



THE ZION ZEALANT

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

Phone: 244-5513 Tonya Stanford, Secretary

E-Mail: zionccdq@embarqmail.com

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ZionColumbiaCity

Cell Phone: 260-415-9078 (text if easier)

Email: revrittner@reagan.com

LENT 2020

I recently read a wonderful article from **The Reporter**, an official magazine of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The author, Dr. Gregory J. Wismar, retired from the Office of Holy Ministry several years ago. But his words warmly speak truths of the season of Lent, which we have begun here at Zion in 2020.

I'll post some excerpts of the article with you:

Keeping a Holy Lent

What is the holiest season of the Church Year?

Perhaps that seems an inappropriate question. After all, each season in the annual cycle we observe has its distinct spiritual character. There is the anticipation of Advent, the glorious rejoicing of Christmas, the exuberant triumph of Easter, and the resounding power of Pentecost. But what season invites us more than any other to a repentant reflecting, to a changing of the patterns of our lives, to a new dimension of devotion? That season is Lent, the period of preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Day.

Each year on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, the liturgy of the Church calls us to begin “a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection,” when “our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The words used in the Ash Wednesday rite of the *Lutheran Service Book Agenda* also remind us that “*from ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.*”

The idea of the special nature of the 40 days [of Lent] is reflected in the English word quarantine, which has come to connote a time of separation from, and special attention to, the daily sequence of activity for the restoration of health and well-being. For Christians in previous centuries, the quarantine of the 40 days of Lent included going without regular meals for a period of time. That custom is still observed in various parts of Christendom today.

Another spiritual dynamic of Lent is that it is a time to keep the silence in reflection and devotion. The language of Lent is purposefully quieted. The word alleluia is not used as an expression of praise in Lent. Our vocal and instrumental music is reflective and subdued. Purple, the liturgical color customarily appointed for Lent, is the “quietest” of the colors used throughout the church year and is associated with penitence and sorrow.

In many churches, the crosses, crucifixes, and other religious artwork is “veiled”—covered with a transparent cloth throughout the 40 days to mute their brilliance and to add a solemn tone to the worship space. In some places, families also cover religious paintings and wall hangings

in their homes.

Times of silence for personal reflection and prayer before individual or family devotions have special meaning in Lent. The words of one of the great Lutheran hymns of Lent serve as a call to an extra measure of devotion and prayer: “Jesus, I will ponder now / On Your holy Passion; / With Your Spirit me endow / For such meditation” (*LSB 440, LW 109, TLH 140*).

Today, establishing a proper setting for such reflection in our fast-paced and noisy world may take extra determination. Finding that place and observing that time, however, is another central component of the discipline of the holy season of Lent and is more than worth the effort.

The days and weeks of Lent call us to keep the focus of our lives of faith on Jesus, our Lord, and to learn more of Him and His loving plan of salvation for us. One of the classic hymn stanzas of the Lutheran church portrays that proper focus in this petition to the Lord:

*On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!*
—*LSB 422, LW 100, TLH 179*

I pray that as each of you enter this penitential season of Lent, remembering to keep the focus of this season in the Church Year, it becomes a “fuller and more meaningful season.”

“Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.”

See you in church, soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner

Church Council Meeting February 18, 2020

Meeting called to order by Scott Woodhouse with five (5) members present.

Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes: Steve Smith made a motion to accept the December Voter’s Meeting minutes printed in the February Zealant with no corrections. Jill Coons seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Receiving Treasurer: reported by Chuck Cooper

	January 2020	YTD
Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 7,681.00	\$ 7,681.00
Restricted/ Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 428.14	\$ 428.14
On-Line Giving	\$ 1,384.00	\$ 1,384.00
Dividends	\$ 287.30	\$ 287.30
Interest	\$ 2.80	\$ 2.80
Total Receipts	\$ 9,984.24	\$ 9,984.24

Jill Coons made a motion to accept the report as presented. Steve Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Disbursing Treasurer: reported by Jill Coons
Check/Savings January 2020

General Checking/Savings	\$ 24,941.39
Youth	\$ 9,617.22
Restricted Funds	\$ 12,270.62
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$ 174,335.88

Statement of Activity

	January 2020	YTD
General Budget	\$ 848.50	\$ 848.50
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 135.31	\$ 135.31
Youth	\$ (133.74)	\$ (133.74)
Net Revenue	\$ 850.07	\$ 850.07

Jill brought to the attention of the Church Council that a donation given in approximately 2017 has not yet been cashed. A member has contacted members of the Council to do a special collection during Lent. Pastor Rittner made a motion to take a special door offering during the entire season of Lent through Palm Sunday for The Hope Center, Columbia City, Indiana. Chuck Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Steve Smith made a motion to accept the report as presented. Chuck Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Elders: Steve Smith

February 12, 2020 Meeting cancelled due to inclement weather.

Average attendance for January was:

Sundays	45
Mid-week	10

Respectively submitted,
Stephen Smith (Sec.)

Trustees:

On January 18, 2020, Pastor met with a professional stained-glass artisan from Michigan who I'd invited to look at our stained-glass windows and determine, if any, they needed regarding care. After a thorough examination, he said he wasn't the one person we needed. Our windows are all perfectly sound (he said they were exceptionally made and should last forever!) However, the framework surrounding our windows needs some TLC.

- a. A thorough scraping and cleaning, then priming and repainting the interior frames ought to be done.
- b. The exterior framing too needs replacing some trim and repainting them as well.
- c. Some form of an exterior 'storm window' ought to be installed (none exists).

The Sanctuary audio cabinet received a complete overhaul by AVDI, Inc. Many of the outdated and malfunctioning items were removed and replaced with new equipment. It was then checked, and 'tuned' to a degree we ourselves could make final sound checks. The only equipment left in place was our two DVD/CD players.

The elevator has been greased and should continue to service us for a bit.

Board of Education:

DATE: 09FEB2020

Minutes taken by: Jim Mullett

Meeting called to order: 1125

Board Members: Barb Lahrman, Barb Knuth, Kenny Knuth, Jim Mullett, Judy Gilbert, Chris Woodhouse

Guest: none

Opening Devotion: Lord's Prayer

Previous months Minutes: Approved

Sunday School Report:

Students: 4 Dec 4 Jan

Adults: 13 Dec 13 Jan

Started a Saints and Sinners study today

Missions: \$348.02 sent to LAMB

Evergreen Lutheran church is the new mission it is Lutheran school in Detroit that is in need. \$139.14 raised to date.

Mailed 14 packets Valentines for Shut in and friends of Zion.

Library Reports: No Report

Pastor Report: No Report

Old Business: Jesus' baptism was well received by the church. Suggesting to do this style again next year.

New Business: Palm Sunday is 05APRIL2020. Doing a baked potato bar and board supplying the potatoes and the toppings and congregations supplies the salads. And needs to be finalized at the next meeting.

No one known to be confirmed.

Other: no other business

Next Meeting: 08MARCH2020

Board of Christian Outreach: No report

Board of Stewardship:

Online giving is going very well.

Board of Youth: No report

Pastor: Pastor Rittner

1. Our Vicarage Application was approved by the Indiana District and sent to CTSFW.
 - a. Pastor's anticipated 'retirement is August 1, 2020.
 - b. Vicar Assignment Service will be April 28, 2020 at CTSFW Chapel.
2. There's a need to go through the Secretary's Office and sort/destroy/file numerous items.
 - a. Who should do it?

We need to organize a work day at the church in order to take care of the needed repairs to do around the church and get some of cleaning done. Organization is a must for this! Jill and Scott will work to get this organized.

With regard to the records that need to be retained and the rest will need to be shredded. Shred-it holds an event in the Spring and Fall (May and September?) so we will need to do this before then. Chuck will get the dates of the Shred-it event and we can shred 5 boxes per car for free. It may be worth it to hire Shred-it to do it in one trip. These options will be looked into for the next Church Council meeting.

3. Our church. There are many items that need to be looked at and addressed as needing to be repaired. Discussion was held regarding this and will continue so that we can ensure that our church building will endure for many generations to come. Our congregation is aging and we need to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of our members now and in the future.
4. We need to address our church's security for during the week and during the worship service. Numerous times we have people coming in during the week demanding cash when our secretary or pastor are here alone. Currently we have a doorbell in place, but is it enough? What about Sunday morning?
 - a. There are several options we ought to consider:
 - i. Self-installation of a few cameras and monitoring doors and prominent places of the church (using such as Ring, etc. Other monitoring systems are available)
 - ii. Profession installation of security measures.
 - iii. There are recommended security measures we should take as prepared by both our property insurance company and the Fort Wayne Police Department.
 - iv. Should the Church Council venture to do these items, or might we form a small committee to bring suggestions before the Council/Voter's?
 - v. Police departments and our insurance company recommend that once the service starts, all doors should be locked with one door remaining unlocked AND monitored.

This is a discussion that MUST be had and will continue during into the future.

Chuck Cooper recommended to form a small group to look at ideas and recommendations for the church security and safety to bring recommendations to the Church Council.

Unfinished/Old Business:

Pastor requested an update from the Indiana District Office on the status of the new Constitution.

New Business:

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

Pastor Rittner closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary

Sunday School SCOOP

The Lenten season was to begin Wednesday February 26th, however mother nature chose otherwise. Wednesdays thereafter should be at 7pm until Palm Sunday. The board of Christian Education is sponsoring a Palm Sunday potato bar and potluck on April 5th after worship service. The spuds and toppings will be provided. Congregational members are asked to bring salads and desserts, as well as family and friends.

LADIES AID

The month has brought a few good and bad items of news. The good: Marty Williams is back & sewing regularly. We missed her help putting the pads together. The bad: Carolyn Kelsey fell, cracked a vertebra in her neck and is in a neck - head brace so will be unable to sew for another 6 or more weeks. Missing you!

WE are still collecting the cancelled postage stamps for missions. Place them in box across from the mailboxes. Trim them to ¼ " or we will gladly trim them for you. Thank you for helping with this mission project.

Some of the sewing ladies continue to bring inspiration and humorous items to share. WE share such good fellowship as we work together.

Easter cards will be sent to all the sick and shut ins.

WE continue to "SERVE WITH GLADNESS"

People are like stained glass window: they sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light within."..Ross

UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS

Spring ahead 1 hour at bedtime on March 7th so you are not early on March 8th to church!

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.



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, and Lynn Kyler.

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

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

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



Thursday @ 7:00 P.M



23 Jerry & Barb Lahrman
Congratulations you 2!!!

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

3 Morgan Sawyer
10 Alysa Sawyer
11 Bonnie Spoerke
13 Ryan Bills
13 Peggy Brooke
13 Kinsley Schuller
14 Lily Lane
20 Chuck Cooper
22 Ge'Onna Decker
25 Barbara Kieper
25 Joan Lane
28 Melinda Puckett



Ralph Sexton
Verna Doehrman
Brody Hart
Levi Hartman
Ralph Kieper
Mason Knuth
Maddox Lahrman
Ryan Bills

SERVING AT CHURCH

Ushers: 1st Steve Smith
8th Ralph Sexton
15th Steve Smith
22nd Ralph Sexton
29th Steve Smith

Greeters: 1st Kathaleen Reese
8th
15th Pat Decker
22nd
29th Peggy Brooke

Acolytes: 1st Kaden Decker
8th Emma Mullett
15th Lily Lane
22nd Kirby Coons
29th Jacob Mullett

Altar Guild: Betty Wilkinson

The Disbursing Treasurer is not receiving voucher forms when things are ordered for use in the church with no indication who it was ordered for and why.

Please fill out the forms and submit to the Disbursing Treasurers mailbox. Thanks

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

March 2020

hello March!

February '20							April '20						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1				1	2	3	4
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	26	27	28	29	30		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - Bd of Outreach	2 Pastor's Day Off	3	4 7pm - Worship Service	5 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp 7pm-Bible Study	6	7 Pastor's Day Off 
8 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Education	9 Pastor's Day Off	10	11 7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion 8pm - Elder's Mtg	12 7pm-Bible Study	13	14 Pastor's Day Off
Clocks Spring Forward						
15 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion	16 Pastor's Day Off	17 7pm - Council Meeting  St Patrick's Day	18 7pm - Worship Service Zealant items due	19 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp 7pm-Bible Study	20	21 Pastor's Day Off
22 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Youth	23 Pastor's Day Off	24	25 7pm - Worship Service with Holy Communion	26 7pm-Bible Study	27 	28 Pastor's Day Off
29 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion	30 Pastor's Day Off	31	1 7pm - Worship Service 	2	3	4 Pastor's Day Off 
5	6	Notes   				