



ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

NOVEMBER 2024

A “handful” of thoughts from Pastor

As I write my “thoughts” for this month’s newsletter, early voting for the upcoming election has already begun, “turkey-day” is rapidly approaching, and some stores have already begun gearing up for Christmas. Much of the fall harvest has been gathered, and though it remains pretty warm and awfully dry, the leaves are changing, and it seems that there’s always plenty to do. With so much going on, I’m having a hard time picking a single thought or topic, so here are a few thoughts related to things coming up in the next few weeks.



On the doorstep of the election, I’m hoping everyone will read and recall Psalm 146:

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

Veterans Day ... November 11th ... the day widely accepted as the end of “the war to end all wars” (World War I). On this day our nation remembers all those who served in the various branches of the military, serving our nation and its people, protecting and defending the liberties and freedoms we enjoy.



continued to next page...

**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

office@nepartnership.org

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

O Lord, we remember on this day the horrors of war and the mercies of Your providence in the past. We give You thanks for those who have served in our armed forces and the families that have loved them, missed their presence, interceded in prayer for them, and rejoiced in their return. Especially, though, we pray for those families who did not see their loved ones return because they gave their lives in defense of freedom and this land that we love. May we never forget the sacrifices that have been made for us by these courageous men and women. Lord of the nations, we pray, according to Your good and gracious will, that You would grant peace among nations in this time as well. Put into the hearts of rulers and nations the desire to avert bloodshed, strife, and selfishness, and cause all to see the folly of war. You guarantee to all eternal peace in Christ. May Your Gospel be proclaimed that the foundation of love may be laid in Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace. In His name we ask it. Amen



Thanksgiving Day ... an opportunity to pause and deliberately set aside some time, maybe even a whole day, **to worship and give thanks** to the Lord of all Creation, our Savior and God, for all His gifts.

Oh **give thanks to the LORD**; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him; sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Oh **give thanks to the LORD**, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! Say also: "**Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather and deliver us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to Your holy name**, and glory in Your praise. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!" Then all the people said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD.

1 Chronicles 16:8-10; 34-36

The **Last Sunday** of the Church Year (Nov. 24th) and the **1st Sunday** of a "new" Church year (Dec. 1st) ... perhaps a fitting time for faith-based resolutions for the coming year. What a great time to dedicate oneself (and perhaps the entire family) to the laudable Christian discipline of daily prayer, devotions, and reading from God's Word. And what a great time to resolve not to miss an opportunity to gather with the family (church family) to worship and praise God whenever we can (& not just when we'd like to or when we find it convenient).



It's a lot in a relatively short amount of time, and I didn't even talk about Reformation Sunday (celebrated on Oct. 27th this year) or All Saints (Nov. 3rd), and December won't find things slowing down much either. We're entering a busy time of year with lots of hustle and bustle, and distractions and temptations rooting in the here and now of this world, but we do so as God's beloved children, young and old alike. So vote ... remember ... give thanks ... and prepare to begin yet another year of God's grace and mercy even as we prepare to revel in the mystery that is God coming to and for us. And make your way through the "busy-ness" of the next couple of months side by side with your Savior, remaining focused ever and always on Christ, and it will be a time of blessing. ***May God be with you, and may you desire to be with Him.***

In Christ,

Pastor Holle

Stewardship



The consequences of shallow thankfulness

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving - they just don't go together!

This month, we consider the third verse of the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788). Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grand-parent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.



We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny - it obscures the Gospel!

*Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways
unmindful of a broken brother's need ...*

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as free-loaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!



**DUAL PARISH
JOINT MEETING
September 29, 2024**

The Dual Parish of St Paul and Zion met on September 29, 2024 at Fairview. Chairman Dwight Kruse called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Secretary Nancy Manche read the minutes of the previous meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Jeff Brockhoff handed out his report and went over the handout. Jeff suggested each church compensate Pastors mileage at the IRS rate. Virginia Freese moved to accept the treasurer report. Leon Wissman seconded. Motion carried.

Pastors report

Pastor shared copies of the 2025 dual parish schedule. Pastor said everything is going well.

Old Business—None

New Business

In review of the attendance at both congregations, Mark Meyer moved to continue the 50/50 split for the Dual Parish. Kurt Killman seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Dwight Kruse said the Dual Parish continues to follow the district salary guidelines for Pastors. Jeff Brockhoff's report reflects the changes for 2025.

Kurt Killman moved to accept the salaries presented for Pastor Holle and Sue Beyer for 2025. Dan Bauerle seconded. Motion carried.

The Dual Parish can send one delegate to the Kansas District Convention. Jeff Brockhoff moved to send Kurt Killman as the delegate. Dan Bauerle seconded. Motion carried. Leon Wissman volunteered to be the alternate delegate.

Dwight Meyer moved to adjourn. Virginia Freese seconded. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Manche

ZION LWML

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church LWML was called order by Lela Middendorf, President, on October 8, 2024 with 6 members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and Diane gave the treasurers report.

It was reported that 28 ladies were in attendance at the Zone Fall Event last month in Atchison. Fourteen quilts will be delivered to the Orphan Grain Train warehouse in Wichita, 15 quilts to Kaden's Kloset in Troy and 7 quilts to Maple Heights. Orphan Grain Train is asking for cleaning kits and hygiene kits for the hurricane victims.

Virginia moved and Diane seconded that we donate \$100 to the Hiawatha Thanksgiving Dinner this year. Motion carried.

We will be collecting non-perishable foods for the Trinity Center until the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving. A shopping list of items requested can be found on the hallway bulletin board, and food items can be placed in the donation box in the foyer.

Our next meeting will be November 12, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was closed with a Midnight Prayer by Joe Riester.

Anne Arnesen, Secretary

ST. PAUL DORCAS

On October 6, 2024 our Sunday morning service was in part to celebrate LWML and to recognize the women for the year. One example: was of two dedicated women Carolyn Schneider and Rosalie Mellenbruch who worked on many beautiful (25) quilts throughout the past year. Pastor blessed the quilts and they sent them with our other supplies that were heading to Orphan Grain Train on the 23rd of October.

After the service our group met in the church basement. Nancy Manche opened our morning with interesting information about the Orphan Grain Train. Then followed it up with a prayer. Then there was a big task waiting to be done, but with many willing hands, it went rather smoothly, (Assembling and packing 206 kits).

The Orphan Grain Train is an organization that provides humanitarian aid and shares the message of Christ's love. They help people who are suffering from hunger, weather disasters, and political upheaval.

Lord, we thank You for all that you provide for us. We are blessed with plentiful food, clothing, and shelter and the ability to see the need around us and be motivated by Your love to share our abundance. We thank You for all the donations given to Orphan Grain Train. The donations of clothing, quilts, medical supplies, and school supplies have touched the lives of people around the world. Open our hearts to continue to see the need around us and share the gifts that God has given. In Your name we pray. Amen.

There wasn't an official business meeting but, all gathered to work on our service projects. There were 14 members, 4 guests and 10 men present to help put together, 74 hygiene kits and 132 school kits. Hostess for the morning was Linda Duesing with tasty fall treats. Then our regular offering and LWML mites were taken..

In November, Kristina Costlow will have the devotion and Nancy Manche will be our hostess. Altar Committee for November and December will be Leslie Brockhoff and Kathy Heiniger.

Secretary, Becky Meyer



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, Bonnie Reynolds, Esther Krug, Doris Rice.

Also in our prayers: Tom & Nancy Krueger, Don Robidoux, Katie Fry, Jeanne Lowe, 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)



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*Nov 1-Mitch Meyer, Nov 2-Mylia Rygaard, Nov 3-Noah Rygaard, Nov 3-Amanda Davidson,
Nov 6-Janette Thonen, Nov 6-David Bauerle, Nov 7-Bertha Kruse, Nov 8-Wyatt DeJong,
Nov 12-Justin Lowe, Nov 16-Richard Shefferd, Nov 16-Tim Davidson, Nov 18-Sharon Meyer,
Nov 18-Doris Kneisel, Nov 24-Richard Clay, Nov 25-Sara Bauer, Nov 29-Clif Heiniger,
Nov 30-Eldon Mellenbruch*

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

*Nov 1-Dennis & Cindy Manche, Nov 3-Darrell & Sara Bauer, Nov 9-Stuart & Malerie Manche,
Nov 12-Steve & Nancy Manche, Nov 19-Larry & Doris Kneisel, Nov 29-Jeremy & Amanda Davidson*

SERVERS FOR NOVEMBER

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

Nov 3rd: Milan Kloepfer & Ray Thieme
Nov 10th: Wes & Linda Duesing
Nov 17th: Shaun Pearson & Carolyn Schneider
Nov 24th: Galen & Karen Bauman

Altar Guild for November: Leslie Brockhoff, Kathy Heiniger, Mark Meyer

ZION LUTHERAN

Nov 3rd: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Remington Killman, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann & Tim Bianchi,
Greeters-Travis Hampl family, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

Nov 10th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,
Greeters-Larry & Carol Walter, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

Nov 17th: **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman,
Greeters-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

Nov 24th: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann & Tim Bianchi,
Greeters-Kurt Killman family, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

Altar Guild for November: Virginia Freese & Donna Gormley

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

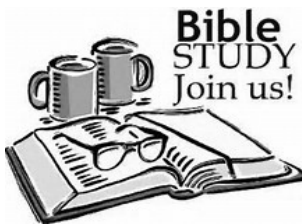
American Heritage Girls Troop KS2315 are looking forward to the upcoming Christmas season! They're revisiting some of their same events and activities, but also incorporating some fresh ideas into the Troop's winter calendar. As usual, the girls will be delivering Giving Bean Orders (thank you for your generous support!) and packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. They plan to have a mother/daughter painting event in lieu of a tea party this year, and also hope to bring some Christmas joy to the community by participating in the Jingle Bell Ride in November! Some members of the Troop are organizing community or Troop events for their Level Award, such as a barn dance for area teens and bringing their talents to residents in local nursing homes. Oh what fun! The girls have also been working with Pastor Holle on their memory verse during meetings: "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).



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!



Ladies Bible Study

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

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



NOVEMBER, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor Holle Day Off	2
3 Daylight Saving Time Ends 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 St. Paul Dorcas	4	5 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	6 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	7 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	8 Pastor Holle Day Off	9 Christ in the Home
10 9:15 Bible Study @Zion Q & A ,mtg. @Zion (after service)	11 Veterans Day 	12 9:00 Circuit 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Zion LWML	13 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	14	15 Pastor Holle Day Off	16
17 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	18 Articles Due for Newsletter	19 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Zion Council	20 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	21 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	22 Pastor Holle Day Off	23
24 9:15 Bible Study @Zion Fellowship @ St. Paul Zion—Special Voter's mtg. (after service)	25	26 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	27 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service	28 Thanksgiving Day 	29 Pastor Holle Day Off	30