

JULY 2020

VOLUME 61

ISSUE 7



# THE ZION ZEALANT

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Pastors Article for the July 2020 Zealant

You just mention the month of “July”, and I get excited! The memories stirred up during the month of July are some of my fondest growing up – and yes, it’s because of the fireworks. And it isn’t because of my delight in safely blowing things up (lol), but for the reason that I have long been hugely patriotic. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July marks the celebration of the founding of our country, the United States of America. This is why I served in the military as long as I did; and why I continuously fly the American Flag proudly outside my home.

It isn’t being ‘political’ to me. That’s different. My pride is for my home, much like I am extremely proud to call this little spot in Indiana my home. You can ask my wife, but I’m not particularly ‘proud’ of my military service. I did what my country had asked me to do, and I tried to do it as best I could. I do have a partiality for those having served our country in Viet Nam (as I did), but for reasons not consistent with what the modern attitude claims.

I became a man during that war, and so did a bunch of friends of mine. There’s long been a movie out I like watching over and over again, “We Were Soldiers” starring Mel Gibson. I’ve read the book twice. But of special significance is that many young men went to fight in that dirty war, and died attempting to serve their country as adult men. My own eyes have seen such men get killed. Yet, in the most casual of glances, it appears I survived to go on and become called by God to be a Pastor. Yes, there are scares... you just cannot see them and the Lord has helped me get through them.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Chapter 11, Jesus spoke of our coming to Him, and He will give us rest. He said, **“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”** That is what I have done, as so many of you also have called upon the Name of the Lord Jesus and found rest and comfort only in Him.

And so, when every July rolls around during the years past and in the ones to come, I cherish the memories of a time when my dad always took us kids to the park along the Maumee River on the 4<sup>th</sup> to watch the most magnificent fireworks displays. By the time you have read this perhaps, I will be out west with a dear friend of mine, a fellow pastor, setting up and displaying a wonderful fireworks display for his city on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and, well, we’ll have some spare time during my vacation to safely blow up some stuff too.

Come. Come to worship the Lord your God. Come, partake of His Sacraments for the refreshment of your souls and secure your safety from sin, death, and the devil. Enliven your faith in the hearing of God’s Holy Word, and give thanks. Give thanks for the gift of life He has bestowed upon you – especially here in this land of the free and home of the brave.

I am so delighted the Lord has placed me here in this place to serve you as your pastor. I hope to see you in church, soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner

**You have a Choice: Drive In (Tune to 107.1 FM) or Come In to Sanctuary as You Feel Comfortable.**

## **Church Council Meeting June 16, 2020**

Meeting called to order by Scott Woodhouse with eight (8) members (Jill Coons, Phil Coons, Pastor Rittner, Scott Woodhouse, Katie Rittner, Christine Woodhouse, Steve Smith and Chuck Cooper) present.

Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with Psalm 46.

**Minutes:** Jill Coons made a motion to accept the May minutes printed in the June Zealant with no corrections. Chuck Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Receiving Treasurer:** reported by Chuck Cooper

	May 2020	YTD
Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 5,938.00	\$ 33,821.50
Restricted/ Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 49.30	\$ 12,679.75
On-line Giving Receipts	\$ 3,197.00	\$ 13,637.00
Dividends	\$ 407.77	\$ 1,478.63
Interest	\$ 2.91	\$ 14.76
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 9,594.98</b>	<b>\$ 61,631.64</b>

Katie Rittner made a motion to accept the May report as presented. Steve Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Disbursing Treasurer:** reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings	May 2020
General Checking/Savings	\$ 42,642.64
Youth	\$ 9,618.73
Restricted Funds	\$ 12,620.05
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$ 175,206.12

Statement of Activity

	May	YTD
General Budget	\$ 1,994.35	\$ 7,139.86
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 410.46	\$ 12,654.98
Youth	\$ .18	\$ (132.23)
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,404.99</b>	<b>\$ 19,662.61</b>

Chuck Cooper made a motion to accept the May report as presented. Katie Rittner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Elders:** Steve Smith

Meeting held May 26, 2020 was opened with prayer.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The main purpose of this meeting was to determine if we should take steps to open our church up for worship inside again. Much discussion was held to determine whether we should stay with outside services, move back inside, or both.

It was decided to continue holding services outside through June 14<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime a letter (questionnaire) will be sent to each family with several options so that we have a better understanding of what the congregation desires. The results of this survey will help in determining which way to go.

Red Cross will be here at Zion on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Meeting was closed with the Benediction.

Respectively submitted,

Stephen Smith (Sec.)

**Trustees:**

Jerry has been painting the trim around the outside of the church.

Plans for the garage sale to be held are moving forward. Would like to do it the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August. Need to verify date to ensure no conflict with Red Cross dates already booked.

**Board of Education:**

The library will be reorganized for use as the Vicar's office prior to his start date of August 1, 2020.

**Board of Christian Outreach:** No report

**Board of Stewardship:** No report

**Board of Youth:** No report

**Pastor:** Pastor Rittner

- The new Constitution has been assigned for review at the Indiana District office. Per the updated information from the district office it should be brought up at the August 25, 2020 meeting. We should then hear back from them if there are any changes to be made or if it is approved.
- The camcorder has been purchased for less than the original estimate and it has arrived. We should be using it in the very near future to record and resume posting on the YouTube page *Pastor Phil Preaching the Gospel*.
- Would like to hold the installation of our Vicar on August 2, 2020 and *hopefully* a potluck to be held after to welcome Timothy and his family to the Zion family. The date will be finalized at the next Elders meeting.

- Shut-in visits return starting tomorrow. Many of our members are scheduled for visits. It will be good to see them all and check in on them after so long apart.

### **Unfinished/Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

- Post replacement will begin on the front step.
- We need to begin looking for a new Congregation President as Scott has begun his seminary studies.
- Pastor made a motion to pick up a gift card and thank you card for Jerry for all his work around the church. Chuck Cooper seconded it. The motion passed.

With no further business, Katie Rittner made a motion to adjourn. Jill Coons seconded. The motion carried. Pastor Rittner closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary

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## **GUIDELINES For REOPENING SANCTUARY**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your Elders and Pastor met to discuss the reopening of worship services inside the church's Sanctuary. It was decided to attempt to begin having worship services again beginning on **June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 10:15am**. Of course, things could change between now and then, but we will keep everyone up to date as the time approaches.

Also, please note that the following items were considered for reopening:

- Signage will be provided to require hand sanitizing before entering the church and sanctuary. Face masks will be suggested to be worn by those entering the church. Also, those symptomatic of COVID19 should **stay home** to avoid problems for your neighbor. The church building itself has undergone some sanitation procedures recommended by the state and the Indiana District-LCMS, all of whom we've been getting guidance. This included items in the Sanctuary that you may have to come into contact with (pews, door handles, etc.) as well as Communion Ware. The entire service will of course be made available on the PowerPoint screen, to avoid the use of using the hymnals (which would need cleaning after each service) and will also be made available in the parking lot via your car radio. **Tune into 107.1 FM**
- Holy Communion will be practiced differently than we have done it in the past, and for as long as necessary **until** we can safely return to everyone coming to the Communion Rail to partake of the Lord's body and blood. There is a table set up for the Lord's Supper. Pastor will Consecrate them, and then the congregation will be invited to approach (observing social distancing guidelines) and take the host and individual cup of wine to commune. This will effectively be a non-contact manner of distributing the Lord's Supper. Holy Communion will be available after each service for those wanting to partake or you may call and make an appt to come in to meet with the Pastor.
- Social Distancing guidelines will be in place in the Sanctuary by the taped off pews.

- A devotional video by the Pastor will continue to be provided, though notification means should be limited to those who desire them (a sign-up system will be developed).
- **The Thursday Evening Bible Study** will continue at church at 7pm. It is encouraged that everyone come join us for wonderful discussion and learning more about Jesus!
- **Sunday School will not resume until public schools are reopened by the Governor of Indiana. That date is yet unknown.**
- We'll continue with worship outdoors at same time! Let us know if there's anything we can help you with! **Tune to 107.1 FM**

Your elected officials and Pastor have been working diligently in the time we've been closed to maintain the church building and keep in touch with everyone. The priority will and continue to be, the sharing of the love of Christ for all people, doing so by the proclamation of the sweet Gospel message of Christ's Resurrection from the tomb, atoning for the sins of all mankind; and by the administration of the holy Sacraments as commanded by our Lord. Know this, God loves you so much, He sent His Son to pay the price for your forgiveness! Bless and praise Him!

## UPCOMING JULY EVENTS

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**Sunday Services in Church & the parking lot at 10:15AM tune into 107.1FM**

**Thursday Night Bible Study At 7pm at the Church**

**RED CROSS will be here July 28<sup>th</sup> 2020** from 10am to 3pm. Go online to make an appt.

### **Heads Up!**

The event you all have been waiting for... The Zion Lutheran Church Annual Garage Sale!!!!

**TENATIVELY** it will be on AUGUST 20-21 8am-5pm & AUGUST 22 8am-1pm. Of course this could change depending on the Covid 19 and the Governor's Back on Track Plan.

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If you have not tried it yet, look into our **Online Giving**, a web-based electronic contribution application. We are providing this service so that you have the option to manage your contributions online or with your offering envelopes. Our offering envelopes will have a check box which will indicate "I've given online," you can use them to present during offertory at worship. This service is safe and secure. And it is convenient for you. Sign up for Online Giving by visiting our church website at **[www.zionlutherancc.com](http://www.zionlutherancc.com)** and select the Online Giving ink or **scan this QR code**.



**FYI:** Some of your offering envelopes have specific programs that if you use them, your offering will go to that program. (VBS, Maintenance, Cushions, etc.) If you don't want your offering to fund that program, then mark it out and write general offering or whatever program that you may want to fund.

**JUNE**

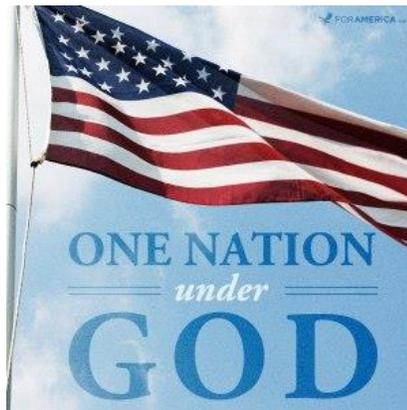
**2020 Budget**

Attend #	Tithing	Actual	Budget	Difference	YTD
Sun	<b>Unrestricted Offering</b>				44667
45 COVID	06/07-06/13	1667	2,018.37	(351)	46334
39 covid	06/14-06/20	1425	2,018.37	(593)	47759
35 COVID	06/21-06/27	2404	2,018.37	386	50163
49 COVID (inside/outside)	06/28-07/04	3415	2,018.37	1397	53578
<b>Total Operating Income</b>		<b>8911</b>	<b>8,073</b>	<b>838</b>	12445
<b>Restricted Offering</b>	Sunday School	-			
	field worker				
	Maintance			-	
	Pew Cushions			-	
	Missions				
<b>Restricted Offering</b>	<b>Total Non-Operating Income</b>		-		12445
<b>Total INCOME</b>		<b>8911</b>			



**BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH**

- 2 Logan Bachelder
- 10 Emma Mullet
- 12 Barbara Knuth
- 12 Jack Rugg
- 13 Brody Hart
- 15 Barbara Lahrman
- 15 Luke Conrad(Grant)
- 17 Cari Knuth
- 20 Nolan Lahrman
- 22 Summer Hart
- 22 Thomas Knuth
- 22 Wm. Niedermeyer
- 23 Judith Kovacs
- 30 Jill Coons



- Gavin Lahrman
- Edan Rittner
- Sara Schuller
- Casandra Sexton
- Kaden Decker
- Jasper Foldenauer



- 1 Thompson & Erika Marin
- 1 Gene & Sandy Barrett
- 14 Ralph & Peggy Brooke
- 27 Mathieu & Myra Hartman
- 28 David & Sharry Wiehe

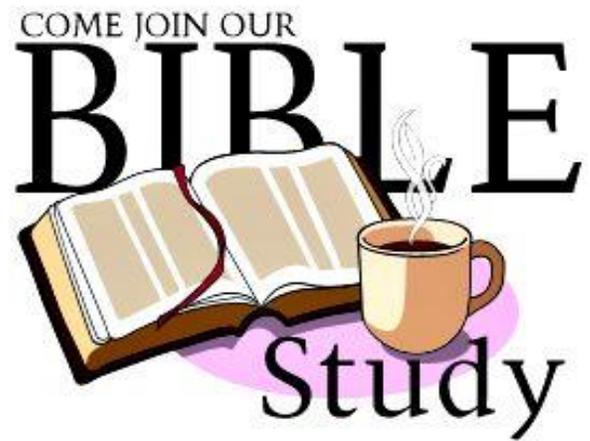




Please remember in your daily prayers our Members in Nursing Homes and those at home:

John & Lois Duffy, Linda Hobkirk, Gene & Janice Klopfenstein, Hela Ziegler, Dortha Marsh, Maxine Lott, Bill Niedermeyer, Tim & Sandra Rueger, John Myers, Willie & Karen Scheumann, Jeannine Slavicek, Jack & Joanne Lane, Shane Hoffman (brother of Cari Knuth), Ralph & Barbara Keiper, Mark Forrester and Lynn Kyler.

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



Thursday @ 7:00 P.M at Church

### SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

For anyone that has not been mentioned, but they may weigh heavy on our hearts... Lord, hear our prayers.

*Prayer Makes A Difference*



# JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p> <p>10:15am - Worship Service</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm-Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - Bd of Outreach</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8pm - Elder's Mtg</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7pm-Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Education</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7pm-Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - VOTER's MTG</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7pm-Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Youth</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>28</p> <p>RED CROSS 10a-3p Go On line to make Appt REDCROSS.ORG</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7pm-Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>