



THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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Pastors Article for the June 2020 Zealant

Oh what grace, mercy, and peace we receive from God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and by the Holy Spirit! Just before the beginning of June, we celebrate Pentecost, and oh how we rejoice knowing the Holy Spirit is not just “on” us, but He dwells now “IN” us! Then, on the First Sunday in June, we observe “Trinity Sunday”, the day reserved for our confessing our faith in the true Triune God.

We’ll continue worshiping from our parking lot until after I and the Elders have gathered your responses from the questionnaire mailed out last week. Kind of interesting... Zion was the first to close our doors for the pandemic in Whitley County, and now we’re one of the last to reopen. There’s nothing wrong with either. Something like this deserves an abundance of caution! So I and your Elders seek to care for this flock to the best of our abilities.

If you hadn’t heard, your Church Council has approved our purchasing new video equipment to use for recording services and to live stream. Katie and my cellphones seemingly have become a hindrance to producing a quality type of video and audio for your use at home. Plus, we’ve thought in the continuing to produce videos long after we reopen the church. It seems to be a welcome addition to the ministry here at Zion! We can well use it inside the Sanctuary and record services for our shut-ins and those who may have missed a service and would like to hear the Word of God!

On a personal note, I’d like you to know how exciting it is going to be bringing a Vicar into our midst! Seminarian Tim and I got off to a great start, having visited a few times already (and don’t be surprised if we can work it out for him to preach once or twice before being installed as our Vicar on August 2, 2020). Our Vicar-elect has a host of life experiences to bring to his ministry of becoming a ‘called and ordained servant of the Word.’ Just as I have found these life experiences a welcome assist to serving each of you as your pastor, I look forward with eagerness at Vicar Tim’s growth while serving here this next year!

I also look ever so forward to seeing all of us gathered inside our beautiful Sanctuary to worship our true and living Lord! God bless each of you as we continue to worship wherever we can! See you in church, soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner

p.s. Don’t forget Drive In Church Sunday, May 17th at 11:00 AM. Tune to 107.1 FM

Church Council Meeting

May 19, 2020

Meeting called to order by Scott Woodhouse with seven (7) members present. (Scott Woodhouse, Chuck Cooper, Phil Coons, Jill Coons, Steve Smith, Pastor Rittner, and Katie Rittner).

Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with prayer.

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

Receiving Treasurer: reported by Chuck Cooper

	April 2020	YTD
Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 6,833.50	\$ 27,883.50
Restricted/ Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 11,335.00	\$ 12,630.45
On-Line Giving Receipts	\$ 3,736.00	\$ 10,440.00
Dividends	\$ 288.53	\$ 1,070.86
Interest	\$ 2.54	\$ 11.85
Total Receipts	\$ 22,195.57	\$ 52,036.66

Jill Coons made a motion to accept the report as presented. Katie Rittner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Disbursing Treasurer: reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings April 2020

General Checking/Savings	\$ 40,496.96
Youth	\$ 9,618.55
Restricted Funds	\$ 12,545.75
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$ 174,869.96

Statement of Activity

	April	YTD
General Budget	\$ 655.63	\$ 5,145.51
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$11,342.39	\$ 12,244.52
Youth	\$.19	\$ (132.41)
Net Revenue	\$ 11,998.21	\$ 17,257.62

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

Elders: No report – Reminder the Red Cross will be here June 2, and July 23.

Trustees: No report

Board of Education: No report

Board of Christian Outreach: No report

Board of Stewardship: No report

Board of Youth:

Fundraising ideas. Looking forward to National Youth Gathering because we have as of right now one youth member who is planning on going and looking forward to it.

Pastor: Pastor Rittner

- Video/Audio and livestreaming is going to be here to stay. It is quite popular and we need to learn how to do the livestream for our members. Would like to request \$500 to purchase a dedicated camera, tripod, HDMI cable, mixer, mount, and other materials and supplies that would be needed to continue the livestream.

Chuck Cooper made a motion for \$525 to purchase camcorder, mixer, tripod, HDMI cable, adapter for ministry purposes. Jill Coons seconded. Motion carried.

- Next group text to go out from Pastor will have a blurb on the bottom of the text stating "If you would like to no longer receive text messages, please reply STOP to be removed."
- Soldiers of the Cross, administrated by the LCMS Office of Missions. Their work is to help church workers. The monies received from the Lutheran Foundation have no restrictions. Suggest making a special gift to the Indiana District for Soldiers of the Cross.
- Pastor made a miscalculation on his retirement. Our Vicar starts August 1 and Pastor retires effective July 31. Pastor is requesting the possibility of help for August and September since his Social Security will not begin paying at the end of September. So he will not be receiving any income for a 2 month period.

Discussion was held regarding Pastor. All members are in favor of doing so. Steve mentioned that per the call papers the church was to pay a negotiable amount toward paying student loan debt. Since that has only been done once, in the time Pastor has been here so use the money from the Lutheran Foundation to go ahead and do so to help Pastor.

Motion by Phil Coons to give a gift to Pastor of \$5,000.00 to assist with the repayment of student debt as was promised in the call document and has only been paid one time in the nine years of his service to Zion from the unrestricted grant funds received from the Lutheran Foundation. Motion seconded by Steve Smith. Motion passed.

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: None

With no further business, Jill Coons made a motion to adjourn. Chick Cooper seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor Rittner closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary

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 14th, 2020**. 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. 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 will have to undergo some sanitation procedures recommended by the state and the Indiana District-LCMS, all of whom we've been getting guidance. This will include items in the Sanctuary you may 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.)

- **Persons 65 years old and older will have a service for them only. This will mean probably 2 worship services or more on Sundays.**
- 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. We will have a table set up before the steps to the Chancel with the elements upon it. 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.
- Social Distancing guidelines will be in place in the Sanctuary by a marking system (probably a tape) in the 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 to be conducted via Zoom video/audio conferencing. If you don't have means of getting the video feed, you can always call in on your phone and participate that way! It is encouraged that everyone is welcome to join us from your home on Thursday 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.**
- There will be shortly a questionnaire going out to the Voters of Zion asking your opinions/suggestions/etc. regarding the reopening of the church. We realize the Voters have not met as we were supposed to in April, but it is the strong desire of your Church Council and Elders that you have a voice in how things are being done.
- **There will also be a call out to everyone for volunteers to assist with the cleaning/sanitizing of the church for your fellow members.**
- We'll continue with worship outdoors as often as we can! Let us know if there's anything we can help you with!
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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!

Introducing our VICAR- Elect (reprinted & edited from May 2020)

Dear Members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for allowing me to be your Vicar {Or the 2020-2021} church year. I am excited to see what God has planned for this upcoming year and to serve you as Vicar.

Per my conversation on the phone with Pastor Rittner, I will be starting as Vicar August 1, 2020. I was born and raised in the Fort Wayne, New Haven Area and because of this, I will periodically through out the summer join you guys in Sunday Worship. I hope that through this time I will be able to learn more about you not only as a congregation but more as individuals so I can learn how best to serve you in the Name of Christ. If for any reason you need to contact me, you can reach me at 260-446-8436 call or text. You can also email me at Timothv.Benzinger@ctsfw.edu. You can also find me on Facebook, Timothy D. Benzinger.

I graduated from Taylor University Fort Wayne in 2005 with a bachelors in Pastoral Ministry. I was not raised in the Lutheran Tradition, but I was baptized as an infant on May 24th, 1981. Faith wise, I grew up Baptist, Missionary, Non-denomination, and chose Wesleyan when I was in High-school. In 2005 I was part of a Wesleyan Church Plant in Fort Wayne called Level 13 Wesleyan Church. I became a Lutheran when I was unsettled in my Wesleyan faith built on merit and sanctification. I was a part of a 10 week men's ministry in Fort Wayne, and through this stumbled into Lutheranism. I joined Promise Ministries LCMS in Fort Wayne, shortly became an elder and then 2 years later was told, "He you should be a pastor, ever think about seminary?" So here I am. I am interested in starting a Church Plant in the near future with a biker ministry attached. My family refers to me as a Tie-Dye Teddy bear.

My wife April Benzinger works 3rd shift for Parkview Regional Medical Center as a Respiratory Therapist and NICU Specialist. She enjoys running half marathons and is a homeschool teacher. We are a blended family of six. The oldest three come from my wife's previous marriage. Trent who is 19 has Asperger's (high functioning autism) and lives with April's parents in Southern Indiana because of a job. Kaela who is 17 lives with her dad, Jakob is 12 almost 13 and he lives with us on the weekdays because of homeschooling and lives with his dads on the weekend. Unfortunately, they will not be with us during church services, but things could change. Hadassah (Dess) is 7 years old. She is both my Wife's and mine. Dess is the spitting image of me (But without a beard). Life as you can imagine has its ups and downs. No matter what we face in life, God always has our back. In moments like these it's easy to lose track of where we are or where we have come from so, I am reminded of one of my favorite verses from Proverbs. "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps. (16:9 NLT)"

I look forward to meeting you all in Person.

My prayer is that the Lord will bless our work together to His glory.

Yours in Christ,



UPCOMING JUNE EVENTS

Sunday Services in Church parking lot at 11AM tune into 107.1FM

Tuesday June 2nd American Red Cross Donation Site 10am-4pm. Requesting that appointments be made ahead of time. Call or go online to schedule. [1-800-733-2767](tel:1-800-733-2767)

Sunday June 21st Possibly INSIDE services beginning.

Sunday June 21st HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Thursday Night Bible Study via ZOOM app. At 7pm. Contact Pastor for invitation code. You will need a smart phone, chromebook, laptop or personal computer (desk top computer) download the Zoom app from your app store. Make an account. Then you too can join in on the conversation with other church members and Pastor. You do not need a camera- just audio. You will be able to see those who choose to have camera turned on.

Our church now offers **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 will start with the April Offering Envelopes. In the meantime, if you want to present an envelope during the offering, you can write, "I've given online."

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 and select the Online Giving link 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.

Zion Lutheran Church MAY

2020 Budget

Attend #	Tithing	Actual	Budget	Difference	YTD
Sun Wed	Unrestricted Offering				36,027
50 COVID	05/03-05/06	1,667	2,018.37	(351)	37,694
32 covid	05/10-05/13	2,149	2,018.37	131	39,843
32 COVID	05/17-05/20	1,417	2,018.37	(601)	41,260
32 COVID	05/24-05/27	1,460	2,018.37	(558)	42,720
covid	05/31-06/03			-	
	Total Operating Income	6,693	8,073	(1,380)	

Restricted Offering	Sunday School	-	-
	field worker	25	
	Maintance		-
	Pew Cushions		-
	Missions	10	
Restricted Offering	Total Non-Operating Income	35	-

12331

Total INCOME	6,728	8,073	(1,345)
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SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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.



Thursday @ 7:00 P.M per ZOOM

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

- 2 Shawn Schuller
- 2 Barbara Wagner
- 4 Thomas Wilburn Jr.
- 5 Kathaleen Reese
- 5 Gretchen Lahrman
- 9 Christine Woodhouse
- 11 Jeffery Clark
- 14 Gilliana Knuth
- 15 Ronald Puckett
- 18 Kaden Decker
- 18 Emerson Knuth
- 21 Kirby Coons
- 21 Bryan Hart
- 21 Daniel Rittner
- 21 Betty Wilkinson
- 23 Gavin Lahrman
- 24 Jack Foldenauer
- 26 Edan Rittner
- 27 Sara Schuller
- 30 Payton Coons

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- Janette Bachelder
- Alex Hart
- Gilliana Knuth
- Melinda Puckett
- Jessica Rossow
- Alysa Sawyer
- Jesica Yann
- Zachary Wilburn
- Matt Degitz
- Shawn Schuller
- Peggy Brooke
- Kathaleen Reese

Anniversary Blessings

- 3 Stephen & Kim Yann
- 5 Brad & Hope Hart
- 11 Wilmer & Karen Scheumann
- 20 Ralph & Barb Kieper
- 25 Tom & Cari Knuth

JUNE 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31</p> <p>11 am Outside worship</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>2</p> <p>RED CROSS 10a-4p</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm - Worship Service</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7pm-Bible Study via ZOOM</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>
<p>7</p> <p>11 am Outside worship</p> <p>11:30am - Bd of Outreach</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion 8pm - Elder's Mtg</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7pm-Bible Study via ZOOM</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>
<p>14</p> <p>11 am Outside worship</p> <p>11:30am - Bd of Education</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7pm - Council Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7pm - Worship Service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7pm-Bible Study via ZOOM</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>
<p>21</p> <p>(TBA)</p> <p>INSIDE WORSHIP</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7pm-Bible Study (TBA)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>
<p>28</p> <p>(TBA)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>30</p>			<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>