



THE ZION ZEALANT

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

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Pastors May 2019 Zealant Article

“April showers bring May flowers.” Yes, I know how the rest of it goes... But do you remember that rhyme from your youth? Maybe it still applies today! But what has April brought us this year as a wonderful gift from God? He has brought us through once again a season of Lent and a celebration of Easter here at Zion!

Back in March, when we celebrated our Lord's Transfiguration, as Jesus and His disciples were **“...coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”** (Mark 9:9). And then, in Matthew's Gospel when the two Marys went to the tomb on Easter morn, the angel **“... said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead...”** (Mt 28:5-7).

What joy! What marvelous news! He is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! Just as all the gloom and gray of winter is leaving us for a beautiful Spring, so too have we pasted through the suffering, pain, and doubt of unbelief to celebrate joyfully our risen Savior! Just as the new growth begins around our yards and fields, so too our new growth as beloved children of God blossom and produce good fruits of service to our neighbor! Thanks be to God!

* * * * *

You've heard me speak about the Bible studies available here at Zion. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you again the beauty and joys found in studying God's Word here at Zion. The Psalmist wrote, **“Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth...”** (Ps 86:11). On Sunday mornings, we have a wonderfully devoted and knowledgeable staff teaching our youth. They work hard to prepare and produce for your children proper and encouraging Sunday school classes. I simply cannot say enough good about these folks – giving of themselves (oftentimes when no other will step forward to do so!) they so desire that your children grow up in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Kenny and Barb take good care of your little ones while you could have the opportunity to share in our Adult Bible Class every Sunday morning.

Also, on Sunday mornings, we have a Catechism Class underway. Taught by 'soon-to-be Deaconess' Katie Rittner, those in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades study Luther's Small Catechism and become members of the Church. Perhaps I'm a bit biased, but I've heard from some of the youth attending her class that Katie teaches in a pleasant and encouraging manner! If you're new to the Lutheran Church, and desire to learn the Catechism as an adult, I'd be delighted to privately teach you, or I'd even welcome a small class of adults for the Catechism. Just ask! Why, presently I'm teaching a young, married couple in their home Luther's Catechism.

In our Adult class on Sunday morning, the topic varies, a lot! Sometimes we stay on track, and sometimes we don't. The chief purpose of the Adult Class is to continue to learn about God, Jesus, our faith, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Catechism, how the world around us deals with Christianity, and we even study those who persecute you. The Lord spoke through the Prophet Isaiah, "**Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go."** (Is 48:17). When studying Scripture, by the work of the Holy Spirit we learn. We strive to dig deep... but not deep enough you can't keep up! It's important we look into our faith and understand what it is that God desires of us as adults, parents, older, younger, as Christians what He would have us continue to do: serve Him and praise Him.

Then, on Thursday evenings at 7PM, we have a Bible class like no others. Might I entice you with some of the tastier treats sometimes brought for enjoyment? The true enticement is the conversations we have. Digging into Scripture we discuss its impact and effect our Lord has on us and His Creation. *What does that verse mean to you? How do you really feel about the way Christians are treated today?* And so, so much more! The topics we cover can be a book of the Bible; the women of the Bible; we'll watch videos and discuss them; we'll listen to another pastor discussing a topic and critic it; we'll use a prepared Bible Study course, or we'll use just the Bible. And, a fun aspect of the Thursday Night Study is I don't always come up with the topic. You do!

I invite you to come. Come hear the Word of God and study it. Come, speak about your joys, your fears, and do bring your younger folks so they too can hear of the joy of Easter; of a Savior who loves them and cherishes them too!

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:16-17).

Easter blessings! See you in church. Soon!

Pastor Phil Rittner

Voter's Meeting

Voter's Meeting

April 28, 2019

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbia City, Indiana
Voter's Meeting April 28, 2019

Meeting called to order by Scott Woodhouse, President.
Pastor Rittner opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes: Kim Yahn made a motion to accept the March 2019 minutes printed in the March 2019 Zealant as printed. Jill Coons seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Receiving Treasurer: reported by Jill Coons

	March 2019	YTD
Unrestricted Receipts	\$12,510.00	\$ 26,655.56
Restricted/ Miscellaneous Receipts	\$ 584.41	\$ 956.55
Dividends	\$ 308.08	\$ 928.64
Interest	\$ 6.68	\$ 10.25
Total Receipts	\$13,409.17	\$ 28,551.00

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

Disbursing Treasurer: Jill Coons

Check/Savings March 2019

General Checking/Savings	\$ 8,391.83
Youth	\$13,030.30
Restricted Funds	\$18,250.41
Lehmburg Legacy	\$75,796.07 (market value at 2/28/2019 \$71,869.71)

Statement of Activity

	March 2019	YTD
General Budget	\$ 5,665.53	\$ 2,832.88
Non-Budgeted/ Reimbursed	\$ (99.05)	\$ (554.39)
Youth	\$ 4.28	\$ (95.23)
Net Revenue	\$ 5,570.76	\$ 3,292.04

Kim Yahn made a motion to accept the report as presented. Peggy Brooke seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Elders: Steve Smith

Elders meeting April 10, 2019

Meeting was opened with prayer.

Order of Business:

Elders recommend that we accept Jack and Penny Rugg into membership at Zion by profession of faith. Steve Smith made the motion to accept Jack and Penny Rugg into membership by profession of faith. Kenny Knuth seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Discussed the microphones that are currently in use.

After reviewing the call letter that was prepared in calling Pastor Rittner it was noted that our congregation would be willing/able to assist the Pastor in the reduction of his educational debt. This has been neglected in the past, so the Elders recommend that we take \$1,000.00 out of the interest in the Lehmborg fund and put toward this debt. This should be revisited each year. Steve Smith made a motion to use \$1,000.00 of the interest from the Lehmborg fund to pay toward Pastor Rittner's educational debt. Kenny Knuth seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The yearly planner was discussed.

Average Attendance for March 2019:

Sunday	45
Mid-week	12

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted, Stephen Smith (Sec.)

Trustees: No report given

Pastor Rittner advised Nowak condemned several fire extinguishers and they have been replaced with new ones. The condemned ones are in his study to be destroyed.

The leak over the stairs is in the process of being taken care of. Jeremy has been working on it.

Kenny Knuth advised the original bell mount is now in the pole barn at Zion.

Quest for the trustees to see if it would be possible to raise the kneelers at the communion rail or to get thicker padding.

Board of Christian Education:

Board of Christian Education meeting was held on April 7, 2019 those present were Barb Lahrman, Barb Knuth, Janice Klopfenstein, Chris Woodhouse and Judy Gilbert.

Opening Devotions: Barb Lahrman read from Portals of Prayer.

Minutes were approved.

Sunday School Report:

Average attendance for March Students 5 Adults 15

There will be no Sunday school on Easter Sunday.

Missions: Missions for March and April is Lutheran Social Service. So far, we have collected \$157.04

Old Business: Pal Sunday we are having a Progressive Palm Sunday potluck lunch to welcome our New Members. The youth is furnishing the pizza and drinks everyone else is asked to bring appetizers, salads and desserts.

New Business: We are going to put an ad in Post and Mail advertising our Easter Sunday services.

Pastors Report: Pastor has Palm Sunday Service ready.

Library Report: The books are in we ordered call Life's Big Questions and Gods Big Answers. We are giving our old red hymnals to the Seminary for Mission projects.

Next Meeting is May 1, 2019

Respectively submitted by Judy Gilbert.

Board of Christian Outreach: No meeting held

Held New Member welcome on Palm Sunday

Board of Stewardship: No meeting held

Board of Youth: No meeting held

Youth Gathering update

Old Settler's corn dog wagon is June 25-June 29. Sign-up sheets will be put up soon.

Pastor: Pastor Rittner

- Zion needs a new DELEGATE for the Lutheran Foundation. We ought to have someone actively participating with the Foundation. Please see Pastor Phil if interested.
- The Wi-Fi password here at church has changed because of CenturyLink's new wireless router. Do we keep it confidential or publish it for all here at church to use? If you need the password, ask Pastor Phil or Kami.
- We've received another Visitor's Impression card in the mail. Our church sign keeps bringing folks in! Anyone interested in helping change the sign? See Pastor Rittner.
- Pastor and Ralph Brooke will be voting June 22-25th for the next President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Wanting to represent the whole congregation, does anyone have a preference to who we should vote for? See Pastor Phil for the information on the candidates.
- Question pertaining to the *Committee for Congregational Resources* of the Indiana District:

What do families need in our community and church, as Christians are struggling these days with society?

(Rather than take a lot of time here, please visit with Pastor Phil about your ideas. This is for his input to the committee he is presently elected to within the Indiana District.)

Unfinished/Old Business: Several keys are in the possession of people who do not need them. Please return them to the office as soon as possible.

New Business:

The following proposal for a *Zion Lutheran Church Tuition Assistance* was passed out at the meeting. This would be for those who chose to send their child to a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Elementary, Middle or High School.

Following careful deliberation and discussion at the February and March church council meetings, the council voted to propose the following plan to the voters that would assist member families in affording tuition at a Lutheran elementary, middle, or high school. We encourage voters to participate in discussion and debate over this motion, but also encourage final passage of this plan.

Eligibility: The tuition assistance would be available to any member of the congregation attending a Lutheran school in grades K-12. Requests for assistance need to be submitted to the dispersing treasurer prior to the beginning of the school year.

Amount: Up to three eligible students will receive \$1,000 paid on their behalf to the school they attend. If more than three eligible students request assistance, \$3,000 will be split evenly among all the students requesting assistance.

Financing: Half of the funds to cover requested tuition assistance will come from the general fund; half will come from the youth account.

Question of whether it could be tied in with the Lehmborg fund, according to the original documents it cannot.

There currently is a Scholarship Committee already in place. It consists of the Disbursing Treasurer, President of the Congregation, Head Trustee, Elders and Pastor.

Youth must approve any funds to be used as they are a separate entity within the congregation (just as Ladies Aid, LWML and Altar Guild are).

Discussions will continue.

With no further business, Barb Knuth made a motion to adjourn. Steve Smith seconded. The motion passed.

Pastor closed with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine (Katie) Rittner, Recording Secretary



Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Psalm 119:25-32

*We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians;
our heart is wide open 2 Corinthians 6:11*

Hearts Wide Open

Jesus, when He lived among us, reached out to the undesirables in Jewish society, healed and cast out demons, and never shrank from the demands on him. Even when He prayed that the cup of suffering might pass from Him, He ended His prayer with “Not My will, but Yours, be done”(Luke 22:42). Throughout His ministry, the heart of Christ was wide open.

In our reading, Paul speaks of the heart of those who were ministering to the Corinthians as being wide open, withholding nothing of themselves. But living in such an expansive manner is not without its difficulty. In the earlier verses of the passage, Paul speaks of many struggles and sufferings the Corinthians have endured. There is no sugarcoating of this truth. Yet amid and sometimes because of the hardship, blessings were liberally sprinkled.

It can be scary to open your heart to those around you. An open heart is vulnerable to all sorts of pain. But only an open heart can receive the love that Christ lavishes on us, love that overflows to a hurting and broken world. That love will not only guard our hearts but will also heal the places to which it flows.

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Open our hearts, Lord, to Your Word, Your will, and Your call to witness, that we may live lives of love and care for those around us. Amen

† *Looking for Ladies of all ages to join and Serve our Lord with open Hearts !*

Please Join us for our Meetings on the First Thursday of the Month at 6:00 pm. †

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LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid has been busy this month of April with several mission projects. Easter cards were sent to 12 of Zion’s sick and shut ins. The Prayer List was activated several times for special prayers.

Sewing of the cancer bed pads for Cancer Services of N.E. Indiana remains a large mission project of the group. We have a total of ten sewers from Zion, Living Waters, South Whitley and our former church secretary, Donna Rhubrake. 80 pads were returned on April 1 and 100 pads brought back to sew. Mary Metsger cuts the sheets for the pads and Kathaleen cuts the plastic. At the meetings, Kathaleen and Marty assemble the pads and the rest of the group stitches them to secure the sheet, plastic and pad together. At our April sewing session, 11-year-old Lucy Lukes joined the group and completed sewing 2 pads. She hopes to come again when she is out of school. Our group enjoys great fellowship while serving in this special project.

A large supply of stamps will be taken to the LWML Rally at Hometown on April 27th. Marty and Kathaleen will attend the rally and take the stamps. Thanks to all who contributed to this project.

Serving With Gladness
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Lessons for May:

- 5th- “Jesus Calms a Storm”
- 12th- “Jesus Heals Jairus’s Daughter”
- 19th- “Jesus Walks on Water”
- 26th- “Jesus Heals a Blind Man”

SCOOP

May 2019

The Palm Sunday Progressive Potluck was well attended and enjoyed by all! Thank you to all who generously supplied Appetizers, salads, and desserts, and to the youth groups for supplying pizza as our main entrée. Pastor highlighted the events of Holy Week before each course. Kim Yann introduced Zion’s New Member’s.

Missions: Sunday School missions collected for March and April is Fort Wayne Lutheran Social Services. March total was \$157.04

Sunday School STATS – March 2019

Class Attendance: Catechism Class-47% (Banner Class), High school Class 27%, Preschool& Elementary – 40%.

Perfect Attendance:



High School Graduates for 2019

Zackary Bryan Wilburn

College Graduates for 2019

Katherine E. Rittner
Kami L. Wilburn



Church Keys. As was mentioned at the last Voter's Meeting, it has been discovered that several keys to the doors of the church are with folks who have no need for them. Keys are for Chairpersons of Committees and Church Council members. Of course, there are a few others needing to hold a key for a special reason. One may also check out a key for a special occasion - but return them once the event is over. If you haven't the need for a key, or you know someone that no longer is a member here at Zion but may still have a key, please return the keys to the Church Office, an Elder, or Pastor Phil. Also, if you have a key to the church, please note that on a special sign-up sheet outside of the Church Office on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Thank you for helping!



Peabody Home (Memory Care):
Alberta Warnick

Brookdale (Assisted Living):
John & Lois Duffy

Those at home: Tom Auer, Linda Hobkirk, Gene & Janice Klopfenstein, Dortha Marsh, Bill Niedermeyer, John Pullen, Tim & Sandra Rueger, John Meyers, Willie & Karen Scheumann, Jeannine Slavicek, Shane Hoffman, Ralph & Barbara Keiper.

Those Serving in the Armed Forces:

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.

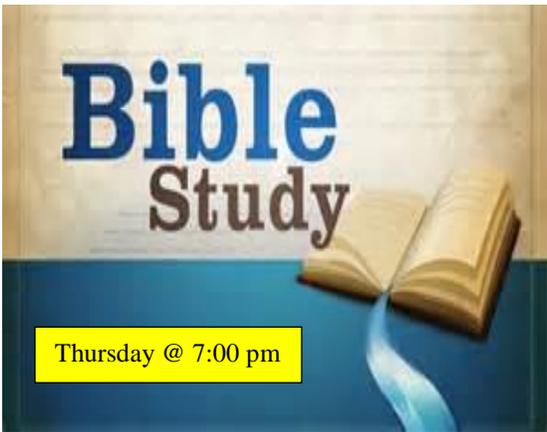
Worship Services

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



Bible study will stop on May 23rd (we will meet that night) and will restart on Sept. 5th, 2019



Bible Trivia Questions #1) Where did Jesus meet the woman of Samaria? #2) Which disciple tried to walk on water, as Jesus did? #3) Why did Elimelech go to live in Moab with his family? #4) Who lied about the price they received for a piece of land and died as a result? #5) With whom did David commit adultery?



May 2019 Zealant Article from (soon-to-be) Deaconess Katherine Rittner

Now that Easter is done it is back to life as usual, right? **WRONG!** Lent and Easter is the time that we reflect and learn about what Jesus has done for us. We are all sinners and there is nothing we can do to change that.

When we first came to this church, I made a very simple statement. “Do not put my family on a pedestal, especially my husband. There was only one perfect person and we are not Him. We are going to make mistakes and may even make you mad. We have both made mistakes in our past and we are the ones who have to live with them (and the guilt). If you can’t live with it, then go away. If you have a question, ask. Don’t just assume something is truth without coming to us.” In this politically charged world we now live in, people get their feelings hurt so easily and turn their anger towards everyone else, especially the church, the pastor and his family. When the pastor hurts, I hurt. There is nothing I can do because he cannot tell me the source of the hurt. The only thing I can do is stand by and love him and you.

We look to our pastors and their families to be perfect examples of Christ’s love, but when they show their human, sinful side we are ready to stone them because they don’t live up to our expectations of what perfection is. We get upset and hold grudges because pastor got passionate about the lack of Christian love and caring that is being shown by those, he is charged with to care for. We tell pastor and each other that we have tried something like that before and it didn’t work. Really! How shallow are we that we give up after trying something new or something better. How do you think that makes God feel about trying to reach the lost and to reach you? Should He try only one or two times to get your attention that you are loved and saved because of His ONLY Son?! What kind of God is that?! He constantly tries new ways to get to you. It could be through a Bible study that shows you His Words of Love through a different view. Or, it could be someone who finally has that AHA moment when something finally clicks in Scripture.

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:21-22) There is no end to the love and forgiveness that God gives you. What gives you the right to limit the love and forgiveness you give to others?

Did Jesus hold a grudge against Pontius Pilate for releasing Barabbas? Nope, he sure didn’t. Why not? Is it because Jesus is a better person than you or me? You better believe it! He is and was *PERFECT*. He became sin who knew no sin. All of those lashes that he received when being scourged were meant for me. He looked at Pilate with love. There was nothing Pilate could do to stop what was happening to our Lord. This was His destination, He was born to be the perfect sacrifice for a fallen world. Jesus showed us true, selfless, agape, love.

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:36-39) Do we really love our neighbor, or are we happy holding onto our grudge that just weighs us down? Isn’t it time to be more Christlike and live the life God wants us to live?

*It's that time of year again:
Tentative dates for Garage Sale (August 8th, 9th, 10th).
For Questions please contact Jerry Lahrman.*



MAY

SERVING AT CHURCH

Ushers

5th- Steve Smith
12th- Ralph Sexton
19th- Steve Smith
26th- Ralph Sexton

Acolytes

5th- Caleb Decker
12th- Sam Mullett
19th- Hailey Braun
26th- Kirby Coons

Greeters

5th- Kathaleen Reese
12th-
19th- Pat Decker
26th- Peggy Brooke

Altar Guild- Betty Wikinson

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

BAPTISMS



Peggy Brooke
Regan Decker
Sean Decker
Geoffrey Gerbers
Bryan Hart
Barb Knuth
Richard Koldyke
Joan Lane
Samuel Mullett
Trenten Pease
Karen Scheumann
Kinsley Schuller
Betty Wilkinson

ANNIVERSARIES



5 Richard & Monica Koldyke
7 Jeremy & Gretchen Grant
20 Bill & Pat Niedermeyer
23 John & Phyllis Myers
26 Aaron & Amanda Peppler
27 Mark & Connie Forrester



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Lent Service 7 PM	2 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am LWML Meeting 6pm Bible Study 7 pm	3 Brittney Coon' s Wedding Rehearsal	4 Brittney Coon' s Wedding CCHS Prom
5 9a.m. S.S.- Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Bd. Outreach - AS	6 Pastor's day off	7	8 Lent Service 7 pm Elders Meeting after service	9 Bible Study 7 pm	10	11 Pastor's day off
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9a.m. S.S.- Worship w/Communion 10:15 <i>Happy Mothers Day</i>	13 Pastor's day off	14	15 Wed. Service 7 pm	16 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am NO BIBLE STUDY	17	18 Armed Forces Day  Pastor's day off
19 9 am Sunday School Worship Service 10:15am Bd of Education	20 Pastor's day off	21 Church Council meeting	22 Wed. Service 7 pm	23 Bible Study 7 pm (After tonight's Bible study-we will be breaking for Summer) Zealant Items Due!	24	25 Pastor's day off
26 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Youth meeting 11:30 am	27 Memorial Day – Office Closed	28	29	30	31	

Trivia Answers#1) By a well (John4:7) #2) (Simon) Peter (Matt. 14:29) #3) Famine in his home town (Ruth 1:1-2) #4) Ananias & Sapphira (Acts5:1-11) #5) Bathsheba (2 Sam 11:4)

No items turned in:



Chris's Corner

