

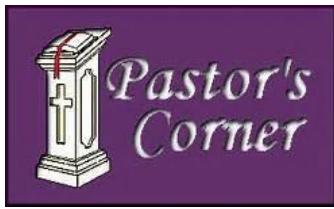


THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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Rev. Phil Rittner

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He IS risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

One nice thing about having several pastors as friends, one is seldom without inspiration and support – receiving food for the growth of my faith in overwhelming portions! I give thanks to God not only for those many friendships (...many are just like family!); but I give thanks to God He has placed me here at this place, Zion, among His dear children in Columbia City! Below I've got to share with you an article a dear friend of mine, Pastor Keith Haney, an Outreach & Church planter worker for the Northern Illinois District of the LC-MS wrote for his blog: *The Light Breaks Through*.

Following our Easter worship, I and many others in and around the church expressed our faith in different ways. Me? I cried. Not lying... some hymns just open the flowing tears of joy knowing my Savior has indeed risen! Our response to the resurrection certainly may differ from one to another.

"Now on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in." John 20:1-4

“Some of us respond to the resurrection with simple faith.

The beloved disciple whom Jesus loved. What a great title, the disciple whom Jesus loved. He's never actually named, but we would believe from a tradition that it's the Apostle John. When Jesus met with his inner circle, it was Peter, James, and John.

When they're sitting at the Last Supper, John is right next to Jesus and can whisper, “Who is it that will betray you?” When Jesus dies on that cross, everyone flees, but according to this Gospel, that beloved disciple was still there at his feet. And it was to this disciple that Jesus gave the word from the cross, “Take my mother home with you. Let her be your mother; you be her son.” He was close to Jesus. He saw and witnessed the entire experience.

Now we hear that he's in a foot race with Peter. Maybe because he's younger, he beats Peter to the tomb when they hear the incredible news from Mary that the tomb is empty. They're racing to the tomb to see about this. John gets there first. So he was fit, but he was quicker in more ways than just feet. He was quicker of faith.

When the beloved disciple got to the tomb He did not go in, he just looked, and he saw the linen cloth depressed down like a cocoon emptied. He saw the headpiece here, and he paused to reflect on that.

Then Simon Peter came rushing up and rushed right on past into the tomb. And then the beloved disciple

entered as well and saw. It simply says that he saw and he believed. Isn't that wonderful? He didn't have to have a lot of proof. Unlike doubting Thomas, he did not have to thrust his hand into Jesus' side or put his fingers into the holes. He didn't have to see Jesus walk through walls. He didn't have to have anything. He just saw that little bit, and he believed.

An ideal disciple is this beloved one. It doesn't take much to nudge him to faith. No, he did not come thinking that Jesus was raised, but when he got there, it did not take much. You just had to announce it, just whisper it out of an empty tomb. No angels yet, and he believes.

You are here, aren't you, beloved disciple? Men and women, old and young, some of you are here. And you believe like this disciple believes. Your faith doesn't take much effort; you cannot even remember a time that you did not believe passionately in Christ. When the Holy Spirit worked that miracle of faith in your life, you just walked across the stream at its narrowest point. Even though it's always a spiritual event when a person becomes a Christian, for you, it seemed almost natural. You don't struggle with your faith. And you come face to face with the resurrection of Jesus and your heart is exploding with Easter joy. The chorus of alleluias and chants of He is risen. He is risen indeed is dripping from your lips. And you struggle to understand why anybody would have doubts about that. For you, the resurrection is something you just find simple to believe. Now, make no mistake about it. People who believe like this are not over simplifying things nor are they naive. They have not lost touch with the real world. God has given them an incredible gift, the kind of faith to move mountains. They are blessed and are a tremendous blessing to the Church. In times of crisis that unwavering faith is inspiring. At the grave of a loved one that kind of faith provides confidence in the very power and love of God. For those who struggle or are dealing with crippling grief, that kind of faith points us back to the cross and the hope of the empty tomb. That kind of faith centers us on the promises of God and reminds us great is God's faithfulness. Thank God for those with that kind of faith."

May the joy of Easter-time continue to burst throughout your weeks, months, and years ahead!

See you in church, soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner

Church Council Minutes

Ralph Brooke called the meeting to order with 19 members present. Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with prayer. Ralph Brooke thanked everyone for their time to be at the meeting.

Minutes: Ralph Brooke asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March Council meeting as printed in the Zealant. Pat Decker made the motion and Peg Brooke 2nd, the motion passed. During discussion, it was noted that during the March meeting a motion was made 2nd and passed that at this time we will not be hiring a keyboardist. Katie Rittner made the motion to accept the change and Judy Gilbert 2nd, motion passed.

Pastor Rittner introduced Pastor Jerry Nichols who spoke about a new web site he created PoemsbyJerroldlloyd.com. The site purpose is to reach out to those who are seeking Christ. Also, Pastor Nichols is asking for help from our church to help build an outreach pilot program.

Pastor Rittner made note that on May 6, 2017 the Seminary will be sending a class of students to do outreach and canvas Columbia City, the congregation from St. Johns will join us in hosting the class. All church members are welcome. Times for this are 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Receiving Treasure: Jill Coons read the report.

March 2017

YTD

Unrestricted Receipts

\$7482.00

\$22,829.50

March 2017	YTD
Restricted Receipts	
\$2082.70	\$2385.68
Misc. Receipts	
\$8700.00	\$9465.25
Dividends	
\$301.42	\$916.58
Interest	
\$2.47	\$4.08
Total Receipts	
\$18,568.59	\$35,621.09

A motion was made by Kenny Knuth and 2nd by Steve Smith to accept the report as presented. The motion passed.

Disbursing Treasure: No report was given due to problems logging into church internet.

Elders Report: Steve Smith.

Due to an omission in the January Voters mtg, Steve Smith made a motion to accept Linda Williams, and Kris and Scott Woodhouse as members at Zion. Kenny Knuth 2nd, the motion passed.

Elders recommend that Zion accept the transfers of Jessica Rossow from St. Peters Lutheran in Hemlock, MI and Spencer Rossow from Zion Lutheran Church Hemlock, MI. Steve Smith made the motion and Katie Rittner 2nd, the motion passed.

Elders recommend the following members be removed from church rolls due to no current address or they have not attended service in sometime. Jason Huguenard, Arron Peppler and family, Matthew Shoda, Jennifer Wilcoxson and family, Debra, Jessica, and Justin Whaley, Jordan Allen, Melissa Bender, and Jessie Contreas. Steve Smith made the motion and Joyce Reidt 2nd, the motion passed.

Early service on Sundays was discussed (per council mtg.) At this time, no further action will be taken.

Shut-in Visitation was discussed.

Pastor discussed starting a Special Bible class open to the community. More info will follow.

Attendance for March: Sundays 71, Ash Wed. 34, and Lent (Wed.) 20.

Meeting was closed with the Benediction.

Trustee Report: Dan Knuth.

The Red Cross has renewed their contract to use Zion Lutheran Church as an Emergency Shelter. The Red Cross also contracted to use Zion Church for a special Blood Drive on June 23rd, each person donating blood will receive a free ticket to Cedar Point.

Dan is working with the contractors to fix the parking lot.

Dan also looking into getting carpet repaired in the Sanctuary.

The trustees also had to replace the amplifier in the sanctuary due to the Easter Services. A new amp would have been \$900, we were able to purchase a gently used one for \$400.

Jerry Lahman asked for help in keeping the lawn here at the church mowed.

Board of Education: Judy Gilbert.

Barb Knuth called the meeting to order on April 9th with 6 members present. Kenny Knuth gave the opening prayer.

Minutes: The March minutes were approved.

Sunday School Report for March – Adults 18 and Students 9.

Missions: \$175.11 has been collected for Latin American Mission Board with Dr. Jane Weaver.

Pastors Report: There has been a change in Confirmation Camp due to conflict with the School Corporation last day of school. The new dates are June 5-8 and June 12-15.

Library Report: Chris Woodhouse is working on labeling shelves to make finding material easier.

Old Business: Thank you to Janice Klopfenstein for making the children's Palm Sunday program a success.

New Business: VBS is still in need of teachers.

Other Business: Bonnie Pease is working on getting a blood pressure monitor for the library.

Board of Outreach: Peg Brooke.

The board met with the Board of Ed., Pastor Rittner, Monica Koldyke, Kim Yan, Peg Brooke, Katie Rittner and Kami Wilburn.

The Block Party was discussed. Door hangers have been bought to use in May as well as a 12-foot banner to put on the back fence. Volunteers have been filled to head committees. Chuck Cooper is getting prices from BJ Rental on inflatables. A \$1000 MEG grant will be used, with donations and a Thrivent grant we should be able to increase games, food choices and prizes.

Monica purchased a popcorn popper to be used by any committee at Zion, it is stored in the back room of the kitchen. T-shirt orders will be taken until April 30th for all members at Zion. They will be the same as last year. The board will buy the t-shirts this year, last year they were donated.

Board of Youth: Dan Knuth.

April 22nd the youth CLEANED and reorganized the kitchen as well as the Narthex.

The information for Old Settlers Day was received.

Pastors Report:

Services/Bible Studies/Rites conducted. Worship Services: 12; Bible Studies: 11; Dinner/Movie March 12, 2017 @ church for Lent; No Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings, or Confirmation

Counseling/Private Meetings 4

Pastoral Visits: Homes 5; Hospitals 4; Nursing Home: 3; Jail: 5

Meetings/Functions outside of Church: Whitley County Ministerial Association meeting 3/21; Whitley County Gideon's Appreciation Dinner 4/7; Kendallville Circuit Meeting 4/18; Continuing Education @ CTSFW 4/18

Pastors mileage: 3/9/17 – 4/18/17 – 415 miles (this does not include mileage to and from church and home).

Lutheran Foundation Grant Report: \$5000.00 - \$548.94 Couples Bible Study material; \$1000 designated for Outreach/Block party committee; \$115.64 spent on advertising to date; \$735.00 spent for Doxology registration and lodging (expect yet travel expenses); Expect Confirmation Camp expenses; Present Balance \$2716.06.

Old/New Business: Rev. Jerry Nichols presentation.

Is there a desire for a New Photo Directory: Not at this time.

Is there a desire to host a Funeral pre-planning during Sunday School Hour if so the choices are Smith and Sons or Demony-Grimes: Not at this time.

Community Canvassing with seminarians/Professors and the folks from St. Johns being held Saturday, May 6th from 8:30 am to 3 pm.

Old Business: None

New Business: The Garage Sale will be held August 17-19. It was asked if the proceeds could be used for electricity in the storage building and there are some windows that need replacing in the basement.

The LWML will host a Mother's Day Tea the Saturday before Mother's Day, they will also host a Father/Son Basketball game the Saturday before Father's Day.

Dan Knuth has asked to be named as Counselor for the Board of Youth. Ralph Brooke made the motion Joyce Reidt 2nd, motion passed.

Jennifer Knuth has asked to be named a member of the Board of Youth, Ralph Brooke made the motion Katie

Rittner 2nd, motion passed.

With no other business, Katie Rittner made a motion to adjourn Joyce Reidt 2nd, the motion passed. The meeting was closed with the Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted Joyce Reidt (sec.)

Amendment to the Minutes of Church Council Meeting, March 21, 2017:

The April 2017 Zealant omitted a portion of the minutes from the Church Council Meeting held March 21, 2017. Under Pastor's Report, it should have noted:

"During Pastor's report a lengthy discussion was conducted regarding the hiring of an Organist or keyboardist for the church. It was reported that an ad had been put in the Post and Mail seeking to hire someone, and one respondent to the ad stated she desired \$10,000 for a year. It was agreed the church could not afford to hire someone now; a motion was then made not to hire an organist or keyboardist; it was seconded; and voted by the Council in the affirmative. We'll continue using digital materials for worship."

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, May 6th!

We're being joined with the company of missiology students from CTSFW and the folks from St. John's Lutheran Church to canvass our neighborhoods here in Columbia City this day!

We'll meet in Zion's gym for refreshments and an orientation and assignments at 8:30 AM, and probably finish up before 3 PM. We need a good showing of folks from Zion – this is evangelism at work!

**Ladies
Aid**

The Ladies Aid need old sheets. They can be white, colored or printed. To be used for cancer pads.
Put in tub across from mailboxes. Thank you!



Just a reminder to ALL Ladies.
LWML meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6 pm. All are welcome!



Mother's Day Tea –
Saturday, May 13th from 1-3 pm.
Dress attire optional. All are welcome! (Mother's, Daughters,
Granddaughters, Aunt's, Grandmothers, and Friends).
Sing-up sheet on Narthex bulletin board.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

May 2017

A big thank you to all children and adults that participated in the Palm Sunday processional by waving palms and singing! Also, to Janice Klopfenstein for arranging and leading the singing! It certainly enhanced Palm Sunday worship.

May lessons will end the Spring Quarter:

- 7th – “Jesus Appears to Thomas”
- 14th – “Jesus Appears in Galilee”
- 21st – “Jesus Ascends into Heaven”
- 28th – “John’s Vision of Heaven”

Summer Sunday School will begin the month of June and run through August.

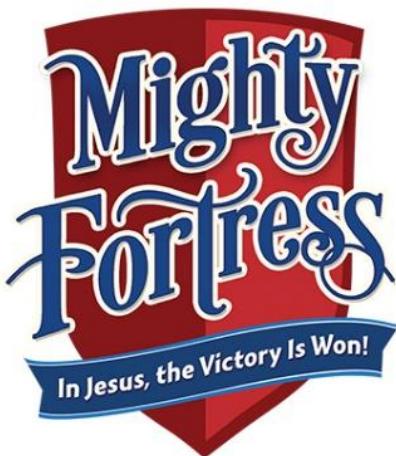
Sunday School offerings for Latin America Missions Board concludes April 30th. Thank you for your faithful support of our mission's projects throughout the year.

Sunday School STATS – March 2017

Class Attendance: Jr/Sr. High – 100% (banner class!); Pre-teen and Elementary tie at 75%; and Preschool/Kg. – 62.5%.

Perfect Attendance:

Emerson Knuth, Mason Knuth, Zachary Wilburn, and Angel Talarico. Congratulations!



Vacation Bible School 2017

**July 30th-Aug. 3rd
6:30-8:30 pm**

**Parents & Grandparents
please put these dates on your calendar
so your children and grandchildren
won't miss out!
Let your family, friends and
neighbors know!!!**

Still in need of teachers!

Zion Lutheran Church

BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, May 20, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Food, Fun and Games!!!



Still need volunteers!

Sign-up sheet for food donations
on Narthex bulletin board



Bible Trivia Questions:

1. After Jesus fed 5,000+ people with two fish and five loaves of bread, how many baskets were left over?
2. What does Paul say may “abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment?”
3. What tribe is Paul from?
4. According to the Beatitudes who will be filled?

COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE
Study



Thursdays @ 7 p.m.

Official Acts
Jan.-April 2017

Baptism:

3/12/2017 - Levi James Hartman

Confirmation:

3/5/2017 - Cari Nicole (Hoffman)

Knuth

Death:

1/18/2017 - Phyllis A. Myers



The Oaks:
Patricia Neidermeyer

Peabody Home (Memory Care):
Alberta Warnick

Brookdale (Assisted Living):
John & Lois Duffy

Those at home:
Tom Auer, 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:

Chris Decker, Kevin Kruger,
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

MAY

SERVING AT CHURCH

Ushers

7th – Ralph Sexton
 14th – Steve Smith
 21st – Ralph Sexton
 28th – Steve Smith

Acolytes

7th – Kirby Coons
 14th – Kyler Bills
 21st – Zack Wilburn
 28th – Hailey Braun

Greeters

7th – Kathaleen Reese
 14th –
 21st – Pat Decker
 28th – Gloria Nimtz

Altar Guild

Betty Wilkinson



BIRTHDAY'S

1 Jessica Yann
 4 Drake Schuemann
 8 Richard Koldyke
 11 Cecily Knuth
 12 Donald Gilbert Sr.
 15 Timothy Sexton
 22 Jessica Rossow
 24 Janette Bachelder
 29 Ralph Brooke
 30 Jessica Whaley



BAPTISMS



April Brooke
 Christopher Brooke
 Shianne Brooke
 Peggy Brooke
 Regan Decker
 Sean Decker
 Geoffrey Gerbers
 Bryan Hart
 Barb Knuth
 Richard Koldyke
 Joan Lane
 Samuel Mullett
 Trenten Pease
 Karen Scheumann
 Ethan Wilkinson
 Betty Wilkinson

ANNIVERSARIES



5 Richard & Monica Koldyke
 7 Jeremy & Gretchen Grant
 10 Chris & Tracy Decker
 20 Bill & Pat Niedermeyer
 27 Mark & Connie Forrester

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pastor's day off	2	3 Wed. Service 7 pm	4 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am LWML 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm	5	6 Evangelism Work 8:30 am to 3 pm Altar Guild 9:30 am Pastor's day off
7 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Outreach 11:30 am	8 Pastor's day off	9	10 Wed. Service 7 pm Elders	11 Bible Study 7 pm	12	13 Mother's Day Tea 1-3pm Pastor's day off
14 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bd. of Education 11:30 am	15 Pastor's day off	16 Church Council 7 pm	17 Wed. Service 7 pm	18 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am Bible Study 7 pm	19	20 Block Party 10am-3pm Pastor's day off
21 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	22 Zealant Items Due! Pastor's day off	23	24 Wed. Service 7 pm	25 Red Cross Gym Bible Study 7 pm	26	27 Pastor's day off
28 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Youth 11:30 am	29 Pastor's day off	30	31 Wed. Service 7 pm			

Answers to Bible Trivia:

12

Love

Benjamin

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness