



# THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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Rev. Phil Rittner

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Lent is a season of repentant joy. There's joy in repentance because in repentance, God, through His Word, turns us away from our sins — our failures of thought, word, and deed — to believe in the forgiveness and new life He has accomplished for us in the death and resurrection of His Son. For our God is our Father, and fathers discipline their children. He loves us enough to point out when and where we have erred, so that we are not weighed down by false belief, despair, and other great shame or vice.

You'll be receiving this note after Ash Wednesday, where the proclamation of God's Word for you has been that as we enter the season of Lent, our guiltiness before God is ever present. And it's not a "feeling of guilt" like you just accidentally forgot your wife's birthday...it's the guilt like a judge just declared you *guilty* in a court of Law! You've been found guilty of a crime. And, your sentence is, as Paul tells us: **"the wages of sin are death."**

I don't purposely continue with a message about Stewardship to associate giving with guilt... but no one from our congregation has expressed any desire to conduct Stewardship Committee meetings. So, your pastor brings up giving.

Thus, we do well to listen to God's Word, His own teaching, about giving. St. Paul encourages us: **"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor"** (Gal 6:6). This means that the local congregation is primary – Zion is important. In other words, everything else that we might give to during the year — laudable and worthy charities — are to be on top of what we give to Zion. For it is here which is the place that serves us with the gifts of Christ's death and resurrection. It is within our Sanctuary and classrooms where our spiritual needs are met when Christ's atonement is preached, when the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed, when we were baptized into the name of the Triune God, and when we partake of the body and blood of the risen and living Lamb of God.

But how much are we to give to our church? His instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor 6:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor 16:1–2; 2 Cor 8:12), and generously (2 Cor 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen 4:4; Prov 3:9; Lev 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor 9:7), and love (2 Cor 8:23).

Thus, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give it regularly, whenever we have income. We set it aside beforehand, before anything else is

spent. From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. Tithing was a command for them. St. Paul never mentions a tithe. Since a tithe was the bare minimum for the people of Israel in the Old Testament, perhaps St. Paul had more in mind. That aside, however, ten percent is an easy way to figure out an amount. You simply move your weekly, bi-weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, or yearly income one decimal point to the left. And that's it. That's what you put in the offering plate to support your local congregation so that you may continue to be a hearer of God's word by sharing all good things with those who teach it to you.

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy. For it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

In repentant joy, then, do we hear God's Word on giving, and we let that Word dwell in us richly. We let that word wash over our ears and seep into our hearts, to turn us away from our own selfish desires and turned toward Him in faith and love. We love the Lord and His Word. And we desire to do it. And when we have failed, that Word reproves and corrects, forgives and consoles. It calls us back to Him who is our God, our Savior, our Father.

See you in church, soon!

Pastor Phil

p.s. Portions of this article came from <https://blogs.lcms.org/tag/stewardship-resources> which is the LCMS' monthly Stewardship Newsletter suggestion for our churches.

# LENT



**MIDWEEK LENT PREACHING ROTATION FOR 2017:** The pastors of the Kendallville Circuit have chosen to conduct a 'pulpit rotation' for Lent this year. The theme for this year will be "PENITENTIAL PSALMS". Everyone is highly encouraged to attend! The schedule here at Zion is (all services listed are for Wednesday evenings at 7 PM): **March 1st:** Rev. Rittner, Psalm 51; **March 8th:** Rev. James Tews, Psalm 6; **March 15th:** Rev. Andrew Yeager, Psalm 143; **March 22nd:** Rev. Patrick Kuhlman, Psalm 130; **March 29th:** Rev. Dr. Jerry Winegarden, Psalm 32; and **April 5th:** Rev. David Mommens, Psalm 38.

# Church Council Minutes

February 21, 2017

Ralph Brooke called the meeting to order with 8 members attending. Pastor Rittner read devotions on leadership, and servant hood and prayer.

Ralph Brooke called for a motion to approve the minutes as printed in the Zealant.

Chuck Cooper made the motion and Steve Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>, the motion passed. During discussion, it was noted that a motion by Phil Coons was not 2<sup>nd</sup> or voted on. This motion for \$2000.00 to be moved from the garage sale to an emergency fund was 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion passed.

## **Receiving Treasurer: Chuck Cooper**

Total Undesignated Receipts: \$7926.50

Misc. Receipts: \$491.00

Total Designated Receipts: \$207.93

Dividends: \$308.96

Interest: \$0.77

Total Receipts: \$8935.16

A motion was made by Kenny Knuth with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy Gilbert to accept the report as presented, the motion passed.

## **Disbursing Treasurer: Chuck Cooper**

Unrestricted Funds

Lake City Checking: \$326.23

Lake City Savings: \$413.20

Lake City Thrivent: \$183.00

Joyful Response Checking: \$443.84

Total General Checking/Savings: \$1366.27

Youth Accounts

Youth District Accounts: \$299.23

Crossroads Checking: \$878.84

Crossroads Savings: \$10,367.13

Total Youth Accounts: \$11,545.20

Restricted Funds

Total Restricted Savings: \$8587.70

Lehmburg Legacy: \$76,951.99 (Market Value 12/31/2016 \$74,387.73)

Net Revenue: General Budget: \$-284.18

Total Non-Budgeted/Reimbursed: \$328.87

Youth: \$0.16

Total Net Revenue: \$44.85

Kenny Knuth made a motion with the 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Knuth to accept the report as presented, the motion passed.

## **Elders Report: Steve Smith**

A first opinion comment card was received, from a visitor in January. They liked the stained-glass windows, and the many crosses throughout the church. They would like to see more musical instrument to accompany the service.

Several letters were sent to those members who have not attended one of our services in some time. We have

received one response.

We received a \$5,000 Lutheran Foundation Grant. The monies are earmarked for, upcoming Doxology Program in Kansas City that the Pastor will be attending, Bible Study materials, block party, and VBS (if any money is left).

Sundays: 60 and Mid-week: 12

Cari Knuth will be confirmed on March 5, 2017.

The meeting was closed with the Benediction.

### **Trustees Report: Dan Knuth**

The new copier will be delivered by next week. We are leasing the machine on a 60-month lease for a cost of \$134.62/month plus copies.

Trustee Eric Childs will be repairing the railing on the west side of the church.

Jerry Lahrman asked if electricity could be added to the storage barn from the 2017 garage sale monies.

The Nazarene Church would like to rent the gym on March 18, 2017 for a youth event.

Cheryl has scheduled her vacation for March 20-24 and June 8-14, 2017. There is a chance that Cheryl will be retiring this year.

There is an increase of \$100/month for the church insurance package.

### **Board of Education: Judy Gilbert**

The board met on Feb. 5, 2017 with 8 members present. Barb Lahrman read a devotion from Portals of Prayers, Motivated to Love, 1 John 4:1-11.

There was no meeting in January.

Sunday School Report: January Attendance: Adults 19 and Students 9.

The children made Valentines for our shut-ins, they will be mailed the week of Feb. 5, 2017.

Missions: We have collected \$157.95 for the Whitley County Energy Association fund.

Pastors Report: Janice is working on a program for Palm Sunday service which will be April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. /There will be a special children's message and the children will sing.

Confirmation Camp is scheduled for May 29-June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor and Katie will be on vacation June 30-July 7<sup>th</sup>, also Pastor and Katie will attend the Doxology Conference August 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.

Library Report: Chris Woodhouse has volunteered to take care of the Library. Barb Knuth donated some books for the library.

Old Business: After Sunday School opening we had food and beverages which everyone enjoyed. Thank you to Barb Knuth for getting our yearend report turned in and Thank you to Kenny Knuth for putting the Baptism chain up.

New Business: The VBS kit is in and Cheryl is ready to start projects for props. VBS will be Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8 pm. Volunteers are needed, if interested contact Barb Lahrman. Chris Woodhouse will be helping Pat Decker with crafts. Pat and Barb Lahrman will be ordering VBS materials in the next few weeks.

### **Board of Outreach:**

Monica, Kim, and Peg met to discuss Friendship Sunday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to ask members to bring a guest with them, and flowers will be given to guests that day. After service, there will be brunch. Members were asked to write down "How and When God Led Them to Zion," these will be put into a booklet.

The next meeting will be for discussion of the May Block Party.

### **Board of Youth:**

Members: Pastor Rittner, Jill/Phil Coons, Dan/Jennifer Knuth, Jared/Katie Wilkinson, Kami Wilburn, and Callie Braun attended.

The board brainstormed ideas for the youth this year. We discussed ways the youth could serve the church, the community, and some fun activities.

The board will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, our goal is 1 activity a month.

February 12, 2017 after church pizza party

March 11, 2017 a Pancake Brunch fundraiser open to the community, time to be determined

April 22, 2017 Spring cleaning at the church.

A chairperson for the Board will be determined.

### **Pastors Report:**

A letter from the District was submitted.

Letters were sent out to members who haven't attended service in a while.

### **Old/New Business:** None

Steve Smith made a motion to adjourn and Chuk Cooper 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion passed.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectively Submitted, Joyce Reidt (sec.)

## Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid need old sheets. They can be white, colored or printed. To be used for cancer pads.  
Put in tub across from mailboxes. Thank you!



March 31 - April 1  
Retreat at Farmstead Inn, Shishewana  
Registration March 31, 3-6 pm  
Opening 6:30 pm  
Program April 1, 9am - 2:30 pm  
Guest Speaker - Elaine Bickel  
If interested in going, see Kami Wilburn



Altar Guild is requesting flowers for Easter that you can bring in yourself.

BUT if you would rather donate towards flowers, the Altar Guild will be taking a free will donation on Sundays, **March 26<sup>th</sup>** and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, for anyone wanting to give towards the purchase of flowers for Easter morning.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

March 2017

Zion's Sunday School begins the Spring Quarter curriculum of lessons:

March 5 – “Jesus and Zacchaeus”

12 – “The Triumphal Entry”

19 – “The Widow’s Offering”

26 – “The Lord’s Supper”

Sunday School collections for the months of January and February are supporting the Whitley County Energy Assistance Program through the Whitley County Ministerial Association. This program assists families who struggle to meet their heating bills. Thank you for our contributions!

The mission project for March and April will support the Latin American Missions Board for the San Lorenzo Clinic and medical ministry of Dr. Jane Weaver.

### STATS for January 2017

Class Attendance: Preschool – 70% (Banner Class!); Elementary and Jr./Sr. High tie at 60%

### Sunday School Pins

Jessalyn, Sawyer, and Etan Wilkinson earned their 1-year attendance pins!



**A big hearty thank you** to the children in Sunday School for the lovely Valentines!

We love you!

Joan and Jack Lane

### **THANK YOU!**

Dear Emerson, and the other child who sent a Valentine, thank you so much for the lovely Valentines you sent us. We have them both hung up in our room. Also, thank you for the “work” papers – we enjoyed doing those. Thanks too for the lovely Christmas cards we received as well. God, bless you for your kindness to us.

Love Lois & John Duffy



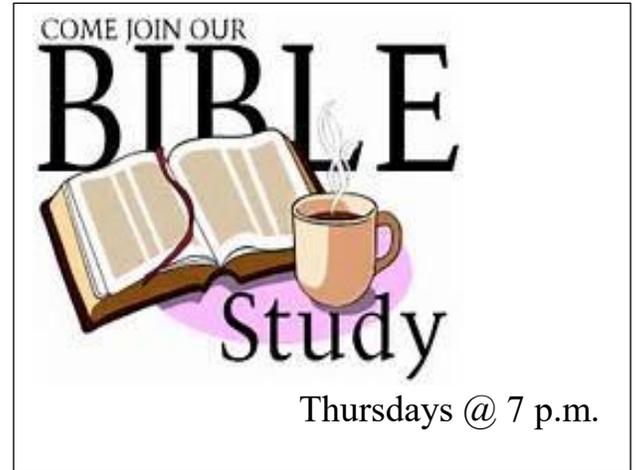
### **YOUTH FUND RAISER**

Pancake Brunch  
Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>  
from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.  
Free will offering.  
Open to the public!

Daylight Savings is March 12, 2017



Don't forget to set your clocks  
1 hour ahead Saturday night! (March 11<sup>th</sup>)



Bible Trivia Questions:

Paul was shipwrecked on what island?

What is the shortest book in the New Testament?

Who is the author of the Book of Revelation?

Matthew was a \_\_\_\_\_.



Dear Zion Lutheran Church of Columbia City,

Greetings from Destin, Florida! I pray that you are all doing very well. I miss Indiana and I miss you all. I'll never forget the love and the support that you showed me as I performed my field work with you and even now I appreciate the Christmas cards I received and the prayers you offer on my behalf. You're a wonderful blessing in my life. Please know that Lydia and I think of you and pray for you often.

Things here in Destin are busy! When I first arrived at Grace Lutheran Church in Destin things were very calm, though I was somewhat overwhelmed just from trying to figure out what it really meant to be a pastor. I had so many questions. What do I do with all my office time? How often do I visit people? How can I bring more youth into the Church? And many many more! Now things are the opposite. I have a taste of what it means to be a pastor, though I have much yet to learn, but no longer are things calm. As soon as Christmas hit things have been crazy and won't slow down for some time now!

We are in the heart of Snowbird season. Our quaint church is overflowing with people. The Snowbirds at least triple the size of the congregation. It's such a blessing! But, as I'm sure you can imagine, it really bumps up the work level for the pastors here. We're always busy. I'm sorry I haven't written to you all sooner, but finding the free time and keeping all my tasks organized has actually gotten a little difficult. Please forgive me for my delayed communication.

I've heard the weather in Indiana isn't as bad as it has been in the past. That's a blessing if you're like me and hate the cold weather! Ha! I'm sorry for anyone who (somehow...) likes the cold weather and snow. The weather in Florida is nice and warm. We're in the 80's today. I was a wimp in Indiana, always feeling cold. Now I'm like a super-wimp. I called my Dad one day to complain about how cold I was. He asked me what the weather was like. I hadn't actually looked at the temperature, so I did. It was in the low 70's. My Dad told me it was below freezing where he was. So, I changed the subject, still wrapped in my heavy blanket.

If anyone is ever looking to take a vacation to the world's luckiest fishing village, please let me know. We have an extra room and a blood-thirsty cat that would be eager to terrorize you. :) There's lots to do here! I am truly blessed to be called to such a wonderful group of people in such a magnificent location. But, like I said. Even being surrounded by sunshine, emerald oceans, and snow-white beaches, there's a part of me (bigger than I'd like to admit) that really misses the cornfields of Indiana. Please continue to pray for Lydia and me as we learn more and more what it means to serve the Lord in ministry, and we will continue to pray for you all. We both love and miss you!

God's blessings,

Logan Landes

Logan's address: 4111 Commons Dr. W., Apt. 1215  
Destin, FL 32541



The Oaks:  
Patricia Neidermeyer

Renaissance Village:  
Dorothy Ummel

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, Wayne Reese, Tim & Sandra Rueger, Willie & Karen Scheumann, and Jeannine Slavicek.

Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

Chris Decker, Kevin Kruger, 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



**THRIVENT  
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An invitation from  
Faith Lutheran Church, Churubusco

Thrivent Supper and Education Time

Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m.  
with social time and supper at 5 p.m.

Erick Keirn, Thrivent Representative,  
will present the A, B, Cs of Thrivent.

Erick will also be ready to answer  
questions about Thrivent.

Supper is FREE.  
Reservations are required  
by Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.

See bulletin board in  
Narthex for sign-up sheet.

# MARCH

## SERVING AT CHURCH

### Ushers

5<sup>th</sup> – Ralph Sexton  
12<sup>th</sup> – Steve Smith  
19<sup>th</sup> – Ralph Sexton  
26<sup>th</sup> – Steve Smith

### Acolytes

5<sup>th</sup> – Emma Mullett  
12<sup>th</sup> – Mason Knuth  
19<sup>th</sup> – Kirby Coons  
26<sup>th</sup> – Kyler Bills

### Greeters

5<sup>th</sup> – Kathaleen Reese  
12<sup>th</sup> –  
19<sup>th</sup> – Pat Decker  
26<sup>th</sup> –

### Altar Guild

Peg Brooke

## BIRTHDAY'S



3 Mike Gerbers  
3 Morgan Sawyer  
6 Anna Peppler  
8 Luke Wilcoxson  
10 Alysa Sawyer  
11 Jordan Allen  
11 Bonnie Spoerke  
13 Ryan Bills  
13 Peggy Brooke  
13 Kinsley Schuller  
14 Lily Lane  
14 Adrian Kimmel  
14 Dorothy Ummel  
15 Alisha Kimmel  
19 Melissa Bender  
19 April Brooke  
21 Jennifer Knuth  
22 Thomas Auer  
22 Ge'Onna Decker  
25 Barbara Kieper  
25 Joan Lane  
28 Melinda Puckett  
31 Geoffry Gerbers

## BAPTISMS



Miriah Adkins  
Thomas Auer  
Joshua Braun  
Michael Braun  
Tyler Braun  
Ryan Bills  
Verna Doehrman  
Brody Hart  
Ralph Kieper  
Mason Knuth  
Maddox Lahrman  
Anna Peppler  
Ashton Peppler  
Amanda Welch  
Kassidy Welch

## ANNIVERSARIES



23 Jerry & Barb Lahrman

# MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Ash. Wed. Service 7 pm	2 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am  Bible Study 7 pm	3	4
5 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Outreach 11:30 am	6	7	8  Lenten Service 7 pm Elders	9  Bible Study 7 pm	10	11 Youth Pancake Brunch 10am to 1pm
12 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bd. of Education 11:30 am  (Daylight Savings)	13	14	15  Lenten Service 7 pm	16 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am  Bible Study 7 pm	17	18 Nazarene Youth gym
19 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	20	21 Church Council 7 pm	22  Lenten Service 7 pm	23  Bible Study 7 pm	24	25
	Cheryl on vacation -----					
26 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am	27 Zealant Items Due!	28	29  Lenten Service 7 pm	30  Bible Study 7 pm	31 LWML Retreat in Shipshewana	April 1  -----

Answers to Bible Trivia:

Malta

2 John

John

Tax Collector