



THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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Rev. Phil Rittner

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Fellow Redeemer,

It is unfortunate that discussing finances and our tithing fits into the narrative of a Zealant article, but it does.

In this day and age, nothing seems to get accomplished without funds. Our government extracts taxes from your paycheck so to supply the wants and needs of the people. But in the church, the spreading of God's Word is dependent both on our physically sharing with others the love of Christ - and our giving so to continue Christ's ministry among you and our community.

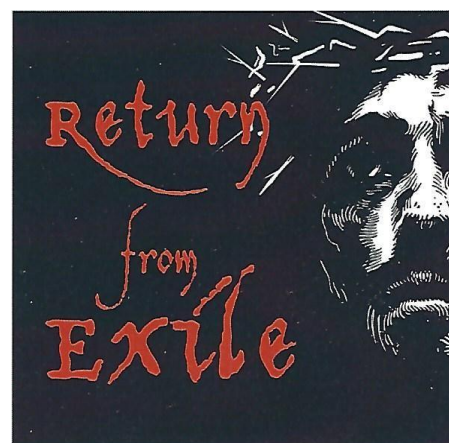
Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "**God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply.**" To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: You need to know your Bible. St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).

Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. God wants you in church! Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this prayer day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it.

God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham, declaring after his son Isaac was spared from being sacrificed, learned, "**on the mount of the Lord it will be provided**" (Gen. 22:14). The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return. Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the



working out of our faith in Him.

When budgetary discussions pop up, it's often awkward, argumentative, and sometimes our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance.

It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts are taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. **"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him"** (2 Chron. 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans, but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

See you in church... soon!



Our 2018 Lent/Easter Celebration, entitled: **"Return From Exile"** will be as follows:

Midweek 3, March 7th: ***Out of Egypt: Through the Water*** – 7 pm

Midweek 4, Mar. 14th: ***Tree to Tree: The Tree of Life to the Cross*** – 7 pm

Midweek 5, Mar. 21st: ***Death to Resurrection: The Wilderness to the Promised Land*** – 7 pm

Voter's Minutes

January 21, 2018

Jared Wilkinson called the meeting to order with 9 members present.

Pastor opened with prayer.

Steve Smith made a motion to accept the minutes of the January minutes as printed in the Zealant.

Chuck Cooper 2nd the motion, the motion passed.

Receiving Treasurer: Chuck Cooper gave the report.

January 2018

YTD

Unrestricted Receipt:

\$6,900.47

\$6,900.47

Miscellaneous/Restricted Receipts:

\$414.85		\$414.85
	Dividends:	
\$325.66		\$325.66
	Interest:	
\$1.32		\$1.32
	Total Receipts:	
\$7,642.30		\$7,642.30

Peg Brooke made a motion to accept the report as presented. Joyce Reidt 2nd the motion, the motion passed.

Disbursing Treasurer: Jill Coons gave the report.

Balances

	January 2018		YTD
		Checking /Savings Accounts	
		\$2,521.31	
		Youth Accounts	
		\$12,984.39	
		Restricted Funds	
		\$15,040.46	
		Lehmburg Legacy	
		\$80,219.08	
		(market Value 12/31 \$78,419.73)	
		Net Revenue	
General Budget	Non-Budgeted/Reimbursed	Youth	Total
(\$1,416.86)	(\$260.99)	(\$0.18)	(\$1,115.69)

Chuck Cooper a motion to accept the report as presented. Ralph Brooke 2nd the motion, the motion passed.

Elders: Steve Smith gave the report.

Discussed visitation: a new membership list will be drawn up with more data on each member. Went over many questions from Pastor and Elder Guide book that reflect on who's in charge. Average attendance January 2018: Sundays; 54 Mid-Week Service; 8. Meeting closed with the Benediction.

Trustees Report: None

Board of Education: Judy Gilbert gave the report.

The board met with 7 members present. Opening Devotions were the Lord's Prayer. Minutes: minutes were approved.

Sunday School report: January 2018 Adult: 15 Students: 14

Missions: \$163.50 has been collected for January/February, March/April mission will be Lutheran Braille Translation.

Pastors Report: Pastor gave us the yearly calendar for 2018.

Library Report: None

Old Business: The children will be singing during Sunday School Processional for Palm Sunday. After the Processional they will lead the congregation in a couple of songs.

VBS will be July 29-August 1 2018. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday will be 6-7:30p.m. and Wednesday will start at 6 p.m.-through closing program during the evening service. This year's Theme is **God's Promises**.

New Business: We sent Cheryl a Thank-you for all that she has done for us over the years.

Board of Outreach: Peg Brooke gave report. Progressive Dinner will be February 24, 2018 with salads at Jerry/Barb Larhman, Main Course with Richard/Monica Klondyke, and Dessert with Marty Williams.

The Block Party was discussed. Issues are: Is there enough interest? Can we get enough help? There are NO GRANT FUNDS! Fund raising ideas? Peg Brooke can't be in charge due to health. A Thank-you card and gift is being given to Larry Haugk for his faithful service in doing power-point for Sunday Services.

Peg gave the council a copy of The Block Party Committees.

During Discussion it was decided that there will be no Block Party for 2018. This is due to lack of participation.

Board of Youth: None

Stewardship: None

Pastor Report:

1. Pastor will be speaking at Emmanuel Lutheran in Fort Wayne on Sunday March 4th on Mental Health and the Church. In the coming months of 2018, more focus will be upon mental health and breaking the barriers, both within the church and communities we live in. Rev. Dennis Geoff from the Lutheran Foundation will be conducting Adult Bible Study and Worship at Zion that Day.
2. We are still in **Great** need of volunteers for operating the computer for the music during worship while the Pastor's wife Katherine will be traveling in the coming months. It's not convenient for Pastor to do it during the service. **To Date NO ONE HAS OFFERED TO HELP!**
3. Sunday afternoon March 4th, Pastor will be leaving for a short Trip to Florida. He will return Saturday March 10th. Pulpit Supply is being sought for Wednesday, March 7th's Lenten Service from the seminary.
4. Pastor is seeking anyone from our congregation to help with Jail Ministry. It may be expanding in the near future, adding more worship inmates and such; and having some help from Zion in the ministry would be awesome!
5. The officers and staff of the Indiana District LCMS in Fort Wayne will be including Zion in their prayers during devotion the week of February 26th. It is right we keep them in our prayers always in the difficult work they do for the churches in our district.
6. Rev. Dave Easterday has been elected as our new Circuit Visitor. President Easterday has been serving at Lake George Chapel in Fremont. He will be installed during the 2018 Indiana District Convention.
7. We need to identify our Congregational Lay Delegate to the Indiana Convention being held this summer in Fort Wayne. Each congregation is to send to convention their pastor and one lay delegate. Anyone having a desire to attend, kindly contact pastor soon; as registration will begin soon.
8. Our membership statistics according to what the LCMS lists on it's website is: Weekly Worship Attendance average is 58. Baptized Members:262, Confirmed Members: 189. Where are all these people? (Soon, we will be assessed a fee for our membership by the Synod for all the 2019 Syndicalism Convention

Unfinished Business:

We are waiting on a committee from the electrician on the ADA door openers.

New Business:

We still owe \$2,347.00 to our 2017 District pledge. Steve Smith made a motion to take \$3000.00 from the Lehmburg Fund Dividends income to pay the District Pledge. Chuck Cooper 2nd the motion, the motion passed.

The nominations committee will be Jared Wilkinson and Ralph Brooke.
Block Party 2019 will be discussed at the October 2018 voters meeting.

With no other business Joyce Reidt made a motion to adjourn, Ralph Brooke 2nd., the motion passed.

Respectively submitted Joyce Reidt

The Mary Martha Altar Guild

We met on Saturday, February 3, 2018. President Verna opened the meeting with prayer. Verna Doehrman, Marty Williams, Mary Sexton, and Betty Wilkinson were present. Minutes from November 12th were read and approved.

Old Business

As of now Baptismal cloths will be purchased.

Purifications are being made by Marty Williams.

Banners - new LWML banner will be made so Altar Guild needs to get dimensions to Christina Woodhouse. After measuring for banners, the Altar Guild decided to try to order sizes close to 36 X 60 inches. Or 3 feet by 5 feet. Catalogs were looked at but we wanted to look at Concordia's catalog before making a decision. Verna is going to try to get one from Cheryl and we can get together again to decide. We will have our work meeting on May 5th instead of today.

New Business

Baptism for Dyllynn Jei Lepper will be on February 4, 2018.

As of now there are no weddings coming up.

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on February 14th. Pastor will have ashes ready. Verna will ask Cheryl/Cami to put in the March Zealant a request for monetary donations to purchase flowers for Easter. Donations of flowers are also welcome. Marty will get a basket ready to set up in the Narthex.

March 29th is Maundy Service and the Altar Guild will strip the Altar.

March 30th is Good Friday Service.

On April 1st, Easter, there will be 2 services. One at 8:00 a.m. and another at 10:15 a.m. Breakfast will be between the services at 9:00 a.m. Communion at both services.

Plenty of wafers and wine until after Easter.

Next meeting will be on May 5, 2018. This will be our work meeting.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Faithfully submitted,

Betty Wilkinson



The Spring quarterly Sunday School lessons begin in March. This series is “God Creates a World and People”
4- “God Creates the World”
11- “God Creates Adam & Eve”
18- “Sin Enters the World”
25- “Cain & Abel”

The Sunday School children will lead a Palm Sunday Processional at the 10:15A.M. worship service on March 25th followed by an Easter Chorus with congregational participation.

Our mission project for the Whitley County Energy Assistance program concludes on February 25th. The Sunday School offering for March and April will support Lutheran Braille Ministries-translating scripture into Braille for the seeing impaired individuals.

Sunday school STATS for January 2018

Class Attendance:

High School: 83.3%(banner class!)

Upper Elementary: 81.3%

Catechism Class: 75%

Preschool: 50%

Perfect Attendance: Emerson Knuth, Kaden Decker, and Mason Knuth.

Ladies Aid

Valentines were sent to all of Zion’s sick and shut ins.

Marty Williams has taken over the trimming of the stamps since Jennie is not able to do it anymore. We thank Jennie for her years of doing both the stamps and the Bethesda coupons. If you prefer to trim the stamps yourself, please leave $\frac{1}{4}$ “around the stamp or we will trim them for you. The box remains across from the mailboxes.

Ninety completed cancer bed pads were returned to Cancer Services of N.E. Indiana. One hundred pads were brought back for the ladies to sew and 80 more were ordered for May 1st. This is a mission project started back in 1985 by just a few ladies and has continued to grow every year with more sewers. The ladies enjoy great fellowship while sewing. Come join us!

The Ladies Aid continues to “Serve the Lord With Gladness”



Anyone wanting to give towards the purchase of flowers for Easter morning there will be a door offering both the 18th & 25th of March, the Altar Guild would be most appreciative of the gift. OR you can bring in flowers of your own for Easter Sunday.
Let's brighten up the Sanctuary on Easter morning!!!

We are in **Urgent** need of volunteers to operate power point during church services>
See Pastor if interested.

We also need volunteers to run music during service on Sunday mornings. Katie will begin traveling for the seminary several weekends in the coming months. See Pastor if interested.

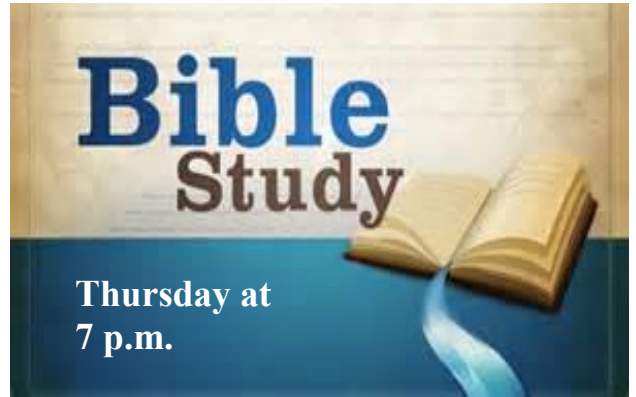
Bible Trivia Questions:

- 1) Who lied when he was asked to reveal the source of his great strength?
- 2) What was the name of the man Jesus' mother was engaged to at the time she became pregnant?
- 3) Which book of the Bible records many of the hymns David wrote?
- 4) From what disaster did the Ark save Noah?
- 5) What happened to Jesus forty days after his resurrection?

Thank You

Many thanks to the Lahrman's, Klondyke's, & Marty Williams for hosting the progressive dinner. Those who enjoyed a night of food & fun were Barb & Jerry Lahrman, Richard and Monica Klondyke, Marty Williams, Steve and Kim Yann, Judy Gilbert, Barb Knuth, Linda Williams, and Peggy & Ralph Brooke.

Daylight Savings is March 11, 2018



Don't forget to set your clocks
1 hour ahead Saturday night! (March 10th)



Peabody Home (Hawthorn
unit):

Alberta Warnick

Brookdale (Assisted Living):
John & Lois Duffy

Those at home:

Tom Auer, Martha Essex,
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:

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
1st & 3rd Sundays

WEDNESDAY

Worship—7:00 p.m.

w/Communion
2nd & 4th Wednesdays

MARCH

SERVING AT CHURCH

Ushers

4th – Steve Smith
11th – Ralph Sexton
18th – Steve Smith
25th – Ralph Sexton

Acolytes

4th – Emma Mullett
11th – Kirby Coons
18th – Lily Lane
25th – Sam Mullett

Greeters

4th – Kathaleen Reese
11th –
18th – Pat Decker
25th -

Altar Guild

Verna Doehrman

BIRTHDAY'S



3 Mike Gerbers
3 Morgan Sawyer
10 Alysa Sawyer
11 Bonnie Spoerke
13 Ryan Bills
13 Peggy Brooke
13 Kinsley Schuller
14 Lily Lane
14 Adrian Kimmel
15 Alisha Kimmel
19 April Brooke
20 Chuck Cooper
21 Jennifer Knuth
22 Thomas Auer
22 Ge'Onna Decker
25 Barbara Kieper
25 Joan Lane
28 Melinda Puckett

BAPTISMS



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

ANNIVERSARIES



23 Jerry & Barb Lahrman



Holy Week

MARCH 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Ladies Aid 9 am LWML 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm	2	3 Pastor's day off
4 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Outreach 11:30 am	5 Pastor's day off	6	7 Lenten Service 7 pm	8 Bible Study 7 pm	9	10 Pastor's day off
Pastor will be on Vacation.-----						
11 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bd. of Education 11:30 am	12 Pastor's day off	13	14 Lenten Service 7 pm Elders	15 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am Bible Study 7 pm	16	17 Schuller's Birthday Party. (Gym) Pastor's day off
18 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	19 Pastor's day off	20 Council Meeting 7 pm	21 Lenten Service 7 pm	22 Bible Study 7 pm	23 Zealant Items due.	24 Pastor's day off
25 Palm Sunday S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Youth 11:30 am	26	27	28	29 Maundy Thurs. Service 7pm	30 Good Fri. Service 7pm	31

Answers to Bible Trivia:

1)Sampson 2) Joseph 3) Psalms 4) Flood 5) He ascended into heaven

No items turned in:



Chris's Corner