



# THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2015

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**Happy New Year!** As we, together as the children of God, walk through this beautiful season of Christmas – let’s be sure to “***greet one another, let them know you’re glad they’re here!***” I’m so glad and thankful to our heavenly Father for the blessings He has provided me and my family to be a part of this wonderful congregation! I eagerly look forward to the coming year and all the blessings that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit will work both within these walls of Zion Lutheran Church and outside into all the world, as we share with one another the Good News of salvation won for all of us by Christ Jesus!

The following is an article I received about Revitalization. It really puts into perspective that which we here at Zion have begun working on with Pastor Geoff Robinson and the Indiana District. I invited you to thoroughly read through this very good article; and let’s talk! Give me a call, come in and sit down. We certainly have time to discuss and encourage one another to help prosper the Bride of Christ – His Church! [Note, I’ve listed the web page info should you desire to follow more of this blog written by the LCMS.] See you in church!

## **The Question of Revitalization**

by MARK WOOD on December 11, 2014 in LEADER BLOG, REVITALIZING CONGREGATIONS4

<http://blogs.lcms.org/2014/the-question-of-revitalization>

“What will it take for the church to prosper in America again?”

This seems to be the fundamental question on people’s minds when they are discussing the Revitalization of the church-at-large. In their attempts to answer it they publish books, develop programs, and imagine movements. But books, programs, and movements aren’t the right answer for Revitalization. That shouldn’t surprise us. After all, the question that we tend to ask – “What will it take for the church to prosper in America again?” – isn’t even the right question.

One of the reasons that this is not the right question is that Revitalization is not an endeavor to restore the church to a status that it once held in American culture. While there was nothing intrinsically wrong with the church having an influential and honored place in our society, it is not especially important that the church enjoy such things.

The church can be the church she is called to be without being liked, appreciated, or favored by the culture in which she exists. Indeed, we may even find that we can more readily be a faithful church when we are not liked, appreciated, or favored.

And being a faithful church is – or, at least, should be – the goal of Revitalization.

(Pastor's Corner continued)

The question that we should be asking ourselves about Revitalization isn't one that is framed around what the church looks like in the context of our culture, but one that explores how we might engage the people of our culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In other words, it's not "How do we make the church prosperous again?" but more like "How do we share the treasures of God's Word and Sacraments with the people in our community who are perishing?"

Once we've started asking the right question about Revitalization we are on our way to being a faithful church. Of course, asking the question isn't enough. Revitalization begins when we answer the question in word *and* action. When we do, we find that Revitalization doesn't depend upon the books, programs, and movements that are so prominent in the American church – and we may even discover that such things may hinder us from the simple way in which we are called to revitalize the church.

What is that simple way? This is a great Revitalization question because it goes beyond revitalizing the church to revitalizing us.

Not surprisingly, the simple way is not necessarily an easy way. It obliges us to stop looking to the pastor, or evangelism committee, or the congregation as a whole to share the Gospel with the people whom God has put into our lives and it depends upon each of us to speak God's Word of salvation to our neighbors, co-workers, classmates, family members, and friends.

Books, programs, and movements may be helpful resources to us as we seek new ways to bring the Gospel to new people, especially when we're reaching out to people who are not like us. But Revitalization does not happen through these things. Ultimately, Revitalization takes place as a work of the Holy Spirit through God's people when they faithfully respond to His call to be witnesses of Jesus to the people in their everyday lives.

What does it take to revitalize the church? Pastors faithfully proclaiming God's Word and rightly administering His Sacraments. Congregations committed to equipping and supporting members to be effective witnesses of Jesus. And you.

**Questions to consider:**

- *In what ways have I used "books, programs, or movements" to avoid answering the call to be a witness of Jesus to the people in my life?*
- *Who are the people in my life who are outside of the church and its influence but can be reached by me?*
- *What do I need to be a more effective witness of Jesus to the people in my life? Where will I find it?*

## Church Council

December 16, 2014

The December Council meeting opened at 7pm with devotions read by Pastor Phil Rittner followed by prayer. In attendance were: Laura Gerke, Pastor Rittner, Steve Smith, Jeff Braun, Judy Gilbert, Ralph Brooks, Peggy Brooks, Dan Knuth and guest, Rev Geoffrey Robinson.

As there was no November Council meeting, there were no minutes to approve/disapprove.

Financial Report: reports for October and November were given to each member in attendance. Due to Jill's absence, motion made and seconded to have questions on the table regarding the two (2) reports to be put on hold and to be answered at the next Council meeting. Reports not accepted at this time.

### Elders Report:

Steve Smith presented reports from November 11 and December 10 meetings. Pastor has applied for another Ministry Enhancement Grant for \$5000. Channel 15 (WANE tv) will be instituting a new procedure for reporting the cancellation of church services this winter as well as WOWO continuing their procedure. Indiana District Convention will be held in Fort Wayne June 25-26, 2015. Beta Sigma Psi of the National Lutheran Foundation has made available to graduating senior males a few scholarships/grants. If interested, contact Pastor Rittner. Zane Alexander Lepper, newborn son of Lindsey and Toby Lepper, will be baptized on Sunday, **January 11, 2015**.

### Trustees Report:

Dan Knuth stated the new dehumidifier is in service in the basement. Heat has been

turned on for the winter and is monitored. Sacristy is nearly done! Peggy Brook said it is much better. Jerry Lahrman is on vacation so Dan Knuth is "keeping an eye on things". American Red Cross used Zion last week due to an emergency being held at the Methodist church; they said "thank you" for our pitching in. Discussed perhaps getting voting booths/voters here again as we've done in the past. Status on the shed: still on hold; not sure if paperwork is completely submitted, but will follow up. Lehmburg Legacy Fund paperwork is not complete to complete the transfer from "trust" to "legacy".

### Board of Education:

Judy Gilbert read **November 2** and **December 7** minutes. Need to correct title of Barb Lahrman from "superintendent" to "chairperson"; motion made and seconded to do so. Barb Lahrman is ending her tenure in January. Pat Decker is doing treat bags for the children after the **December 14 Christmas** program. The Library is finished and a huge "thank you" to Larry Haugk for his help in finishing it. Missions project for Jan/Feb will be Whitley County Ministerial Assoc. Energy assistance program.

Stewardship Report: NONE

Youth Report: NONE

### Board of Outreach:

Peg Brook said the Pastor Appreciation, board members thank you and greeting our new member, and the confirmands, was a huge success on November 10. After worship, Pastor Rittner was given a thank you gift for his work here at Zion by elder Ralph Brook and to be used on his and Katie's trip to Ireland. New member, April Brook, and

(Council minutes continued)

also the confirmands were welcomed. The game, STUMP THE PASTOR, was fun and questions were about members of our congregation. On November 3 the American Red Cross and Monica Koldyke presented a small program on how an AED works and cost of two (2) models; the AED would be used if someone's heart had stopped. Costs were \$1354 and \$1485 with a deadline of **December 31, 2014** for decision. Further discussion followed by council with Peggy Brook going to contact Monica with our questions. Instead of sponsoring a family this year, we're asking for hats, gloves and socks to be collected. The hats and gloves can be given to elementary schools while socks can be given to the nursing homes. Next meeting scheduled for **January 17, 2015**.

Pastor's Report: business as usual. Wanted to state that I was GOT playing the STUMP THE PASTOR game at the dinner; it was fun and I learned a few things. Want to thank Pastor Bryan Crane and Seminarian Peter Knudson for filling in while on vacation.

Unfinished Business:

lay person (male or female) is still open for the Indiana District Convention **June 25-26, 2015**. If interested, please contact Pastor Rittner.

New Business:

Children's Christmas program a HUGE SUCCESS. Will be looking into a possible Lenten program. Jeff Braun suggested a possible idea for inviting the public to Lenten services. Ash Wednesday is **February 18, 2015** with Easter on **April 5, 2015**. There were many suggestions brought up by the council to get the community involved as part of our revitalization.

Our Guest Report:

Rev Robinson was pleased to notice the difference in the basement's smell as mentioned in #5 under Areas Needed Improvement from our consultation report given to all church members. He will begin his monthly meetings with Pastor Rittner in January and will attend the Voter's Meeting on Sunday, **January 18, 2015** to "re-affirm our going forward".

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:30pm with all reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Faithfully submitted:

Laura Gerke

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## Special Thanks

Cheryl (secretary) would like to thank all who gave cards and gifts for Christmas, they are all appreciated.

Pastor Phil and Katie also would like to thank those who gave cards and gifts to them for Christmas, they are most appreciated.

## 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**



**SUNDAY**  
**SCHOOL**  
**SCOOP**  
**January 2015**

Thank you to all who participated in the Congregational Christmas Celebration on Dec. 14th. It was a wonderful program and the special music, readers, and flag bearers were a highlight. Thank you to Pat Decker for making up the Christmas treats that many donated too.

Sunday school missions for Nov. and Dec. 2014 totaled \$171.54 as of Dec. 14th. We are supporting the Canine Comfort Dog program of the LCMS Chaplain Ministry. Jan. and Feb. 2015 will be supporting the Whitley County Energy Assistance Program. We thank you for your contributions toward these mission projects. The Lighthouse total was \$235.48 for our local shelter.

January Sunday school lessons are:  
4th—"The Boy Jesus in the Temple"  
11th—"The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus"  
18th—"Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael"  
25th—"Jesus Calls Matthew"

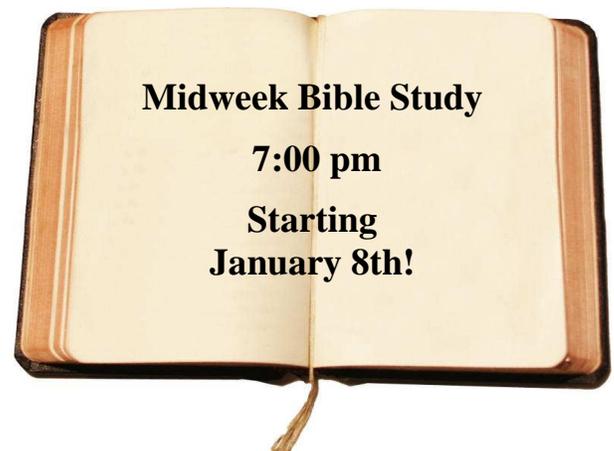
We invite you to attend Sunday school at Zion on Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. We all meet in the gym for opening songs and announcements and then are dismissed for lessons by 9:10 a.m. Adults

meet in the gym with Pastor Phil. Coffee and doughnuts are available. Please join us for a great start to the week!

November 2014 Class Attendance  
Tied for first place are:  
Nursery-Kind.-Primary 1-2 100%  
Jr. 3-4, Preteen 5-6 and Jr. High 7-8  
100%  
High School 9-12 20%

Perfect Attendance:  
Emerson & Mason Knuth

During Sunday School opening (9:00 a.m.) on January 11, 2015 We will celebrate Baptism Sunday with Zion's baptisms and have refreshments. Then during worship service we will have a special Baptism of Zane Alexander Lepper being baptized.



## **Zion Ladies Aid Christmas Party December 18, 2014**

Seventeen attended the Christmas Party held at Hal's Tri-Lakes Restau4rant.

Kathaleen Reese read the Table Prayer and introduced guests: They were Peg Brooke, Jo Wood, Bonnie Spoerke, Nancy Love, Jinnie Butz and Karen Bickle.

From Living Water Lutheran Church: Mary Metzger, Mary K. Miller and Jan Gleason.

From Zion: Kathaleen Reese, Melody Reese, Joan Lane, Marty Williams, Gloria Nintz, Maxine Lott, Jennie Childs and Lois Duffy.

Kathaleen Reese told a story "Christmas, a time of cheer" and some Reindeer jokes.

After the lunch Peg Brooke read a true Christmas Miracle Story entitled "The Tablecloth." Melody Reese read "Lights of Love" & "Permanent Companion" and Kathaleen Reese read "Nativity Fire" & "Snowman." next came the Gift Exchange by Jan Gleason and Lois Duffy.

Kathaleen Reese read "LOVE" That's What It's All About."

All read in unison the Closing Prayer.

Decorating the tables were tiny poinsettias and wooden baskets and each were given an LWML Snowman ornament made by Melody Reese.



## **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

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## **RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR!!!**

New Year's Eve Service  
7 pm  
Wed., December 31, 2014

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**2015 Phone Directories**  
are now in your mailbox at church.

Late Address to change/add:  
Matt & Myra Hartman  
1471 E. Bridget Ln.  
Columbia City, IN 46725

## **Year End Reports!**

Attention all Committee's  
year end reports will  
be due Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015

Cheryl has put your committee minutes  
in your mailbox.

The chairman or secretary of each  
committee should go over these minutes  
and highlight the important things  
from the past year.

Then get them back to Cheryl  
so she can start working on them  
for the Year End Report.

Also need reports from Pastor, Council  
President and Dispersing Treasurer .

## **Church Mailboxes**

Please check your mailboxes for  
Christmas cards and gifts.

Also with the end of the year  
here, please clean out your mailboxes!

## **Flower Chart**

If you would want to buy flowers for  
a special Sunday being that it might be  
your Anniversary, in Honor of someone,  
Birthday, etc., please check with the  
Altar Guild.

## **Newsletter from the Landes Family**

A newsletter and Christmas card came to  
us from Logan, it is on the Narthex bulletin  
board if anyone wishes to read it.



The Oaks and Oak Point:  
Patricia Neidermeyer, Charles Stanley,  
Temporarily: Willie Scheumann

Renaissance Village:  
Dorathy Ummel

Peabody Home (Memory Care)  
Alberta Warnick.

Luther Home in Crown Point:  
Harriet Redman

Those at home:  
Sami Blomquist, Bob Gallmeyer, Gayle  
Goshorn, Linda Hobkirk, Jim Jackson,  
Bill Neidermeyer, Tim & Sandra Rueger,  
Karen Scheumann, and Michael Sexton

Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

Jessie Contreras, Chris Decker,  
Alex Hart, Joshua Rittner,  
Matt Shoda, Jason Weatherly  
and Dayne Zielinski

**SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS**

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

## OOPS!

Gayle Goshorn had mailed out Christmas cards and some of them had a wrong return address on them. (Guess there was one sheet that still had her old address on it mixed in with the new addresses.) If anyone was wondering why her return address had a PO Box #, that would be the incorrect address. She said that her mind has been a little spacey since having her accident. The correct address for Kurt & Gayle is: 5460 E. Hwy 33, Churubusco, IN 46723.

All in all she said she has had a good laugh about it!! Hoping that it didn't confuse anyone else.

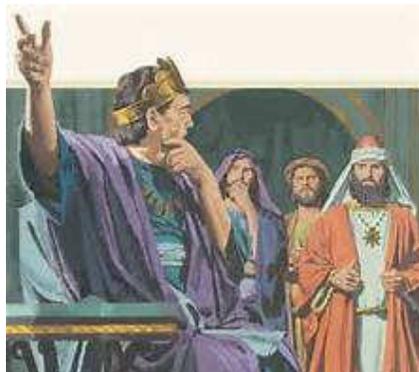
## Kindergarten and 1st—8th grade Open House

Are you searching for a Christian education for your child? Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School is having an Open House for perspective parents on January 25, 2015, 12:00—3:00 pm. We would love the opportunity to share information about our school with you. Feel free to just show up that day at 6318 W. California Rd. or call the school office ahead of time at 483-9371 for further information.

## Pre-School Registration Opens

Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Pre-School opens registration in 3 year old and pre-kindergarten sessions for 2015-2016 classes in February, 2015. Registration forms are available in the school office. If you would like more information please call the school at 483-9371. Director, Terri Hobbs would be pleased to answer your questions and welcomes the opportunity to share our program with you.

# Epiphany



# SERVING IN JANUARY 2015

## USHERS

4th—Ralph Sexton  
11th—Mike Gerbers  
18th—Steve Smith  
25th—Mike Gerbers

## ACOLYTES

4th—Mason Knuth  
11th—Logan Bachelder  
18th—Nick Decker  
25th—Ryan Bills

## GREETERS

4th—?  
11th—?  
18th—?  
25th—?

## ALTAR GUILD

?

## BLOOD PRESSURE

?

## POWERPOINT

4th—Larry Haugk  
11th—?  
18th—Larry Haugk  
25th—?

## COFFEE HOUR

4th—?  
11th—?  
18th—?  
25th—?

## BIRTHDAY'S

Thomas Wilburn ?  
2 Mason Knuth  
4 Christopher Decker  
6 Caleb Decker  
7 Phil Coons  
11 Trenton Pease  
12 Maddox Lahrman  
16 Bradley Hart  
17 Sandy Barrett  
17 Sandra Rueger  
19 Belinda Peppler  
20 Penny Braun  
25 Larry Haugk  
28 J. Wayne Reese  
30 Matheiu Hartman



## ANNIVERSARIES

3 Jack & Joan Lane

## BAPTISMS

Justin Bachelder  
Brian Brooke  
Jennie Childs  
Jessi Contreas  
Linda Hobkirk  
Janet Jackson  
Jay Johnson  
Angela Kimmel  
Katie Rittner  
Rev. Phil Rittner  
Irma Rogers  
Ashton Steele  
Jennifer Wilcoxson

# JANUARY 2015

# Wishing all a Happy New Year!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed  No Bible Study	2	3
4 Celebrate Epiphany S.S. 9 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Church Officers Inst. 10:15 am	5	6	7 Wed. Evening Service 7 pm	8	9	10
11 Jesus' Baptism Celebration during S.S./Staff 9:00 am Worship & Baptism 10:15 am Bd. of Ed. 11:30 am Youth 11:30 am	12	13	14  Wed. Evening Service 7 pm Elders	15 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am LWML 1 pm  Bible Study 7 pm	16	17 Outreach 10 am
18 S.S. 9 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Voters 11:30 am	19	20	21  Wed. Evening	22  Bible Study 7 pm	23	24
25 S.S./Staff 9 am Worship 10:15 am Trustees 11:30 am Blood Pressure 11:30 am	26	27	28  Wed. Evening Service 7 pm	29  Bible Study 7 pm	30	31