

The Zion Lamp



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

Psalms 119:105

EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE, SHARING CHRIST

DECEMBER, 2009

A FEW WORDS FROM PASTOR PHIFER

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Growing the Fruit of Peace!

In the seasons of Advent and Christmas we hear a lot about peace. The angels announce that this baby who was born in Bethlehem will bring "Peace on Earth and good will towards men." We hear the prophet Isaiah say, "He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace." If there is anything in the world that we want during this time of the year it is a little peace. We want peace in our families as we get together for dinner and to exchange gifts. There is a desire for peace in our finances and employment. However the peace that Jesus comes to bring is not peace as the world knows but peace as only the prince of peace can give, peace with God.

The child whose birth we celebrate as the prince of peace is a child whose life is marked with a cross, with suffering, and with sacrifice. Jesus came to bring about peace between God and man through the cross. It is a peace that is greater than family gatherings without conflict, full employment, and being out of debt. The peace that this little child brings to the world and to each and every one of us by faith is a peace that lasts into all eternity. It is a peace that lasts because it comes from the blessing of sins forgiven and a restored relationship with God.

But what does this have to do with growing the fruit of peace? When we have received the peace of Christ into our lives by faith we can then be at peace with the world around us. It is taking the peace that this little child, this prince of peace, brings to us and applying it to all the other situations around us. We can bring the peace of the Christ child, and Christ the savior, into our family gatherings by forgiving one another just as we have been forgiven. If God can be reconciled to the world and to us, how can we not be reconciled with our family and friends?

We can bring and grow this peace that passes all understanding to how we look at our finances, our job, our health, our whole world. Our prince of peace has said, "do not be afraid, I have overcome the world." The peace of Christ helps us to see that all these things happen, all these things come to pass but they do not change our relationship with God. They do not change the fact that through this Jesus we have a place in the peace and rest of God for all eternity. It is because of this we can cope with the fact that not everything works out the way that we wanted, not everything works out the way we had planned, but God's plan has been fulfilled for us and we can be at peace and be a person of peace.

One of the most peaceful times of the year comes as we dim the lights in church, pass the candle flame from one person to another and sing, "Silent Night." In that moment we are again reminded of the peace that God has sent into our world, born of a virgin, born to die, born to rise again, born to set us at peace with God, born to enable us to be at peace with those around us, and at peace with a world that longs for His return.

The Peace of God be with you all.

Pastor Phil Phifer

IMPORTANT CHURCH NEWS

MISSIONARY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS NOON LUNCHEON

The Missionary Society Christmas luncheon for the Congregation will be held on December 8, 2009 in the Fellowship Hall. All food will be furnished. Come and enjoy! There will be prayer and devotion with Pastor. Please bring paper and canned goods for the Seminarians.

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY would like to thank all who gave of their loose change on LWML Sunday for mites. \$301.68 was collected. Thank you.



PULSE MODERN WORSHIP SERVICE

Ezekiel 36:26

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

Join us on Saturday evening, December 12 at 7 p.m. where God’s word gives us a new heart that beats with the Pulse of His Grace.
Join us for Communion at this service.

THURSDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Truth about the End Times—many details about the Last Days are shrouded in mystery and symbolism. Join us Thursdays at 10AM in the FLC to take a look what the book of Revelation has to say about the apocalypse and the day that Jesus returns. Join us for an exciting discussion about what God’s Word reveals.

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE has successfully raised \$18,775 for the school matching. The Lutheran Foundation will match the same and our account total is \$37,550.00 for this fund. Thanks Be to God!

ADVENT HAPPENINGS

Our theme for this year is “The Angels of Advent”. We will be having a new event before our midweek services. It is an Advent Happening. On December 2nd at 6:00 pm you are invited to come and make Advent Wreaths and learn about their significance and how they can be used in family devotions during this wonderful season of the year. On December 9th please come and make an Advent Lantern to be used in our Lantern Parade and Caroling on December 13th. Why do these things? Advent is a time of preparing for more than simply opening gifts but a time to prepare to greet our King of Kings who will one day come again.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS-

Saturday—December 5 is Christmas decorating day from 8:00-12:00. Come whenever you can. We need your help for a quick, easy job. Join the fun! We’ll have food! *Poinsettias will be placed at a later date.*



IMPORTANT MEETINGS

Special Voter’s Meeting will be held on December 6, 2009 at 9:15 am. There will be a presentation and will vote on Strategic Ministry Plan (SMP) and Vision Management Team (VMT) Elections.

Quarterly Voter’s Meeting will be held on December 13, 2009 at 9:15 am. There will be a presentation of and important discussion on 2010 Budget.

Please plan to attend these important meetings.

IMPORTANT CHURCH NEWS

GRACE BIBLE STUDY

There will be no Grace Bible Study sessions during December. We will meet again beginning Thursday, January 7th at 7:00 pm in the FLC conference room. Please join us as we celebrate God's rich, extravagant grace in Chocolate Boutique. We will also invite special speakers and have "Question Nights" with the Pastors.

The Advent Conspiracy at Zion



The season of Advent and Christmas started out with God's revolutionary entry into our world with love, forgiveness, and grace. Jesus changed everything.

What have we done with it? Every year we go out and over schedule ourselves, over spend, and have family gatherings that are overly tense. What are we left with? We are left wondering what it was all about and whether it was worth it. Why don't we start a new tradition, a tradition that will become your tradition. During this advent let's spend less, love more, and invite people into the revolution that it is the gift of Christ to the world. In December we will be gathering food to feed 20 people here in Decatur. You can bring your canned food and non-perishable items from December 6-23. We will box up all the food on December 23rd at 6:00 pm and then on December 24th we will deliver the food at 1:00 pm.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be celebrating with clients on Friday, December 11, 2009 from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm at 1737 Morningstar Blvd. in Decatur, IN. Join us for food and fun. Door prizes every half hour and grand prize at 7:00 pm.

Sweets Extravaganza will be held at Zion United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall at the corner of Third and Jackson on Saturday, December 12th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Handmade noodles, Rada Cutlery and home baked treats like Grandma's will be available. Sponsored by The Women's Guild.

CHARITY OF THE MONTH IS LIFECHOICE PREGNANCY CENTER

This month the Board of Stewardship will direct the designated gifts received from the members of Zion to the Life Choice Pregnancy Center, located on Second Street in Decatur.

Life Choice Pregnancy Center is concerned about women's health, with their philosophy firmly rooted in the concepts of abstinence and the respect for all human life. They have been successfully helping pregnant women for over 10 years through caring and compassionate support and assistance.

Life Choice Pregnancy Center provides free pregnancy tests, valuable information that respects both the woman's health and life of her child, and referrals for medical care, adoption agencies, and other community services. For more information, call 260-728-4191.

The 17th Annual Christmas Craft Show at Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School will be held on Saturday, December 5th, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be something for everyone with over 60 vendors displaying unique crafts and goods - Christmas decorations and gifts of wood crafts, knitted, crocheted, and embroidered items, jewelry, books, and many other unique items. Pampered Chef, Mary Kay, Avon, Gold Canyon Candles, Tupperware, and Finders Key Purse representatives will also be on site. Fabulous treats at the Cookie Corner will also be available for purchase for all your holiday entertaining. A delicious homemade lunch with soup, sandwich and homemade pie will be served. This event is sponsored by the Wyneken 8th grade class to help fund their class trip to Washington DC next spring.

CHURCH AND AREA NEWS

THE BIBLE STUDY CHALLENGE

Beginning in January the Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings will be starting the Bible Study Challenge. It is a challenge to get 45 people in Bible Study for January and February as we begin a new two year study through the bible. If we can accomplish this goal then Pastor Phil will buy breakfast. You can sign up for the bible study challenge in the church narthex. If you desire you can sign up to purchase the Today's Light bible for \$24.99 which will give you a daily devotion to go with the daily readings, or you can sign up to get the free reading guide for the two years study.

"A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS!"

We have heard this phrase many times and how true it is!

We thank all those who participated in our recent directory photography and all who sent or brought pictures for the Military page or couldn't keep appointments due to illness or other reasons. A very special "thank you" to Pastor Phil, Pastor Gadbow, Mr. Bohning and those who were hosts during the photography hours. I especially say a big "thank you" to Ruth Kunkel, Monica Huffine, Barbara Rumschlag, Carolyn Brown and Anita Steele for assisting in making appointments and preparing reminder cards. Also a sincere "thank you" to the church secretary for sending out the reminder cards. It was very rewarding to the Directory Committee and hosts to see so many smiling faces. Zion truly is a warm and friendly place to be and we are truly blessed to be a part of Zion Lutheran Church and School.

Thanks be to our God!

Mary Thieme - Directory Coordinator

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST



There will be no Men's Bible Breakfast in December. We will begin to meet again in January. See you then!

CHRISTMAS COOKIE FAIR

The Women's Guild of Emmaus Lutheran Church, 8626 Covington Road will have their Annual Cookie Fair on Saturday, December 12th from 9:00 am - noon. Save this date to buy a variety of delicious homemade cookies (all-time favorites and Christmas varieties will be available). Choose a pre-packaged assortment, or purchase "by the pound" - these homemade goodies make a wonderful gift and an easy way to do your last minute "Christmas baking!" If you have any questions, feel free to call 459-7722 and press "3" for the church office.

POINSETTIAS

It is time to think about ordering poinsettias and decorations for Christmas at Zion. They may be placed in memory of a loved one or to celebrate God's blessings. Please contact the church office by **December 18**. The cost is \$10.00.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

1ST NOLAN GRIFFITHS
 2ND MARY CHRISMAN
 PAUL REIDENBACH
 JENNA WITTWER
 3RD HARLEY HUFFMAN
 SHERRY LISTER
 BARBARA NEADERHISER
 4TH ARLEN FRANZ
 5TH DAWN GASE
 SABRINA HELLER
 ANNA WEIDLER
 6TH ROBERT BOGAN
 WILLIAM GRIFFITHS
 KAYLEN SPRUNGER
 ANTHONY WAGNER
 7TH MAKAYLA FRIEDT
 LESLIE HUNTER
 DANIEL MAHLAN
 JAMES SCOTT
 KIRK WITTWER
 8TH STARLEY BAXTER
 JOHN HUNTER
 COLBY JOHNSON
 DAVID QUINONES
 MELANIE WHITESELL
 9TH MADELYN BLYTHE
 LAYTON LARAMORE
 10TH KELLY HELLER
 KEVIN KETZLER
 JAMES WILSON
 11TH JEANNIE ADKISON
 LAURA BAUER
 MONET MILLER
 BEVERLY WAGNER
 12TH CORRINNE BUSSEL
 BENJAMIN CALLOW
 JOSHUA PORTER
 13TH LOIS BROWN
 NATHAN COLCLASURE
 MICHAEL FRANZ
 MICHELLE SHULER
 14TH NICHOLAS HALL
 TODD KRUECKEBERG
 CINDY MARCKEL
 15TH TAYLOR SCHULTZ
 SARA WILLIAMSON

16TH ELIJAH FUCHS
 CAROLYN JUENGEL
 LINDA TUSSING
 17TH BRIAN HILL
 THOMAS SCHEUMANN
 DIANNA SMITLEY
 18TH JACOB VETTER
 JENNAFER VETTER
 19TH LAVERN BREWER
 DEREK EGLEY
 MARNIE GRIFFITHS
 20TH JAYLYNN ANDREWS
 KAYANA KRUECKEBERG
 MORRIS KRUECKEBERG
 CHEYENNE SHELTON
 JANICE SWYGART
 CHEYENNE WILDER
 SHARON ZIMMER
 21ST ELAINE BRICKER
 SUZANNE CACIANO
 RENEA MAHLAN
 22ND NORBERT BLEEKE
 ABBEE BUONO
 BRADLEY BUSSE
 JOSHUA HALL
 NOELLE QUINONES
 ASHLYE SILVA
 23RD NICHOLLE GROSE
 THOMAS ROSS
 TODD SHAFFER
 24TH REBECCA LEMASTER
 25TH CONNIE BREWER
 SARAH REEF
 26TH JOSE AVALOS
 BARBARA HARVEY
 GRANT MILLINGTON
 27TH DARREN POWELL
 JESSICA SMITH
 29TH CODY BEER
 ANTHONY BUSSE
 LINDA KETZLER
 SANDRA MOSER
 CHAD RANDEN
 MICHAEL WITTWER
 30TH LINDSEY SAUER
 31ST RANDALL HORMANN
 AUTUMN KONKLE
 ALEC RIEHLE

ANNIVERSARIES

2ND TERRY & ANGELA BULTEMEIER
 12TH JOHN & LEANN MARBACH
 13TH WALLACE & WANDA HERTEL
 14TH DARVON & JUDITH LIGHT
 16TH ALFRED & JACQUELYN CONRAD
 22ND BRUCE & DEBRA ROOP
 28TH WAYNE & MARLENE ETZLER
 PAUL & BONNIE REIDENBACH



ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL NOTES

“GROWING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT”—GALATIANS 5:22-23

ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL EXISTS TO OFFER A CHRIST-CENTERED, CHILD-FOCUSED, QUALITY LUTHERAN EDUCATION TO ALL CHILDREN, EMPOWERING THEM TO BE BOLD DISCIPLES OF JESUS.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK RATE YOURSELF ON THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT PART TWO

Here we are in the December issue and you again have the opportunity to rate yourself on some of the fruits of the Spirit. Remember be honest. Do not look at your actions as of just today, but a whole life commitment.

This month we will look at the final five fruits. Rate yourself on a scale of 1 – 10. 1 being I have a very long way to go and a 10 means this is how God wants me to act in His world.

___ **KINDNESS.** People feel “love’s touch” when they are around me. I am blessed with a M-I-L-D disposition (though, sometimes I do turn that “M” upside down.) A deep respect and consideration for others, coupled with a forgiving spirit, makes relating to people a pleasure. The kindness of Jesus is seen in me.

___ **GOODNESS.** I am a caring person, a friend and neighbor to many. When I see a need, I respond to it in the compassion of Christ. Uplifting the quality of people’s lives is a major concern to me.

___ **FAITHFULNESS.** I make promises and keep them. I am a person of my word. People can count on me. I am true to the Lord, to my spouse, to people, and to causes that God has entrusted to me.

___ **MEEKNESS.** I am willing “to go under” any yoke that God wants me to. I freely and willingly accept all that God gives and withholds from me. I bring myself under the authority of Christ and His church. I give a soft answer when angry words are spoken. I relate to others as one among sinners – never arrogantly.

___ **SELF-CONTROL.** The key to my life is self-mastery. I live a disciplined life - in private and in public, in thought, word, and deed. I never lose control. I don’t eat, drink, work, play or sleep too much. Jesus is Lord over every area of my life!



RECYCLING DAY—Zion Students will once again be collecting newspapers, magazines and aluminum cans from 9 am until 12 noon on **Saturday, Dec 5** at the Zion Parking lot. They also accept empty printer cartridges, old cell phones and pagers, Campbell’s Soup Labels, Box Tops for Education, Nestle Water Labels and Tyson A+ Project Labels. Proceeds from recycling go toward the Washington, DC trip in May of 2010.

SCRIP IS AVAILABLE during the week in the school office. If you would like to place an order for pick-up during the week, please call 728-9995.

DECEMBER 2009 SERVANT SCHEDULE

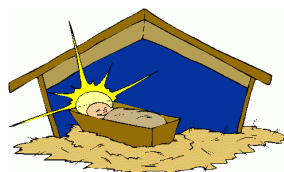
Altar Flowers	Pat Hoblet	Nolan Griffith Family	Wally & Wanda Hertel	Wayne & Marlene Etzler	
Altar Guild	Joyce Witte, Lillie Bleeke				
Offering Counters	Barb Frane, Pat Hoblet, Jenny Sprunger				

First Service 8:00 a.m.

Date	12/6/2009	12/13/2009	12/20/2009	12/27/2009	
Acolyte	Makayla Green	Rachel Girod	Ben Callow	Dakota Geimer	
	Sydnie Williams	Cody Crump	Grant Millington	Ben Fullenkamp	
Greeters	Tom & Shirley Noll	Scott & Abby Harvey	Jack & Barb Harvey	Darvon & Judy Light	
	Josh & Sarah Knapke	Lynne Teeter	Nate & Krista Frey	Mchael & Shelby Bluhm	
Elder	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	
Organist	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	
PA System	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	Norb Bleeke	
Ushers	Paul Busse Jr., Ralph	Paul Busse Jr., Ralph	Paul Busse Jr., Ralph	Paul Busse Jr., Ralph	
	Busse, Trent Busse,	Busse, Trent Busse,	Busse, Trent Busse,	Busse, Trent Busse,	
	Will Busse, Dave	Will Busse, Dave	Will Busse, Dave	Will Busse, Dave	
	Fuelling	Fuelling	Fuelling	Fuelling	

Second Service 10:30 a.m.

Acolyte	Daniel Gunsett	Cameron Bienz	Makayla Friedt	Morgan Hill	
	Emily Gunsett	A J Bienz	Taylor Andrews	Kyle Wittwer	
Greeters	Doug & Brittney Hammond	Becky Creek	Becky Creek	Doug & Brittney	
	Connie Hammond	Doug & Brittney	Doug & Brittney	Hammond, Connie	
	Becky Creek	Hammond	Hammond	Hammond	
Elder	Dave Fuelling	Dave Fuelling	Dave Fuelling	Dave Fuelling	
Organist	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	Carl Risch	
PA System	Dave Fuelling	Dave Fuelling	Dave Fuelling	Dave Fuelling	
Ushers	Jay Teeter, Dave Creek,	Jay Teeter, Dave Creek,	Jay Teeter, Dave Creek,	Jay Teeter, Dave Creek,	
	Steve Hill, Tom	Steve Hill, Tom	Steve Hill, Tom	Steve Hill, Tom	
	Scheumann, John	Scheumann, John	Scheumann, John	Scheumann, John	
	Marbach, Brian Monroe,	Marbach, Brian Monroe,	Marbach, Brian Monroe,	Marbach, Brian Monroe,	
	Matt Monroe	Matt Monroe	Matt Monroe	Matt Monroe	



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THE LAMP DECEMBER, 2009

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