

OCTOBER 2023



Pastor Brian Holle

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

A Few Thoughts from Pastor

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. Galatians 1:3-5

While a few of you have already heard bits and pieces “our” story, I thought it might be helpful to share a bit more about how Becky and I came to be at St. Paul & Zion. While it’s not the most fascinating story in the world, I believe it is yet another example of how God guides His children, even today, and even when they don’t realize it ... so, here goes:

Becky and I are both life-long Missouri Synod Lutherans who grew up in Kansas near Marysville. My parents lived and farmed outside Marysville (I would claim to be from Bremen), and Becky’s family owned and operated a car dealership in Marysville. While best friends in kindergarten, we lost touch with one another during our elementary school years as I attended a small, two-room Lutheran school just a half mile from my home and Becky continued her education “in town.” Our paths crossed again in high school, however, and we began dating our junior year. Following graduation (1981) and two years of college, we were married in the summer of 1983 by the same pastor that had confirmed both of us (dual parish). Parents of young children take note, I am named in Becky’s baby book as being her favorite kindergarten playmate ... makes you wonder about who your kids are playing with, doesn’t it?

Becky graduated from Kansas State University with a BS in Secondary Education in 1985, and the following year I graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering. I then left my job as teller and Night Manager at a savings and loan in Manhattan, a position I had held since the semester before we were married, to concentrate on graduate school and research. Becky (as was to be the case again almost twenty years later) continued to work full time (then as a book-keeper) so I could go to school.

A year later (1987), with my Masters in hand, Becky and I packed up all our belongings and moved to Gretna, Louisiana (a suburb of New Orleans). For the next eight and a half years I worked in downtown New Orleans (across from the Superdome) planning, designing, and supervising the construction of offshore oil and gas platforms for Exxon. Becky kept busy working in the business office of a posh health club until the kids came along – Katie, Jake, and Matt. We bought our first house in Destrehan, LA (just outside New Orleans), and all three kids were baptized at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Metairie, LA, a church we found the first day we arrived in New Orleans after consulting the Yellow Pages (an “old fashioned” pre-internet form of Google for any young folks reading this article). Looking back, what a blessing Mt. Olive turned out to be, and I still remember fondly those three incredible Sundays when God Himself claimed our children as His own as He washed them clean with a bit of water and His all-powerful Word.

In 1994, I left Exxon and we moved to Hannibal, MO where I had accepted a position with MECO Engineering, a medium sized, civil engineering and surveying firm. Two years later, I became a partner and vice-president in the firm and Becky and I began building a new home, on 40 acres, outside Hannibal. Once completed, our “dream home” became home for chickens (an Easter gift for Becky), calves, pigs, a dog, too many cats to count, a go-cart, four-wheeler, and of course, my tractor. We all learned and experienced a lot in a very short time, and our little “hobby farm” was truly a life-long dream come true, and so it was really tough to leave it behind ... but God seemed to have other plans.

continued from page 1

One week when our pastor was unable to find anyone to lead the service at our small country church (Immanuel – West Ely), he called and asked if I would consider doing it. Little did he, or anyone else, know that I had been wrestling with the idea of becoming a pastor. Several months after leading that service, I called the Seminary in St. Louis and started asking questions, and in January of 2000 I finally concluded that God might, in fact, be gently guiding me on a path toward the ministry, and so Becky and I began preparing for another move.

A few months later, in the summer of 2000, we moved to Hamel, IL. Becky went back to work (this time teaching at the public high school in Edwardsville), I began my studies at the seminary, and the kids started school at Trinity – St. Paul in Hamel & Worden. There were some difficult moments during those four years, and at times Becky and I wondered whether or not we had done the right thing. But each time we wondered, God seemed to be there with just what we needed at just the right time: words of encouragement or forgiveness, opportunities to preach or teach and share the good news, checks from formerly unknown sources showing up in the mail just when we needed them the most, as well as other reminders of His goodness and grace. In the end, my four years at the seminary (and vicarage at St. Paul in Hamel) really flew by, and our “seminary years” in Hamel proved to be a real blessing.

In April of 2004 I received my first call to serve as pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in nearby Lebanon, IL. Following graduation in May, I was ordained and installed at Messiah. The next twelve-plus years would find me serving as Christ’s “under-shepherd” among His flock there in Lebanon. Becky continued to teach in Edwardsville, the boys “moved” to Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville for a couple of years, and all three went on to graduate from Metro East Lutheran High School (in Edwardsville). Katie went on to graduate from Kansas State in Interior Architecture, Jake from SIU-E in Business, and Matt from Murray State in Business. As I look back now, I’m not sure where all the time went, but our Lord and His Church remained our anchor and our rock, and our time at Messiah proved to be yet another of God’s many and abundant blessings.

Seven years ago, in the summer/fall of 2016, I received and accepted a call to serve as pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Bunker Hill, IL. Becky continued to teach in Edwardsville, but by now the three kids (& their families) were living in Plano, TX, Belleville, IL, and Bowling Green, KY. Over the next six years, God blessed Becky and I with eight grandchildren, although He called little Laney & Lilly (Jake & Kate’s infant twin daughters) home shortly after they were born. Katie and her husband Jeff now reside in Omaha with their two – Charlie & Hannah; Jake and his wife Kate now live in Ankeny, IA with their girls, Clara & Ellie; and Matt and his wife Katie live in Grain Valley, MO (just east of Kansas City) with their twin boys – Levi & Liam. And if you’re ever confused when we mention Katie (or Kate) – welcome to our world; Kaitlin, Kathryn, and Katherine must have been popular names 30 years ago.

As I pause to reflect a bit on our “story” so far, I pray that God will be pleased to use my/our service in and around Lebanon, Bunker Hill, Fairview & Hiawatha to bless the people He loves ... that’s you! ... in spite of my many shortcomings. God has truly shepherded and guided my family to places and things we never imagined, blessing us all along the way, mostly with good times and sometimes with bad, but in all things, He has been with us. Some people told us we were crazy, and at times we wondered ourselves, but what a joy and a privilege it has been to take God seriously, to trust Him more fully, and to live, worship, and work among His people. We truly have a Good Shepherd watching over us and guiding us at all times! To Him be all the glory and honor! Amen.

In His Service,
Pastor Holle





*Please plan to attend
the Installation of
Pastor Brian Holle
as Pastor of the
St. Paul – Zion Dual Parish
on Sunday, October 1st, at 3:00pm, at Zion.
A reception will follow the service.*

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: Dale Strobel, Charlotte Kruse, Wanda Barrett, Wes Duesing, Richard Clay, Aimee Hampl, Carl Mueller, Sherry Hartley, Janice Grubb.

We Remember the blessed saints who now rest in the Lord ((Evelyn Jones, Donna Thonen) 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-Leon Wissmann, Oct 4-Shaun Pearson, Oct 5-Barb Shefferd, Oct 7-Betty Allen, Oct 7-Rosalie Mellenbruch, Oct 10-Ray Thieme, Oct 18-Kyndl Koerperich, Oct 19-Richard Schilling, 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-Ron & Jill Smith, Oct 14-Darryl & Helen Hoppe

SERVERS FOR OCTOBER

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

October 1st: Mark & Becky Meyer
October 8th: Carolyn Schneider & Shaun Pearson
October 15th: Galen & Sharon Meyer
October 22nd: Eldon & Rosalie Mellenbruch
October 29th: Dennis & Cindy Manche

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

ZION LUTHERAN

October 1st: **Elder-**Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte-**Saige Stover, **Ushers-**Bob Freese & Larry Walter,
Greeters-Sharon Lowe & Darlene Atland, **Sound System-**Bob & Virginia Freese

October 8th: **Elder-**Kurt Killman, **Acolyte-**Marissa Lee, **Ushers-**Leon Wissmann & Richard Clay,
Greeters-Sharon Lowe & Darlene Atland, **Sound System-**David Middendorf

October 15th: **Elder-**Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte-**Myriah Lee, **Usher-**David Middendorf,
Greeters- Kurt & Brady Killman, **Sound System-**David Middendorf

October 22nd: **Elder-**Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte-**Corey Dunaway, **Ushers-**Bob Freese & Larry Walter,
Greeters- Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System-**Bob & Virginia Freese

October 29th: **Elder-**Kurt Killman, **Acolyte-**Remington Killman, **Ushers-**Leon Wissmann & Richard Clay,
Greeters- , **Sound System-**Leon Wissmann

Altar Guild for October: Barb Shefferd, Lela Middendorf

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 Lela Middendorf on September 12, 2023 with 5 members and 1 guest present. We welcomed our new pastor's wife, Becky Holle, to this regular meeting.

Lela opened with a devotion "Race of Faith: A Positive Mind". The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Anne and approved, and Diane gave the treasurer's report.

A thank you from the Dakota Boys Ranch thanking us for a recent donation was read. Lela reminded that we can tie quilts on September 21 at 1:00 at Middendorf's Hobby House. These quilts will be blessed on LWML Sunday, October 1, and sent to Orphan Grain Train.

The LWML Fall Retreat will be held in Wichita on November 10 & 11, and October 7 is the Fall Zone at First Lutheran in Sabetha.

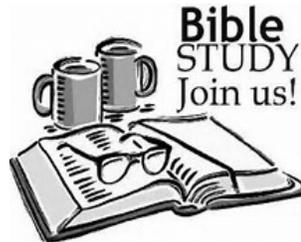
A collection for the program "September to Remember" was collected in honor of someone who makes you smile with the proceed to go to the LWML Mission Projects.

The meeting closed with prayer.

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 or call 785-740-0268.
The office would also like the names and addresses
of any members who are at college. Thank You!*

*Pastor Michael Carney's
Farewell Dinner*



ST. PAUL DORCAS

The St. Paul Dorcas Society held their September meeting after church in the church basement. President Nancy Manche called the meeting to order. Karen Bauman and Kristina Costlow provided refreshments of assorted cream pies, cupcakes and nuts, tea, and coffee before the business meeting.

There were 13 members present. The minutes of the July Dorcas meeting were approved as read. Cindy Manche also stated there were 30 people present at our congregational picnic held on August 20, 2023. Rosalie Mellenbruch and Caroline Schneider had a quilt raffle and will donate \$25 to charity. Sarah Kleopfer won the quilt.

We received a thank you letter and card from Lutherans for Life. We also received a thank you card from Karen and Galen Bauman for their 50th anniversary. We received a newsletter from the Topeka Rescue Mission.

President Nancy made several announcements. Sarah Kleopfer and Sadie Meyer are on the Nominating committee. All of the officers have served their 2 terms.

Pastor Brian Holle will be installed Oct. 1, 2023 at Zion at 3:00pm. Final arrangements are pending.

The NE Zone Lutheran Women Missionary League will have their fall meeting at First Lutheran in Sabetha on Oct. 7th. There will be a Bible Study from the book "A Lineage of Grace," written by Francine Rivers. Nancy had a copy of the book and is willing to share.

Nancy will get together with Pastor Holle about LWML Sunday.

Our next meeting will be October 8th. Linda Duesing has supplies for 50 school kits for Orphan Grain Train. The pick up date for OGT in Topeka is Oct. 13, 2023.

President Nancy led the Bible study from the Fall 2023 Lutheran Women Missionary league Quarterly magazine. It was entitled, "Sent, Go, Proclaim," by Deaconess Bonnie Beversdorf. The ladies participated in reading Bible verses. Whom has God sent? Where does God tell us to Go? What are we to proclaim?

We had our LWML mite collection offering and our society offering. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Cindy Manche, Secretary

OCTOBER, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 18th Sunday after Pentecost LWML Sunday 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 Bible Study @StP 3:00 Installation of Pastor Brian Holle	2	3 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	4	5	6	7
8 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 Bible Study @StP	9 <i>Columbus Day</i>	10 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 7:30 Zion LWML	11	12 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	13	14
15 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 Bible Study @StP Zion Elder's mtg.	16 Articles Due for Newsletter	17 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	18	19	20	21
22 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 Bible Study @StP	23	24 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	25	26 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	27	28
29 Reformation Day 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 Bible Study & Fellowship @StP	30	31 Halloween 				