receipts	\$ 525.90	\$ 13,996.84
Total Receipts	\$ 14,043.61	\$ 127,387.70

Kim Yann made a motion to accept the report as presented. Judy Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Disbursing Treasurer: reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings as of November 30, 2020

General Checking/Savings	\$ 52,848.42
Youth	\$ 9,620.56
Restricted Funds	\$ 11,757.18
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$ 179,709.24

Statement of Activity

	November 2020	YTD
General Budget	\$ 4,915.38	\$ 22,328.27
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 327.11	\$ 10,585.42
Youth	\$.07	\$ (130.40)
Net Revenue	\$ 5,242.56	\$ 32,783.29

Kim Yann made a motion to accept the report as presented. Chuck Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Elders:

Elder Meeting November 11, 2020

Meeting was opened with prayer.

Order of business:

Pastor reported that they are currently working on the new overhead projector.

The Red Cross has asked for and was granted their request for two more blood drive dates.

November 18th 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

December 2nd 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Average attendance for October was:

Sundays 43

Mid-week 8

Meeting was closed with the Benediction.

Respectively submitted,

Stephen Smith (Sec.)

Elders Meeting December 9, 2020

Meeting was opened with prayer.

Order of business:

Red Cross has asked for and was granted an extra blood drive on January 22, 2021.

A reminder that there will be no service on New Year's eve.

Much discussion was held on whether we should adjust our worship services due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. It was decided to stay the course with what we have scheduled thru December.

Average attendance for November was:

Sundays 41

Mid-week 9

Meeting was closed with the Benediction.

Respectively submitted,

Stephen Smith (Sec.)

Trustees:

The overhead projector has been completed.

Board of Education:

Board of Christian Education meeting was held on December 13, 2020 those present were Barb Lahrman, Kenny and Barb Knuth, Pastor Phil and Judy Gilbert.

Opening Devotions: Lord's Prayer

Minutes: Were approved

Sunday school Report: Average attendance

Student	Adults
Oct 7	Oct 7
Nov 10	Nov 9

Missions: We collected a total of \$462.27 for Hope Center.

Our mission for January and February is KFYO Radio Station

Old Business: Our Congregational Christmas Program has been finalized. Treats will be handed out for the children after the service.

Sunday school has finished making Christmas cards for our shut-ins and will be mailed out this week.

New Business: Our 2021 calendar has been finalized. September 12 - Rally Day; October 2 – Octoberfest; December 13 – Congregational Christmas Celebration.

Outreach will be handing out treats on January 3, 2021 so we have decided not to hand out treats for Jesus Baptism on January 10, 2021.

Pastors Report: No report

Library Report: Vicar Tim Benzinger will be helping out in the library. Tim is using the library for his office.

Next meeting is January 10, 2021.

Respectively submitted by Judy Gilbert

Board of Christian Outreach:

Did not meet. They will be redoing the brochure rack. If there are any brochures that you would like to see return, please let Kim Yann know and she will see if she can get them.

Board of Stewardship: No report

Board of Youth:

The youth of Zion have received an invitation from Faith Lutheran in Churubusco to join in with their youth gatherings, meetings and events. They will resume meeting in January and meet every other Sunday. Please contact Seminarian Scott Woodhouse for the date and time of the next gathering and with any questions.

Pastor:

January 1, 2021 the new Constitution goes into effect. Also, the new Board of Directors also commences. There are still open positions on the Board that need to be filled.

There is also still the need to replace one (1) Elder – please see Pastor Phil, Phil Coons or Steve Smith with questions.

The Constitution will be emailed to everyone who received the Zealant electronically (via email). In addition, there will be one (1) printed per family that does not receive the Zealant electronically (via email).

Per Article IV of the Constitution and per the Indiana District Office, each member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church must provide their signature that they have received AND read the Constitution and By-Laws of Zion. This sheet will be located in the Narthex.

Vicar:

Starting 21st Catechism instruction will be returning to Monday nights via Zoom. This change is due to blended family situations, there is an average of 2 students on Sunday mornings and 4 are gone every other weekend.

Pastor will teach Catechism on January 4th and January 11th while Vicar Benzinger is out of town.

The updated Catechism schedule is below:

Zion Lutheran Church Columbia City: Catechism: MONDAY @ 7PM

DATE	WEEK (31)	LESSON	ASSIGNMENT: (For that Monday)	DONE
31-Aug	1	Introduction: What is catechism?	none	x
14-Sep	2	Christian Faith and how to read Bible	Read Pg 37-53	x
21-Sep	3	Overview of the Old Testament	Read Pg 354-357, 369- 376	x
28-Sep	4	Overview of New Testament	Read Pg 351-353	x
4-Oct	5	Distinction of Law and Gospel	Read Pg 362	x
11-Oct	6	1st Commandment	Read Pg 52-66	x
18-Oct	7	2nd commandment	Read Pg 67-73	x
1-Nov	8	3rd Commandment	Read Pg 74-80	x
8-Nov	9	4th Commandment	Read Pg 81-84	x
15-Nov	10	5th Commandment	Read Pg 85-92	x
22-Nov	11	6th Commandment	Read Pg 93-104	x
29-Nov	12	7th Commandment	Read Pg 105- 109	x
6-Dec	13	8th Commandment	Read Pg 110- 114	x
13-Dec	14	9th& 10th Commandment	Read Pg 115-119	x
21-Dec	15	Commandments Conclusion	Read Pg 120-127	
28-Dec	16	Apostles Creed & Trinity	Read Pg 128-132	
4-Jan	17	1st Article Creed	Read Pg 133-163	
11-Jan	18	2nd Article Creed	Read Pg 164-194	
18-Jan	19	3rd Article Creed	Read Pg 195- 230	
25-Jan	20	Lord's prayer intro	Read Pg 231-241	
1-Feb	21	Lord's prayer: 1st & 2nd peitition	Read Pg 242- 251	
8-Feb	22	Lord's prayer: 3rd & 4th petition	Read Pg 252-263	
15-Feb	23	Lord's prayer: 5th & 6th peitition	Read Pg 264 - 273	
22-Feb	24	Lord's Prayer: 7th petition & Conclusid	Read Pg 274 - 280	
1-Mar	25	Means of grace & baptism	Read Pg 281-305	
7-Mar	26	Confession & Absolution & office of the keys	Read Pg 306-321	
15-Mar	27	Sacrament of the Altar with taste test	Read Pg 322-345	
22-Mar	28	Prayers/ Duties/etc and final review	Read Pg 346-350	
28-Mar	29	Confirmation Sunday		

Weekly Journals- Sermon notes from Sunday, Prayer requests, class notes, questions for next Monday class.

Oral Quizes - example: "What is the first commandment? What does it mean?"

Memorization is not manditory, learn by heart what the Catechism is saying, and be able to answer in your own words.

The colors reflect the colors of the church year (Pg 377)

- Green**- Represents the Christian life and growth in the faith.
- Blue**- Reminds us of the blessed eternal hope that is ours in Christ.
- Purple/Violet**- Reminds us of our need for repentance and preperation for the celebration of Easter.
- Black**- Reminds us of our sorrow at Christ's suffering.
- Red**- Represents the blood of Christ shed for our forgiveness.

Vicar Timothy Benzinger- 260-244-5513 (church)

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business:

Jill Coons made a motion to get a \$100.00 Visa gift card for Linda Hobkirk as a thank you for the cards she makes for the church. Pastor Rittner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Steve Smith requested Zion send a thank you to Culligan Water for the complimentary salt they supply to the church for the water softener system.

With no further business, Jill Coons made a motion to adjourn. Chuck Cooper seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Rittner closed the meeting with the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary

UPDATED, updated Catechism Schedule

6-Dec	13	8th Commandment	Read Pg 110- 114	x
13-Dec	14	9th& 10th Commandment	Read Pg 115-119	x
21-Dec	15	Commandments Conclusion	Read Pg 120-127	
28-Dec	16	Apostles Creed & Trinity	Read Pg 128-132	
4-Jan	17	1st Article Creed	Read Pg 133-163	
11-Jan	18	2nd Article Creed	Read Pg 164-194	
18-Jan	19	3rd Article Creed	Read Pg 195- 230	
25-Jan	20	Lord's prayer intro	Read Pg 231-241	
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- Black-** Reminds us of our sorrow at Christ's suffering.
- Red-** Represents the blood of Christ shed for our forgiveness.

MEMOIRS OF A VICAR

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Twenty-21 brings in the New year's, and with New Years resolutions in mind, people flock to gyms to shed the Thanksgiving stuffing followed by Christmas figgy pudding in hopes that the skinny jeans they bought online during a Covid lockdown will one day fit again. The new year is not an admission that 20-Twenty-Won (2021 play on words), but it is a celebration that though we are creatures who by nature are sinful and unclean, because of such our New year's resolutions typically end in the month of February, however; we celebrate that our inconsistent lives are **redeemed** by a consistent savior who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Advent brought the season of expectant hope, hope for a savior who would come to redeem us as lost and condemned people. Jesus is that hope because he is the only person who can free us from our sins. That day was fulfilled at the Nativity of our Lord on Christmas morning. Jesus the Son of God, the King of heaven and earth was born in Bethlehem.

January 6th begins the Epiphany- the revealing of Jesus Christ to a broken and loss world. As the Gentile Magi came to worship Jesus, they showed that all people now have access to God because the New Temple is now revealed in Jesus- the babe in the manger. Jesus- the Son of God begotten to flesh was baptized by John in Jordan River, His baptism sanctifies our baptism, and this is why we celebrate. The miracles Jesus performed as recorded in the gospels tells of His redemption story that He alone makes all things new.

Redemption is such a wonderful thing. In a life of brokenness, we hold to the truth that Jesus truly does make all things new. We can rejoice in the words found in 2 Corinthians 5:17 (see above). “Therefore” tells the reader this is there for a purpose. Chapter 5 Paul, the author of his 2nd letter to the Corinthian church speaks of our heavenly dwelling, the life that Jesus gives us because of his substitutionary death on a cross- His story of redemption.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ...” All believers... “the new creation has come...” Christ has redeemed the believer into a new existence, - a new person of faith whose identity is now found in Christ and therefore now has a home that is not built with hands that are full of inconsistencies and new year's resolutions but is made by hands that are eternally consistent. We have a home that is firmly set-in heaven. Behold, Christ makes all things new... The old has gone, the new has come, it is here! May the peace of God be yours which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

LADIES AID

Our sewing of cancer pads is going well, being safe by sitting 2 at a table and wearing masks. We will not be sewing during the month of January 2021.

Due to the Covid-9 there was not the annual Volunteer's Appreciation Breakfast held at Ceruti's in Ft. Wayne each year. A Drive Thru at Cancer Services on Ludwig Rd in Ft. Wayne was held so that all volunteers could pick up their appreciation gifts.

This year the gift was a Royal blue fleece blanket with the Cancer Services Insignia on it in addition to a hand written note of thanks with each blanket.

A Thank You to Jerry Lahrman for donating plastic for the cancer pads.

Christmas cards with an enclosure gift were sent to all of Zion's sick and shut ins. Other cards will be sent to them throughout the year to let them know we are thinking of them.

We were all disappointed that we could not have our annual Christmas party this year, but we are looking forward to next year's party, God willing.

Yes, we are still collecting cancelled postage stamps. Place them in the box in the narthex. Marty Williams has volunteered to continue trimming them. Thank you to all for help in this Mission Project.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL MEMBERS OF ZION FROM THE LADIES AID

PROMISE gives purpose.
PURPOSE gives light,
LIGHT gives perspective,
PERSPECTIVE gives sight,



LIFE is an Artscape,
GOD holds the pen,
CHRISTMAS reminds us
Again, and again.

UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS

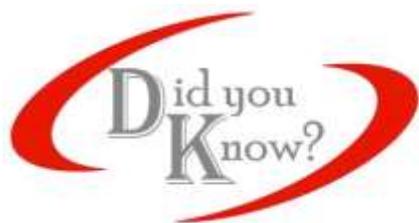
01/12/2021- Red Cross Blood Drive. Register online for a time

01/17/2021- Voter's Meeting after worship service 11:30am

01/22/2021- Red Cross Blood Drive. Register online for a time

LÖÖKING AHEAD»»»»»

02/17/2021-ASH Wednesday



Letters and Cards- We get newsletters from missionaries and cards from Seminary Students from time to time that are posted to the bulletin board near the Library & Secretary's office. Check them out as they are changed out as we receive them. Currently there is a cute postcard from the Marin's that has Miciah on both sides-a must see!

PowerPoint and Music – with Scott serving at Faith Lutheran, Churubusco, we will no longer have anyone other than Katie to run the PowerPoint during worship weekly. Also, if Katie is called away for Seminary business, there will be no one to run the computer with the music for worship. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let Pastor Phil or Katie know.

Call for Nominations. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please see Ralph Brooke or Pastor Rittner (the nominating committee) for more information.



Please remember in your daily prayers our Members in Nursing Homes and those at home:

Sandra Barrett, John & Lois Duffy, Linda Hobkirk, Gene & Janice Klopfenstein, Maxine Lott, Bill Niedermeyer, Tim & Sandra Rueger, Willie & Karen Scheumann, Jeannine Slavicek, Jack & Joanne Lane, Ralph & Barbara Keiper, Lynn Kyler.

**Those serving our Country in the Armed Forces:
Jason & Ashley Weatherly.**



4 Christopher Decker
4 Nikki Harris
4 Levi Hartman
6 Caleb Decker
7 Phil Coons
13 Dyllynn Lepper
15 Spencer Rossow
16 Bradley Hart
17 Sandy Barrett
17 Sandra Rueger
19 Belinda Pepler
24 Scott Woodhouse
30 Mathieu Hartman



1 Scott & Christine Woodhouse
3 Jack & Joan Lane



Linda Hobkirk
Zane Lepper



Office Hours are mostly 8:30am-12:30pm

DIY Paper Flowers

Supplies Needed

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Craft glue

How to Make Paper Flowers

Begin by cutting a 1- 1 1/2" strip of paper (vertically)



Now, you will fold this paper in half, and then begin cutting halfway through the paper on the folded side to create a fringe effect.



Now, you will cut a slightly larger piece of paper (2"-3") and follow the same process of folding and cutting.

Using the smaller paper first, add a bit of glue along the uncut edge of the paper. Begin tightly rolling it from one end to the other. Once that has been rolled completely and secured with glue, you will add the second strip of cut paper that is wider and continue rolling it until the end. Secure with glue, and continue adding until the flower is the size you prefer. Display on boxes, add to jars or make into a wreath as desired.



Notes

Make these in various sizes, then attach with floral tape to the bottom and slide into a vase for a beautiful paper bouquet!



Supplies Needed

- Colored paper
- Craft glue
- Scissors
- Pen

1)



2)



How to Make Handmade Paper Flowers

1) Using a round bowl or cookie cutter, trace circles onto your pink craft paper. You will need 10-12 circles about 3" across for this project.

3)



2) Cut out the circles and set them aside.

3) Now, you will take a paper circle, and fold it in half.

4) Fold it in half again.

4)



5) Then fold in half one more time. Tightly folding paper circle.

6) Use your pen to trace a pattern around the rounded edge. Adding little "v" shapes.

5)



7) Cut along the pattern removing bits of paper around the edges to create a flower slightly pointed edge pattern all around the circle.

7)



8) Repeat this process on all of the circles.

8)



9) Now, take one circle, and unfold it. You will then use a pencil, tweezer, or knife to "crimp" around the edge going back and forth with the folds so that it has a rippled effect.

9)



10) Lay this piece onto your work surface, then begin gluing the other folded pieces onto it. Attaching other folded circles with glue. **10)**

11) Unfold each paper piece and glue into the center of the one before it as shown. **11)**



12) Add one final folded piece to the very center, and fluff the pieces as desired.

12)



13) Glue on a gift, attach to a wreath, or simply share as part of a centerpiece.

14) Feel free to mix and match colored paper within the same flower for a verigated look. This definitely adds more life to your flowers. Especially when using a darker tone paper on bottom layers and a lighter color on top.



Thursday @ 7:00 P.M
at Church

JAN 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 Pastor's Day Off	29	30 No Service Tonight	31 7pm-Bible Study	1 New Year's Day	2 Pastor's Day Off
3 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - Bd of Outreach	4 Pastor's Day Off	5	6 7pm - Worship Service 8pm - Elder's Mtg	7 7pm-Bible Study	8	9 Pastor's Day Off
10 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Education JESUS Baptism	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 Red Cross	13 7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion Zealant Items Due	14 7pm-Bible Study	15	16 Pastor's Day Off
17 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - VOTER's MTG	18 Pastor's Day Off MLK Day	19	20 7pm Worship Service	21 7pm-Bible Study	22 Red Cross	23 Pastor's Day Off
24 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Youth Mtg	25 Pastor's Day Off	26	27 7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion	28 7pm-Bible Study	29	30 Pastor's Day Off
31 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion	1	Notes Ladies Aid not meeting this month, but will resume in Feb. 2021				