



## ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

### OCTOBER 2025

#### A Few Thoughts from Pastor Holle

*Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.*

*Jude 1:3*

Every couple of years I try to make it a point to re-read some of the books I first read at the seminary. One of those is “*The Hammer of God*” by Bo Giertz. I don’t know if it’s still “required reading,” but it should be. This month I wanted to share with you a couple of “scenes” from this classic.

The book actually consists of three short stories about three young Swedish pastors and their struggles with worldly notions in the face of God’s truth. Though written a number of years ago and set in Europe some 100 years ago or so, I am always struck by how timeless God’s truth remains. The years come and go, cultures come and go (& change), and the world “evolves” or supposedly becomes more “enlightened” with each successive generation of human thought and endeavor. And yet, God’s Word remains constant even as the Christian’s struggle continues as it has since the Fall and as it will until our Lord returns in glory on the Last Day.

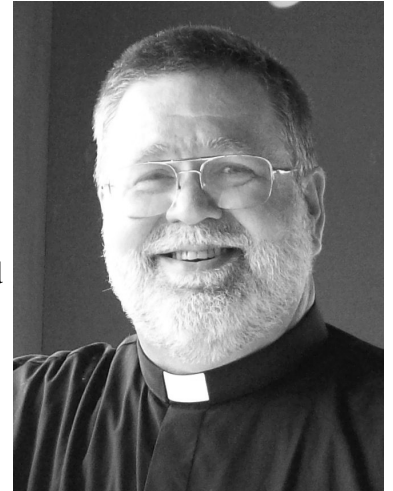
Near the beginning of the second story, a confident, young, eager, supposedly filled-with-the-Spirit, new pastor meets his elderly supervisor for the first time. The exchange goes something like this (the following, excepting notes, is from “*The Hammer of God*”):

Fridfeldt (*the new pastor*) declares to his supervisor, “I just want you to know from the beginning, sir, that I am a ‘believer’.” (*Fridfeldt was a supporter of a “new” and more revivalistic or popular style of Christianity, and he had sensed that his new supervisor might be mired in the tired and old practices and teachings of the church.*) He noticed a gleam in the old man’s eyes which he could not quite interpret. Was approval indicated, or did he have something up his sleeve?

The rector (supervisor) puffed at his pipe and looked at the young man a moment before he spoke. “So you are a believer, I’m glad to hear that. What do you believe in?”

Fridfeldt stared dumfounded at his superior. Was he jesting with him? “But, sir, I am simply saying that I am a ‘believer’.”

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“Yes, I hear that, my boy. But what is it that you believe in?”

Fridfeldt was almost speechless. “But don’t you know, sir, what it means to be a ‘believer’?”

“That is a word which can stand for things that differ greatly, my boy. I ask only what it is that **you** believe in.”

“In Jesus, of course,” answered Fridfeldt, raising his voice. “I mean – I mean that I have given Him my heart.”

The older man’s face became suddenly as solemn as the grave. “Do you consider **that** something to give Him?”

By this time, Fridfeldt was almost in tears. “But sir, if you do not give your heart to Jesus, you cannot be saved.”

“You are right, my boy. And it is just as true that, if you think you are saved because you give Jesus your heart, you will not be saved. You see, my boy, ... it is one thing to choose Jesus as one’s Lord and Savior, to give Him one’s heart and commit oneself to Him, and that He now accepts one into His little flock; it is a very different thing to believe on Him as a Redeemer of sinners, of whom one is chief. One does not choose a Redeemer for oneself, you understand, nor give one’s heart to Him. The heart is a rusty old can on a junk heap. A fine gift, indeed! But a wonderful Lord passes by, and has mercy on the wretched tin can, sticks His walking cane through it and rescues it from the junk pile and takes it home with Him. That is how it is.”

The story continues and young Fridfeldt “experiences” Christian faith in the real world, and he sees how quickly man’s wisdom fades. And then, near the end of the book and the third story, young Pastor Torvik preaches on the words above from the book of Jude (again, from “*The Hammer of God*”):

“Today it has become clear to me that the Christian faith is a sacred heritage, which must be faithfully preserved, if it is not to be dissipated. There is only one Savior. He has lived once here on earth; He has spoken certain definite words which can never be changed or recalled, and He has accomplished saving works, whose validity endures to the end of time.

“As long as the world lasts, all Christianity is bound to this Jesus Christ. Just as no one could be a disciple of Jesus during His lifetime only by agreeing with this or that word which He spoke, or by acknowledging the principle of love or something else which one selected from His teaching, so it is no more possible for anyone to be a Christian today by holding to an abbreviated, reinterpreted, or modernized gospel. In those days a man was a disciple by following just this Jesus of Nazareth, hearing Him, obeying, believing, and accepting Him. Today one becomes a disciple by being united with this same Jesus of Nazareth, being baptized to Him, nurtured by Him in His Church, and receiving His gifts. These gifts are the same today as then. The same words reach us through the Bible, the same feast is celebrated in the Lord’s Supper, the same forgiveness is pronounced in the absolution. The conditions of discipleship are the same, salvation is the same. Once and for all, He suffered and died and rose again. Once and for all, the faith that embraces all this has been delivered to the church. And this is the holy and unchangeable faith for which the Word here bids us contend.”

A rusty old tin can, full of filth and crud (my sin, self-righteousness, selfishness, pride, etc.), ... yes, that’s me ... but by God’s grace He has plucked me out of the junk pile, cleaned me up, emptied me out, filled me with His goodness, and claimed me as one of His own. I may want to be a sheep, but I’m also quite happy being a rescued and restored tin can in His house, and may God grant that our teaching, preaching, and worship here at St. Paul and Zion always be faithful to the faith as we have received it from the Apostles and His Church. God’s Word, His gifts, His Son ... may they always be good enough for us!

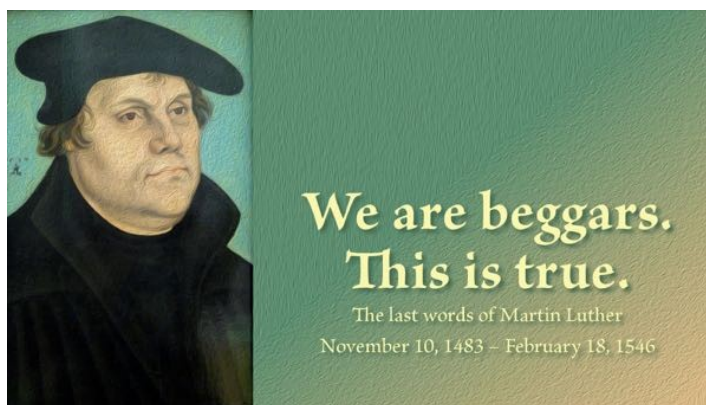
*Pastor Holle*

# Stewardship



## “We Are Beggars ...”

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther fell asleep in the Lord. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses onto the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg (Oct. 31, 1517) penned its final words: “We are all beggars. This is true.” And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.



Ironic, isn't it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't like being in someone's debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for His undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn't because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn't because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

## ST. PAUL DORCAS

Our Dorcas group met September 7, 2025 in the church basement after the church service. Kristina Costlow served apple muffins and warm egg cups with coffee and water. Sharon Meyer led our third devotion in our Bible study, "Unshakable" by Donna Snow. This was day 3, David's Difficult Road to Israel's Throne.

Acting President Leslie Brockhoff called the meeting to order and Becky Meyer took roll call—there were 15 members present. July minutes were read and approved. Correspondence was the monthly report from Topeka Rescue Mission and the Fall 2025 brochure from Lutherans for Life. Treasurer Kathy Heiniger gave the treasurer report. Kathy also mentioned the price of the Quarterly's went up. No officers report. Committee reports: Becky Meyer sent out 8 Thinking of Your notes to friends. Unfinished business. Thank you for all who helped with the church cleaning inside and out.

New business: Northeast Kansas LWML Zone Gathering will be Saturday, September 20th, 9:00 at Zion Lutheran in Hiawatha. A salad lunch will follow. Registration fee \$5.00. Theme: "Growing in God's Grace". There will also be a Women's Christian Life Retreat on November 7th and 8th in Salina at the Convention Center featuring author Donna Snow. We will be assembling hygiene and school kits at our October meeting. Linda Duesing made 16 quilts to be sent to Orphan Grain Train. We will have quilt tying for these on Friday the 19th and Thursday the 25th at 9:30 each morning. We were in need of 25 more school kit bags. Nancy Manche moved to have Dorcas pay for 25 school kit bags, Karen Bauman seconded the motion and it carried. Linda Duesing will pick these up. We are looking for Young Adult Women 20-35 to represent Kansas at the State Convention in Manhattan April 17-19, 2026. October 5th will be LWML Sunday. Quilts will be displayed on the pews and ladies will be greeters and help with the offering.

Offering was collected.

Announcements: At our next meeting on October 5th we will have LWML mites collection along with our regular offering. Nancy Manche will have a devotion and we will pack Orphan Grain Train Kits. Hostess will be Karen Bauman. Altar committee for September and October will be Evan Brockhoff and Nancy Manche.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Becky Meyer

## ZION LWML

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church LWML was held on September 9 with 6 members present. The meeting was called to order by President Lela Middendorf. A devotion entitled, "Safe in His Arms" was shared relating to how often we are blind to things that surround us and how many times we have been saved by God.

Anne read the minutes of the previous meeting, and they were approved as read. Diane provided the treasurer's report.

A communication was received from Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch for their annual Honey Sunday. Virginia moved and Becky seconded to send them a donation of \$50. Motion carried.

A Bible study and video entitled, "Unshakeable" by Donna Snow, has been purchased for use at our regular meetings. A registration form for the Kansas District LWML Christian Life Retreat was distributed to the members. It will be held November 7 and 8 in Salina, Kansas.

It was reported that the National LWML Mission Grants (funded by mite collections) for the 2023 to 2025 biennium exceeded the goal by more than \$467,000 !! Congratulations ladies !! The National LWML Mission Grants goal for the 2025 to 2027 biennium has been set at just over \$2,622,000.

The Kansas District LWML Convention is scheduled for April 17-19, 2026 in Manhattan. We have bulletin inserts for LWML Sunday on October 5. Discussion followed on finding new ways to increase our current membership.

The NE Zone LWML Fall Event, Growing in God's Grace, is scheduled for September 20 with Zion, Hiawatha serving as hosts. Registration is set to begin at 9 a.m. and conclude with a salad luncheon. Pastor Reed from Trinity, Atchison, will lead us in Bible study, and two service projects will be offered to work on by the group.

The meeting adjourned, and the next regular meeting will be October 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Anne Arnesen  
Secretary



## ST. PAUL (Activities from August)

Thank you for everyone who helped with the church cleanup inside and out.

There was a nice crowd, good fellowship and a lot of delicious food at our congregational picnic that was held Sunday evening August 24th. There was a collection taken to send to Orphan Grain Train to help with transportation and shipping costs. Clif and Kathy Heiniger were the recipients of another one of Carolyn and Roselie's beautiful quilts. Thank you to all who could make it!



We had the birthday party at Maple Heights August 27th. It was an enjoyable afternoon. There was singing while Sarah played the piano. We served cookies, ice cream and juice. We handed out 6 birthday gags/ gifts and visited with residents. We are looking forward to it again next August.



## **SEPTEMBER SERVICES**

**September 28th—Joint Service at Zion at 10:00am  
with Joint Voter's Meeting to follow service.**

On **September 28<sup>th</sup>** there will be a Joint Service  
held at Zion starting at **10:00am**.

This will be followed by the Joint Voter's meeting after the meeting.

### ***Please Update!***

***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 785-742-3995.*

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

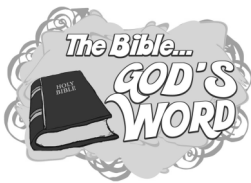
### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**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.  
Please come join us!!



### **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.

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

**Also in our prayers:** David Davidson, Doug Barrett, Rachel Spann, Darlene Atland, Malcolm Gigstad, Tim Bianchi, Jill Kohlmeier, Danny Bauerle, 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)



**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

*Oct 1-Nate Bianchi, Oct 3-Karen Bauman, Oct 3-Aidan Walter, Oct 4-Shaun Pearson, Oct 4-Terry Reschke, Oct 4-Leon Wissmann, Oct 5-Barb Shefferd, Oct 7-Rosalie Mellenbruch, Oct 10-Ray Thieme, Oct 12-Bill Rahe, Oct 25-Kinsley Costlow, Oct 27-Steve Manche, Oct 27-Jessica Gigstad, Oct 27-Debbie Reschke, Oct 29-Malachi Oswald, Oct 29-Carol Walter, Oct 30-Jadynn Doyle, Oct 31-Emily Meyer*

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

*Oct 5-Bill & Traci Rahe, Oct 14-Darryl & Helen Hoppe, Oct 20-Paul & Judy Cress*

**SERVERS FOR OCTOBER**

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

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN**

**Oct 5th:** Darryl & Helen Hoppe

**Oct 12th:** Mark & Becky Meyer

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

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

**Altar Guild for October:** Evan Brockhoff, Nancy Manche, Darryl Hoppe

**ZION LUTHERAN**

**Oct 5th:** **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,

**Greeters**-Hampl family, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

**Oct 12th:** **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman,

**Greeters**-Bob & Virginia Freese, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

**Oct 19th:** **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann,

**Greeters**-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

**Oct 26th:** **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,

**Greeters**-Sharon Lowe & Darlene Atland, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

**Altar Guild for October:** Becky Holle & Virginia Freese

# AHG OCTOBER 2025 NEWS!



This year's Program Theme is PRICELESS! Girls and leaders will be exploring this exciting theme throughout the year.

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful PEARLS, who, when he had found one PEARL OF GREAT PRICE, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

(MATTHEW 13:45-46, NKJV)

The PEARL is so precious to the merchant that it is worth giving up everything he owns to have it.  
It is PRICELESS!

The year is off to an exciting start with lots of fun activities and intense badge work in store for AHG Troop KS2315. Did you know AHG celebrated its 30th birthday in 2025, marking three decades of faith, service, and fun since its founding in 1995? The Troop marked the occasion on September 30 with a pearl themed birthday party, complete with boba tea and appearances from Sacajawea, Harriet Tubman, Abigail Adams and more!

In other news, Pioneers/Patriots are planning to complete these exciting badges: World Heritage (Australia, Japan, Brazil), Music Appreciation, and Sign Language.

Explorers are completing badge work in these areas this fall: Aviation, Our Constitution, and Book Adventurer.

Tenderhearts are working on Aviation, Living in the USA, and Bible Basics.

As always, the Troop thanks the Charter Organization for a safe place to gather, learn and grow together, as well as support with fundraisers (be on the lookout for Giving Bean!). May God bless and keep us all this fall!



# OCTOBER, 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Pastor Holle Day Off <b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30 AHG Troop mtg.	<b>8</b> 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Pastor Holle Day Off <b>11</b>	
<b>12</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	<b>13</b> Columbus Day	<b>14</b> 6:30 Zion LWML	<b>15</b> 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Pastor Holle Day Off <b>18</b>	
<b>19</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	<b>20</b> Articles Due for Newsletter	<b>21</b> 6:30 AHG Troop mtg.	<b>22</b> 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Pastor Holle Day Off <b>25</b>	
<b>26</b> Reformation Day 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Fellowship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Halloween 	