



# THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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## Pastors Zealant Article May 2022

I am the reason this newsletter is late. Seems that in the past several months, when the Zealant has come out a few days after the 1st of the month, it truly has been my fault for failing to submit this, my Article, to Tonya to publish the newsletter. Understanding the undue ill-thoughts about the work of our wonderful Secretary I urge each of you to please: blame me.

Now. Let's see what sort of excuses I can come up with for being late in submitting this...

\*I couldn't figure out the new calendar app on my phone?

\*Through some cosmic rift I was thrust into an alternate universe?

\*or, each time I sat down to write it, a parade passed by and my attention was swayed?

I know you're not going to buy any of these excuses, are you. Likewise, there's no reason actually I should be tardy doing something that requires punctuality, like the 1st of each month it comes around.

What if I was late to worship every Sunday? (that would be awful!)

And so, I beg for your forgiveness, and I'll try to do better in the future. And for gosh sakes, I too apologize to Tonya, our awesome church secretary!

Now what's special about the month of May? Mother's Day, birthdays and anniversaries. But later on this month we will celebrate Christ's Ascension. It's somewhat different that the actual day this celebration occurs is on the 4th Thursday of May; but we observe it either the Sunday before or the Sunday after. It is a "High Feast Day" in the church, which means it should hold a particular prominence in our commitment to worship. But, we're not the only church that celebrates Christ's Ascension on a day more convenient for one's worshippers. It's quite customary to do this so more folks can observe the Day joyfully and easier than during the week.

Ascension actually falls on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of Easter, or 39 days after Easter Sunday. The date can actually vary each year, but seldom occurs on a Sunday. It's a Christian holiday that commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven:

**“Then He led them out as far as a Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he. blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.”** Luke 24:50-53.

Here also is a unique feature of St. Luke's writing. He ends his Gospel with Christ's Ascension and then begins the Book of Acts with another recounting of the Ascension! In both accounts though, Jesus tells His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the Holy Spirit – or Pentecost. They're then to go out and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus's Resurrection and Salvation now won for those who believe. But that's interesting that before proclaiming the Gospel... they must receive the Holy Spirit!

This is what happens when WE attend church and are Baptized: we receive the Holy Spirit. In our worship, we revisit these important days in the life and ministry of Jesus both in His Word and preaching. With hearing the Word of Christ, the Holy Spirit works and strengthens our faith. This then only bolsters the hope within us while traversing the darkness of this world.

Thanks be to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for His Ascension into Heaven where He yet works further those promises God has made concerning our eternity. For Jesus said, **“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?”** John 14:1-2.

Rejoice each day of ever month of the year! **“For Christ has risen! He has risen, indeed! Alleluia!”**

Rejoice, even as I continually keep each of you in my prayers. And those prayers aren't late.

See you in church, soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner

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Meeting  
Minutes

## Voters' Assembly Meeting April 24, 2022

Church News.

Meeting called to order by President Ralph Brooke with thirteen (13) members and one (1) guest present.

Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with prayer.

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

**Receiving Treasurer:** REVISED February 2022 report.

There was a gift placed into an incorrect account. Total receipts are unchanged, this is just to show the proper placement of a gift.

	<b>February 28, 2022</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Unrestricted Offering Receipts	\$ 8,686.15	\$ 13,236.15
Restricted Offering/ Miscellaneous Offering Receipts	\$ 707.29	\$ 1,137.42
On-Line Giving Receipts	\$ 4,192.00	\$ 6,627.00
Dividends	\$ 317.93	\$ 626.83
Interest	\$ 2.58	\$ 5.36
Total Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 12,878.15	\$ 19,863.15
Total Restricted Receipts	\$ 707.29	\$ 1,137.42
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 13,905.95</b>	<b>\$ 21,632.76</b>

**Receiving Treasurer:** reported by Jill Coons

	<b>March 31, 2022</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Unrestricted Offering Receipts	\$ 6,755.00	\$ 19,991.15
Restricted Offering/ Miscellaneous Offering Receipts	\$ 2,168.54	\$ 3,305.96
On-Line Giving Receipts	\$ 3,107.00	\$ 9,734.00
Dividends	\$ 199.92	\$ 826.75
Interest	\$ 3.41	\$ 8.77
Total Unrestricted Receipts	\$ 9,862.00	\$ 29,725.15
Total Restricted Receipts	\$ 2,168.54	\$ 3,305.96
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 12,233.87</b>	<b>\$ 33,866.63</b>

Peggy Brooke made a motion to accept the March report as presented. Barb Lahrman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Treasurer:** reported by Jill Coons

Check/Savings as of **March 31, 2022**

**Disbursing**

General Checking/Savings	\$ 97,765.05
Youth	\$ 11,243.70
Restricted Funds	\$ 24,372.76
Lehmburg Legacy/ Kyler Endowment	\$194,116.11

Statement of Activity

	<b>March 31, 2022</b>	<b>YTD</b>
General Budget	\$ 4,442.04	\$ 12,180.93
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ 1,741.26	\$ (2,122.52)
Youth	\$ .62	\$ (99.10)
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 6,183.92</b>	<b>\$ 9,959.31</b>

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

**Elders:** Meeting held April 6, 2022

Meeting was opened with prayer

Order of Business:

Aaron Ferguson's last day will be on May 15<sup>th</sup> as well as Michaela Dub.

Red Cross will be here on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A new updated membership list will be drawn up and divided between the three Elders.

Other issues discussed were the railing to the west entrance, new pew cushions, and the water fountain.

Average attendance for March was:

Sundays 47

Lent 16

Meeting was closed with the Benediction.

Respectively submitted

Stephen Smith, Secretary

Steve Smith made a motion that we accept the transfer of Pastor David and Joyce Easterday from Zion Ev. Lutheran Church to Christ Lutheran Church, Anderson, Indiana. Peg Brooke seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Steve Smith made a motion that we accept the transfer of Jeffrey and Connie Hanson from St. Michael Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana to Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Columbia City, Indiana. Katie Rittner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Steve Smith made a motion that we accept Matthew Hamlin to Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Columbia City, Indiana through affirmation of faith. Katie Rittner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Board of Education:**

Board of Christian Education meeting was held on March 27, 2022. Those present were Barb Lahrman, Kenny and Barb Knuth, and Judy Gilbert.

OPENING DEVOTIONS: Barb Lahrman led us in prayer.

MINUTES: Were approved.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT:**

Average Attendance: Students Feb 7 March 5

Adults Feb 13 March 11

### **MISSIONS:**

We sent \$357.45 for Jan and Feb to LAMB for Dr. Jane Weaver.

So far for March and April we have collected \$106.80 for POBLO – People of the Book Lutheran Outreach.

Our missions for May and June is Destiny Rescue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

On March 31<sup>st</sup> before Lenten service, the Board of Ed will serve dinner. Ham and beans, corn bread, coleslaw, jello, and beverage.

April 10, Palm Sunday after church we are having a potato bar potluck lunch. Board of Ed will furnish potatoes and all the toppings congregation is asked to furnish a salad or dessert.

May 1<sup>st</sup> after church we will have a reception for Erin, Josh and Michaela. Board of Ed will serve refreshments.

**LIBRARY:** No report

**PASTOR:** No report

**OLD BUSINESS:** No report

Next meeting April 24, 2022

Respectively Submitted by Judy Gilbert

**Board of Christian Outreach:**

Coffee hour has stopped for the summer. It will resume in the fall.

Thank you for the items for the personal kits. The number of packets put together with follow soon.

**Board of Stewardship:**

Praise the Lord for His goodness and blessings!

**Board of Youth:**

The airline tickets have been purchased for the trip to Houston. The youth will leave on July 8 and return July 14. They will be staying at the Hyatt Regency downtown for the National Youth Gathering.

The trivia night was a lot of fun and the youth raised a few hundred dollars for their trip. Thank you to all who came out and played.

The cookbook project is still being uploaded so you can still get in your recipes. Send them or drop them off to Tonya and they will get in. The email for the church office is [zionccdq@gmail.com](mailto:zionccdq@gmail.com)

**Pastor:**

We continue to have a lot of visitors coming in.

**Unfinished/Old Business:**

The commercial stove in the back of the kitchen will be sold and the proceeds will be used to purchase the new electric one. Phil Coons will cap the gas line to close it off in preparation for the new stove.

The water fountain next to the bathrooms will be replaced. Phil Coons will be doing that and Van's will be helping with the project.

The railing on the west side of the building is being worked into the contractor schedule. David Merryman is working with them to get it done.

The new pew cushions are in production and should be here in the next 60-90 days. The company will contact us when they ship.

**New Business:**

The garage sale will be July 21, 22 and 23. Help will be needed with set up. Contact Jerry Lahrman for more information and questions.

If anyone would be willing to help out with cutting the grass of the church, it would be greatly appreciated. The mower is here on the premises and available for your use.

There is a new neighbor on the back property line who owns his own business and would like permission to park a 24' trailer on the back edge of our property along the fence. Is this a precedent we want to set and allow? Much discussion was held and among some of the concerns were liability to the church, if we do it for him where do we draw the line and how much of an eye sore will it become, safety of everyone and the community. Steve Smith made a motion to decline the request to park the trailer on our property. Kim Yann seconded to decline the request. The motion passed.

The chain-link fence on the back of the property is "shot". It is also difficult to clean, mow and trim around it. Jerry Lahrman is planning to remove it and leave the railing and posts. The gate WILL remain to block the driveway to protect the property. There is no reason to replace the fencing. Discussion was held with regard to the safety of kids, people walking through the grass and the overall appearance of the property. The Board of Directors will look at it over the next few weeks to come up with an aesthetically pleasing and safe way to remove the chain-link and keep the integrity of a fencing area so people don't use vehicles to cut through and tear up the grass.

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

Pastor Rittner closed the meeting with the Aaronic Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary

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**LADIES AID**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> & May 19<sup>th</sup> @ 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Group**

**SERVING WITH GLADNESS**

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Please remember in your daily prayers:

Lois Duffy, Linda Hobkirk, Maxine Lott, Janice Klopfenstein, Jeanine Slavicek, Jack & Joanne Lane, Ralph Keiper, Ralph Brooke, Ralph Sexton, Steve Smith, Tonya Stanford and Pastor Phil.





chibird.tumblr.com



- 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

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



### HIGHLIGHTING UPCOMING EVENTS

**NEW OFFICE HOURS** for Pastor Phil, his days and hours in his study at church are Wednesday, Thursday and of course Sunday. Other hours will be available by appointment. As always, Pastor Phil is available 24/7 for emergencies and for funerals and weddings

There will be a **fundraiser car show** in the parking lot on **Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>** from 11a to 3pm. Benefits Todd Longenbaugh who has terminal cancer and has many ties to the community. There will be a silent auction from 12pm to 2pm. No reservation fee, free will donation. All makes and models. All proceeds to help with medical bills.



The Altar Guild would like to give Thanks to all that donated money and flowers to make the church look exceptional during Easter services. With your generous donations, we were able to beautify the



## [2 EASY ways to make Money for the CHURCH](#)

Don't forget that there are 2 easy ways to **donate free money** to the church

If you shop Amazon, use the link and the church will get a donation from amazon. You are not charged for this, but you must use **smile.amazon.com** If you use our link you just have to click that you want to support the church, you only do this once. Then each time you log on to smile.amazon.com, you will automatically have the church as your charity.

**<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-6041630>**

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### **To Use the Kroger Community Rewards Program:**

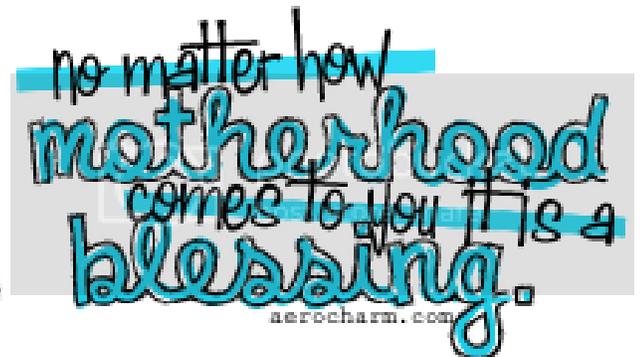
Simply go to visit **<http://www.kroger.com>**.

Once logged into your Kroger account then you can search for **ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** either by name or **NA108** and then click Enroll.

New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a *rewards* card, get your card from the service desk.

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Happy Mother's Day- Hoping your day is as beautiful as motherhood!



**We're Adopted?  
OMG!!!**



**You mean you're not our real Mom?**

# May 2022



June 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 1st Sunday's COFFEE after Worship Today! 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Srvc W/Holy Communion 1130am Board of Outreach	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Blood Drive goto <a href="http://redcross.org">redcross.org</a>	<b>4</b> Altar Guild Mtg 930a Pastor's in Office	<b>5</b> Pastor's in Office 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Mother's Day 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Srvc 1130am Board of Education 1130a Elder's Mtg	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Pastor's in Office	<b>12</b> Pastor's in Office	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Car Show in Parking Lot 11a-3p
<b>15</b> 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Srvc W/Holy Communion	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7p - Board Meeting	<b>18</b> Pastor's in Office	<b>19</b> Pastor's in Office 9am Ladies Aid Sewing Grp	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Srvc 1130am Board of Youth	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Pastor's in Office	<b>26</b> Ascension of Jesus Pastor's in Office	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Srvc Matins	<b>30</b> Memorial Day Office Closed	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>