



THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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Pastor's Corner

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen! Sure has been a while since I've been able to say those comforting words to you in worship....

Worship. Once again, I have initiated a change in how we'll do things with regard to the Divine Service. I will follow a model being done right now among many other Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod churches during our governor's 'stay at home' order. In a letter of encouragement from a good friend of mine at the Indiana District Office of the LC-MS, Geoff gave us pastors of the District comforting reminders of first, we too are forgiven our sins as our transgressions are covered by the Atonement completed upon the Cross. And so are you! But this Good News of forgiveness needs to be heard, and exercising a great deal of patience, it is time we 'get with it' and share this love God has for everyone.

Jesus said, **"Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."** (Jn 6:26-27). Effective immediately, I will provide Confession, Absolution, and Holy Communion ***to individuals and groups of 9 or less***. I only ask you call/text/email/send carrier pigeon to let me know when you'd like to partake of this blessed Meal. We'll do this at the church; in as clean environment we can; and we will remain "contactless" throughout.

How we will do so: I will have set up in the Narthex a table with Communion ware upon it. They will be prepared in as sterile a condition as I myself can do. For the proper Consecration of the host and wine it is right that they be uncovered while the Words are spoken. I will then back away and instruct you to come forward and take and eat; take drink... and then I will speak the Dismissal and Benediction.

We will soon return to worship inside our beautiful Sanctuary. And when we do, it will be different than before. We'll likely not have Sunday School at first. Sitting in the Sanctuary will be kind of assigned seating, sorry – but we'll have to use the front pews! (lol) And we may have to limit the number of folks at first too. I would also enjoy conducting this worship during the week too. WE WILL continue to praise God for His many blessings through worship of singing and hearing of the Holy Word of God.

I pray everyone, come. Come and take part of the benefits of Christ's true body and blood for the increase of your faith; the assurance of Christ having defeating sin, death, and hell.

Stay safe, remain healthy, and I **will** see you 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

April 20, 2020 via Zoom

Meeting called to order by Scott Woodhouse with six (6) members (Jill Coons, Phil Coons, Pastor Rittner, Scott Woodhouse, Katie Rittner, and Chuck Cooper) present via a Zoom meeting room due to the current pandemic.

Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with prayer.

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

Receiving Treasurer: reported by Chuck Cooper

	February 2020	YTD
Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 6,889.00	\$ 14,771.00
Restricted/ Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 669.04	\$ 1,097.18
On-line Giving Receipts	\$ 966.00	\$ 2,350.00
Dividends	\$ 296.94	\$ 584.24
Interest	\$ 2.72	\$ 5.52
Total Receipts	\$ 8,823.70	\$ 18,807.94

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

	March 2020	YTD
Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 6,279.00	\$ 21,050.00
Restricted/ Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 198.27	\$ 1,295.45
On-line Giving Receipts	\$ 4,354.00	\$ 6,704.00
Dividends	\$ 198.09	\$ 782.33
Interest	\$ 3.79	\$ 9.31
Total Receipts	\$ 11,033.15	\$ 29,841.09

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

Disbursing Treasurer: reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings February 2020

General Checking/Savings	\$ 25,926.38
Youth	\$ 9,617.45
Restricted Funds	\$ 12,711.66
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$ 174,545.66

Statement of Activity

	February	YTD
General Budget	\$ 973.90	\$ 1,822.40
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 650.82	\$ 786.13
Youth	\$.23	\$ (133.51)
Net Revenue	\$ 1,624.95	\$ 2,475.02

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

Check/Savings March 2020

General Checking/Savings	\$ 28,636.23
Youth	\$ 9,618.36
Restricted Funds	\$ 12,715.75
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$ 174,657.57

Statement of Activity

	March	YTD
General Budget	\$ 2,667.48	\$ 4,489.88
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 116.00	\$ 902.13
Youth	\$.91	\$ (132.60)
Net Revenue	\$ 2,784.39	\$ 5,259.41

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

Elders: Steve Smith

Meeting held March 11, 2020 was opened with prayer.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Discussed how the coronavirus might effect us here at Zion. Pastor will have more on this in the next Zealant.

Pastor discussed some of the topics that were discussed at their last circuit meeting.

Average attendance for February was:

Sundays	51
Mid-week	9

Meeting was closed with the Benediction.

Respectively submitted,
Stephen Smith (Sec.)

Trustees:

Van's check-up of all of the HVAC systems is complete. Replacement of the condenser system is on hold. 300 pounds of compression was put into the system and there are no leaks being detected. It will be monitored.

The front handrail will be replaced. It is a safety hazard and gives a bad first impression of the church when walking up the sidewalk.

The mulch has been picked up to freshen up the flower beds around the grounds.

Board of Education: No report

Board of Christian Outreach: No report

Board of Stewardship: No report

Board of Youth: Looking into holding a Zoom youth gathering.

Pastor: Pastor Rittner

- A Hope Center door offering collected was \$89.00 during Lent.
- CTSFW letter received – request for home congregation suggestion to provide \$4,500 for the academic year for Thompson Marin who will be starting the seminary in the fall. This figures to \$1,500 per quarter in support of our member who will be attending the seminary. We will also be receiving a letter of request for another member who will also be attending the seminary starting in the fall, Scott Woodhouse. The Lemburg Fund and the Kyler Endowment were set up for this reason.
- Vicarage assignment will be held April 29, at 7:00 pm online at www.ctsfw.edu. Our vicar-elect will be begin on August 1, 2020 for one year.

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: From Jill Coons

- The \$1,200 contract to Van's for the annual maintenance agreement was paid out of the general funds account since we have the funds available.
- Lutheran Foundation is giving every church just over \$11,000 to every church to cover salaries or to assist members who need help due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The funds will be placed in savings.

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

Bulletin Announcements for The rest of the Sundays in May 2020

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 7th, 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!

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

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 Timothy.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. With that you can probably sense that 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. I am full of tattoos, have a long bear and love deeply. My hobbies and interests are Motorcycles, Tattoos, and Xbox. I have an affection for collecting knives and guns (I just can't afford the guns).

My wife April Benzinger works 3rd shift for Parkview Regional Medical Center as a Respiratory Therapist and NICU Specialist. Because of her work schedule it is not guaranteed that she will be there every Sunday or Wednesday. Through my wife's work I am receiving my health insurance. 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). The nights that my wife works, my mom who lives in Woodburn will be attending to help take care of Dess so I can best serve you as your Vicar. 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.

+Te Deum+ (We Praise you oh God)

Yours in Christ,



UPCOMING MAY EVENTS

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

Sunday May 24th is Armed Forces Sunday

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.



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.

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 per ZOOM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Jessica Yann
- 11 Cecily Knuth
- 12 Donald Gilbert Sr.
- 15 Timothy Sexton
- 22 Jessica Rossow
- 24 Janette Bachelder
- 29 Ralph Brooke



- Wyld Jean Cook
- Barb Knuth
- Betty Wilkinson
- Bryan Hart
- Joan Lane
- Karen Scheumann
- Kinsley Schuller
- Peggy Brooke
- Regan Decker
- Samuel Mullett
- Sean Decker
- Chuck Cooper



- 7 Jeremy & Gretchen Grant
- 10 Chris & Tracy Decker
- 20 Bill & Pat Niedermeyer
- 27 Mark & Connie Forrester

May 2020



April '20							June '20						
			1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			28	29	30				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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26	27	28	29	30	1	2
						Pastor's Day Off 9:30am Altar Guild
3 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion DRIVE IN SERVICE AT 11AM	4 Pastor's Day Off	5	6	7 7pm-Bible Study per ZOOM	8	9 Pastor's Day Off
10 Mother's Day! DRIVE IN SERVICE AT 11AM 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Education	11 Pastor's Day Off	12	13 8pm - Elder's Mtg	14 7pm-Bible Study per ZOOM	15	16 Pastor's Day Off
17 DRIVE IN SERVICE AT 11AM 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion	18 Pastor's Day Off	19 7pm - Council Meeting	20 Zealant Items Due	21 7pm-Bible Study per ZOOM	22	23 Pastor's Day Off
24 DRIVE IN SERVICE AT 11AM 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Youth ARMED FORCES SUNDAY	25	26	27	28 7pm-Bible Study per ZOOM	29	30

31 PENTECOST SVC DRIVE IN SERVICE AT 11AM 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion	1 Pastor's Day Off	Notes
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