



THE ZION ZEALANT

Zion Lutheran Church, 101 E. North St., Columbia City, IN 46725

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Pastor's Corner

Easter greetings! He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Looking around for something to write for this Zealant, I came across the following story by a fellow “man of the cloth” as to why he’s a Lutheran. I found it interesting as we have begun studying on Sunday mornings the Small Catechism once again:

By Pastor Donovan Riley.

I’d been a Christian, of sorts, for three years. At first, I’d believed there was a god. I could even work myself up to admitting that the god I believed was there was a “he” and “he” was personally involved in my life. That Jesus was my Savior and God took some time though. Also, my first exposure to Christianity had been living with born-again Christians. I lived for lamest a year with Charismatics, Pentecostals, and non-denominational types at a mission base in Mexico. And although they’d instilled in me the importance of reading my bible every day. Praying every day. Going to church at least twice a week. There was always an “if...then” waiting to pummel me with a jab and left hook. If you don’t read your Bible, or pray, or don’t go to church, or makes changes to your life, or get drunk, or smoke, or do drugs, or fool around with women... then you’re not a Christian. For someone like me, who hadn’t been searching for God and wasn’t looking to convert to Christianity, the “dos and don’ts” of Christian living appeared to be open doors that called me out and way from Christianity. And I took every open door as an opportunity to run, and say to God, “I dare you to bring me back in this time!”

That’s why, when I read Luther’s explanation that, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel”, for the first time I felt another Christian was writing to me. This was written for me! I believe I can’t believe... Finally, someone else gets it! I don’t want to believe, but I believe. Now what?

That night, after he’d gotten home from work, I said to my roommate, “I read the catechism today, and if this is what Lutherans believe I want to be one!” Since then I’ve learned there are plenty of Lutherans who don’t think Luther or his catechisms are too exciting. Not enough to get them excited about being a Lutheran anyway. Not enough to hold them back from chasing after other, what they imagine are better teachings. But for me, that’s why I’m Lutheran. Martin Luther’s Small Catechism – and the Large Catechism is, in many ways, even more outstanding. That’s why I remain a Lutheran, and why as a Lutheran pastor I’m still excited to put Luther, put his catechism, in other peoples’ hands. I want them to read it, so I can read with them, talk with them, teach them, and maybe get

(Pastor's Corner continued)

excited with them when they get excited by the astounding, life-changing words Martin Luther wrote, that:

“I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

More than that, I'm a Lutheran because Luther lead me to the Word of God. He pointed to Jesus. He pointed me to Jesus Christ, to His cross, to His blood and death, to all that God the Father has done for me and all his creatures since the beginning of creation. I'm Lutheran for the same reason Luther was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic church. We believe terrible sinners like us can't be saved by checking off a daily list of dos and don'ts for Christian living. Instead, we confess that we can't believe, even if we're feeling optimistic and want to. But it's not about us. It's not about our feeling optimistic about what we can accomplish today. It's all about the work of God, the grace of God, that comes to us through the preaching of His Spirit. The Gospel delivered to sinners that says, “Don't worry, sinner. I call you, enlighten you, make you holy, and keep you in the true faith. I do all that for you. You're in, not out, and there's nothing anyone, not even the devil and all his angels, can do to change what I've done for you. Now go, be at peace, live, and in the living and the doing and the telling, I am with you always.”

That's why I'm Lutheran... because I'm a Christian.

So, as we study once again the Small Catechism, perhaps we can take more from memorizing a few of those familiar verses we all love, and relish in the joy the growth of our faith and in our love for Christ Jesus our Lord!

See you in church!
Pastor Phil

Voter's Assembly Minutes

April 19, 2015

Dan Knuth opened the meeting and Pastor gave the opening prayer. There were 22 members in attendance, plus Pastor Robinson.

Nominating Committee

Kenny Knuth ask for a motion to release Jeff Braun from his position as Church Counsel President. Steve Smith made the motion and Judy Gilbert 2nd, vote was approved.

Kenny Knuth made a motion to accept himself as Council President to fill Jeff's position until the end of the current term, was 2nd by Steve Smith and motion was approved.

Council Minutes

Kim Yann read the Council minutes from March 2015, motion was made by Kenny Knuth and 2nd by Peg Brooke, were approved as read.

Receiving Treasurer

Jill Coons read the report submitted by Karen Scheumann with a correction of total cash receipts of \$9600.31 vs \$9613.93 with a difference of \$13.62. Motion was made by Peg Brooke and 2nd by Steve Smith, motion carried with the correction.

Dispersing Treasurer

Report given by Jill Coons, motion made by Kim Yann and 2nd by Mike Gerbers, motion carried to accept report as submitted.

Elders

Report given by Steve Smith.

Transfers: 1. Jamee Bloom family to be released from Zion's membership, 2nd by

Kim Yann motion carried.

2. Laura Gerke transfer to Aboite Lutheran Ft. Wayne, 2nd by Judy Gilbert, motion carried.

3. Jeff & Penny Braun transfer to Faith Lutheran Churubusco, 2nd by Kim Yann, motion carried.

Attendance average for:

February

Sunday 53, Mid week 15

March:

Sunday 59, mid week 21

Date for Pastor Robinson to meet with Elders still pending. Spent most of meeting reviewing the Constitutional draft made up from what we amended at our last meeting.

Motion made by Kenny Knuth and 2nd by Peg Brooke, motion approved accept as submitted.

Trustees

Report given by Dan Knuth.

- Company to spray for weed 2x's a season \$100.00
- Lehmberg money to be reinvested.
- Phil Coons will take care of paper work for building of pole barn.
- Dan Knuth ask for reimbursement of \$156.00 for Dave Ramsey Class.
- Life Line Screening to be here again in August.
- American Red Cross agreement signed to use Zion as an emergency shelter.
- Credit of \$500.00 on insurance.

Motion made and carried, approved as submitted.

Board of Education

No April meeting.

Kathaleen Reese and Lois Duffy donated books for Library.

Motion made and carried to approve minutes as submitted.

(Voter's Minutes continued)

**Official Acts
First Quarter of 2015**

Stewardship

Kenny Knuth made a motion to reimburse Dan Knuth for monies paid for Dave Ramsey Class out of Stewardship funds, 2nd by Katie Rittner, motion approved.

Board of Youth

Phil Coons reported activities for Jan & Feb. nothing for March and April. Possibly May functions.

Board of Outreach

Met to discuss the upcoming New Member Welcome being held April 26th after worship. Members asked to bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Members being honored: Zane Lepper, baptism, and Zachary Wilburn and Matt Degitz, confirmation. We are in need of help with coffee hour on Sunday's after worship, please sign-up.

Pastor's Report

Pastor gave update on revitalization.

Unfinished Business

Copies of proposed draft of Constitution given to members in attendance for review, with approval to be discussed at July meeting.

New Business

We need to get our spot for Old Settler's Corn Dog wagon turned in. Each board needs to have a preview of their budget ready at July meeting to be voted on at October meeting.

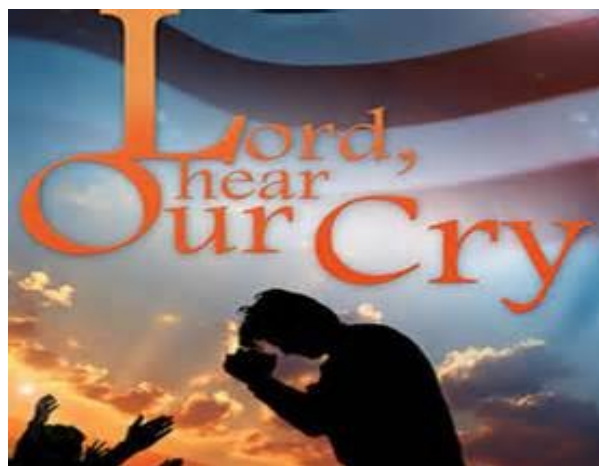
Motion to conclude meeting made by Barb Knuth 2nd by Kim Yann, motion carried
Pastor gave closing prayer.

Submitted by Joyce Reidt, Secretary

Baptism:
Zane Alexxander Lepper 1/11/2015

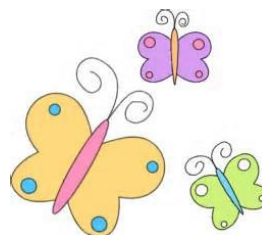
Confirmed:
Zackary Bryan Wilburn 3/29/2015
(Adult)
Matthew Steven Degitz March 26, 2015

Deaths:
Connie J. Wilburn (non-member)
3/24/2015



National Day of Prayer

**May 7th at 6:30 p.m.
Hands Around the Courthouse
Program begins at Community of Hope Church.**



Ladies Aid/LWML
April 16, 2015

Eight members attended the 1 p.m. meeting. President Kathaleen Reese opened the meeting with prayer. She continued with a Devotion depicting the Angel announcing to Mary that she was to be the mother of Jesus. The angel told Mary the “example” of her own cousin Elizabeth who had a child in old age. In our life it can seem that some things are “just impossible” and that is when Jesus is at his best for us when we come to Him.

Vise President Marty Williams led a Devotion with members participating in a “Thank You” for all the LCMS International is doing in Haiti. Permanent housing, jobs, a community concept much like the Luther Life Village are in the works and teams traveling to work there to assist in the construction.

Sami Blomquist presented the Bible Study taken from the Spring 2015 LWML Quarterly. It was entitled “Seedy Character.” After a prayer, the program continued starting with our Holy Baptism with the focal point on our relationship to God and how in our baptism we are buried into His death. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we are united with him in his resurrection. Because of our baptism, we are dead to sin and all our sins are gone. Our relationship with God is changed because of His grace. This also changes our relationship with others to give all to Him so sin does not reign. We can view ourselves with joy and forgive ourselves and others. In Matt. 17:12 Jesus was telling his disciples why they could not rebuke a demon in a boy. He told them they had so little faith. He went on to tell them if they had the faith of even a mustard seed, they could move mountains. We learn here that the Holy Spirit empowers us so nothing is impossible for us. In Mark 4, Jesus told

the parable of the mustard seed to his disciples to describe to them what the Kingdom of God is like—how it goes from small unto tall and so our faith can grow also. In Mark 4, Jesus asks to sow the seed in good ground so what is sown by you can be multiplied—and all may hear the Word of God. We are encouraged in Matt. 17 to go and sow more seed. We are told by Paul in 1 Cor. 3 that we are assigned to the task of planting the seeds, to water the plants and God the Holy Spirit will make it grow.

Business Meeting

The secretary’s minutes for March were accepted with a motion by Sami Blomquist and 2nd by Marty Williams. President Reese told members to watch for the article in the Post&Mail newspaper about Conner Slavicek’s Mission to India. Joan Lane said her treasurer’s report is the same as March. Marty Williams said 4 quilts have been sewn. President Reese reported 100 cancer pads to sew were ordered for June. Stamps for Missions will be taken to the 3-Zone LWML Rally on April 18th. We are continuing the project of collecting tops of greeting cards for St. Jude’s Children’s Camp.

Mission Projects Discussion

Besides the quilts and soap for Lutheran World Relief, and other projects mentioned the members decided that we have an In-gathering by the end of August for the Concordia Seminary. Non-perishable food and household products are needed.

3-Zone LWML Spring Rally

President Reese will be attending the Rally at Bull Rapids Zion Lutheran Church near Woodburn on April 18th.

(continued on next page)

(LWML continued)

An Ingathering donation would be taken to the Rally along with our collection of Stamps for Missions.

A card for the Family of Mary K. Miller
Members signed a card of Sympathy. A motion was made by Joan Lane and 2nd by Maxine Lott to have a check included in the card made out to Living Water Lutheran Church as a memorial for Mary K.

Moose Lake Christian Craft Village
President Reese read an invitation to our Ladies Aid to consider coming to the Village there in the future.

Our Clouds and God's Grace
President Reese read from a Christian Life article and it explained how we all have our lists of "clouds" in our life. The sin shining through the "clouds" is God providing peace and comfort t in the midst of our temporary "clouds."

Up Coming Programs
Melody and President Reese will have the program in May. Lois Duffy will present the program in September and Joan Lane will give a program in November.

The meeting was closed with members reading together "A Springtime Prayer." At Fellowship time Marty Williams served cherry cheesecake and a salty snack. Lovely Spring flowers from her own garden were the table décor. Joan Lane won the table prize.

Submitted by Lois Duffy, Secretary

Group Experience for Marriage Assessment and Enrichment



Cross Connections counselors believe in God's design for marriage! Most couples—even in the church—wait too long to address communication problems and troublesome relationship patterns. Each couple in this group will complete an online customized relationship assessment. They will work with other couples in training sessions to learn skills for making marriage better. Talk with your pastor about a referral to Cross Connections for this group.

Group Meetings: **Tuesdays 6:00-7:30**
June 2 through July 21, 2015
Cost: \$20 per couple per session
plus one-time \$35 online assessment fee
Cross Connections Office
4618 E. State St., #300
More Information? 260.373.0213



For over thirty years, PREPARE/ENRICH has led the way in helping couples explore and strengthen their relationships. The main component of the program is an online survey you each complete in about 30-45 minutes. PREPARE/ENRICH is not just any survey. The items you respond to are based on research and are intended to help you identify the unique strengths and potential growth areas of your premarital or married relationship. You'll meet with a facilitator trained to provide feedback by helping you understand your results and learn important relationship skills. Built on a solid research foundation, PREPARE/ENRICH has been improved and refined over the years to become one of the best, most effective, easy-to-use relationship assessment tools available.



**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
SCOOP
May 2015**

Family Sunday School Hour is each Sunday from 9:00 – 10:00 A.M. We have classes from age 3 through adults. Adults meeting in fellowship hall with students for opening, and then classes are dismissed by 9:10 A.M. Refreshments are provided. Please come and be fed!

Missions for the months of March and April will support the medical ministry of Dr. Jane Weaver with Latin America Missions Board in San Lorenzo. She has visited Zion and presented her ministry during the Sunday School Hour in years past. The total collected as of April 12 is \$205.25. Thank you for your support!

Lessons for the Month of May:

- 3rd – “Paul and Timothy”
- 10th – “Lydia”
- 17th – “Paul & Silas in Prison”
- 24th – “Paul Sails for Rome”
- 31st – “John’s Vision of Heaven”

Stats for the Month of March 2015:

Class Attendance: Preteen – 90% (Banner Class!); Primary - 60%; Junior High/High School – 20%
Perfect Attendance: Mason Knuth

Teaching Bible stories to children is a wonderful blessing! If you are interested in helping with a class, please see Kenny or Barb Knuth or call 260.244.6065. Also, there is an opportunity to serve on the Board of Christian Education. You are invited to attend a board meeting to meet the other members and participate in seeing what the Board of Christian Education is all about.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

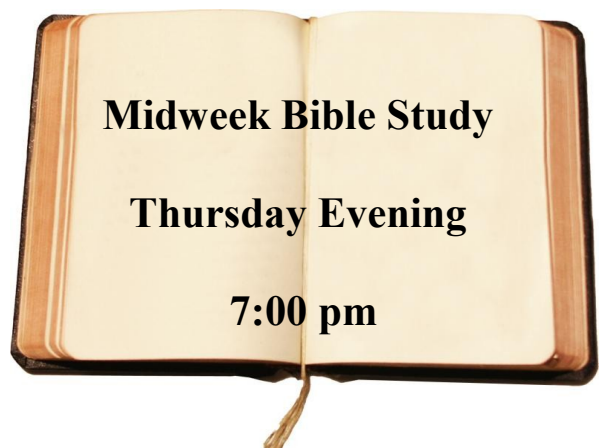
**VBS will be held on
July 6—10, 2015
9:00—11:30 a.m.**

**Parents & Grandparents
Please put this on your calendar!**

**Let your friends and neighbors
know also.**

Thanks to all who brought in items for props! You can see in the office that Cheryl is busy making flowers, mushrooms, trees, animals, etc.

Cheryl says, this is one of my knacks, making crafts! Love doing it.





**DOES ZION
NEED AN A.E.D.?**

With our congregation getting older and more and more people being diagnosed with A-Fib, the board of outreach feels it will be a good idea for Zion to have one of these on the grounds. With a few being trained by the Red Cross it will help our congregation in time of crisis if needed.

In the narthex you will see a big thermometer to help us show us how we are doing towards reaching our goal. On that thermometer there are small envelopes to put your donation along with your name so you can get credit for the amount given.

Please see the information below.

Q. What is AED?

A. Automated external defibrillator

Q. What is an AED?

A. An AED is a sophisticated, reliable, safe, computerized device that delivers electric shocks to a casualty in cardiac arrest when the ECG rhythm is one that is likely to respond to a shock.

Q. Are AED's easy to use.

A. It is very easy to use an AED.

You turn on the device and there are clear and concise prompts' advising you exactly what to do every step of the way.

Q. How much does it cost?

A. Depending on the type we buy it will be between \$1500 and \$2000.

If there are any questions, please talk to Monica Koldyke or Peg Brooke.

**We would like to
know who is gradu-
ating this school year
2014-2015?**



**This includes
High School, College,
Nursing, Technical, etc.**

**Zion Parents and Grandparents please
let us know of any students in your
family.**

Name _____

School graduating from _____

**Interest after school or where going to
college?**

**Please have these filled out and re-
turned to the office by May 24th so
they can be put in the June Zealant.**

Thank You!!!!

Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 25th

Office Closed



Parents of Catechism Students

Please see that your children come on Sunday mornings when it is their turn to Acolyte!!

Volunteers Needed

It would help out greatly if people would volunteer their time before, during worship service and after by volunteering as ushers, greeters, communion assistants and youth acolyting.

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 Wednesday

Rev. Phil Rittner
Cell Phone: 260-415-9078
(I text if you'd like!)
Email: revrittner@reagan.com

The Oaks:
Patricia Neidermeyer, & Charles Stanley

Lutheran Life Village:
Larry Haugk

Renaissance Village:
Dorathy Ummel

Peabody Home (Memory Care):
Alberta Warnick

Luther Home in Crown Point:
Harriet Redman

Those at home:
Sami Blomquist, Bob Gallmeyer, Linda Hobkirk, Jim Jackson, Bill Neidermeyer, Wayne Reese, Tim & Sandra Rueger, Willie & Karen Scheumann, and Michael Sexton

Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

Jessie Contreras, Chris Decker, Alex Hart, Joshua Rittner, Matt Shoda, Jason & Ashley Weatherly and Dayne Zielinski

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS
for Mary K. Miller's family, Mary passed away on April 12, 2015.

. . . and anyone else we have not mentioned that might be in our hearts. . . Lord, hear our prayers.



Bargain Bonanza Extravaganza

THURSDAY MAY 7 9 am- 5 pm	FRIDAY MAY 8 9 am- 5 pm	SATURDAY MAY 9 9 am- Noon
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International Park and Commerce Center
2701 South Coliseum Boulevard
ENTER at the TOWER

A bargain-hunters paradise!

Thousands of quality items - antiques, collectibles, furniture, jewelry and much, much more - all in a 20,000 square foot area.

Proceeds from this all-volunteer fundraising event benefit the residents of Lutheran Life Villages

Thank you to our sponsors:

International Park and Commerce Center
McCullough Systems, Inc. "Experts in Senior Relocation"

For more information, or to donate items for the sale, please contact the Volunteer Department at 260-447-1591 Ext. 2116



Military Appreciation Dinner & Celebration

**May 30, 2015 @ 6:00 pm
Concordia Lutheran Church's
Centennial Hall
4245 Lake Ave, Fort Wayne, IN**

Honoring those who protect our freedom to worship.



Please join us as we say thank you to our service men and women and their families.



FREE meal provided for all attendees

**Centennial Hall is compliant with ADA
accessibility requirements**

Concordia ROTC Color Guard



We hope that you will join us for our 5pm Saturday worship service and then stay for the fellowship and celebration!

**RSVP to Pastor Brown @ 260-422-2429
Or Pastor Brown@ConcordiaChurch.org**

SERVING IN MAY 2015

USHERS

3rd—Mike Gerbers
10th—Ralph Sexton
17th—Steve Smith
24th—Ralph Sexton
31st—Mike Gerbers

ACOLYTES

3rd—Kyler Bills
10th—Mason Knuth
17th—Logan Bachelder
24th—Nick Decker
31st—Ryan Bills

GREETERS

3rd—?
10th—Lois Duffy
17th—Pat Decker
24th—Kathaleen Reese
31st—?

ALTAR GUILD

Betty Wilkinson

POWERPOINT

3rd—Phil Coons
10th—Joyce Reidt
17th—?
24th—?
31st—Joyce Reidt

COFFEE HOUR

3rd—?
10th—?
17th—Judy Gilbert
24th—?
31st—?

**Please sign up on bulletin board!!!!
(We need volunteers to help with all the above!!)**

BIRTHDAY'S

1 Jessica Yann
4 Drake Schuemann
8 Richard Koldyke
12 Donald Gilbert
15 Timothy Sexton
16 Kassidy Welch
24 Janette Bachelder
29 Ralph Brooke
30 Jessica Whaley



ANNIVERSARIES

5 Richard & Monica Koldyke
10 Chris & Tracy Decker
20 Bill & Pat Niedermeyer
26 Aaron & Amanda Pepler
27 Mark & Connie Forrester






BAPTISMS

Jordan Allen
Adam Braun
April Brooke
Christopher Brooke
Shianne Brooke
Peggy Brooke
Regan Decker
Sean Decker
Robert Gallmeyer
Geoffrey Gerbers
Bryan Hart
Barb Knuth
Richard Koldyke
Joan Lane
Samuel Mullett
Trenten Pease
Karen Scheumann
Betty Wilkinson



MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 S.S. 9 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Bd. of Ed. 11:30 am	4	5	6 Wed. Evening Service 7 pm	7 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am Bible Study 7 pm	8 Cheryl vacation	9 Altar Guild 9:30 am
10 Mother's Day S.S./Staff 9 am Worship 10:15 am 	11	12	Ascension Service 7 pm Elders 	14 Bible Study 7 pm	15	16 Outreach 10 am
17 S.S. 9 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	18	19 Council 7 pm	20 Wed. Evening Service 7 pm	21 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am LWML 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm	22	23
24 Pentecost S.S./Staff 9 am Worship 10:15 am Trustees 11:30 am 	25 Memorial Day Observed Office Closed	26 Zealant Items Due	27 Wed. Evening Service 7 pm	28 Last Bible Study 7 pm until August	29	30
31 Holy Trinity S.S. 9 am Worship 10:15 am 