



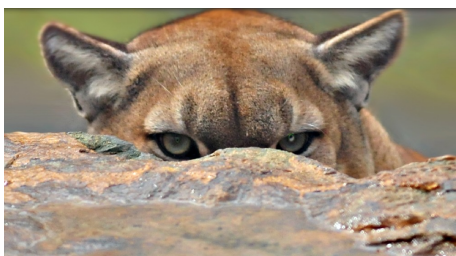
ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

AUGUST 2025

A Few Thoughts from Pastor

This month, I offer these words of warning from God (via Peter): ***Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*** (1 Peter 5:8)

As one of God's dear children, you are one that the devil would dearly love to "devour;" to devour with his temptations and lies. I'm not sure we typically think and talk about the devil enough, or even take him and his evil hoard seriously enough, but we remain attractive prey for the one who once stalked Adam and Eve, and who loves to turn people away from their Lord and Savior.



In his work "*An Explanation of the History of the Suffering and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ*," Johann Gerhard discusses the devil (that "roaring lion") and Judas (& his betrayal of Jesus). In it, he points out another of the devil's tricks or tools that he uses against his prey. When we're being tempted to sin, the devil (and the world and our own sinful flesh) works really hard to make the sin seem "small." 'Everybody's doing it,' 'It's no big deal,' or 'You don't have to ...' all become excuses for sin ... AND evidence that the devil is still at work in this world.

Then, sometime after we've fallen and our conscience (or God's Word and/or the Church) begins to challenge our actions, thoughts, or words, the devil pulls out his second mirror in order to drive us to despair and to give up on God and His grace and mercy just like Judas did. And then he whispers, "It's true, Jesus did die for sin, but not that one ... it's too big ... you should have known better ... you've really blown it." The guilt may very well be attributable to God's Law at work, but the devil is certainly not above trying to build on this in order to drive a wedge between God's people and Himself.



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Either mirror is very, very, very dangerous. I see (and hear) many people saying or doing things that are clearly wrong, BUT _____ ... and then they offer their “justification” or “excuse” (feel free to think about all the ways people complete this sentence in our world today ... maybe even us!). Or they tell me (or perhaps just think) that their sin is too great for God’s mercy. And I wonder, is this truly just their own “reasoning,” or is it really the devil at work? Take care, he’s out there seeking to mislead, distort, and destroy. But he has been defeated! Remember, the tomb was empty; Christ has risen!

Here, enjoy a piece of Gerhard’s work for yourselves ... and please, be careful; be watchful!

Pastor Holle

The Devil’s Deceptive Mirrors

We also have here [in the story of Judas’ betrayal] a reflection of the Devil’s cunning. As he planted into Judas’ heart the idea that he should betray Christ, he made the sin so sweet and easy that Judas did not listen to the faithful admonition of Christ. He went out in blind delusion and did not allow himself to be warned. However, as he later acquiesced under the weight of sin, the Devil made it appear to be so huge and heavy that Judas did not see the Son of divine mercy and the payment of Christ.

For that reason the ancients said that the Devil has, so to speak, twin mirrors which he holds before a man. The first mirror is the minimizing mirror. With it he makes the sin quite small and insignificant. He holds this mirror up to a person when he wants to tempt a man into, and drive him towards, sin. The second mirror is the magnifying mirror. With it he makes the sin quite large and thick. He holds this mirror up to a person when he has toppled him into sin.

With this trick the devil deceives very many people, so that they either commit sin against their conscience with great eagerness; or later despair in vexation over the sin. We should equip ourselves against this, so that we remind ourselves that Christ’s merit and the mercy of God are much greater than the former – yes, much greater than all of the world’s sin combined. Sin is a work of the Devil and of the corrupt human nature; on the other hand, the mercy of God and Christ’s merits are the work of God. For that reason, God’s grace and Christ’s merits are indeed greater than sin.

In His service,

Pastor Holle



The first day of school for the Hiawatha, Horton, and Sabetha Schools is Thursday, August 14th.

St. Paul and Zion members pray for a successful and fulfilling year for all of the students in Sunday School and in the local schools. We pray for all of those students furthering their education after graduating from high school. We also pray for the teachers and families of the students.

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 or call 785-742-3995.

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

Stewardship



Jesus' transforming presence

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for Jewish tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus - at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus!

Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!

ST. PAUL DORCAS

Our Dorcas group met July 6, 2025 in the church basement after the church service. Linda Duesing served chocolate shortbread delight and butterscotch shortbread delight with coffee and water. Evan Brockhoff led our third lesson in our Bible Study “Unshakable” by Donna Snow. This was day 2, Facing Life’s Giants.

President Sarah Kleopfer called the meeting to order and Becky Meyer took roll call—there were 16 members and 1 guest present. June minutes were read and approved. Correspondence was a thank you from Sadie Meyer for asking her to be one of four YWR’s from Kansas, along with 78 other delegates from the nation. Also a thank you to Sadie for representing Kansas at the National LWML Convention. We had the monthly report flyer from Topeka Rescue Mission, and a flyer from Orphan Grain Train. Treasurer Kathy Heiniger gave the Treasurer’s report and it was approved. No officers report. No committee reports.

Under unfinished business: all the ladies shared their experience at the LWML Convention at Omaha in June. The next national convention will be July 8-11, 2027 in Oklahoma City, hosted by Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Texas. Evan Brockhoff reported on VBS that was held June 16-20th and thanked the ladies for snacks and their help during the week. Church cleaning came up and will be discussed at our church voter’s meeting the end of July.

In new business: Orphan Grain Train projects, and we will be making school kits. Sarah, Kathy and Cindy will be attending KAOL, July 26th, in McPherson.

No meeting in August—we will be having our Congregational Picnic organized by the officers on August 24th at 6:30pm. We will be going to Maple Heights nursing home at 2pm on August 27th to celebrate the birthdays of that month.

LWML mites and general offerings were taken.

Announcements: Sharon Meyer will lead the Bible Study September 7th and Karen Bauman will be hostess. Altar committee for August will be Kristina Costlow, Karen Bauman and Charlotte Kruse.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Secretary, Becky Meyer

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COOKOUT



Serving Hamburgers & Hotdogs

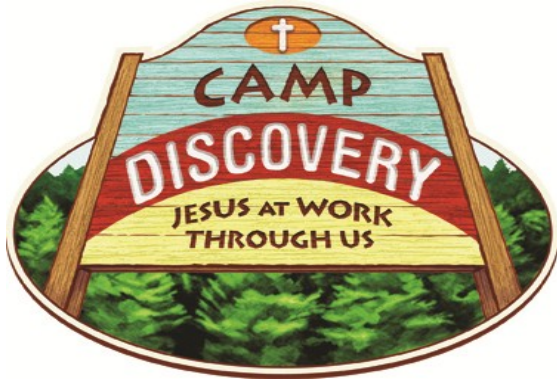
Sunday, August 17, 2025

at the Fairview Community Building

5:00-7:00pm

EVERYONE WELCOME - (No Charge)

**Furnished by: St. Paul Lutheran Church
and Thrivent**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 28th-August 1st
Zion Lutheran Church
Hiawatha, KS

6:00pm—8:00pm
Bible stories, crafts, games, snacks!
Ages 3-12

Registration at 5:30pm on Monday & Tuesday
or early Registration by calling Diane at 785-741-2529.
All are welcome as we all learn the good news
of Jesus together!

ST. PAUL CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

St. Paul will have their congregational picnic on August 24th
at 6:30pm in the church basement.
Drink & Table Service will be provided.
Please bring a side dish or dessert (or 2) to share.
All members are invited! Please join us!



ZION LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha, Kansas 66434

It was decided that we would not hold regular meetings during the months of June, July and August as we did last summer. Any urgent business that needs to be handled can be accomplished with a short meeting following worship services. The next regular meeting will be September 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

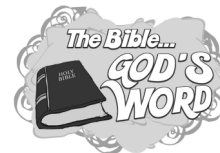


SUNDAY SCHOOL

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, Don Robidoux.

Also in our prayers: Rachel Spann, Darlene Atland, Malcolm Gigstad, Tim Bianchi, Jill Kohlmeier, Tim Bianchi, 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)



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug 4-Paige Stover, Aug 5-Annie Manche, Aug 6-Zana DeJong, Aug 6-Sage Meyer, Aug 7-Larissa Brown, Aug 9-Alisha Barnhart, Aug 10-Sharon Lowe, Aug 12-Hannah Gavin, Aug 14-Darlene Atland, Aug 14-Carol Hanrahan, Aug 14-Jr. Lowe, Aug 14-Camryn Rahe, Aug 15-Allie Jante, Aug 19-Jodi Lee, Aug 21-Brandon Walter, Aug 26-Brian Heiniger

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 19-Bob & Virginia Freese, Aug 28-David & Joann Davidson, Aug 31-Jeff & Leslie Brockhoff

SERVERS FOR AUGUST

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

Aug 3rd: Galen & Karen Bauman
Aug 10th: Kristina Costlow & girls
Aug 17th: Sadie Meyer & Evan Brockhoff
Aug 24th: Dwight & Charlotte Kruse
Aug 31st: David & Danny Bauerle

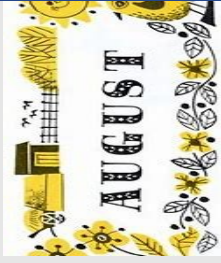
Altar Guild for August: Karen Bauman, Kristina Costlow, Charlotte Kruse, Mark Meyer

ZION LUTHERAN

Aug 3rd: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,
Greeters-Dwight & Sue Meyer, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer
Aug 10th: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann,
Greeters-Killman family, **Sound System**-David Middendorf
Aug 17th: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman,
Greeters-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann
Aug 24th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann,
Greeters-Bob & Virginia Freese, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese
Aug 31st: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,
Greeters-Hampl Family, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

Altar Guild for August: Anne Arnesen & Deb Reschke

AUGUST, 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Zion VBS – 6:00pm	2
3 7 th Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas	4	5	6 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	7	8 Pastor Holle Day Off	9
10 8 th Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	11	12	13 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	14	15 Pastor Holle Day Off	16
17 9 th Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 5:00-7:00pm Fairview Community Cookout	18 Articles Due for Newsletter	19 7:00 Zion Council	20 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	21	22 Pastor Holle Day Off	23
24 10 th Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Fellowship 6:30pm St. Paul Congregational Picnic	25	26	27 2:00 St. Paul party at Maple Heights 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	28	29 Pastor Holle Day Off	30
31 11 th Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	