



THE ZION ZEALANT

Zion Lutheran Church, 101 E. North St., Columbia City, IN 46725

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Pastor's Corner

Quite a few years ago, a president of these United States made a famous statement: ***“Ask not what your country can do for you, but what can you do for your country.”*** (John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961.) Here in the Church, Jesus has told us in Holy Scripture that the Ten Commandments are summed up as: ***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...and a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*** (Matthew 22:37-39, ESV) Where are we today?

The focus seemingly has turned 180 degrees and pointed toward: me. How am I doing? What am I worth? Am I happy? Am I feeling good? Am I doing what makes me happy? What about ME????

The word ‘commitment’ has too taken on new meanings today. Generations have come and gone when it was beloved to care for our country – so much so that one would fight for this country. Oh, many still do and even some of our youth are growing up learning and holding these ideals close to their heart. But not so much. The trend these days is what can the government do for you to help you along? And, the same is within the Church: it’s what I get from Church that matters. The commitment has shifted from individual responsibility to the collective responsibility of the organization to care for the individual.

Why then do we bother having the church? This church, Zion Lutheran Church? Case in point: your Confirmation. The Rite of Confirmation has for many years contained the questions: ***“Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death? Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than falling away from it?”*** To which your answer would have been to both questions: ***“I do, by the grace of God.”***

Our faith is an active thing. Much like our responsibilities to being an American citizen, our goal should be one of serving others. Our plan should be one of ensuring others are cared for enough to hear the love God has for them in His Son Jesus Christ. You and I have been saved from sin, death, and the devil. Then what? Being a Christian is being active. Serving others as we want to be served. The gap has grown considerably large whereas we care much for the very young, those who cannot care for themselves, and then we care for those in the very late, last stages of life...nearing death. What about those in between? That’s you and I. That’s your neighbor. That’s anyone else who walks the face of this earth. Are these folks then left to fend for themselves in this life of misery, destruction and death?

This is why we are undergoing Revitalization. Matter of fact, the main focus of the entire Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Mission for last month was Evangelism and Revitalization: ***“...we highlight the ministries of the LCMS Office of National Mission (ONM), especially domestic mission, including church-planting and revitalization. We have opportunities for immense growth and outreach by delivering the Gospel to people***

(continued on next page)

(Pastor's Corner continued)

of diverse backgrounds and to those misled by a post-modern culture. Through revitalization, we can encourage and reinvigorate the faithful.”

Have no doubt the Church is here for you in your needs as poor, miserable sinners. Have no doubt that the Church exists here in Columbia City to distribute the Means of Grace – God's Holy Word and His Sacraments. We come to enrich and enliven our faith. We come to hear God's Word and receive His Sacraments. We come to hear Him forgive us our sins. And, indeed we come for the fellowship! But, could I ask it this way: *Ask not what can your church do for you, but what can you do for the church”?*

Council Minutes February 17, 2015

Jeff Braun called the meeting to order.

Pastor Rittner gave opening prayer and read devotion from Exodus 35.

Members in attendance: Jeff Braun, Steve Smith, Ralph Brooke, Peg Brooke, Jill Coons, Pastor Rittner and Joyce Reidt.

Minutes from the January Meeting were approved as submitted.

Incoming/Dispersing Treasures Reports submitted. Steve Smith moved that they be approved as submitted Peg Brooke second motion carried.

Elders Report:

Do to the lack of support from most of the circuit ministers, there will be no rotation of them during Lenten services as previously reported.

New numbers have been ordered for the hymn boards.

We received word that no grant moneys will be given to us for this year. Other options were discussed because this will effect VBS, confirmation camp, some of Pastor's conferences and others.

Pastor John Siculna will be conducting

services on Ash Wednesday.

Discusses more on our membership and delinquent members.

Worked on the Elder's section in helping to update the constitution.

Average attendance for January was: Sunday 61 and Mid-week 14.

Steve Smith read this report. Peg Brooke made a motion to approve the report as submitted Joyce Reidt second, motion carried.

Trustees Report:

Submitted a report on the renewal of our Insurance.

Board of Education:

Attendance for S.S., students 5, adults 15. S.S. children will be making valentine cards to send to shut ins. Barb Knuthe reported that the spring session materials have arrived.

Missions; a total of \$126.50 was raised for the Whitley County Ministerial Energy Assistance Program. Mission for March /April is still to be decided.

(Minutes continued)

No library report, and we are still looking for a board member to fill this position. Pastor announced that he has sent a request to Camp Lutherhaven to see if they would be interested in sending a group for the Palm Sunday service. Our Easter services will be Sunrise service at 7 am, Easter breakfast to follow with Sunday School and then our regular service at 10:15 am. Old Business—Our Baptism Breakfast went well. We are still in need of new board members and also need to elect a new Chair person. New Business—We will need Palm waivers for opening of service on Palm Sunday. It was noted that Barb Lahrman has the 2015 VBS kit and will get with Cheryl about decorations. Alternative VBS schedule were also discussed (i.e.; Evening VBS, and 1 day VBS through the school year, it was suggested that a survey be posted for the members opinions. Other Business—We need to revise our Board of Education Constitution. Meeting closed with Pastor gave the Benediction. Joyce Reidt submitted the report.

Board of Outreach:

Peg Brooke reporting.

Discussion on purchase of the AED unit how to pay for it. As we open our facility to the community such as Red Cross, voting, etc. It would be a very practical item to have at Zion. (A community dinner was one suggestion).

Most of their time was spent discussing on how Zion could reach out to the community; (Food pantry, cleaning supplies are 2 of the suggestions). Monica and Peg will contact other food pantry's to see what they would suggest is a need.

Youth Report:

Jill Coons reporting.

Jan. 25th— movie, last minute thing and miscommunication—1 youth present.

Feb. 27th Basketball game @ Concordia.

Wed., April 1st—Light dinner @ 5:30 and watch The Passion of the Christ. (Open to anyone!)

Youth are working on Soup Kitchen donation.

Youth now have a Twitter account

@ZL_Youth.

Sunday School Attendance Contest!

For the months of February and March we will be having a contest to see who has the best attendance. There will be two divisions: Grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. Whomever has the best Sunday School attendance for those two months will win a \$25 gift card to Bones Theatre!

Pastor's Report:

No Ministry Enhancement Grant for 2015.

Pastor has resigned from being our delegate for The Lutheran Foundation.

New Bible Class will begin on Saturday, April 18th at 10 am for "Couples."

Only one student right now lined up for Confirmation Class. (Pastor purposes to cancel the 2 week program this year with only one student. Do we want to begin some other sort of Confirmation program?)

(Minutes continued on next page)

(Council minutes continued)

Present needs/posts needing filled within the congregation:

- A Chair-person for the Board of Education.
- A delegate for The Lutheran Foundation.
- A congregational member as a delegate to the 2015 Indiana District LCMS Convention.
- Volunteer(s) for a Constitution Revision Committee.
- Need volunteers (readers) for a short program on Palm Sunday.

Old Business:

The details of the Lemburg Legacy Fundmare close to being finished.

New Business:

Jeff Braun stated that each board submits to the council their goal/goals for 2015. We are on track with our revitalization program.

With no other business Peg Brooke moved to adjourn the meeting, Steve Smith 2nd, motion carried. Pastor gave Benediction.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Reidt

Altar Guild

The Mary Martha Altar Guild met on Saturday, February 7, 2015. The Pastor read a reading out of Isaiah. The minutes from the November 16th meeting were read and approved. The minutes will be submitted to Cheryl for the Zealant.

Old Business

The rod that holds our Mission Statement is up and looks very nice. Altar Guild room is almost finished. Still

need to put paper down to protect the shelves from stains and would like a small light to help with seeing the oil level in the candles.

The need for a fair linen will be posted in the Zealant. Any donation can be marked on the offering envelope as such. The approximate price is \$200.00-\$250.00.

It was decided that the wrought iron stand will be put in the "Lutheran Reporter" for any church home that needs one.

New Business

Need to give a copy of our "Constitution of the Altar Guild" to the Pastor. He will then see that it gets put in the Church's Constitution.

Marty made a plastic cover for us to use under the corporal to protect the fair linen from stains. This will be hanging with the corporal in the closet. Also, it was suggested that we get a silicone pad to put down on the counter as to protect the counter top from stains as we prepare the Lord's Supper and the Altar candles.

Pastor Phil reported no weddings or funerals at this time. He also reported that he has palms for Ash Wednesday service. Parament Colors – Feb 15th is Transformation Sunday, white and Ash Wed will be purple. Stays purple through Maundy Thursday.

During service on Maundy Thursday the Altar will be stripped.

Good Friday is black, with crucifix on the Altar. When bringing the crucifix in be sure to wear gloves and hold at the base and bottom to prevent any damage to the cross.

Flower requests for Easter Sunday will be in the March Zealant and future bulletins.

Pastor Phil closed with the Benediction.

Faithfully submitted, Betty Wilkinson

**Sunday, March 8th
Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**Don't forget to set your clocks
ahead 1 hour
before you go to bed on Saturday!
Otherwise you will be
late for church on
Sunday!!**



Ladies Aid/LWML

They did not meet in February
due to the cold weather.

Next meeting will be held March 19th
at 1 pm. The program will be given by Lois
Duffy, with the theme:
"Pass It On,"
from the Lutheran General.

Gloria Nimtz will be our hostess.

Dave Ramsey Class

**Classes start Monday, March 2nd @
6:00 pm and continue every Monday
evening and will finish on April 27th.**

**Refreshments are needed!!
(for every Monday)**

**If you can help out
please let Dan Knuth know.**

Let not your heart be troubled:
ye believe in God, believe also
in me—John 14:1

Every word of God is pure: he
is a shield unto them that put
their trust in him—Proverbs
30:5

Now unto the King eternal,
immortal, invisible, the only
wise God, be honour and
glory for ever and ever.
Amen—1 Timothy 1:17

The LORD is my shepherd; I
shall not want—Psalms 23:1

Letter from the Horns

Rev. Horn and Family will not be going
back to PNG. The LCMS had some con-
cerns for the well being of the family given
the health and safety challenges they have
encountered.

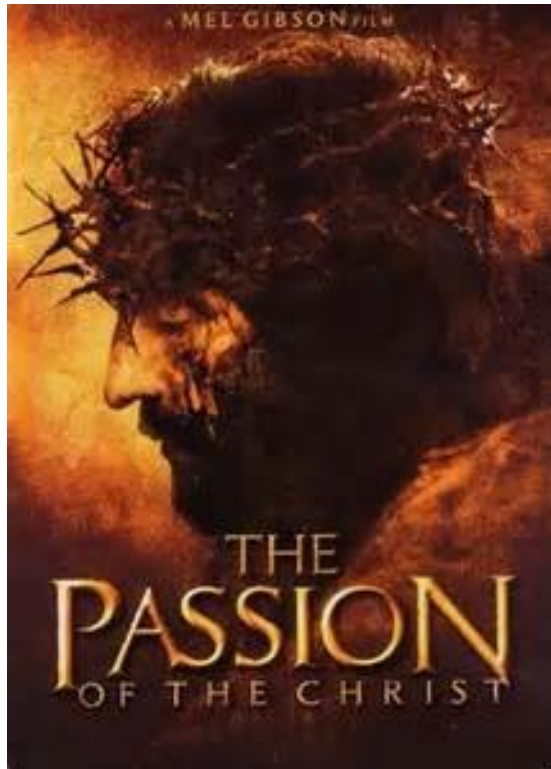
The support that you have given helps look
after us as we come back to America and
search for what work God will give us next.
Please keep us in your prayers during this
time of transition.

If you wish to read the rest of the letter, it
will be on the Narthex bulletin board.

**During Holy Week
on Wednesday Evening, April 1st**

**Anyone who is interested,
please join us!**

**A light dinner will be provided
@ 5:30 pm
and the movie will follow.**



**A sign up sheet will be on
the bulletin board,
please sign up so Pastor can get
a count for dinner.**



March 4th @ 7 pm

March 11th @ 7 pm

March 18th @ 7 pm

March 25th @ 7 pm

Sunday, March 29th
Palm Sunday
Service @ 10:15 am

April 2nd
Maundy Thurs.
Service @ 7:00 pm

April 3rd
Good Friday
Service @ 7:00 pm



April 5th
EASTER
Sunrise Service @ 7:00 am
Breakfast
Sunday School @ 9 am
Easter Service 10:15 am



YOUTH NEWS

Zion Lutheran Youth Group is now on Twitter!! Follow us so you can find out what is happening! @ZL_Youth

Sunday School Attendance Contest!

For the months of February and March we will be having a contest to see who has the best attendance. There will be two divisions: Grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. Whomever has the best **Sunday** School attendance for those two months will win a \$25 gift card to Bones Theatre!



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

March 2015

Sunday School classes made 18 packets of hand crafted Valentines to Zion's shut-ins and friends. Students did a great job with this outreach ministry.

Palm Sunday is celebrated March 29th, and all Sunday School students and children in the congregation are asked to join in with the processional of palms. We will meet in the high school room at 10:10 am to be ready to lead the beginning of the service.

Missions for January and February totaled over \$200.00 (@214.50 as of Feb. 15th). This ministry is supporting the Whitley County Energy Assistance Program through the Ministerial Association. Thank you all for your donations.

Lessons for March:

Turn your clocks 'FORWARD' one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 7th. Time changes in the early morning hours on Sunday March 8th.

8th—"Jesus Clears the Temple"

15th—"Jesus Walks on Water"

22nd—"The Widow's Mite"

29th—"Peter Denies Jesus"

Sunday School Stats for January 2015

Class Attendance:

Primary and Preteen classes tie again for 1st place—100%

Jr./Sr. High—25%

Perfect Attendance:

Emerson and Mason Knuth



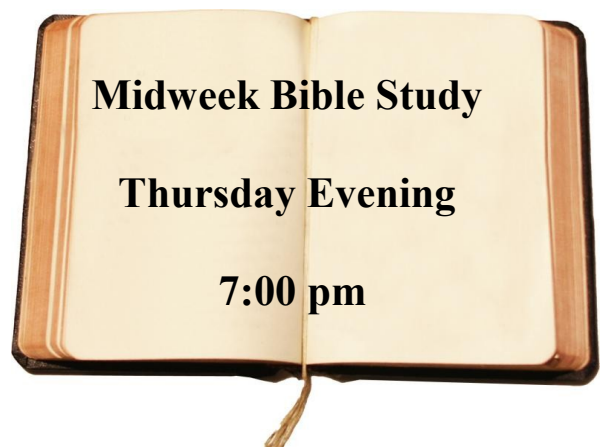
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We will have VBS this year but at this time we still don't know for sure when it will be.

Hopefully you filled out the VBS Survey and returned it so that Bd. of Education can discuss and figure out when they will have VBS.

With no grant this year, we need YOUR HELP in donating items for VBS.

Cheryl has a list of items needed for props if you can help out in this way it would greatly be appreciated. There will be tags on one of the bulletin boards. Please look them over and take one or two to buy these items. (Or you may already have these items in your home that you can spare them.)



Spring Flowers for Easter

Altar Guild
invites you to bring in Spring Flowers
for Easter morning.

You may bring them in
during Holy Week
and place them in
the library.
(Make sure your name
is on them.)

You may take them home
after Easter service @ 10:15 .



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 Wednesday



Rev. Phil Rittner
Cell Phone: 260-415-9078
(I text if you'd like!)
Email: revrittner@reagan.com



The Oaks and Oak Point:
Patricia Neidermeyer, & Charles Stanley

Lutheran Life Village:
Larry Haugk

Renaissance Village:
Dorathy Ummel

Peabody Home (Memory Care):
Alberta Warnick

Luther Home in Crown Point:
Harriet Redman

Those at home:
Sami Blomquist, Bob Gallmeyer, Linda
Hobkirk, Jim Jackson, Bill Neidermeyer,
Wayne Reese, Tim & Sandra Rueger, Wil-
lie & Karen Scheumann, and Michael
Sexton

Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

Jessie Contreras, Chris Decker,
Alex Hart, Joshua Rittner, Matt Shoda,
Jason & Ashley Weatherly
and Dayne Zielinski

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS
for Charles Stanley and family, Charles
has colon cancer and is in the hospital
. . . and anyone else we have not
mentioned that might be in our
hearts. . . Lord, hear our prayers.

SERVING IN MARCH 2015

USHERS

1ST—Ralph Sexton
8TH—Mike Gerbers
15TH—Steve Smith
22ND—Mike Gerbers
29TH—Ralph Sexton

ACOLYTES

1ST—Nick Decker
8TH—Ryan Bills
15TH—Shianne Brooke
22ND—Kyler Bills
29TH—Mason Knuth

GREETERS

1ST—
8TH—Lois Duffy
15TH—Pat Decker
22ND—Kathaleen Reese
29TH—

ALTAR GUILD

Verna Doehrman

BLOOD PRESSURE

?

POWERPOINT

1ST—Phil Coons
8TH—
15TH—
22ND—
29TH—

COFFEE HOUR

1ST—Lois Duffy
8TH—
15TH—Pat Decker
22ND—
29TH—

Please sign up on bulletin board!!!!

(We need volunteers to help usher! Please let Cheryl know if you can.)

BIRTHDAY'S

3 Mike Gerbers
3 Morgan Sawyer
5 Judy Hart
6 Anna Pepler
10 Alysa Sawyer
11 Jordan Allen
11 Bonnie Spoerke
13 Ryan Bills
13 Peggy Brooke
14 Adrian Kimmel
14 Dorothy Ummel
15 Alisha Kimmel
19 Melissa Bender
19 April Brooke
19 Jessie Contreras
21 Jennifer Knuth
22 Thomas Auer
22 Ge'Onna Decker



25 Barbara Kieper
25 Joan Lane
27 Harriet Redman
28 Adam Braun
28 Melinda Puckett
31 Geoffry Gerbers

BAPTISMS

Miriah Adkins
Thomas Auer
Joshua Braun
Ryan Bills
Verna Doehrman
Ralph Kieper
Mason Knuth
Maddox Lahrman
Anna Pepler
Ashton Pepler
Amanda Welch
Kassidy Welch



ANNIVERSARIES

23 Jerry & Barb Lahrman



MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2nd Sunday in Lent S.S. 9 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	2 Dave Ramsey Class 6:00 pm	3	4 Lenten Service 7 pm	5 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm	6	7
8 3rd Sunday in Lent S.S./Staff 9 am Worship 10:15 am Bd. of Ed. 11:30 am Youth 11:30 am	9 Dave Ramsey Class 6:00 pm	10	11 Lenten Service 7 pm Elders	12 Bible Study 7 pm	13	14
15 4th Sunday in Lent S.S. 9 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	16 Dave Ramsey Class 6:00 pm	17 Council 7 pm	18 Lenten Service 7 pm	19 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am LWML 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm	20	21 Outreach 10 am
22 5th Sunday in Lent S.S./Staff 9 am Worship 10:15 am Trustees 11:30 am Blood Pressure 11:30 am	23 Dave Ramsey Class 6:00 pm	24	25 Lenten Service 7 pm	26 Bible Study 7 pm	27	28
29 Palm Sunday S.S. 9 am Worship 10:15 am	30 Dave Ramsey Class 6:00 pm	31			