

# NOVEMBER 2023



**Pastor Brian Holle**

**revholle@sbcglobal.net**

**618-960-9575**

**St. Paul Lutheran,  
Fairview**

110 East Maple  
Fairview, KS 66425  
785-467-8816

**Zion Lutheran,  
Hiawatha**

613 South 1st  
Hiawatha, KS 66434  
785-742-3995

## OFFICE

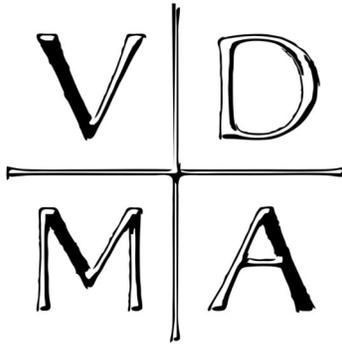
**Phone:** 785-740-0268  
613 S. First,  
Hiawatha, KS 66434

**office@nekpartnership.org**

**Hours:**  
8:00am-1:00pm  
Monday, Tuesday

## A Few Thoughts from Pastor

As September fades and October arrives, cooler winds normally begin to blow, the harvest season swings into high gear, and the foliage of summer begins its dramatic color change once again.



Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum  
The Word of the Lord Endures Forever

For some, October is all about baseball; for others, especially the younger ones, it brings to mind thoughts of candy and costumes; and for teachers and kids alike, it may even mean a day off for Columbus Day. But for me, and hopefully for you as well, October is a time to recall the very “birth” of the Reformation, October 31, 1517, the day Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.

Much can be (and has already been) written about Luther and the events leading up to that fateful Fall day, and about all that followed as the Church fought to reclaim (and to then proclaim) the good news of Jesus Christ. Mindful of that important event, I offer a reprint of a “few thoughts” from Rev. Paul T. McCain (formerly with CPH) regarding “Fifteen Minutes ...” and their impact on the world.

### *Fifteen Minutes that Changed the World Forever*

By Rev. Paul T. McCain

Several years ago, I attended a conference on the doctrine of justification in Wittenberg, Germany. There were pastors, presidents and bishops from Lutheran churches throughout Europe, Scandinavia, the Baltics, Eastern and Central Europe, Africa, and various countries in the land of the former Soviet Union. These servants of Christ know what it means to be distinctly Lutheran, often under extremely difficult and challenging circumstances. In many cases, they are walking through fiery trials suffering various forms of persecution for their commitment to Christ and His Word. It was humbling to be with them and discuss the chief article of the faith.



It was also quite a thrill to spend four days in Wittenberg and walk where Luther walked. On the last day of the conference I decided to time how long it would have taken Martin Luther to walk from the door of his Augustinian monastery to the Castle Church to post the ninety-five theses. Another LCMS pastor attending the conference, Bob Zagore, came with me and he counted the steps. Bob counted 2,000 steps. I counted fifteen minutes.

As Luther left his monastery on October 31, 1517, turned left, and walked to the Castle Church on the west side of town, I doubt he had any idea just what he was setting in motion. Four years later, Pope Leo’s representative, Aleander reported, “All of Germany is an uproar! Ninety-percent of the people are shouting, “Luther!” and the other ten percent—if they don’t care about Luther—at least have “Death to the Roman court!” as their slogan.” (*Martin Brecht, Martin Luther The Road to Reformation, Fortress Press: 1:439*).

*continued to next page...*

Father Martin, parish pastor, was outraged by the Roman system of indulgences and what it was doing to the precious souls he cared for at the city church of St. Mary as confessor and preacher. He was deeply angered when one after another member of his congregation told him about the indulgence that they had walked all day to buy from John Tetzel in the little town of Juetebog, just over the boarder of Electoral Saxony. They thought they had assurance of grace and comfort, for themselves, or for loved ones who had died. They clung to their indulgence receipt, instead of the crucified Lord. They believed that with their act of penance and contribution to the construction of St. Peter's in Rome, God would smile on them and make things easier for them after their death.

Luther could not remain silent. And so he spoke, and wrote, and preached, and taught, and debated. He posted his theses and he mailed a copy of them on the same day to the Archbishop of Mainz, protesting the indulgences that were being sold within his diocese. In so doing, Luther set an axe at the root of the Papal tree. Enormous sources of revenue were at stake. Papal and imperial politics were involved beyond what Luther fully realized. Luther said after the controversy was under way:

*"I never wanted to fight, either with the strongest or the weakest. My single intention was to stay hidden in the corner. But now that I have been, as it were, grasped by the ear, and dragged into the public eye by a single debate placard, I believe that this has happened according to God's will. . . . I will fear neither the strong nor the loud. . . neither will I despise weak or any other completely unlearned man. Then I would be a truly miserable Luther . . . if I would not fight entirely in the faith of the God who alone works in me." [Brecht, 1:387]*

The uproar caused by Luther's "debate placard" caused him intense anguish, stress and strain. We catch a glimpse of his inner struggle in these words:

*"My heart is so affected that I hope I have begun it in God's name. But I am not so bold as to pass judgment on it and loudly proclaim that is surely must be so. I do not want to suffer God's judgment for it. Instead, I crawl to His grace and hope that He has let it be started in His name. And, since I am a sinful man of flesh and blood, if something unclean has mingled with it, I hope He may graciously forgive me and not deal severely with me in His judgment." [Brecht, 1:378].*

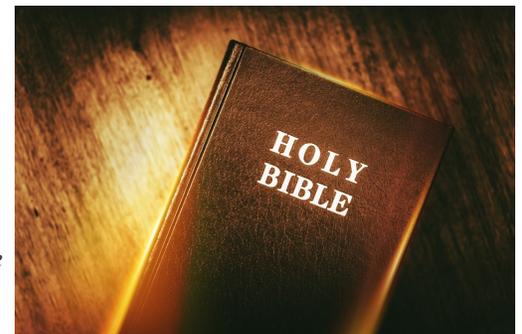
The promise and power of the Word of God was Luther's constant source of strength, hope, and confidence. And so for us today. Luther acknowledged his failings, but pointed to the source of His strength, in words that should, and must, continue to fill the heart of all those who want to be, and remain, genuinely Lutheran, that is, who wish to be fully faithful to God's Word.

*"Let anyone who wants to, slander, curse and judge my person and my life—it is already forgiven him. But let no one expect grace or patience from me when he wants to make liars out of the Holy Spirit and my Lord Christ, whom I preach. I am not concerned about myself. I shall defend Christ's word with a joyful heart and renewed courage, without regard to anyone. To this end God has given me a joyful and fearless spirit, which I trust they shall not harm in all eternity." [Brecht: 1: 346].*

How does the Lutheran Reformation fare in our day? There are those throughout the world who claim the name Lutheran but continue to barter away their Biblical Lutheran birthright through all manner of ecumenical compromises and agreements. What could not be forced on Luther and his courageous allies and defenders, even upon threat of death, is eagerly embraced by world federations and organizations that claim to be Lutheran. What a tragedy!

But what of our own lack of zeal and boldness when it comes to defending, upholding, and boldly extending a clear Lutheran identity, which is nothing more or less than holding forth the truth and purity of the Word of God? Physician, heal thyself! We celebrate the Reformation first by repenting and confessing our sin of self-assurance, pride, apathy, sloth. We confess and repent of hopeless, tired, fearful, weak resignation. We commemorate the Reformation best when we sing our Kyrie Eleison to the Lord of the Church and say with St. Peter, "O Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!"

It is indicative of what we face in the world today that in Wittenberg, a city now of 48,000 people, there are only 4,800 people who claim to be Christian and only 2,400 who attend church. How many of the people in our congregations who claim to be members gather every Sunday around the preaching of God's Word and administration of His sacraments? How many have their name on a church membership roster, but rarely darken the door of the congregation? Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!



Luther foresaw these things when he wrote:

*“God’s word and grace is like a passing shower of rain which does not return where it has once been. It has been with the Jews, but when it’s gone it’s gone, and now they have nothing. Paul brought it to the Greeks; but again when it’s gone it’s gone, and now they have the Turk. Rome and the Latins also had it; but when it’s gone, it’s gone, and now they have the pope. And you Germans need not think that you will have it forever, for ingratitude and contempt will not make it stay. Therefore, seize it and hold it fast, whoever can; for lazy hands are bound to have a lean year.” [American Edition, 45:353]*

How long before the Gospel shower passes us and moves on? Can we see the rain clouds forming strongly over the countries of Africa? How dry and parched will it become here in the United States?

Let’s run out into the rain shower that is the Gospel--the cooling, life-giving shower of God’s Word of Promise in Christ. His Word of mercy, forgiveness, joy and peace pours forth continually to this day and hour from the pierced hands, feet and side of our Lord Christ, the gifts you and I need the most, given by God the Holy Spirit through the precious and powerful Word and Sacraments. Let’s return again and again to the cleansing waters of the Holy Baptism, in which we were plunged into the death of Christ and raised to new life in Him. Let’s drink deeply from the streams of Living Water who is Himself our atoning sacrifice, eating the bread of life that He gives to us. And then, with boldness and confidence, we continue in His mission and ministry. The Holy Gospel gives us confidence, trust and courage. It always has. It always will. We do not put our trust in mortal men but always and only in the Word of the Lord, which endures forever.

In Wittenberg there are many things to see. For me one of the most moving things I saw was the actual pulpit from which Luther preached in the parish church. It is now on display in the Luther House museum. It is not very large, nor very fancy. In fact it is rather crude and shabby looking in comparison to the majestic pulpits that fill many larger churches in Europe. But this pulpit surpasses them all in importance, for it was from this pulpit, more than from any other place, that the Reformation was born and nurtured. From this pulpit the living voice of the Gospel was heard once again clearly and truly, the voice of our Savior Jesus Christ, speaking so clearly and powerful through His servant Martin Luther. The sermons Luther preached from this pulpit were printed and distributed widely, touching countless hearts and minds with the Gospel.

There is no more important place than the pulpits across the church where the Gospel is preached according to the pure understanding of it, and the altars from which the Sacrament is administered according to Christ’s institution. From pulpit and altar the Reformation of the Church is advanced and continues to this very day and hour as it works its way into the hearts, minds and souls of all whom Christ gathers through the church’s ministry. It is God who is at work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure, for the sake of the blood-bought souls for whom the Savior lived and died. He is working through the preached and taught Word and administered sacraments to gather to Himself His people, whom He blesses, and nurtures and strengthens, so they in turn may go out as His witnesses, calling and inviting and bringing others to the great banquet of salvation.

On October 31, 1517, fifteen minutes changed the world forever. May God bless all the “fifteen minutes” through which our Lord continues to change you, and me, and all whom we are called to serve. Let me conclude with a prayer by Martin Luther:

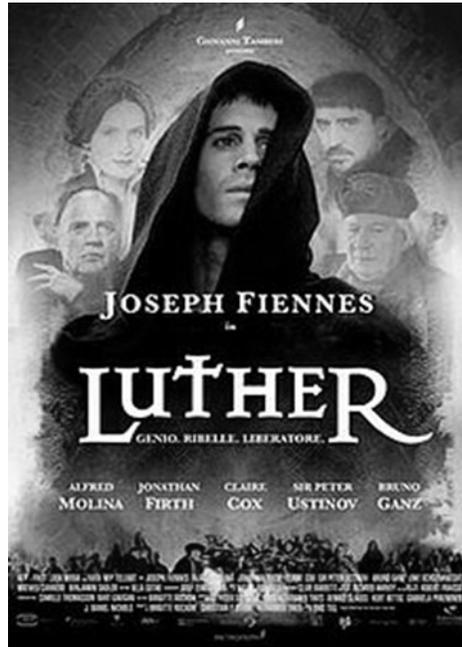
*O Father, it is indeed true that no one can be strong by his own power. Who can stand before Your might if You do not strengthen and comfort us Yourself? Therefore, dear Father, embrace us, accomplish Your will in us, that we may be Your kingdom to Your praise and glory. Strengthen us in this life with Your holy Word. Give us our daily bread. Establish in our hearts Your dear Son Jesus Christ who is the true bread of heaven. Sustained by Him, may we gladly bear and suffer the breaking and dying of our own will and the fulfillment of Your will. Give grace to all Christendom. Send us educated pastors and preachers who will not give us the dregs and chaff of foolish fables, but who will teach us Your holy Gospel and lead us to Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**Midweek Bible Study** led by Pastor Holle on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. The service will rotate between St. Paul and Zion. The first one is October 18th at St. Paul, followed by October 25th at Zion. Please plan to attend.

## Reformation Movie Night

On Sunday evening, Oct. 29, 2023, Pastor Holle and Becky are planning to watch the 2003 movie "Luther" which captures many of the most significant characters and events of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation. The movie will be "projected" onto a "bigger" screen in the basement at Zion beginning at 6:30 pm. It's about a two-hour movie and we'll probably take a couple of breaks to try to keep everyone caught-up with the various events and characters, but it should wrap-up around 9 pm.



If you've never seen the movie, or if you'd like to see it again, please come join us and feel free to bring snacks and drinks. It will be an informal evening, and Pastor will attempt to answer any questions anyone may have, so consider joining us as we consider/celebrate the Reformation again this year.

## JOINT SERVICE

**St. Paul and Zion** will have a **Joint Service** next week, October 29<sup>th</sup>, at St. Paul starting at 10:00am.

This will be followed by a potluck dinner. Please plan to attend.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

*Come help us celebrate Bertha Kruse's 100th birthday!  
We will have a celebration after services at St. Paul on Sunday, Nov 5th.  
If you would like to send Bertha a card, her address is  
AC South Village, 513 Paramount, Apt 21, Sabetha, KS 66534.*



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Military:** Spencer Ernst, Bert Ernst, Alexander Williams

**College:** Joey Meyer, Sage Meyer, Paul Pearson, Megan Brockhoff, Paige Stover, Gunner Smith.

**Care Facilities & Shut-Ins:** Betty Allen, Carol Bauer, Gene Rice, Darlene Covert, Connie Kneisel, Jaynell Robidoux, Don Robidoux, Charles Fritz, Lois Voss, Tom Hansen, Bonnie Reynolds.

**Also in our prayers:** Bill Rahe, David Rupp, Dale Strobel, Charlotte Kruse, Wes Duesing, Richard Clay, Aimee Hampl, Carl Mueller, Sherry Hartley, Randi Fischer Murphy, Tammy Shefferd Miller, Edna Coonce, Janice Grubb, Kurt Killman.

**We Remember** the blessed saints who now rest in the Lord and we pray for their families that they remember all who die in the Lord live with the Lord. (Romans 6:5)



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

*Nov 1-Mitch Meyer, Nov 2-Mylia Rygaard, Nov 3-Noah Rygaard, Nov 3-Amanda Davidson, Nov 6-Janette Thonen, Nov 6-David Bauerle, Nov 7-Bertha Kruse, Nov 8-Wyatt DeJong, Nov 11-Jaynell Robidoux, Nov 12-Justin Lowe, Nov 16-Richard Shefferd, Nov 16-Tim Davidson, Nov 18-Doris Kneisel, Nov 18-Sharon Meyer, Nov 24-Richard Clay, Nov 25-Sara Bauer, Nov 27-Jill Sprick, Nov 29-Clif Heiniger, Nov 29-Justin Sprick, Nov 30-Eldon Mellenbruch*

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

*Nov 1-Dennis & Cindy Manche, Nov 3-Darrell & Sara Bauer, Nov 9-Stuart & Malerie Manche, Nov 12-Steve & Nancy Manche, Nov 19-Larry & Doris Kneisel, Nov 29-Jeremy & Amanda Davidson*

**SERVERS FOR NOVEMBER**

*(Please trade if you have a date conflict)*

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN**

**November 5th:** Galen & Karen Bauman

**November 12th:** Kristina Costlow & girls

**November 19th:** Doug & Sarah Kleopfer

**November 26th:** Clif & Kathy Heiniger

**Altar Guild for November:** Leslie Brockhoff, Kathy Heiniger, Galen Meyer

**ZION LUTHERAN**

**November 5th:** **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Usher**-David Middendorf,

**Greeters**-Scott & Jessica Gigstad, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

**November 12th:** **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,

**Greeters**-Bob & Virginia Freese, **Sound System**-Jr. & Jeanne Lowe

**November 19th:** **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Marissa Lee, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann & Richard Clay,

**Greeters**- Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

**November 26th:** **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Myriah Lee, **Usher**-David Middendorf,

**Greeters**- Dwight & Sue Meyer, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

**Altar Guild for November:** Carol Walter, Michelle Moreno

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**We invite all kids** to come and join us for Sunday School!  
Sunday School meets each Sunday morning at **9:15am at Zion.**  
Sunday School at **St. Paul** starts after the service at **9:30am.**  
The Zion Adult Bible Class meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15am  
and St. Paul Bible Class meet after their service.  
Please come join us!!



## ZION LWML

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church LWML was called to order by President Lela Middendorf on October 10, 2023 with 6 members and 1 guest present.

Lela opened the meeting with a devotion based upon Psalm 103. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Anne and approved, while Diane Davis gave the treasurer's report. Discussion followed concerning the transfer of some of the CEF funds to the General Fund. Virginia moved that we take \$1,000 from the CEF Fund and transfer it to the General Fund. Jackie seconded the motion, and motion carried.

We received a letter from the First Baptist Church asking for a donation for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Diane moved that we give \$50 to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Anne seconded the motion, and motion carried. It was also decided to collect non-perishable food for the Trinity Center during the months of October and November.

Lela noted that 31 quilts will be delivered to Topeka on Friday to meet the Orphan Grain Train truck from the Wichita warehouse.

Discussion was had on the Chancel Committee for the upcoming year.

Anne Arnesen, Secretary

### *Ladies Bible Study*

*Tuesday nights at 6:30pm  
at Zion Lutheran.  
Please join us!*



### **PLEASE HELP TO KEEP US UP TO DATE:**

*If you have a new phone number, address, or email address,  
please make sure you send it to the office.*

*You can e-mail the office at  
[office@NEKpartnership.org](mailto:office@NEKpartnership.org) or call 785-740-0268.  
The office would also like the names and addresses  
of any members who are at college. Thank You!*

## TALK AND TIE

We had a wonderful turn-out for our Talk and Tie! We met on Thursday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at the Middendorf Hobby House. Our goal was to tie 6 or more quilts for Orphan Grain Train and we exceeded our goal! We plan to meet again in the spring.



## ST. PAUL DORCAS

The St. Paul Dorcas met after church on October 1, 2023. We assembled 61 hygiene kits, and 50 school kits. Rosalie and Carolyn had 29 quilts. Several members of the congregation helped with the kits. We celebrated LWML Sunday. The theme was Christ the King.

President Nancy opened the short business meeting. Roll call was answered by 13 members and 1 guest. We did not read the minutes of the previous month. We also did not have a treasurer's report.

Nancy announced the Orphan Grain Train pickup is Oct. 13, 2023. Kathy Heiniger volunteered to take kits and quilts down.

Sadie Meyer from the nominating committee reported a full slate of officers. They are President- Sarah Kleopfer, VP- Leslie Brockoff, Treasurer- Kathy Heiniger, and Secretary- Becky Meyer.

Kathy Heiniger passed out the 2023-2025 LWML Mission grants.

The LWML NE Zone Fall event will be held October 7, 2023 at First, Sabetha. Registration begins at 9:00. Our Gifts from the Heart are cans of soup and packets of tuna or meat.

We collected an offering from our group. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Linda Duesing served coffee cake and bundt cake.

Cindy Manche, Secretary

**2023**  
**HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

*JOINT Thanksgiving Eve Service –  
Nov. 22 at Zion - 7:00pm*

*Joint Advent 1 - Wednesday, December 6  
at St. Paul - 7:00pm*

*Joint Advent 2 - Wednesday, December 13  
At Zion - 7:00pm*

*Joint Advent 3 – December 20  
at St. Paul - 7:00pm*

---

**Christmas Eve Services, December 24**

***St. Paul - 6:00pm  
Zion - 8:00pm***

---

*Joint Christmas Day services  
will be held at Zion – 10:00am*

---

*Joint New Year's Eve service  
will be held at St. Paul starting at 5:00pm*



***Joint Thanksgiving  
Service***

***Wednesday evening,  
November 22nd***

***at Zion Lutheran  
7:00pm.***

## AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

American Heritage Girls Troop KS2315 have had a great fall doing lots of activities, introducing more girl leadership roles and embracing the theme for the year, WOVEN. *You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139 v.13*

The Troop thanks the churches for supporting our Giving Bean Fundraiser! Please see a member to get your hands around a cozy cup of coffee or tea. You can also visit <https://www.givingbean.com/store>. Orders will arrive in time for Christmas!

The girls are looking forward to serving youth around the world by packing shoeboxes this month. More information to follow!

In September, the Troop had a great day of outdoor learning at Sycamore Springs. We can boast 10 new girls from 7 different area families. God be praised! Please continue to pray for AHG in our area and nationwide!



# NOVEMBER, 2023

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |   |   | <b>1</b><br>7:00 Midweek Bible Study @St. Paul   | <b>2</b><br>6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.   | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>5</b> Daylight Saving Time Ends<br>All Saints' Day<br>9:15 Bible Study @Zion<br>9:30 Bible Study @StP | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b> Election Day<br>6:30 Ladies Bible Study          | <b>8</b><br>7:00 Midweek Bible Study @Zion       | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b> Veterans Day<br> |
| <b>12</b> 24th Sunday after Pentecost<br>9:15 Bible Study @Zion<br>9:30 Bible Study @StP                 | <b>13</b><br>7:00 Elder's Mtg. @Zion                                    | <b>14</b><br>6:30 Ladies Bible Study<br>7:30 Zion LWML    | <b>15</b><br>7:00 Midweek Bible Study @St. Paul  | <b>16</b><br>6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.  | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b>   |
| <b>19</b> 25th Sunday after Pentecost<br>9:15 Bible Study @Zion<br>9:30 Bible Study @StP                 | <b>20</b><br>Articles Due for Newsletter<br>7:00 Elder's Mtg. @St. Paul | <b>21</b><br>6:30 Ladies Bible Study<br>7:00 Zion Council | <b>22</b><br>7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service @Zion | <b>23</b> Thanksgiving Day<br> | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b><br>6:00 St. Paul decorate   |
| <b>26</b> Last Sunday of the Church Year<br>9:15 Bible Study @Zion<br>9:30 Bible Study & Fellowship @StP | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b><br>6:30 Ladies Bible Study                      | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b><br>6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.  |  |   |