

February

ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

FEBRUARY 2026

A Few Thoughts from Pastor – February 2026

[Jesus said,] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."

Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Where are we going? Seems like a pretty simple question, but without some context it's actually nearly impossible to answer. Who is included in the *we*? Is it a question about where we're going *right now* or about where we're going *at some point in the future*? Is the where a *place*, an *event*, or some *esoteric state of mind or being*? Is the question *independent of where we've been or where we are*, or is it in fact *rooted in* those very facts? Does the inquirer want to know where we're going *next*, or is the inquiry of a more *ultimate* nature? Have I made my point?

And yet as general and ill-defined as the question may be on its own, I've been thinking about it a lot the last several days. And I think it's maybe a good question for all of us to ponder from time to time: Just where the heck are we going?

We -- me and all those traveling a generally common path to *some-thing/place/where* in the future, whether that time be near or far away, or both; a group with common beliefs and experiences, and with a common or shared history of life-along-the-way. Not all of the *we* are necessarily alive or even at the same spot along the path to where we're going, and yet we remain a *we* and not an *us-and-them*.

Where we're headed is "bigger" than just *next* or even *after that*, for our final destination is intimately connected to where we've been, to where we are, and to where we're going now AND next. The path we take will ultimately lead us somewhere, but it may or may not necessarily be in a "good" place. And yet, the way we go will dictate where we end up.



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**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

Pastor Brian Holle

revholle@sbcglobal.net

618-960-9575

**Office Hours—Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-11:00
Day Off—Friday**

OFFICE

Phone: 785-742-3995
613 S. First,
Hiawatha, KS 66434

stpaulzionlutheran@gmail.com

Hours:
8:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday & Thursday
Closed Friday

The Church, of course, is ultimately headed to life after the Last Day with and in Christ forever, but we also live *in* Christ, *by* Christ, and *on* Christ even now. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

What we “do” now and in the future is shaped by where we’re going and Whose we are, and so the life of the Church is ever and always *in* Christ. From His coming (Advent), incarnation & birth (Christmas), and through His life & ministry, suffering & death, resurrection & ascension, and eventual return, *where we’re going* is where we and all the saints *have always been*, in Christ.

Each year the Church invites all of us to come along on this journey where God Himself nourishes and provides for His dear children along the way. The stories of the Old Testament, the accounts of Christ’s life, ministry, death and resurrection, and the teachings of the Apostles, God’s Holy Word and the Blessed Sacraments, are our path and the way to where we’re going. Last Sunday we went up the mountain to view once again with the eyes of faith the Transfiguration of our Lord, and before that it was back to Nazareth and to Bethlehem in the fullness of time.



Now we find ourselves poised on the doorstep of Lent, and we desire to once again prepare for Easter and our Lord’s empty tomb. And in doing so we walk the path lit by the Light/Word. And then it will be the life and teachings of Christ and the Apostles. It’s all *where we’ve been, where we are, AND where we’re going*. Along the way we stumble and wonder, and sometimes we even rebel and grumble or selfishly (& arrogantly) think we know better, and so our Mother (the Church) will lead us back to the foot of the cross to don ashes, to confess our sins, to repent, and to cry out “Lord, have mercy!”

She will guide us to Church, to the Word, to the Sacrament, back again to our Baptisms, to the Lord for forgiveness, and to comfort and encourage and admonish one another in love ... to live in, by, and from Christ Himself. That’s where we’re going because that’s who we are; it’s who we’ve been made, adopted children of the Most High God. Not because we deserve it or anything, but purely by grace, God’s undeserved love toward us.

Where are we going? To heaven; to Church; to His Holy Word; to His promises and steadfastness; to the cross in humility and repentance and to the empty tomb with unmatched joy and thankfulness; to the Fount and to His Table; through water to be fed with Bread from heaven; scolded, chided, disciplined, comforted, healed, forgiven. That’s where we’re going, and by the power of God’s Holy Spirit, in the Word, we know the Way, and we are privileged to bear His name! And we go where Christians go. Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Holle



Stewardship



Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2), and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities, and the Church at large.

With grateful hearts, the children of Gary and Nanci Oswald invite family and friends to help celebrate their parents' 60th wedding anniversary with a card shower.

Gary Oswald and Nanci Schumann were married on February 19, 1966, at Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha. Over the years, they have built a beautiful life together and were blessed with three children: Kimberly (Erik) Sabadie of McKinney, Texas; Justin Oswald (Suzanne Cox) of Lenexa, Kansas; and Courtney (Skip) Devanny of Denver, Colorado.

Their greatest joys also include their five grandchildren: Alexandra and Nicholas Sabadie, Tyler Oswald, and Lily and Lyon Devanny.

Cards and well wishes may be sent to the anniversary couple at 1025 190th Street, Hiawatha, Kansas 66434.



CHANGE FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Elders at Zion have agreed to designate the last Sunday of the month as Fellowship Sunday. There will be no Sunday School classes or adult Bible Class on that Sunday. In their place beginning at 9:15 a.m., the ladies will have their LWML meeting in the Bible Class room, and other Zion members can share fellowship, coffee and food in the church basement during that time prior to worship services. LWML members will provide the baked goods. This will begin on February 22, 2026.



ST. PAUL DORCAS

Our Dorcas group met January 4, 2026 in the Narthex after our church service. Sarah Kleopfer led our Bible study from our workbook, *Unshakeable* by Donna Snow. This was Day 5, "The Rest of David's Story".

President Sarah Kleopfer called the meeting to order. Secretary Becky Meyer took roll call and there were nine members present. November minutes were read and approved. There was no correspondence. Acting Treasurer, Sadie Meyer, submitted the Treasurer's report. No officer reports. The Funeral committee reported on Danny Bauerle's funeral (served 40 people lunch at the Fairview Community Center - ham, green beans, cheesy potatoes, fruit salad, rolls with cakes brought by five people).

Unfinished business: Sarah, Becky and Sadie will be delivering donations of clothing, bedding and toiletries to KVC in Hiawatha next week.

New business: Treasurer Kathy Heiniger will be sending \$100.00 for our contribution to the Northeast LWML Zone.

The general offering and LWML mites were taken.

Announcements: February 1, 2026 will be our Prayer Service in the sanctuary led by Cindy Manche. Our offering will be going to Concordia Academy in Wichita. Hostess will be Sarah Kleopfer. Altar committee for January and February is Sarah Kleopfer and Cindy Manche.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Nancy Manche provided refreshments of a rhubarb or apple coffee cake with coffee and water.

Secretary, Becky Meyer

ZION LUTHERAN LWML

The next meeting for Zion Lutheran LWML will be on Sunday, February 22nd at 9:15am. We were unable to meet in January due to the weather.

This will be our "Fellowship Sunday". The ladies will have their LWML meeting in the Bible Class room, and other Zion members can share fellowship, coffee and food in the church basement during that time prior to worship services. LWML members will provide the baked goods.



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.

LENTEN SCHEDULE – 2026

Ash Wednesday – February 18th: Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

February 25th: Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

March 4th: Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

March 11th: Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

March 18th: Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

March 25th: Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

PALM SUNDAY-March 29th

Services @St. Paul 8:30am Services @Zion 10:30am

April 2nd: Maundy Thursday Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

April 3rd: Good Friday Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY: April 5th

Service @St. Paul 8:30am Services @Zion 10:30am



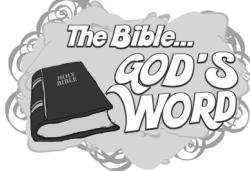
Please Update!

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

You can e-mail the office at stpaulzionlutheran@gmail.com or call 785-742-3995.

*The office would also like the names and addresses
of any members who are at college. Thank You!*

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY



Midweek Bible Study meets at 7:00pm on Wednesday nights
and will rotate between St. Paul and Zion. Please join us!

***Pastor Holle has a radio broadcast on KNZA
at approximately 10:05am on Sunday mornings.***



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Military: Spencer Ernst, Alexander Williams

College: Joey Meyer, Megan Brockhoff, Paige Stover, Gunner Smith, Marcus Hinton, Remington Killman.



Care Facilities & Shut-Ins: Carol Bauer, Gene Rice, Esther Krug, Doris Rice, Juanita Fritz, Helen Bauerle.

Also in our prayers: Carol Rand, Julie Selland, David Davidson, Doug Barrett, Rachel Spann, Malcolm Gigstad, Tim Bianchi, Jill Kohlmeier, Katie Fry, Jeanne Lowe, Wes Duesing, Aimee Hampl, Carl Mueller.

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)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb 2-Christine Rosenberger, Feb 4-Nanci Oswald, Feb 5-Cathy Brockhoff, Feb 6-Becky Holle, Feb 6-Larry Walter, Feb 8-Aubrey Rahe, Feb 11-Kathy Heiniger, Feb 11-Tammy Sisk, Feb 16-Avery Davidson, Feb 23-Dawn Stephens, Feb 24-Dennis Manche, Feb 24-Kurt Killman, Feb 27-Milan Kloepfer, Feb 28-Margo Fries

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 6-Chuck & Deb Sjulin, Feb 11-Dwight & Charlotte Kruse, Feb 19-Gary & Nanci Oswald, Feb 22-Mark & Kathy Carpenter

SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

Feb 1st: Galen & Sharon Meyer

Feb 8th: Darryl & Helen Hoppe

Feb 15th: Eldon & Rosalie Mellenbruch

Feb 22nd: Mark & Becky Meyer

Altar Guild for February: Sarah Kleopfer, Cindy Manche, Mark Meyer

ZION LUTHERAN

Feb 1st: Elder-Travis Hampl, Acolyte-Grace Hampl, Ushers-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann, Greeters-Bob & Virginia Freese, Sound System-David Middendorf

Feb 8th: Elder-Scott Gigstad, Acolyte-Cal Gigstad, Ushers-Bob Freese & Mike Brockhoff, Greeters-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, Sound System-Dwight Meyer

Feb 15th: Elder-Leon Wissmann, Acolyte-Brady Killman, Ushers-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann, Greeters-Hampl family, Sound System-Leon Wissmann

Feb 22nd: Elder-Travis Hampl, Acolyte-Grace Hampl, Ushers-Bob Freese & Mike Brockhoff, Greeters-Bob & Virginia Freese, Sound System-Bob & Virginia Freese

Altar Guild for February: Becky Holle & Virginia Freese

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

AHG marches on into 2026 with their enriching program year! At each meeting the girls continue their study of the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price. Jesus says, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it." This parable illustrates the immense value of God's Kingdom, showing that it is worth giving up everything else to obtain it, much like a merchant sacrificing all his possessions for one incredibly valuable pearl.

Tenderhearts have finished Bible Basics and will begin working on Living in the U.S.A.!

Explorers are beginning work on their Book Adventurer badge, and continuing their study of Aviation, and Our Constitution

Pioneers are working on badges in World Heritage, Music Appreciation, and Sign Language!

Ever thankful for a safe meeting place for the girls, AHG plans to meet at Zion February 3 and 17.

Pioneers and Patriots (PiPa) will be attending the Topeka Symphony February 3, and having their lock-in Sunday, February 15.

Here is an article from one of our Pioneers!

American Heritage Girls Jolabokafloð Tea Party

Millie Stoller hosted her Jolabokafloð Tea Party on Friday, December 5th for her American Heritage Girls Troop. This was for Millie's Harriet Tubman Level Award. Jolabokafloð is an Icelandic tradition, where publishing houses flooded the stores with new books in the last few weeks of the year because in World War II the only thing that wasn't rationed was paper. When this happened, most people got books as Christmas gifts. They also drank tea or cocoa while they read. Everyone was very gracious in bringing food, setting up, and tearing down. The entire troop and their mothers were invited. Her mom, Joan Stoller, led the devotion, and it was fantastic. Joan also led the craft and Paisley Cockriel made the sample. We made ornaments with pearls on wire, and a pink bow. We snacked on cheese, crackers, and meat, meringue cookies, fruit, veggies, and more. We also revised a Affagato, which originally is an Espresso with ice cream, but we did it with cocoa and ice cream instead. This was a wonderful event that we hope to have next year!



FEBRUARY, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Sepuagesima</i> 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas	2 AHG Troop mtg.	3 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	4 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	5 Pastor Holle Day off	6 Pastor Holle Day off	7
8 <i>Sexagesima</i> 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	9 Circuit	10 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	11 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	12 Pastor Holle Day off	13 Pastor Holle Day off	14
15 <i>Quinquagesima</i> 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	16 <i>President's Day</i> Articles Due for Newsletter	17 AHG Troop mtg.	18 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service @Zion	19 7:00 Zion Council	20 Pastor Holle Day off	21
22 <i>Lent 1</i> 9:15 Zion LWML 9:15 Zion Fellowship St. Paul Fellowship	23	24 7:00 Lenten service @St.Paul	25	26 Pastor Holle Day off	27 Pastor Holle Day off	28