



ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

SEPTEMBER 2024

A Few Thoughts from Pastor

GOD IS LOVE ... it's short, to the point, and it makes a "nice" bumper sticker. It is true, God says so in 1 John 4, and it is good news for all of His creation, but it doesn't tell us everything we need to know about God (& about us).



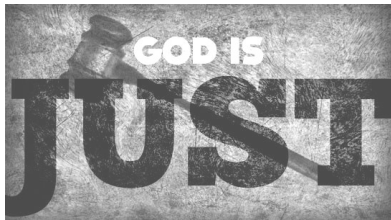
GOD is LOVE
1 John 4:8

Sometimes, people like to latch-on to such simple statements of truth in a way that effectively excludes (or renders irrelevant) other clear teachings of Scripture. They seem to hope that maybe, just maybe, we can all just agree that "God is Love" (after all, who wants a God who is not loving?) and then each go out and do or believe whatever seems right to them? It's a sort of minimalist good-news approach that can be twisted into an almost-anything-goes way of viewing God and mankind.

Now don't get me wrong, God IS love. I teach our confirmands that Love is one of the attributes of God, but the Bible also reveals other important things about God. He is eternal, unchanging, all-powerful, present everywhere, all-knowing, holy, just, faithful, merciful, and gracious as well. I suppose a couple of these might also make "nice" bumper stickers, but some might also make us squirm a bit.

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING! When we're in trouble or needing God's help, this is great. But aren't there things that we wish God didn't know? Adam and Eve wished He didn't know everything; Cain would have preferred if God didn't know about Abel; and even king David tried hard to keep everyone (including God) from knowing about his sin with Bathsheba.

GOD IS HOLY! We say it; we sing it; and few would necessarily argue the point. But God's holiness also has serious implications for those who are not holy. Moses and Elijah and others in Scripture realized this oh so well. Holiness and sin don't/can't peacefully coexist. In His presence there is only holiness, and this is a problem for sinners who lack such holiness.



And how about a "GOD IS JUST" bumper sticker? At first blush it might sound "okay," but are any of us really interested in getting what we justly deserve, especially given what we just said about God's holiness?

"GOD IS LOVE" and "GOD IS JUST" ... they are both true, but they just don't seem to give us the same amount of hope (or "freedom"), do they? But to focus or "settle" for only the first statement while we ignore or neglect the second is not the way to know (or teach about) God properly.

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Let me give you another example. In Mark 16:16 we are promised that “*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.*” These are glorious, good-news (Gospel) words ... “God is love” type words. But God doesn’t stop there, He continues, “... *but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*” Ouch, words of Law and judgment ... “God is just” type words.

But both, properly distinguished and taught and applied, are critical for God’s people. The Law shows us our sin, God’s wrath and righteous response to our sin, and our desperate need for a Savior and for a righteousness that comes from outside ourselves. The Gospel shows us God’s great love for us, it reveals our Savior and all He has done for us, and it invites us to repent and believe. Without the truth revealed by the Law, the Gospel means little or nothing; and without the Gospel, the Law, and God’s holiness, would leave us hopeless, helpless, or foolishly self-righteous.

But the Law is so “offensive” some complain. Yes, it is. Can’t we just focus on the “good” and find some generic middle-ground on which we can all agree? No, such an approach is foolish, at best, and dangerous/deadly at worst, and it ignores Jesus’ clear command in Matthew 28:20 to teach “... *ALL that I have commanded you.*”

So what about those other, non-denominational or independent type churches that claim not to get hung up on the details of Biblical teaching and interpretation? Well, consider these well-written words by Kurt Marquart:

“The fact is that there simply is no neutral, undogmatic, generic Gospel, which may then be flavored to taste with denominational additives, say a dash of delicate Anglican mint sauce here, and hearty Lutheran sauerkraut or Baptist okra there. Every confession of the Gospel is at once and inevitably dogmatic or ‘denominational.’ For no honest presentation of the Gospel can escape the necessity of saying yes or no to basic evangelical ingredients like the power of Baptism, grace alone, universal grace, the Gospel as means of grace, or the real presence of Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Supper for our salvation.”

“Central Lutheran Thrusts For Today,” *Concordia Journal*, Vol.18, Number 3, pg. 87

I suspect that most non-denominational churches (or methabaptical churches) are really just sort of hiding what they actually teach or stand for. If they deny the Real Presence in the Holy Supper, or infant Baptism, or if they discount water Baptism in favor of a tongue-unleashing Spirit baptism, then it’s not that tough to guess what teaching they might actually offer. I know some people say they don’t want (or need) “organized” church, but does that mean they want un-organized church? Hey, I guess it’s timely and in vogue to be independent or moderate or somewhere in the middle where nobody can pin you down, but such an approach is no service to God’s people.

I’m thankful to be a Lutheran Christian in the very best sense of the term, and I will not apologize or be ashamed of speaking God’s Word just the way He gave it to us. Jesus’ teachings, His Father’s instruction delivered to us via the Church and the Spirit, are still good enough for me. My Old Adam (sinful self) won’t “like” it, and it will drive the world, the political correctness zealots, and our modern culture absolutely crazy, but in His Word and teachings there is life ... full, abundant, eternal life in Him who laid down His life for me (& for you). To Him alone be all the glory forever and ever. Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Holle

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

September 8th—Joint Service at Albany at 10:30am

September 29th—Joint Service at St. Paul at 10:00am

with Joint Voter’s Meeting and Potluck to follow service.

Stewardship



Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.



A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO (“Garbage In, Garbage Out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in, and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

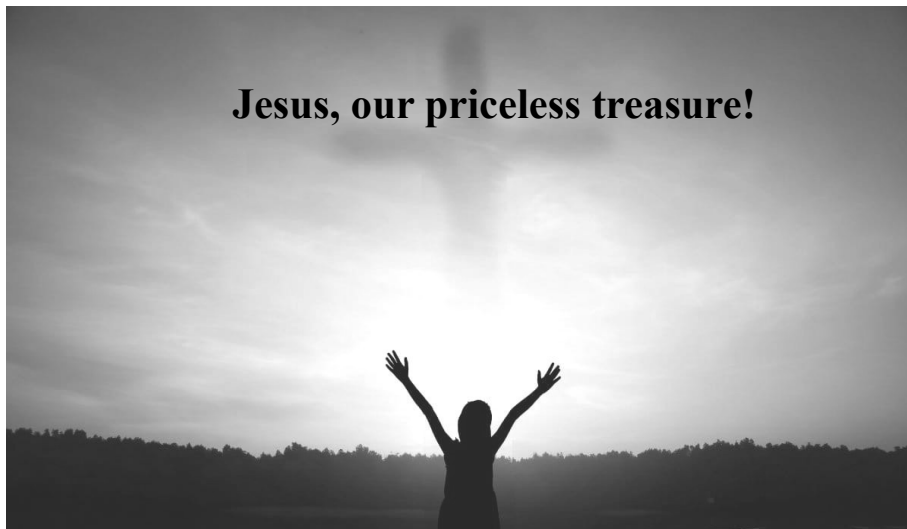


For this reason, the Lutheran Service Book includes a hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

*Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.*

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

Jesus, our priceless treasure!



ST. PAUL DORCAS

St. Paul Dorcas - August 18th, 2024

No meeting was held, but we had our annual Sunday evening picnic held at St Paul. Pastor Holle asked us to join him in the common table prayer. It was a fun evening, we had a good attendance with around 38 present. Doug Kleopfer brought his grill and the men prepared hamburgers and hot dogs, while everyone brought a side dish or dessert to share. Lots of yummy food, no reason to go home hungry. After the meal and much visiting, we had a raffle drawing for a beautiful quilt that was pieced together by Rosalie Mellenbruch and Carolyn Schneider. This was won by Cindy Manche. Leslie Brockhoff also created a beautiful lamp made from an empty church gallon wine bottle (from communion, I could guess it was probably Mogen David). The lamp was won by Joey Meyer. The money collected was to go towards the shipping of kits sent through Orphan Grain Train. That concluded our evening of festivities.

The Dorcas ladies who were present discussed changing our September 8th meeting to the first Sunday, September 1st, due to the 8th we will have a Joint Dual Parish service at Albany.

Secretary, Becky Meyer

ZION LWML

Zion's LWML will resume our regular monthly meetings on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 pm at church following the Ladies Bible Study. Please remember to bring your mite offerings. All women of the congregation are cordially invited to join us in our efforts.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of the LCMS since 1942. LWML focuses on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives through active mission ministries and through support of global missions. As Lutheran Women in Mission, we support each other. It is vitally important that we also reach out to the women within our congregations. As we build relationships with other women, it is essential to make connections through finding common interests and shared experiences.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact our current officers: Anne Arnesen, Diane Davis or Lela Middendorf.

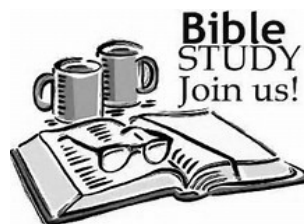


If you have a new phone number, address, or email address,
please make sure you send it to the office.

*You can e-mail the office at
office@NEKpartnership.org or call 785-742-3995.
The office would also like the names and addresses
of any members who are at college. Thank You!*

Ladies Bible Study

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



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Military: Spencer Ernst, Alexander Williams

College: Joey Meyer, Megan Brockhoff, Paige Stover, Gunner Smith.

Care Facilities & Shut-Ins: Betty Allen, Carol Bauer, Gene Rice, Don Robidoux, Bonnie Reynolds, Esther Krug, Doris Rice.

Also in our prayers: David Davidson, Martha Pearson, Charlotte Kruse, Wes Duesing, Richard Clay, Aimee Hampl, Carl Mueller, Sherry Hartley.

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)



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept 4-Marge Stover, Sept 5-Joann Davidson, Sept 5-Mike Dunaway, Sept 7-Marissa Lee, Sept 7-Myriah Lee, Sept 10-Donald Robidoux, Sept 11-Darryl Hoppe, Sept 12-Dean Bailey, Sept 13-Danny Bauerle, Sept 14-Janis Krug, Sept 15-Doug Kleopfer, Sept 18-Jeff Brockhoff, Sept 21-Kim Priest, Sept 23-Jeremy Stover, Sept 27-Bill Priest, Sept 28-Selena Smith, Sept 29-Dwight Kruse, Sept 30-Brenda Rahe

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 1-Debbie & Andy Trent, Sept 4-Sharon & Jim Lowe

SERVERS FOR SEPTEMBER

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

Sept 1st: Dennis & Cindy Manche
Sept 8th: Jeff & Leslie Brockhoff
Sept 15th: Steve & Nancy Manche
Sept 22nd: Galen & Sharon Meyer
Sept 29th: Darryl & Helen Hoppe

Altar Guild for September: Evan Brockhoff, Nancy Manche, Galen Meyer

ZION LUTHERAN

Sept 1st: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter, **Greeter**-David Middendorf, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

Sept 8th: JOINT SERVICE @ALBANY

Sept 15th: **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann & Tim Bianchi, **Greeters**-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

Sept 22nd: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Corey Dunaway, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter, **Greeters**-Dwight & Sue Meyer, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

Sept 29th: JOINT SERVICE @ST. PAUL

Altar Guild for September: Diane Davis & Aimee Hampl

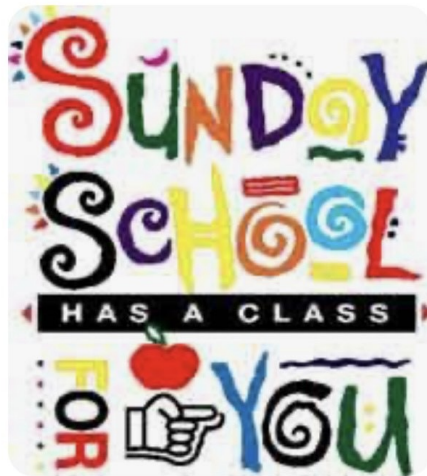
AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS
2024-2025 Program Year Theme—VISION

“I pray that the EYES of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,” (Ephesians 1:18, NIV).

The new program year is beginning! Welcome Back Night is Thursday, August 29. The girls are also looking forward to their All Troop Campout Friday, September 20. The girls request prayers for a safe return to their fall activities and give thanks to God for His VISION for the Troop. They're also thankful for the Charter's support and for a robust, passionate team of adult volunteers!



We will start up Sunday School classes again for children, teens and adults at 9:30 following the Sunday morning church service September 15th at St. Paul.



We have Sunday School classes for children, teens and adults at 9:15 before the Sunday morning church services at Zion.

NOTICE

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



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Quilt Raffle

Beautiful quilt that was pieced together by Rosalie Mellenbruch and Carolyn Schneider. This was won by Cindy Manche at the St. Paul Congregational Picnic.

Leslie Brockhoff also created a beautiful lamp made from an empty church gallon wine bottle. This was won by Joey Meyer.



SEPTEMBER, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 14 th Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 St. Paul Dorcas Voter's mtg. @Zion	2 Labor Day 	3 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	4 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	5	6 Pastor Holle Day Off Stewardship Workshop @Trinity, Holton	7
8 15 th Sunday after Trinity 10:30 JOINT Service @Albany	9	10 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Zion LWML	11 Patriot Day 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	12 6:15 AHG	13 Pastor Holle Day Off	14
15 16 th Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	16 Articles Due for Newsletter 7:00 Joint Committee	17 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	18 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	19	20 Pastor Holle Day Off	21
22 17 th Sunday after Trinity Start of Fall 9:15 Bible Study @Zion Fellowship @St. Paul	23	24 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	25 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	26	27 Pastor Holle Day Off	28
29 St. Michael and All Angels 10:00 JOINT Service @St. Paul followed by JOINT Voter's Mtg and Potluck.	30					