



# THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## **In This Issue**

- \* **Pastor's Corner**
- \* **Church Council Minutes**
- \* **Winter Church Closings**
- \* **Sunday School Scoop & Baptism Sunday**
- \* **Ladies Aid Minutes**
- \* **Remember in Prayer, Year End Reports**
- \* **Serving, Birthday's, Anniversaries and Baptism's**
- \* **January Calendar**

## Pastor's Corner



“Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.” Now there’s an old quote from a movie you don’t hear very often anymore. I wonder why we don’t? Maybe because this is a different time. Things are not the way they were even just a few years ago. “My generation knew what it meant, very well!” Oh, there are those who keep trying to maintain the ‘status quo’ like it was years ago. But... [sigh...] they just don’t seem to want to change with the times. Ahhhh, the good old days.... We tried this. We tried that. We did that several times! We tried that a bunch of times, and it never worked!

Now, today, I go through the check out at a local store, and the clerk remarks ‘it just doesn’t feel like Christmas anymore.’ I ask him “why so?” He said, in his young, teenage manner, ‘oh, I guess I’m just pass it now that I’m on my own.’ I asked him if he went to church. He said he did, when he used to live with his folks. But he said he has his own place now. He doesn’t need to go to church. As I looked into his young eyes I thought – how sad. As I fought back a tear or two, I made sure to tell him that it’s in church he’ll hear the real reason for Christmas; that Christ was born for the salvation of the world. I even invited him to our church. I told him he’d hear how God loves him and what God has in store for his future. I told this young man in a deserted store 3 days before Christmas that yes son, there is a God. And God loves you dearly.

I too miss those good old days. But I have to think (and act!) new and fresh about our current days in time and place. I can vividly remember all the activities we

did at our youth group at church when I was growing up. We did everything! We went places. We witnessed to others our faith. We worshiped together so many times, that the last few times we were together we cried holding one another in pray and thanksgiving to God. And then we all went our different ways. It’s not like that now. Kids have different agendas then what we had.

I mourn for the loss of younger folks in our church today. Literally. I cry because this young person or that young person doesn’t come to church anymore. I have already witnessed the marriage, baptism, birth, death, major illness, moving away, overcoming great obstacles, Confirmation, and even a couple of people who have just plain quit the church. And I’ve only been here 4 years. Oh, to be sure, I mourn the loss of every soul I have buried and remember the life given to the company of heaven in Christ our Lord. But too, my heart leaps with joy seeing yet some very young children in our pews as we begin worship. I never ever, never, never complain about a baby crying during our worship together! I delight in the Lord that these little ones are here. (It seems some disciples got into some trouble with Jesus when they tried to keep some little children from coming to see Him...) I get my hopes up when I see new faces walking in the door. I’ve answered many a phone call of folks asking about worship service times and membership. And, yet in all of this – I still experience frustration.

I shouldn’t. God has blessed me beyond anything this world could possibly

(continued on next page)

offer. As I sit here writing what you'll read as the first newsletter of the New Year, I'm encouraged by the Holy Spirit to write to you the Good News – the joy of this wonderful season is that while we were still sinners, God sent His Son to die for each of us. I'm enlivened by His grace, mercy, and peace to express to each of you the joy I have found in the very Word God has told me of His plan for salvation. You and I are a part of His plan. And so are many more who have not yet heard the Name of Christ.

It hasn't always been so with me. And if you don't know my own personal story of how God reached down and saved me from the depths of Hell and restored me to a brilliant faith and love for His Kingdom...come see me! I'd be delighted to share with you the hope that is within me!

In this, the New Year of our Lord let us rejoice and be glad in each day that God has made for us to live. In that joy, let's tell others what the reason is for the joy within us: that Christ to save all mankind.

I look forward to seeing you in church!

Pastor Phil Rittner

### **Church Council December 15, 2015**

Kenny Knuth called the meeting to order. Pastor Rittner read the opening devotion and prayer.

Kenny Knuth asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the November meeting as printed in the Zealant. Steve Smith made the motion and Judy Gilbert 2nd, motion carried.

### **Receiving Treasurer Report by Karen Scheumann:**

Total budgeted receipts \$9,734.32, Non Budgeted receipts \$1,367.82, Total offering \$11,102.14'. Joyful Response \$125.00, Thrivent \$240.00, Interest \$1.27, Total cash received \$11,467.41. A motion was made by Chuck Cooper to accept the report as submitted and Steve Smith 2nd, motion carried.

### **Disbursing Treasurer Report by Jill Coons:**

Checking/Savings: Lake City Band, checking \$4892.22, savings \$1893.73, Joyful Response \$223.51, Lehmberg Legacy \$71,620.46, Youth District account \$297.04, Youth checking \$926.22, Youth savings \$7861.61. Total checking/savings \$104,514.79.

Profit/Loss total ending November total income \$95,605.56, total expense \$79,457.23, Net income \$16,148.33, other income/expense \$2419.99, total reimbursed expense \$2595.99, Net income \$7131.83.

Also discussed Dan Knuth will look into a discrepancy in the August Lehmberg Legacy. Joyful Response and Thrivent will be under budgeted receipts. Joyce Reidt made a motion to accept the report as submitted, Church Cooper 2nd, motion carried.

### **Elders Report by Steve Smith:**

No Transfers. Caring for the Called was discussed and a meeting will be set for the

(Council minutes continued)

first of the year. Also discussed were the guidelines that Pastor Robinson presented at the October meeting.

\$228.00 was collected for the Gideon's special door offering.

Average attendance for October Sundays 58 and Mid-week 20.

Elders meeting for December: Items discussed the hearing impaired system, the visitation schedule for 2016, Church cancellation for bad weather and the progress on the Church Constitution. Also there will be a Round Robin of Pastors during Lent. A thank you to Ralph Brooke for his time as Elder.

**Board of Outreach: No report.**

**Stewardship: No report.**

**Board of Youth by Jill Coons:**

There will be a New Year's Eve party after Service. The youth will distribute light bulbs to represent Jesus guiding light in the area surrounding the Church and there will be snacks and drinks after.

**Pastor's Report:**

There will be Round Robin of Pastors during Lent. Mail from the Lutheran Foundation was given to Chuck Cooper to look into a \$5000.00 grant. Pastor has applied for a \$5000 grant for Ministry Enhancement. Pastor discussed his current health issues he has bulging disks and bone spurs that will require surgery in the near future. Prospective date for another revitalization meeting with Pastor Robinson were discussed with either Feb. 13, 20, or 27.

**Unfinished Business:**

The Constitution is waiting for the District Committee to review before going to the Board of Directors of the District.

**New Business:**

The Scholarship Committee needs to meet in January. Also the yearbook reports need to be done in January. Installation of new officers will be January 10, 2016.

Steve Smith made a motion to adjourn with a 2nd by Judy Gilbert, the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted  
Joyce Reidt (sec.)





## Suburban Bethlehem

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 24, 2016, 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 registration in 3 year old and pre-kindergarten sessions for 2016-2017 classes in February, 2016. 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.

## 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.



### Christmas—New Year—Wishes

May a Christmas star  
Shine into your heart and burn  
In your spirit bright  
May Jesus' peace bless you and  
Bring true joy to you tonight



**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
SCOOP  
January 2016**

Thank you to all who participated in the Congregational Christmas Celebration on December 20th. The scripture readings and music made Christmastime feel near and real!

S.S. Lessons for January are:

- 3rd—"An Angel Visits Joseph"
- 10th—"The Birth of Jesus"
- 17th—"The Presentation of Jesus"
- 24th—"The Visit of the Wise Men"
- 31st—"The Boy Jesus in the Temple"

Zion will be celebrating Jesus' Baptism on Sunday, January 10th. The Sunday School will be recognizing baptisms in the Sunday School opening at 9:00 am, followed by some refreshments before dismissing for classes. Please join us!

Currently, the Sunday School mission project for WLAB 88.3 FM radio station totals \$198.35.

The project for January and February 2016 will be our local Lighthouse Ministry.

Thank you for your Sunday School missions support in 2015. A total listing will be printed in the 2015 Zion Yearbook in January.

S.S. STATS—November 2015

Class Attendance: Primary and Preteen tie for 1st place with 100%, and Preschool comes in 2nd with 70%.

Perfect Attendance: Jessalyn, Sawyer & Ethan Wilkinson, and Emerson and Mason Knuth.

During Sunday School opening 9:00 a.m. on January 10, 2016 We will celebrate Baptism Sunday with Zion's baptisms and have refreshments.



**Thank you** to all the very thoughtful friends at Zion who have called, sent cards, inquired about John and visited him at the nursing home. Bless you all!

Lois Duffy

**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**

## Zion Ladies Aid Christmas Party

Seven members and guests Nancy Love and Dixie Goodrich met at Hal's Tri-Lakes Restaurant at noon. The theme of the party was "BELLS" and a lovely variety of bells was brought by Dixie Goodrich and some also decorated the tables.

President Kathaleen Reese entertained with a couple of jokes before lunch. After lunch members sang a "Jingle Bell" song written by President Reese for the Ladies Aid to the famous tune. Next a number of bells were shown while Melody Reese read a poem entitled "Bells" by Rev. Phil Blake. The poem remarked about the different sounds, their shapes, how they were held when ringing, what they were made of, often told the time of day and some were from other countries. The History of Bells was read stating that many years ago it was used to fight off evil spirits, but it carried over to the Christmas celebration for something happy. Since the 5th century in Italy, it called worshipers to church. Some of those bells even had Bible passages inscribed on them. In Medieval times it was mistakenly thought to ring the church bells to get rid of lightning strikes from thunderstorms. Church steeples were hit and bell ringers died. When Christianity came, bells became familiar to churches.

Bells also have a place in Christmas songs like "Jingle Bells," "Silver Bells," and "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." At first the "Jingle Bell" song was not for Christmas, but rather for Thanksgiving when it was titled, "The One Horse Open Sleigh." Next, Melody read a poem "Christmas Bells of Joy." It gave honor to the Baby Boy, the Savior of the World.

President Reese challenged members with several Christmas riddles. "Where do snowmen go to dance? (To the Snowball). Why did Santa only come with 7 reindeer?

(Because he left Comet home to clean the sink). And, how many letters are in the alphabet? (25 because the angel said Noel).

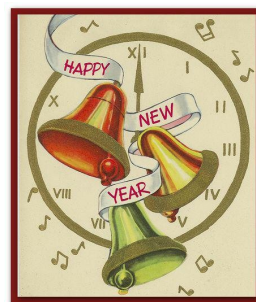
Melody read the story "Christmas Eve Guest"....Jesus was the unexpected guest, and afterward a bright star shown above the Christmas tree.

The Gift Exchange: It was presented by Jan Gleason and Lois Duffy. Jan gave each member a wrapped bell with a number attached to it. The bells were unwrapped and the bells inscriptions told where they came from. Then numbered gifts brought were handed out to members who then shared the gifts.

President Reese read "Christmas Lives Forever." It was from the Sunshine Magazine 1976 and it read to conclude: "Christmas is indestructible and everlasting because it is a state of mind, a way of thinking, a manner of looking at things, a belief in people, and an abiding faith in Christ the Lord."

President Reese asked members to pray for those who are sick and in need of prayers. A Closing Prayer was said in unison.

Submitted by Lois Duffy, Secretary



## RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR!!!

New Year's Eve  
Service 7 pm  
Thurs, December 31,  
2015

## Year End Reports!

Attention all Committee's  
year end reports will  
be due Sunday, Jan. 24, 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.



### 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

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

Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

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



## **SERVING IN JANUARY**

### **USHERS**

3rd—Ralph Sexton  
10th—Mike Gerbers  
17th—Steve Smith  
24th—Mike Gerbers  
31st—Ralph Sexton

### **ACOLYTES**

3rd—Kyler Bills  
10th—Emma Mullett  
17th—Ryan Bills  
24th—Mason Knuth  
31st—Shianne Brooke

### **GREETERS**

3rd—Kathaleen Reese  
10th—  
17th—Pat Decker  
24th—  
31st—

### **ALTAR GUILD**

?

## **BIRTHDAY'S**

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 Pepler  
22 Latishia Carpenter  
25 Larry Haugk  
28 J. Wayne Reese  
30 Matheiu Hartman

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

3 Jack & Joan Lane

## **BAPTISM'S**

Justin Bachelder  
Brian Brooke  
Jennie Childs  
Linda Hobkirk  
Janet Jackson  
Angela Kimmel  
Katie Rittner  
Rev. Phil Rittner  
Ashton Steele  
Jennifer Wilcoxson

# JANUARY 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	4	5	6 Epiphany Wed. Evening Service 7 pm	7 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am Bible Study 7 pm	8 1 New Year's Day Office Closed	9
10 Baptism of Jesus S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Church Officers Inst. 10:15 am	11	12	13 Wed. Evening Service 7 pm Elders	14 Bible Study 7 pm	15	16 Outreach 10 am
17 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Voters 11:30 am	18	19	20 Wed. Evening Service 7 pm	21 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am LWML 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm	22	23
24 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Destiny Rescue Presentation	25 Zealant Items Due	26	27 Wed. Evening Service 7 pm	28 Bible Study 7 pm	29	30
31 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Outreach (event)						