

...Bring
May Flowers



THE ZION ZEALANT

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PASTORS'
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Pastors Article May 2021 Zealant

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

My greatest and humblest thanks to all of you for your prayers, cards, visits, meals, cookies, phone calls, well wishes, and assorted inquiries into my wellbeing during the past month as I have been recovering from another knee replacement surgery. I have given great thanks to God our Father for placing me amidst such a loving family as we are here at Zion! Presently as I write this, I am still far from any form of normalcy (though many of you have known that for some time!) but with each new day, our Lord provides for my strengthening and improving in my walking and activities.

Coming up this Sunday, May 9th, I will be returning to the pulpit and preach once again after a little more than a month. It has been too long. Taking a long break from preaching and itching to get back into it isn't like it'd been an addiction; it's been more of a longing to do what the Lord has tasked me with. Preach His Word; administer His Sacraments; teach the faithful and reach the lost. Being restricted in your movements and unable to drive hinders one's ministry to some degree... oh but to preach God's Word!

Some of you may have remembered me saying about entering into the Office of the Holy Ministry isn't really that hard – you don't have to make anything up, simply speak the truth of what the Lord has spoken in His Word is all you have to do. Sure, tuning up with some public speaking classes... pinpointing what you'll say and writing it all down kind of helps a lot too. But focusing on what the Holy Spirit specifies His people are to hear on any given day, well... all that requires is a little patience and some knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.

Take for instance the Sunday of May 9th, I am scheduled to be the preacher that day in church. Just what is it I should include in my sermon? We'll be observing the Day of our Lord's Ascension into Heaven; and it just so happens to be Mother's Day. Certainly one would have to consider Law and Gospel... and looking deeply into the assigned readings from Scripture for this day are always a given. Matter of fact, much of the higher "feast days" of the Church Year like Easter, Pentecost and such will be over soon, and we'll simply be in the season of



Pentecost for several, several weeks. Couple all this (and even more!) with my own enthusiasm to return to church work after a break – and well, who knows what’ll be spoken from the pulpit during church this coming Sunday! Or the Sunday following, or after that, and so on!

My whole point I suppose is what our gracious and loving God gives us each and every day. It’s exciting to be a Christian and wonder what the day will bring living in the mercy of the Lord. I wake up daily anxious to behold what God’s going to give to me, and Sundays are merely amplified in excitement as we get to gather in church, hear God’s Word, receive His Sacraments, and bask in the glory we’ve inherited as a result of the life, death, resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!

You don’t have to study for it. You don’t have to beg God for it. All out of His great love for you and all of His Creation does the Lord pour out blessing upon blessing to you, His dear children. I so look forward to seeing you all once again in church!

Pastor Phil Rittner



Voters’ Assembly Meeting April 18, 2021

Meeting called to order by Ralph Brooke with fourteen (14) members and one (1) guest present. Vicar Tim Benzinger opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes: Pat Decker made a motion to accept the March 2021 minutes printed in the April 2021 Zealant with no correction. Kim Yann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Receiving Treasurer: reported by Chuck Cooper

	March 2021	YTD
Unrestricted Offering Receipts	\$ 6,765.00	\$ 19,204.00
Restricted Offering/ Miscellaneous Offering Receipts	\$ 466.25	\$ 1,343.61
On-Line Giving Receipts	\$ 3,304.00	\$ 7,431.00
Dividends	\$ 209.40	\$ 749.30
Interest	\$ 1.94	\$ 5.99
Total Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 10,069.00	\$ 26,635.00
Total Restricted Receipts	\$ 466.25	\$ 1,343.61
Total Receipts	\$ 10,746.59	\$ 28,733.90

Katie Rittner made a motion to accept the report as presented. Kim Yann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Disbursing Treasurer: reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings as of **March 31, 2021**

General Checking/Savings	\$ 57,863.37
Youth	\$ 9,526.42
Restricted Funds	\$ 16,839.33
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$181,251.65

Statement of Activity

	March 31, 2021	YTD
General Budget	\$ 3,525.94	\$ 8,863.67
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 581.32	\$ 1,829.86
Youth	\$.04	\$ (84.84)
Net Revenue	\$ 4,107.30	\$ 10,598.69

Chuck Cooper made a motion to accept the report as presented. Kim Yann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Elders:

No meeting was held in March 2021

Attendance for Holy Week was:

Maundy Thursday	17
Good Friday	28
Easter Sunrise	39
Easter Service	43

We will not be receiving a vicar next year.

Respectively submitted,
Phil Coons, Head Elder

Trustees: No Report

Board of Education: Meeting held April 11, 2021

Board of Christian Education meeting was held on April 11, 2021. Those present were Barb Lahrman, Kenny and Bar Knuth, and Judy Gilbert.

Opening Devotions: The Lord's Prayer

Minutes: Were approved

Sunday School Report

Average attendance for March	Students 7	Adults 8
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Barb Knuth will be taking inventory of our Sunday School supplies, she may be ordering more material.

Missions:

Our mission for March and April is Whitely County Energy Assistance so far we have collected \$143.75.

Our missions for May and June are Lutheran World Relief.

Old Business:

Our Palm Sunday luncheon was great. We had approximately 30 people attend. It was so nice to be able to socialize again.

New Business:

We will be having a health fair on July 10, 2021 in the parking lot. Vicar Tim said they need volunteers anyone interested please call Tim.

Pastors Report: No report

Library Report: No report

Next Meeting is June 6, 2021

Respectively submitted by Judy Gilbert

Board of Christian Outreach: No meeting

Board of Stewardship: No Meeting

Board of Youth: No meeting

Old Settlers is HAPPENING!!! June 22-26, 2021. We will need help with the corn dog wagon as we will be doing it again this year. This is a great opportunity to get out in the community and talk to people and be active right here at home. Please see Jill Coons to sign up for a shift.

Pastor:

Pastor received notice that unfortunately we will not be receiving a vicar this year. The gentleman slated for Zion was changed to a delayed vicar and will be continuing his last year of studies for the upcoming academic year. We have been asked to send in our application for the 2022-2023 vicarage year. Pastor will be talking with the elders over the next few months about this.

Pastor is working with CTSFW about another option that is available and will have an update on that as soon as it is all finalized.

In addition, our deaconess fieldworker, Michaela, will be returning to us in the fall to complete her second year of fieldwork. Our fieldworker Aaron will also be with us to continue his second year of fieldwork.

Unfinished/Old Business:

Due to several scheduling conflicts, the date of the health fair has been changed to July 10, 2021 in the parking lot.

New Business:

Jerry Larhman announced the garage sale will be May 13, 14, and 15, 2021. He asked that anyone with free time to help with set-up beforehand and anyone available to help on the days of the sale to see him.

Jerry Lahrman also pointed out the pot holes in the parking lot are getting bad and will need to be addressed sooner rather than later.

President Ralph Brooke received a letter from Walker Insurance asking to provide a quote for the church. Discussion was held that since we are very happy with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance and that they are specifically for churches and understand the requirements of the church coverage and offer additional riders, it is best to leave what we have in place since we are very happy with them.

With no further business, Peggy Brooke made a motion to adjourn. Judy Gilbert seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Vicar Tim Benzinger closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary

MEMOIRS OF A VICAR

Malachi 3:2b-3a **For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver...**

Last Thursday during bible study, we were talking about difficult trials of life and Chuck Cooper reminded us of how silver is purified, and I want share this story with you, these analogies can be found all over the internet, and here is one version that I found.

“There once was a woman who wanted to understand how silver was purified, as she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: ‘He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.’ (Malachi 3:3) She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, ‘How do you know when the silver is fully refined?’ He smiled at her and answered, ‘Oh, that’s easy — when I see my image in it.’”

This analogy serves the fact, that God is ever gracious with us. Romans 5:1-5 tells us that,

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we^[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we^[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

We are completely powerless to do anything for our own salvation and Justification. Christ knows our path and journey from point A to point B, and though it may not always be easy, often times we are faced opposition from our flesh, the world, and the devil, but we can rest assured that God is refining us through the work of His Holy Spirit. God’s ultimate design is reconciliation between us and himself and at times has to burn away those things that we hold before God as we serve the god of our heart; whether, it is pride, selfishness, or greed. God strengthens us through His Gifts to help us overcome these oppositions because Christ overcame them for us. **Christ was delivered to death for our trespasses and raised for our Justification** (Romans 4.25).

Just as silver is refined by fire, you have a Savior who knows every tear that falls, every prayer that comes from your heart, oftentimes that may be too deep for words. God knows your situation and as James reminds,

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Though some of your trials may be self-inflicted; May you rest assured that God has not given up on you.

You are His beloved child of God and are being perfected in Heaven.

LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid is asking for **your help!** While you all are spring cleaning, they will gladly take any of your old sheets for their cancer pads. They can’t use flannel, but all others are fine, all sizes and conditions. There is a box in the Narthex. So if you see some at a garage sale, if they are cheap enough grab them for the cancer pads, if you tell them what they are for sometimes they will just give them to you!

Remember **NO FLANNEL**

UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS

05/04/2021	10:00 am	Red Cross Blood Drive-Online Appt www.redcross.org
05/06/2021	9:00 am	Ladies Aid Sewing Group- Mtg in Gym
05/07-05/08	9:00 am	Garage Sale Set up in Gym Come on in to help
05/09/2021	11:30 am	Altar Guild Mtg after service
05/12/2021	8:00 pm	Elder's Mtg
05/13-05/14	8:00a-5:00p	Garage Sale! Help is appreciated if you can
05/15/2021	8:00a-3:00p	Garage Sale Bag SALE! Help would be wonderful
05/16/2021	10:15am	Worship service with Rite of Confirmation
05/16/2021	11:30am	Confirmand Reception following worship
05/18/2021	7:00 pm	Board Mtg
05/20/2021	9:00 am	Ladies Aid Sewing Grp- Mtg in Gym

NO Wednesday Worship Service or Thursday Bible Study Until Further Notice!

LÖÖKING AHEAD»»»»»»

06/03/2021	9:00 am	Ladies Aid Sewing Grp- Mtg in Gym
06/09/2021	8:00 pm	Elder's Mtg
06/10/2021	10:00 am	Red Cross Blood Drive-Online Appt www.redcross.org
06/15/2021	7:00 pm	Board Mtg

Graduation time is here!!! Let me know where your student is graduating from, either by email at zionccdq@gmail.com or fill out form in bulletins and drop in mailbox or call the office. Name, Graduation from (HS, College, Tech School) city, State. Will be going to (college, tech school, Military or Job) City, State. Parents and/or Grandparents.

Health Fair July 10th at Zion Lutheran Church- See Vicar Tim

for information if you know of a vendor or some nonprofit that might want to participate.

NO Wednesday Worship Service Until Further Notice!



Please remember in your daily prayers our Members in Nursing Homes and those at home:

Sandra Barrett, John & Lois Duffy, Linda Hobkirk, Maxine Lott, Bill Niedermeyer, Tim & Sandra Rueger, Willie & Karen Scheumann, Jeannine Slavicek, Jack & Joanne Lane, Ralph & Barbara Keiper, Lynn Kyler.

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

Don't forget the GARAGE SALE!!!! It's the Annual (Last) Garage SALE (per Jerry)! The Bag SALE is on Sat. May 15th 8am to 3pm. Come help empty the gym!!! Thanks to Jerry and "the Girls"- Pat, Judy & Barb ... there are many more to Thank for all your help!



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



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



7 Jeremy & Gretchen Grant
10 Chris & Tracy Decker
27 Mark & Connie Forrester

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9am - Sunday School	26 Pastor's Day Off	27	28	29	30	1 Pastor's Day Off
2 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:30am - Bd of Outreach	3 Pastor's Day Off	4 RED CROSS	5 Cinco De Mayo	6 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp	7	8 Pastor's Day Off
9 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Education 9:30am Altar Guild MOTHER'S DAY	10 Pastor's Day Off	11	12 8pm - Elder's Mtg ASCENCION SVC	13 Garage Sale 8-5p	14 Garage Sale 8-5p	15 Pastor's Day Off Garage Bag Sale 8-3p Whitley Co Humane Shelter Parking Lot
16 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion ARMED FORCES SUNDAY <u>Rite of Confirmation</u>	17 Pastor's Day Off	18 7pm - Board Meeting	19 Zealant Items Due	20 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp	21	22 Pastor's Day Off
23 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service 11:30am - Bd of Youth PENTECOST SVC	24 Pastor's Day Off	25	26	27	28	29 Pastor's Day Off
30 9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship Service with Holy Communion	31 Pastor's Day Off MEMORIAL DAY	Notes				