



THE ZION ZEALANT

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Celebrating New Years is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over!), and we look to the future in the hope and anticipation and perhaps even worry of what it holds. The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be; what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Years is our own version of Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents, and futures.

St. Paul writes: **“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, ‘He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God”** (2 Cor 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord of all will both supply and increase what you need to give to the church for its work in and for the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving of years past, which will help you to change what needs to be changed, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, and maybe foremost... attend the Church Services to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness, and feast of the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and

come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you—all of you (Matt 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the Church is and what the Church does. The Church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward the neighbor. You are a member of the Church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy in showing mercy through the generous giving of your time, talents, and treasures to support the work of the Church in and for the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the Church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. In a recent article in the LCMS' Reporter, recent studies find that monetary giving has indeed fallen in recent years; but much worse – participation in churchly endeavors has dramatically dropped! Our offerings not only support the important work Zion does in the Kingdom of God; but we also forward our congregational tithe to the Indiana District of the LCMS for all of their important Kingdom work; and the District too tithes to the national Synodical offices for important work we – as a church together – do all around the world in missions, responding to catastrophic events, helping inner city missions here in the United States, and more!

We've witnessed a great increase of younger folks to the worship service; but we've still not seen much of an increase in Sunday School attendance. Why? Might we in the new year consider changes to our educational programs? Might we alert our parents to the need for Christian upbringing? And what about our LWML program? The ladies that have been doing it for many, many years are retiring. Where are the younger women of our congregation that'll step up and contribute to this absolutely marvelous Christian women's organization? As your pastor – as I meet occasionally throughout the year with other pastors – what could I offer as an excuse why Zion has ceased having an Lutheran Women's Missionary League Program?

Might we be relying on God's promise to provide and increase what we need to do His work? If your answer is no to this, or any of these projects mentioned today, I say: repent.

If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it!

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your time, talents, and treasures, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

I'll see you in church!

Pastor Phil Rittner

DOXOLOGY NOV. 11-13, 2016 - San Antonio, TX

DOXOLOGY II LIFE IN THE STAINED-GLASS FISHBOWL

Pastors and their families lead a very public, observed and commented upon life. Their congregations see their pastor's function in roles as preacher, teacher, meeting facilitator and spiritual care provider. They rarely see anything beyond the public presentation of their pastor. This study shows the special challenges of the pastor and their families.

Marital realities for pastors confront the same fundamental challenges as all marriages. Finances, family issues, intimacy, and loss of loved ones are issues they struggle with just like ours.

Pastor's marriages are regarded as model marriages. Pastors wife's often report marital dissatisfactions then their husbands. Pastor's relationship with his wife is often predictive of his relationship with his flock. 92% of its pastors are married with 29% of wives working full time and 25% working part time. 70% do not have close friends.

Pastor's wives are often conduits to their husbands. They hear the negativity and expected to make sacrifices give up her needs for the church. They are expected to be a Mrs. Pastor and the church becomes one bit dominating family. 85% feel like they are a single parent.

Increasingly wives recognize the importance of having a life beyond the church role. Pastor's wives are increasingly better educated and have lives outside the church.

1999 Lcms study "The Clergy Shortage Study" shows pastors can't get enough done, are not respected and are lonely. 40% are burned out and depressed. Only 20% ask for help when needing it. Young men of the church are never talked to about become a pastor. The best part of being a pastor's wives is seeing the children grow up. The down part is moving often, stress and isolation concern for their husband's health. Pastor kids needing "dad time", Dad misses an event and they get upset about a church issue when it affects the family time.

This study was a real eye opener for those of us that went to the Doxology in November. Please feel free to talk to Phil and Jill Coons and Ralph & Peggy Brooke if there are any questions.

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.

Council Minutes

December 20, 2016

Ralph Brooke opened the meeting with 5 members present. Pastor shared a devotion from Psalm 119:25-32, opening prayer.

Ralph Brooke asked for a motion to approve minutes from November meeting as printed. Steve Smith made the motion and Jill Coons 2nd, motion passed.

Receiving Treasurer: Chuck Cooper.

Total Undesignated Receipts: \$7599.00

Total Designated Receipts: \$817.74

Miscellaneous: \$ 443.00

Dividend: \$ 311.95

Interest: \$0.73

Total Receipts: \$ 8729.42

Year-to-Date: \$ 108,009.41

Jill Coons made the motion to accept the report as presented Steve Smith 2nd, motion passed.

Dispersing Treasurer: Jill Coons. Checking/Savings: Lake City Bank.

Checking: \$ 2964.43

Savings: Unrestricted: \$ 1640.07

Other Savings: \$ 7963.90

Total Savings: \$ 9603.97

Joyful Response Checking: \$ 208.48

Total Checking/Savings: \$ 12,776.88

Lehmburg Legacy: \$ 76,395.61 (Market Value: \$ 73,563.77 (10/31/2016))

Youth Accounts:

District: \$ 298.91

Youth Checking: \$848.87

Youth Savings: \$ 10,365.82

Total Youth Accounts: \$ 11,513.60

Pastor asked about checking/saving for LWML.

Total Expenses Nov. 2016: \$ 7322.68

Net Operating Revenue: \$(-276.03)

Year to Date:

Total Expenses: \$ 86,576.54

Net Revenue: \$(-494.03)

Jill asked question about District Pledge. We pledged \$ 5322.00 we've paid \$ 2750.00, we still owe \$ 2572.00. At this point we do not have the money to pay the balance. Questions were asked if the balance could be paid by cashing in a portion of the Lehmburg Legacy, and Chuck Cooper asked if we could pay it from the money from the garage sale.

Also, we need to take a hard look at our collective budgets. We are seriously in need of meeting our budget.

Jill raised a question on the funeral dinner fund, is there confusion as to where money donated from the family for the dinner be put. Chuck Cooper said he put it under memorials, but he will transfer monies back to the dinner fund.

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

Elders Report: Steve Smith.

Schedule for Holiday Services:

Christmas Eve: 7 pm

Christmas Day: 9 pm (No Sunday School)

New Year's Eve: No service

New Year's Day: 10:15 am, Sunday School 9 am

Requests have been put out for an organist.

A reminder to watch Channel 15 or listen to WOWO for cancellations of service due to weather.

A special Thank You to Mike Gerbers for his service to the Board of Elders for the past several years.

Average attendance for November Service: Sunday – 61, Mid-week – 15.

The meeting was closed with the Benediction.

No Trustees Report:**Board of Education: Judy Gilbert.**

Barb Lahrman called the meeting to order with 5 members present. She read the Veterans Day devotion from Portals of Prayer, Isaiah 49, and Psalm 25.

Minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Sunday School: October: Adults 20 and Students 10.

Missions: \$270.99 were collected for Sept./Oct. Rosebud Indian Church.

Mission for Nov./Dec. New Life Christian Church Ft. Wayne in support of their Liberian Children's Ministry.

No Pastor or Library Reports.

Old Business: Janice Klopfenstein and Barb Knuth are still working on Congregational Christmas for Dec. 18th.

Children's Treats will be handed out after service.

New Business: We are in need of a Library Representative, please contact Pastor Rittner if you are interested.

The meeting was adjourned.

No Board of Youth Report:**No Pastors Report:****Unfinished Business:**

Pastor received a comment card from Billy Cutcher. An attractive Altar and warm and friendly smiles. Noted that all entrances require climbing stairs to get into sanctuary. Pastor made a motion that Trustees correct signage for entrance, Chuck Cooper 2nd, motion passed.

We have a notice at Seminary for a new organist, also contacted Pastor Mummons about using one of their organist. Others have been contacted also. Another option is using "canned" music.

New Business: None.

Ralph asked for a motion to adjourn, Chuck Cooper made a motion and 2nd by Steve Smith, motion passed.

Respectively Submitted Joyce Reidt (sec.)



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

January 2017

The New Year is right around the corner! God's blessings to all for a happy and healthy New Year!

Sunday School Missions collected \$128.22 for the New Life Lutheran Church's support of the Liberian Children's Ministry. This amount was collected in November and the first two Sundays of December. There was no Sunday School on December 18th (inclement weather) and on Christmas Day.

January and February mission project will support Whitley County Energy Assistance program through the Salvation Army.

Lessons for January:

1st – "Jesus Is Rejected at Nazareth"

8th – "Jesus Calls Disciples"

15th – "Jesus Heals Many"

22nd – "Jesus Heals a Man Who is Paralyzed"

29th – "Jesus Calls Matthew"

Sunday School Stats-for November 2016

Class Attendance:

Preschool – 75% (Banner Class!); High School – 62.5%; Elementary (Gr. 1-4) – 58.3%; Middle School – 50%

Sunday School students created hand-made Christmas cards for 24 shut-ins and friends of Zion. Sunday School material and puzzles were included in each packet.

Military letters written by the VBS p.m. students were mailed to the Ft. Wayne Veteran's Hospital along with Christmas greetings. A total of 14 letters were mailed.

Upcoming events include a Celebration of Jesus' Baptism during Sunday School opening at 9:00 a.m. on January 8th. The Board of Christian Education will provide refreshments.

Zion will be celebrating Jesus' Baptism on Sunday, January 8th. 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!





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!

Zion's Ladies Aid sewing group attended the Cancer Services of N.E.IN Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on [Dec. 2](#) at Hotel Fort Wayne.

A delicious sit down breakfast was followed by remarks from Volunteer Chairperson, Cheryl Dafforn and from representatives of the sewing groups, driving groups, and special events person.

There are 500 volunteers doing a variety of tasks. This was emphasized by giving each attendee a rubic cube to represent all the different facets of the volunteer program. Special [Christmas](#) music was presented by the Northrup High School's choir.

Zion Ladies Aid has been sewing cancer bed pads continuously since 1984 and to date have sewn 9,087 pads!

Those attending the breakfast were: Marty Williams, Jennie Childs, Donna Rhubrake, Mary Metzger, Jan Gleason, Leah Rhodes, Judie Lortie, Sharon Disbrow, and Kathaleen Reese.

[Christmas Party – Dec. 29, 2016](#)

10 attended the noon meal. Following the table prayer, all were welcomed and a few riddles and some bizarre holiday traditions from various countries were given by Pres. Reese. After the lunch all sang the "Ladies Aid Jingle Bell Song". The program, with a Candy Cane theme, was presented by Pres. Reese. The story of how the candy came into being and the religious significance attached to it was read. Each guest received a special reading of the symbols of the candy cane with a real one attached to it. A song to the tune of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer", entitled "Mary, the Virgin Mother" was sung by all. The gift exchange done by Jan Gleason carried out the candy cane theme with each person receiving a # on small card with a real candy cane to be matched to a gift. The party was concluded with the reading "Let Us Live [Christmas Every Day](#)".

ZION LWML

As of January 1st, 2017, we will not have an organized LWML at Zion, voted upon at our last meeting. With the resignation of both treasurer and secretary due to health problems and moving, it is not feasible with only 5 members, (all in their 80's) and no one able to fill these 2 positions, to carry on the work of the LWML. Joan has served faithfully as treasurer for 38 years and Lois as secretary for 16 years.

For years, we have pleaded for younger women to join our group to no avail. It is our hope that perhaps some younger women, who perhaps could meet in the evenings, will want to organize their own LWML and continue with mission projects that we have done for 30 years. The LWML at Zion is part of the Ft. Wayne North Zone and participates in its rallies and mission gatherings.

The Ladies Aid at Zion will continue with its sewing of cancer pads since we have 10 faithful sewers in that group. We will also continue to send cards and visit sick and shut-ins.

I have served as president for 36 years and tried to always have an active organization and engage in many mission projects. (See yearend report for Ladies Aid-LWML).

It is our hope and prayer that someone will assume leadership and continue the mission work of the LWML.

In His Service,
Kathaleen Reese, Pres. Ladies Aid/LWML



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, Phyllis Myers, 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

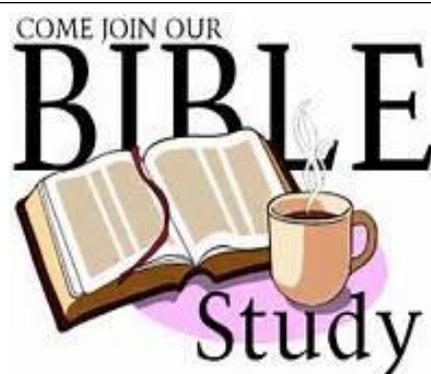
SPECIAL PRAYER
REQUESTS
for

. . . 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.

Year End Reports!

**Attention all Committee's
yearend reports will
be due Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017**

**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 New Year here,
please clean out your mailboxes!**



God's Eternal Blessings

~ M.S. Lowndes~

God's eternal blessings
Flows down from above
To equip us in His mission
To spread His wondrous love

So He can always use us
And stretch us in our faith,
So we may be a blessing
To others by His grace.

For everything we need,
God will graciously provide
Through His eternal blessings
That's abundant in our lives.

Bible Trivia Questions: (Will start you out with some easy ones)

In what city was Jesus born?

How many books are in the New Testament?

What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert?

Who were the first apostles called to follow Jesus?

JANUARY

SERVING AT CHURCH

Ushers

1st – Steve Smith
8th – Mike Gerbers
15th – Ralph Sexton
22nd – Mike Gerbers
29th – Steve Smith

Acolytes

1st – Hailey Braun
8th – Lily Lane
15th – Emma Mullett
22nd – Mason Knuth
29th – Kirby Coons

Greeters

1st – Kathaleen Reese
8th –
15th – Pat Decker
22nd –
29th –

Altar Guild

?

BIRTHDAY'S



2 Mason Knuth
3 Jared Wilkinson
4 Christopher Decker
6 Caleb Decker
7 Phil Coons
9 Hailey Braun
11 Trenton Pease
12 Maddox Lahrman
16 Bradley Hart
17 Sandy Barrett
17 Sandra Rueger
19 Belinda Peppler
25 Larry Haugk
26 Callie Braun
28 J. Wayne Reese
29 Michael Braun
30 Mathieu Hartman

BAPTISMS



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

ANNIVERSARIES



3 Jack & Joan Lane

HAPPY
New Year
2017

JANUARY 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|---|--|--------|----------|
| 1 New Year's Day S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Outreach 11:30 am | 2 | 3 | 4 Wed. Eve. Service 7 pm | 5 Ladies Sewing 9 am Bible Study 7 pm | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Baptism of Jesus S.S. 9 am Worship 10:15 am (Church Officers Inst.) Bd. of Ed. 11:30 am | 9 | 10 | 11 Wed. Eve. Service 7 pm Elders | 12 Bible Study 7 pm | 13 | 14 |
| 15 S.S. 9 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Voter's Assm. 11:30 am | 16 | 17 | 18 Wed. Eve. Service 7 pm | 19 Ladies Sewing 9 am Bible Study 7 pm | 20 | 21 |
| 22 S.S. 9 am Worship 10:15 am | 23 Zealant Items Due | 24 | 25 Wed. Eve. Service 7 pm | 26 Bible Study 7 pm | 27 | 28 |
| 29 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Answers to Bible Trivia:

Bethlehem

27

Locusts

Peter and Andrew