



# 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>

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Rev. Phil Rittner

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

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

## January 2019 Zealant Pastor Article

Happy New Year!

So much for Christmas. Jesus seems to have ruined the illustrious holiday for me.

Don't get me wrong! I still love the plethora of Christmas music playing in the stores and on my radio in the car. And who doesn't find joy in decorating the tree with care and all the fanciful treats adorning the church's Sanctuary at this time of year.

But all these heart-felt secular Christmas things pale in comparison to the joy of celebrating the Incarnation of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! All those wonderful memories from my youth of Christmases past haven't entirely faded into oblivion. But the

joy each year of that peace found in Christ (and growing stronger and stronger!) beats out anything Bing Crosby can croon about.

So yes; Christmas, as the world celebrates it, has forever been ruined by Christ.

But wait! There's so much more!

Here we come into a bright and prosperous New Year! Already some of the presents from this past Christmas have ceased to thrill us. Even that new "Chromebook" has become another tool for the ministry and all the cookies and candy from my stocking (hung with O so great care!) are henceforth depleted. So, was it just another blip on the pathway toward the grave? Was it simply an excuse to throw a party? Or was it even more so

a joyous remembrance of my Lord's birth on this earth, and greater embracing of His coming again in glory?

At the beginning of a New Year we've always looked at the 12 months ahead as being happy, filled with a better 12 months than those just endured. Many a toast are lifted in anticipation of a prosperous New Year, and, as has been routinely done year after year after year, resolutions are made; promises are pleaded; and even the outlook for new and exciting relationships are expected.

Is Jesus going to ruin all of that too?

Listen to what our Lord spoke in John's Gospel, chapter 15:9 – 11, **“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”**

All those earthly or secular aspects of Christmas or the New Year have been blown out of the water by Jesus. All our hopes and all our dreams are seemingly foiled and kicked to the

curb by a Lord that loves us more than any Christmas present. All our hopes and dreams are replaced with the promises and love of a God Who DOES something for you and your eternity. The love of Christ outperforms any relationship here on earth, for His love isn't an emotion that waxes or wanes one day to the next. The love of Christ is a deliberate action solely executed for me and you and our life with Him forever!

Being ever mindful of the Third Commandment, I encourage you to attend church with greater zeal in the New Year. Hear and learn more of this love God has for you, in that He sent His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life.

See you in church. Soon!

*Pastor Phil Rittner*

# Council Minutes

## December

Zion Lutheran Church

Counsel Meeting

December 18, 2018

Kenny Knuth called the meeting to order with 9 members present. Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes: Steve Smith made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Zealant, Chuck Cooper 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed.

Receiving Treasurer: Chuck Cooper

	November 2018	YTD
Unrestricted Receipts:	\$ 7,095.00	\$ 81,919.47
Restricted/Miscellaneous	\$ 424.26	\$ 10,010.28
Dividends	\$ 288.26	\$ 3,458.28
Interest	\$ 1.84	\$ 30.99
Total Receipts	\$ 7,809.96	\$ 95,419.12

Joyce Reidt made a motion to accept the report as presented, Steve Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed.

Disbursing Treasurer: Jill Coons

	Checking / Savings November 2018
General checking/savings	\$ 636.97
Youth	\$ 13,121.14
Restricted Funds	\$ 18,531.58
Lehmburg Legacy	\$ 78,849.75 (Market Value 10/31 \$74,957.77)

### Statement of Activity

November 2018

	November 2018	YTD
General Budget Non-Budgeted/	\$ 449.04	\$ (3,989.98)
Reimbursed	\$ (173.40)	\$ 3,162.83
Youth	\$ .33	\$ 291.93
Non-Specified	\$ (1.75)	\$ (1.75)
Total Net Revenue	\$ 274.22	\$ (536.97)

Chuck Cooper made a motion to accept the report as presented, Pastor Rittner 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion Passed.

Elders: Steve Smith

- No meeting this month
- There will be NO Wednesday night service December 26<sup>th</sup>
- Average Attendance: November      Sunday-49      Mid-week-13

Trustees:

- There are still a few security lights that need installed in the basement
- A quote for windows for the basement was presented from Home Depot \$ 3,000.
- A suggestion of putting both the cross and church signage on dusk-dawn control.
- A quote for needed exterior painting was presented at \$ 4,555.00.
- Fixing the railing on the west side of the church was discussed.

Board of Education

- Board of Ed meet December 9, 2018 with members and 1 guest present.
- Opening Devotion- The Lord's Prayer
- Minutes were approved
- Sunday school report for November Sunday-7 Adults-17\
- Sunday school is making Christmas cards for our shut-ins. They will also be making Valentines on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>
- Missions: \$144.88 has been collected for the Wittenburg Project.
- The Christmas program has been finalized and will be December 16<sup>th</sup>. Pat Decker has made 30 bags of treats for the children after the service, Sam Mullett received his conformation gift from the Board.
- New Business: Jesus Baptism will be January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Board will provide refreshments between opening and Sunday school.
- Pastor's Report: None
- Library Report: None
- Other Business: Barb Lahrman is working on the year-end report.

Board of Outreach: No Report Stewardship: No Report:

Youth; We received e mail conformation for the 4-youth going to National Convention in 2019.

Pastor Report:

- Automated calling service is almost set up.
- You watch for Church cancellation on WAYNE TV Chanel 15 and WOWO.
- Installation of ALL Church officers will be January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- I'm gathering information from the Synod to assist with paying my student loans.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Will meet with our Seminary Student on the possibility of funding opportunities through Lehmburg Legacy for his education.

With no other business Steve Smith made a motion to Adjourn, Chuck Cooper 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted Joyce Reidt (sec)



### **Lessons for January 2019:**

Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>- "The Birth of Jesus"

Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>- "The Presentation of Jesus"

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>- "The Visit of the Wise Men "

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>- "The Boy Jesus in the Temple"

## **SCOOP**

**January 2018**

December is here, and we are celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus, a special "gift" for each and every one of us!

Thank you to all who helped plan the Congregational Christmas on December 16<sup>th</sup>: Janice Klopfenstein and Pastor Phil for organizing the program; Katie Rittner for working the music; Kami Wilburn for putting the program in the bulletin and PowerPoint form; for Scott Woodhouse for manning the Power Point; and Patsy Decker for purchasing the and filling the treat bags for the children and youth. It was a wonderful service filled with music, singing and the telling of the Birth of Christ.

### **Missions**

Will finish collecting in December for the Wittenburg Project, seminary in Germany. January and February will be supporting the Whitley County Energy Assistance Program. Thank you for your past, present and future contributions!

**Upcoming Event** include celebration of Jesus's baptism on January 13 in Sunday School opening at 9:00 A.M.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup>, classes will be creating hand crafted Valentines. The children and youth made Christmas Cards for Zions shut-ins and friends, and 17 packets were mailed.

### **Sunday School STATS** – November 2018

Class Attendance: High School & Catechism tied at– 50% (Banner Class!); Upper Elementary – 25%; Preschool/Kind. – 25%.

**Zion will be celebrating Jesus' Baptism on Sunday, January 13th. 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!**



# Ladies Aid

December was a busy month for the Ladies Aid. December 7 was the Annual Cancer Services of N.E. IN Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at Ceruti's in Ft. Wayne. Due to illness, only 5 ladies were able to attend this year. After a delicious sit-down breakfast, the group was entertained by the "True Ukes", a small group of ukulele players playing Christmas songs. The theme for the breakfast was "Volunteers scraping" the way for people with cancer", and each person present received a scraper for ice that included a knife for cutting a seat belt and a steel point for breaking a window.

All the various volunteer groups were honored. Some statistics for the year were: Drivers made 478 trips; Special events donated 1,345 hours: Office help sealed and folded 46,712 pieces of mail;

Sewers donated 3,950 hours sewing 4,960 pads. Volunteers donated a total of 7,172 hours.

Our sewing group at Zion completed 290 cancer pads in 2018 and a total of 9,710 since 1985.

Christmas cards and a gift of a small beautiful olive wooden cross was given to all Zion's sick and shut ins.

Our annual Christmas Party was held December 20 at Tri Lakes Restaurant with 13 persons present.

Along with some Christmas Trivia and jokes, and the singing of the "Ladies Aid Jingle Bell" song, Kathaleen Reese presented a short program on "Stars", their symbols, meanings, uses and religious significance including the Star of Bethlehem and Star of David ending by showing 5 stars each relating to L-I-G-H-T as Jesus is the Light of the world.

Marty Williams presented each person with a lovely hand colored card containing special scripture verses. Linda Williams gave each person a bag of M and M's that told the Christmas Story. Jan Gleason took charge of the gift exchange using a star to match each gift to the recipient. The party was closed with all saying together a special Christmas Prayer. It was a time of fun and great fellowship by all who attended.

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**



Civil War battleground sites hold re-enactments of battles fought there.

They do this to teach the next generation when, where, how, and why the battle was fought.

The church year is like that—a yearly re-enactment of God's plan to seek and save those who were "walking in darkness" (Isaiah 9:2). It's a teaching tool reminding us of what God did to save us, how he did it, why he did it—and at what cost.

The story is told this way:

+ Advent="He is coming!"

+ Christmas="He is here!"

+ Epiphany="Who is he?"

+ Lent="Who am I?"

+ Holy Week="What it cost him."

+ Easter="He is risen."

+ Pentecost="His love, our response."

We begin the story with something Isaiah said about the Coming One: "They shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)" (Matthew 1:23). But is that good news or bad news?

The first hint that his coming might be good news is the choosing of Mary as Jesus' mother. A humble servant is soon to give birth to the One who came "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

**Lord Jesus, remind me how deep and wide is your love—that you would come to serve even me. Let your love now form and shape me into a fitting servant.**

**Amen.**

Let us all remember in the coming year that we are to be the servant and not the served. Missions need not be huge they can be as simple as a kind word when someone is having a bad day. Be the light to help show the way! With God's Blessing let us show your love.

## Year End Reports!

Attention all Committee's  
yearend reports will  
be due Sunday, Jan18,2019

Kami has put your committee  
minutes  
in your mailbox.

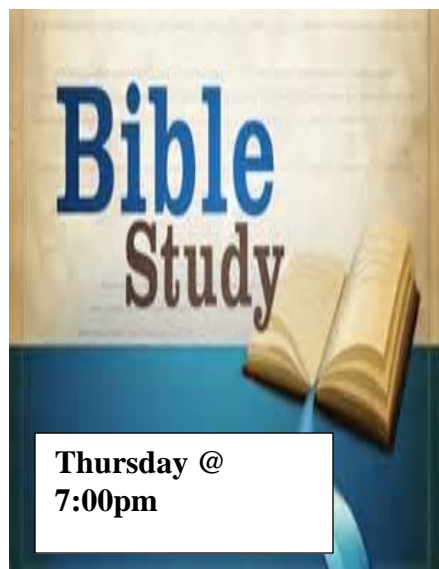
The chairman or secretary of each  
committee should go over these  
minutes  
and highlight the important things  
from the past year.

Then get them back to Kami  
so, I can start working on them  
for the Year End Report.

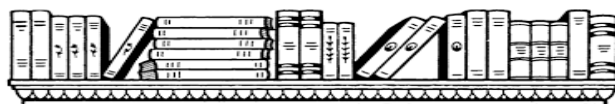
### Church Mailboxes

Please check your mailboxes for  
Christmas cards and gifts.

Also, with the New Year here,  
please clean out your mailboxes!



## Chris's Corner



The new year generally comes with a number of resolutions to make our lives better in some way. Whether these changes remain long term, the symbolic start of a new year may help your motivation. It's time to reflect! It's the best time to try something new! It's a new start! It's a clean slate! It's a chance to be an improved you! It's a lot of other cliches as well, but if you've decided to make a positive change, I may as well try to help enable your new, good habits with some suggestions from the library.

Your church library comes equipped with a number of books to help start your resolution. Healthier you? We've got that. Financial advice? Yep. Learning how to better cope with grief? Need some family harmony? Check it out! (Sorry ... terrible librarian joke....)

The new year is also a great time to start a new devotional. There are a number of options to check out for the year that can help you (or your entire family!) focus on your spiritual life either day by day or week by week. Be sure to browse our many devotionals to help start your morning or week in the Word and applying it in your life. This resolution is certainly more attainable than swearing off all the carbs in your life (at least until January 4th ...) and has a more rewarding, long-lasting impact on your life.

A new year is always an exciting time, and we're all looking forward to what 2019 will bring. Resolve to visit your church library to help start the year off right. "Resolve." \*snicker\* Apparently, I'm not ready to give up bad jokes. Or carbs.



Peabody Home (Memory Care):  
Alberta Warnick

Brookdale (Assisted Living):  
John & Lois Duffy

Those at home:  
Tom Auer, Linda Hobkirk, Gene  
Klopfenstein, Dortha Marsh,  
Bill Niedermeyer, John Pullen,  
Tim & Sandra Rueger, Willie &  
Karen Scheumann, and  
Jeannine Slavicek.

Those Serving in the Armed  
Forces:

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  
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

Bible Trivia Questions #1) What were the religious leaders called who continually tried to trap Jesus with their questions? #2) What miracle did Jesus do for Lazarus? #3) On which mountain were the Israelites given the Ten Commandments? #4) Who was Solomon's Father? #5) What job did Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, do?

Thursday @ 7 p.m.



# JANUARY

## SERVING AT CHURCH

### Ushers

6<sup>th</sup>-Steve Smith  
13<sup>th</sup>-Ralph Sexton  
20<sup>th</sup>- Steve Smith  
27<sup>th</sup>- Ralph Sexton

### Acolytes

6<sup>th</sup>- Caleb Decker  
13<sup>th</sup>- Kirby Coons  
20<sup>th</sup>- Lily Lane  
27<sup>th</sup> - Emma Mullett

### Greeters

6<sup>th</sup>- Kathaleen Reese  
13<sup>th</sup>-  
20<sup>th</sup>- Pat Decker  
27<sup>th</sup>-

### Altar Guild

### BIRTHDAY'S



2 Mason Knuth  
4 Christopher Decker  
4 Levi Hartman  
6 Caleb Decker  
7 Phil Coons  
9 Hailey Braun  
11 Trenton Pease  
12 Maddox Lahrman  
13 Dyllynn Lepper  
15 Spencer Rossow  
16 Bradley Hart  
17 Sandy Barrett  
17 Sandra Rueger  
19 Belinda Pepler  
25 Larry Haugk  
26 Callie Braun  
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



### ANNIVERSARIES



#### January

3 Jack & Joan Lane

# JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Wed. Service 7 pm	3  Ladies Aid 9 am  LWML 6 pm  Bible Study 7 pm	4	5  Pastor's day off
6 Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Installation of all church Officials Outreach 11:30 am	7 Pastor's day off	8	9 Wed. Service 7 pm Elders	10 Bible Study 7 pm	11	12 Pastor's day off  -----
13 Baptism of Jesus S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am 11:30 am Bd. of Education	14 Pastor's day off	15	16 Wed. Service 7 pm	17 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am  Bible Study 7 pm	18	19 Pastor's day off
20 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am After service Voters Meeting!	21 Pastor's day off	22	23 Wed. Service 7 pm	24 Bible Study 7 pm	25 Zealant items are due!	26 Pastor's day off
27 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Youth 11:30 am	28	29	30 Wed. Service 7 pm	31		

Answers to Bible Trivia: #1) Pharisees and Sadducees (Mark: 10:2) #2) Raised him from the dead (John 11:43-44) #3) Mt. Sinai (Matt 34:32) #4) David(1Kings 3:25) #5) Carpenter(Matt 13:55)