



THE ZION ZEALANT

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Rev. Phil Rittner
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What happened to summer 2017? Where'd it go? It is September already, and here within the church our thoughts turn towards back to school; fall weather; and even preparing for the coming of the season of Advent! This year, we joyously celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in October! There's plenty of celebratory services and gatherings in our area for Reformation; if you've not found one to attend, contact me and I can help!

But it appears the years keep passing by faster and faster. And in one sense, that's good! An idle mind can allow Satan free roam. Staying busy with programs, Bible studies, Sunday School, Outreach, and just plain good Stewardship of what God has provided each of you – can focus upon Salvation, and not upon the alternative.

The Indiana District LCMS has begun observing a strong program of Stewardship information within our District. Rev. Pres. Dan May has gathered many resources for churches to utilize in helping all our congregations learn more about Stewardship and show examples of how others achieve good Stewardship. Over the next several months, I'll be sharing some of these items with you via the Zealant and our bulletins. I hope and pray you find the information uplifting and useful in your daily walk of faith.

This month, I'm including another article written by Rev. Geoff Robinson (many of you will remember him from our Revitalization Program!) on Stewardship. I urge to read his article and contemplate your own place in the church and what you can do to increase Stewardship as a LCMS Lutheran!

* * * * *

Some Thoughts on Stewardship

The Holy Spirit sanctifies us so that we are renewed in our spirit, will, attitude and desires. The Holy Spirit enables us to rise above our natural inclinations. The natural inclinations that we all have are inclinations of selfishness and self-centeredness.

Godly stewardship is the opposite of selfishness and self-centeredness. The desire to serve God and our neighbor above ourselves is enabled in Christians as the Holy Spirit through the Word continues to bring about the desire to put others and their needs above oneself.

The motivation for godly stewardship is a grateful response spurred on by the knowledge and understanding of what God has done for you. Jesus Christ our Savior gave His all in serving all sinners. Yes, He gave His all in serving you and me. Jesus was born under the Law, lived under the Law of God perfectly and died in obedience to that Law of God so that He might completely pay the price of your sins and give to you forgiveness of your sins and life everlasting. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to you to create faith in your hearts through the Gospel and to change you so that you are released from being a slave to self-centeredness.

So how do we best serve God and our neighbors above ourselves? Well, certainly we serve those whom we know in our local congregation, in our neighborhoods and in our families. But could there sometimes be a bit of selfishness in what we do? More and more LCMS congregations are serving only locally or supporting only those

missions that they determine are valuable to them.

Serving others through financially supporting districts and synod is falling by the wayside. Could this be due to a lack of properly motivated stewardship? This is perhaps the result of thinking that LCMS leadership has not always handled mission dollars judiciously or it might be due to the LCMS leadership supporting some effort that you disagree with. Nevertheless, the leadership of the LCMS has been placed in their positions of oversight by God's direction.

Realize that God is blessing us at this time with an economic boon in our country. Praise God that unemployment is low and job opportunities are good. Praise God that by God's grace there are many areas of opportunity to serve God and our neighbor above ourselves. For example there are at least twenty foreign countries who have asked the LCMS to send them theological educators. But the educators haven't been sent due to lack of resources.

Remember that we Christians live in community. Our vision isn't simply focused on the local or only far away but on the whole "Una Sancta" that is the whole Christian Church. God grant us the determination that since we are all through faith in Christ part of the catholic (universal) Christian Church our stewardship of talent and treasure be offered up to God and all of our neighbors. Not just a select few.

Rev. Geoffrey L. Robinson

* * * * *

Let's bring more of this discussion into our Church Council, Voter's, and individual committee meetings over the next several months!

As always, I look forward to seeing you in church!

Pastor Phil Rittner

Church Council Minutes

August 15, 2017

Kenny Knuth called the meeting to order with 8 members present.

Pastor Rittner opened with prayer.

Minutes: Chuck Cooper made a motion to accept the minutes of the July voters meeting as printed in the Zealant, Judy Gilbert 2nd, the motion passed.

Receiving Treasurer: Chuck Cooper

Unrestricted Receipts:

July 2017		Year to Date
\$7481.00		\$60,642.26
	Restricted/Misc. Receipts	
\$288.83		\$14,460.87
	Dividends	
\$311.61		\$2165.80
	Interest	
\$1.08		\$9.97
	Total Receipts	
\$8082.52		\$69,509.07

Kim Yann made a motion to accept the report as presented, Joyce Reidt 2nd, motion passed.

Disbursing Treasurer: Jill Coons

Unrestricted Funds

Checking/Savings July 2017: \$1573.21
Youth Accounts: \$14,183.45
Restricted Funds: \$16,848.29
Lehmburg Legacy: \$78,601.90 (Market Value at 6/30/2017 \$76,601.90)

	Net Revenue	
	July 2017	Year to Date
General Budget:	\$6.48	\$180.79
Non Budgeted/		
Reimbursed	\$298.28	\$10,285.29
Youth	\$.20	\$2608.41
Total	\$304.96	\$13,074.49

Kim Yann made a motion to accept the report as presented, Chuck Cooper 2n, motion passed.

Elders Report: Steve Smith

Discussed the Elders portion of the up-coming church calendar for 2018.
Cheryl has notified us that she'll be retiring as church secretary in April 2018.
Discussed the Questioner regarding Wednesday night service.
Pastor discussed the Doxology Conference he attended.
Average attendance July 2017: Sundays 56, Mid-week 9.

Trustee Report: None

Board of Education:

Barb Lahrman called the meeting to order with 6 members present.
Opening Devotion: Lord's Prayer.
Minutes: Approved.
Missions: Logos, collected to date \$144.14, VBS collected \$125.91.
No Pastors Report.
No Library Report.
Old Business: VBS went well with an average attendance of 12 children each day.
Evaluation sheets will be given to teachers and workers to complete. 2018 calendar will be discussed at next meeting.
Members of the Board of Outreach attended the meeting to discuss Rally Day and New Member Welcome which is September 17, 2017. There will be a pot luck lunch. Outreach and Bd. of Education will furnish dessert and drinks. This will be Zion's T-shirt Sunday.
Oktoberfest has been changed to October 21, 2017
Lilly Lane will be confirmed on October 29, 2017
Christmas Program to be held December 17, 2017

Board of Outreach:

The board met with the bd. of Education to plan for Rally Day/New Member Welcome. There will be a carry-in pot luck with the Boards providing drinks and dessert. We will play games from the Block Party and Peg Brooke will announce the new members.

Stewardship Report: None

Board of Youth: Jill Coons
Jill Coons announced that the youth will go to Deep River Water Park August 26th.

Pastor's Report:

Services/Bible Study/Rites conducted:

Worship Service 6
Bible Study 2
Baptism 2, Liam Marshand, and Edan Rittner

No funerals/Weddings/Confirmation

Counseling/Private meetings: 2

Pastoral Visits:

Homes 12
Hospital 1
Nursing Home 0
Jail 0

Meetings/Functions Outside of Church:

Doxology Grand Reunion Conference, Kansas City, Kansas August 3-7, 2017

Blessing a New Home for a member

Pastors Mileage: 7/10/2017 to 8/1/2017 - 172 miles (does not include to and from church and home)

Lutheran Foundation Grant Report: \$5,000

\$549.44 Couples 8 week Bible Study

\$735.00 Doxology Program for Pastor

\$367.63 Confirmation Camp

\$ 71.10 Community Canvassing

\$843.00 Block Party

\$290.60 Bible Study Material

\$?????? Pastors mileage to and from Doxology Conference

Balance, see Disbursing Treasurer report.

Old/New Business:

Confirmation Class will start September 10, 2017 during Sunday School

501 Grant from Lutheran Foundation Progress:

Pastor and Chuck Cooper met and prepared a rough draft of the grant request. It is deemed appropriate that we, the congregation of Zion, commit to funding the installation and permit expenses for a new sign. This amounts to approx.. \$4215.00 and should be reflected on the Grant request (prior to submitting). It is further recommended that these funds be "ear-marked" from the Lehmberg Legacy Fund interest. It has been determined that a Vote from "Voting Members" of Zion should approve such a commitment. Since the deadline for submission is around the same time as the October Voters meeting, a Special Voters Meeting should be held in early September following church service.

Old Business:

A commitment in the amount of \$4215.00 from church support for New Signage be approved if the Grant is approved.

New Business:

The council wishes to support the commitment to submit. The Grant Proposal for funding of new signage in front of Zion Church to the 501 and Reformation Grant commit. The Church body would agree to funding the amount of \$4215.00 for installation and permit fees should the grant be approved.

Pastor made a motion to use monies from the 2017 Garage Sale to put Electricity in the pole barn after discussion Kim Yann 2nd, the motion passed.

With no other business Kim Yann made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joyce Reidt 2nd, the motion passed.

Respectively submitted Joyce Reidt (sec.)



Greetings in Christ!

During my Catechetic class, I had to answer the same questions during the first week of class and again the last week of class. They were not trick questions, but more a question of what I thought the answers were.

I thought it a great way to begin to understand how to teach the catechism not only to our catechism age children, but to anyone – even those who have been confirmed.

How would you answer the following questions?

1. *“What do I want for my children and those I love?”—This is a personal reflection statement. Some of you are married and have families of your own, some of you are single and do not have children, but you all have “children” (of all different ages) whom you love very much. What are your priorities for them? What do you want for them? I want you to stand back and reflect upon this question as a Christian parent.*
2. *According to your current understanding, write a statement about what you think catechesis is and how you think it should be done: What is catechesis? What is the Catechism? How is the task of catechesis to be done? Don’t worry about being right; just put down your thoughts.*

I took a long hard look and thought about how to answer these questions. Trying to figure out exactly what it meant to catechize my children and my grandchildren. At the beginning of the class, my answers looked like this:

1. *First, I want my children (and now my grandchildren) to be happy, healthy and to know love. The first priority of all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and/or teachers is to ensure they are safe from harm, clothed and fed. More importantly though, I want them to know the love of Christ and that they are His children and that I am just the caretaker of them until we all reach our eternal home. We are not of this world and in order for us to understand whom we truly belong to we must daily spend time in Word and prayer taking the Eucharist whenever offered to us so that we may join with our brothers and sisters in the feast that is for us from heaven.*
2. *Catechesis is the daily learning of who we are and of our Father in Heaven through daily prayers, reading and living the life as God tells us to live. The Catechism is a tool that is used to help guide those new to the Word of God and his desires for our life, but also a great point of reference for those who has been in the Word their entire life (like me). Catechesis should be done daily by everyone. It is not only the responsibility of the pastor, but also by parents, teachers, aunts, uncles, friends, siblings, etc. Even members of the congregation that are in the role of Sunday School teacher are also responsible for the catechesis of their students. We do this every day through living our faith and not being ashamed of the Gospel.*

At the end of the class, my answer was simplified into a simple, bottom line answer:

Catechesis should be done daily by the head of the family by daily reading, study and memorization of Scripture and the Small Catechism provided as a tool for our use in instruction. There can be no excuse for not teaching everyone about the salvific redeeming sacrifice by Christ for all mankind. This learning comes through the faith that only comes from baptism, the reading of His Word, prayer, and confession in and of the knowledge that to do so we receive only the grace that God can give to us. We are to do this every day through living our faith and not being ashamed of the Gospel.

Many think that catechesis is something that we have to sit through for two years, being bored or entertained. In truth, catechesis actually begins as an infant. Catechesis starts at our Baptism and continues through Sunday school, worship services, home devotions, nightly prayers, etc. What a beautiful gift catechesis is that God gives to us. The daily reading and hearing of His Word and of the love that He has for us. None of us can learn

everything in the Bible and know everything about God in two years. Our catechesis is a life long journey of prayer, praise and learning. Much like our daily learning of something new.

Our learning of the catechism does not end in confirmation class. It continues every day as we hear the Gospel proclaimed and know that God loved us so much that He sent His Son for our salvation that we will return to Him and live in eternity with Him.

I look forward to the journey with you, side-by-side, learning daily the loving gifts from God that He graciously bestows on us.

Yours in Christ,
Katie Rittner
Deaconess Field Worker



We are wrapping up the summer quarter of lessons at Sunday School. We begin the fall quarter in September:

Sept 3rd – “The wisdom of Solomon”
10th – “Solomon Builds the Temple”
17th – “God Provides for Elijah”
24th – “Elijah and the Prophets of Baal”

These lessons will focus on how God works through Prophets and Kings.

Classes:

Preschool – Katie Wilkinson; 2-6 grade – Barb Knuth; Middle School – Katie Rittner (begins, Sept. 10th); High School – Kenny Knuth.

Rally Day will be celebrated on September 17th. The Board of Education and Board of Outreach are joining together to welcome Zion’s New Members, install the Sunday School Staff, and enjoy a potluck carry-in. Drinks and Ice cream sundaes will be provided. The congregation is asked to bring a main dish and a side dish (salad, veggies, fruit, etc.) Please invite friends, and neighbors as we Rally around the good news of Jesus. Bring along a lawn chair if weather cooperates!

Missions are supporting LOGOS-Seminary fund that provides 1st year Seminary students with their Greek textbook. We will combine V.B.S. monies from the Coin War with our total for July and August.

Upcoming Events:

Ocktoberfest, Saturday, Oct. 21st

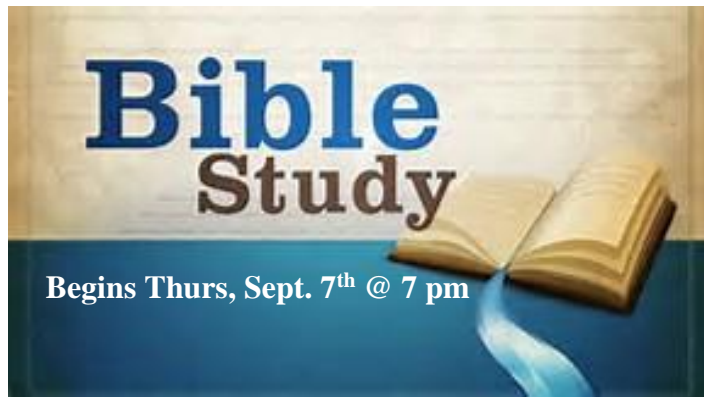
Sunday School STATS – July 2017

Class Attendance:

Elementary – 80% (Banner Class); Preschool/Middle School tie at 60%/ High School – 50%.

Perfect Attendance:

Emerson and Mason Knuth



Ladies Aid

Still collecting stamps!!!

There is a planning meeting for fall rally on [Sept 7th](#) at 6:00 pm.

Bake sale made \$ 248.00

Thank you to all that donated bake goods to sell. And Thank You to all the ladies that helped during the bake sale. Especially A big thank you to Joyce Reidt for all her extra baking to keep the bake sale going after the first day!



Also, I want to thank all the helpers at the garage sale for selling the last few items so we did not have to have to be there [Saturday](#)!

"Open our hearts Lord that we will joyfully serve you and others wherever you lead us."

By Carmen Nagal Oregon District President.

Reformation Service and Oktoberfest

The Decatur Circuit of the IN District warmly invites you and your family to a Reformation Service and Oktoberfest on Saturday, [September 9](#) at the Hoagland, IN Pavilion and Grounds (11320 Hoagland Rd; Hoagland, IN 46745). A festival Divine Service will begin at 3pm with LCMS Synod President Matthew Harrison preaching. Musical groups include a brass ensemble from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, the Decatur Lutheran Chorale, Lutheran Elementary School Honors Choir, and Concordia University Ann Arbor's Arborsong and Choir. The Oktoberfest following the service includes German food and beer/wine garden, polka and square dancing bands, a Reformation Walk of family-friendly education stations, and Reformation 500 merchandise. For more information, visit <http://reformation500celebration.webs.com>.



&

**New
Members**
W • E • L • C • O • M • E

September 17th

It will be a carry-in potluck with ice cream sundaes and drinks provided. Please bring a meat dish and a side dish to share.

This will also be Zion T-shirt day! Wear your Zion T-Shirt, a Plain or Christian T-Shirt! Dress comfortably.

New Members are:

Baptism

Levi James Hartman

Liam Matthew Marschand

Edan James Rittner

Transferred In

Spencer & Jessica Rossow

If weather permits, we will have a picnic on the North lawn. Bring your favorite lawn chair. Enjoy this fellowship with games, family, and friends! Guest are most welcome.



U.S. AIR FORCE

Chris Decker son of Pat Decker retired from the USAF in the rank of Colonel after more than 25 years of service. He served in many capacities and was deployed five times. Col. Decker earned Master degrees from the Naval Post-Graduate School and Air Force Air War College and will continue to serve as Senior Aerospace Science Instructor for AFJROTC at Washington High School in South Bend.

Chris and wife Tracy, sons Caleb & Kaden live near Goshen, IN.

Chris, we thank you for your service!!!



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:

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

Bible Trivia Questions:

According to the Gospels, what is the unique literary genre Jesus employs to preach his message?

Which Gospel is most concerned with the mystery and identity of the person of Jesus?

Who baptizes Jesus?

Who takes Jesus's body off the cross?

SEPTEMBER

SERVING AT CHURCH

Ushers

3rd – Steve Smith
10th – Ralph Sexton
17th – Steve Smith
24th – Ralph Sexton

Acolytes

3rd – Mason Knuth
10th – Hailey Braun
17th – Kirby Coons
24th – Sam Mullett

Greeters

3rd – Kathaleen Reese
10th –
17th – Pat Decker
24th –

Altar Guild

Betty Wilkinson

BIRTHDAY'S



1 Cheryl Thiele (sec.)
2 Nicholas Decker
5 Shasta Childs
5 Brandon Maley
7 Maxine Lott
8 Madison Cook
8 Bonnie Pease

13 Kurt Goshorn
14 Kyler Bills
15 Tracy Decker
18 Linda Hobkirk
20 Lois Duffy
23 Amanda Brothers
24 Katie Rittner
28 Kristina Foster
28 Kim Yann

ANNIVERSARIES



14 Jared & Katie Wilkinson
20 Jared & Callie Braun
28 Toby & Lindsey Lepper

BAPTISMS



Jeffery Clark
Latishia Carpenter
Jason Doehrman
Connie Forrester
Janice Klopfenstein
Cecily Knuth
Tom Knuth
Monica Koldyde
Maxine Lott
Emma Mullet
Wm. Niedermeyer

Did You Know?

- The disciple Peter had four different names.
Peter, Simon, Cephas, and Petros
- Peter was married and had a home in Capernaum.
- Peter was a spokesperson for the disciples.
- Peter was first on the list of disciples, which indicates his importance.
- Peter, James, and John were the inner circle of Jesus' disciples.
- Peter was a fisherman and Andrew his brother was also a disciple.
- Peter was present when Jesus raised Jairus' dead daughter.

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Pastor's day off
3 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Outreach 11:30 am	4 Pastor's day off	5	6 Wed. Service 7 pm	7 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am LWML 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm		9 Pastor's day off
10 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bd. of Education 11:30 am	11 Pastor's day off	12	13 Wed. Service 7 pm Elders	14 Bible Study 7 pm	15	16 Hope for Life Conference at CTS Pastor's day off
17 S.S. 9:00 am Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Rally Day & New Member Welcome Pot luck carry-in	18 Pastor's day off	19 Church Council 7 pm	20 Wed. Service 7 pm	21 Ladies Aid Sewing 9 am Red Cross in gym Bible Study 7 pm	22	23 Pastor's day off
24 S.S. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Youth 11:30 am	25 Zealant items due Pastor's day off	26	27 Wed. Service 7 pm	28 Bible Study 7 pm	29	30 Pastor's day off

Answers to Bible Trivia:

The parable

John

John the Baptizer

Joseph of Arimathea


Did You Know this about Peter?


- The disciple Peter had five different names:
 - Peter
 - Simon
 - Caperna
 - Petros
- Andrew his brother was also a disciple. Peter and Andrew were fishermen.
- Peter was married. He had a home in Capernaum.
- Peter was a spokesman for the disciples. Peter was first one of the list of disciples when Jesus made the revelation.
- Peter, James and John were the inner circle of about disciples.
- Peter was present when Jesus named John the first disciple.

BibleWise

Did You Know this about Bartholomew?

- One of the twelve disciples
- Son of Tolmai (ploughman)
- Often identified as Nathanael in John's Gospel
- A close friend of the disciple Philip
- Witnessed Jesus' ascension
- Present in the upper room on the day of Pentecost
- Started and ministered to the early churches in the east












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BibleWise

Did You Know this about James the Less?

- One of the twelve disciples, usually listed toward the bottom of the list
- Known as James the son of Alphaeus
- Also known as James the Less or the Younger to distinguish him from James the son of Zebedee
- Some scholars believe he was Matthew's brother as they appear together in the lists of brothers
- Present in the upper room on the day of Pentecost
- Believed to have been stoned to death for preaching about Jesus

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BibleWise

Did You Know this about Simon the Zealot?

- One of the twelve disciples
- Enthusiastic in professing the Christ
- Had been associated with a militant group against Rome
- Possibly the successor to James as head of the church in Jerusalem
- Witnessed Jesus' ascension
- Present in the upper room on the day of Pentecost












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BibleWise

Did You Know this about the disciple Matthew?

- Matthew's name means "gift of God"
- He is often identified with "Levi" the converted tax collector mentioned in the Gospels of Mark and Luke
- Some consider him to be the author of the Gospel of Matthew, but that is unlikely
- Matthew was a strong follower of Jesus
- Matthew was a tax collector before Jesus called him to follow him
- Tax collectors were not well liked and were often considered dishonest. But Jesus knew Matthew was an honest man.

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- Started and ministered to the early churches in the east



- Witnessed Jesus' ascension



Did You Know this about Thaddaeus?

- One of the twelve disciples
- His name is often listed as Lebbaeus)



- Stories include his activities and miracles in Mesopotamia



- In Luke he is listed as Judas, son of James



- Believed to be a missionary to Abgar, King of Edessa



Did You Know this about the disciples James and John?

- James and John were the sons of Zebedee
- Fishermen on the Sea of Galilee



- John was possibly the youngest disciple
- He and his brother were known as sons of thunder



- James and John were part of Jesus' inner circle with Peter.



- John and his brother, James, asked to sit on Jesus' right and left hand in the kingdom of heaven - this was not well received by the rest of the disciples



- James and John were Jesus' cousins. Their mother Salome was Mary's sister.



- John and Peter were sent to prepare the Passover



Did You Know this about the disciple Thomas?

- He was called Didymus, which meant Thomas, the twin.



- After Jesus' resurrection, he says he won't believe that Jesus was raised from the dead unless he can put his hands in the nail prints.



- When Jesus was getting ready to return to Bethany, he said, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."



- When he saw Jesus after the resurrection, he believed.

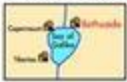


- In one of Jesus' talks, he mentions going to his Father's house. Thomas says, "We do not know where you are going." Jesus then explained that his whole life led them to the Father.



Did You Know this about the disciple Philip?

- He was from Bethsaida.



- At Jesus' last Passover, some Greeks asked Philip to arrange to meet with Jesus and see if he would be their Master.



- He was one of the first disciples called to follow Jesus.



- He enthusiastically shared the good news about Jesus.

- He remained faithful to Jesus and was part of the early church.



- Jesus asked him how to feed the crowd of 5000 and he said it would take 6 months' salary to buy some bread, but it wouldn't be enough to feed the 5000.

