



ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

NOVEMBER 2025

A Few Thoughts from Pastor Holle

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

While many in our world (& town) are focused on scary movies and Halloween, the Church's focus is a bit different. On Sunday, Oct. 26, we will recall once again the events of Oct. 31, 1517 when Martin Luther walked to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg (Germany) and posted his now famous 95 Theses. For many, this day marks the beginning of the 16th century reformation which spilled over into the civil, political, and social/cultural realm as well. We will pause to give thanks for Luther and the other Reformers God used to restore the pure teaching of the good news of Jesus Christ, and salvation by grace - through faith - on account of Christ, to the church at large. This central and foundational teaching of the Bible and the Church was mostly ignored and/or greatly obscured by the medieval Roman church, and the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16), had been largely lost. Thanks be to God for His work through these now departed saints.

And then our attention will quickly shift to all the other saints that have gone before us in the faith. All Saints' Day (officially Nov. 1st, but observed this year on Nov. 2nd) invites us to remember and give thanks for those who have fallen asleep in the faith, who have crossed the Jordan River of this life and now wait for us on that "other shore;" to those who have transferred their membership from the rolls of the Church militant to those of the Church triumphant.

Thanks be to God for His work in their lives as well; for saving them and using them to teach/show us God's great love, mercy, grace, and power. We thank Him for the encouragement that He provides through these faithful men and women; for Peter and Saul/Paul (& all the others) who were far from perfect, like us, but who were, nevertheless, chosen and claimed by God as His own. We thank God for the example and model provided by these saints for us - first their faith (created, sustained, and nurtured by the Holy Spirit) and second their lives as people redeemed by God.

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All Saints' always make me think of my father, my grandparents, and all those that I have know personally who have fallen asleep in the Lord. I am grateful that God placed them in my life, and though they were not perfect, they have given me much to try to emulate and imitate. Thank you, God, for Christian grandparents who read their Bible and prayed the "Our Father" every day after breakfast; thank you for a father who believed and whose life of worship and service was shaped by Your Word; and thank you for brothers and sisters (by birth and/or rebirth) in Christ from whom I have learned so much throughout my life.

I know Thanksgiving is still a month away, but thank you God! Thanks for the Reformers and Saints, and thank you for the countless other things You so graciously give. Help us to be more than thankful, or to simply remember and count our blessings; help us to take time to actually give thanks to You, the One behind every good gift. We definitely have much to give thanks to God for again this year (& always). To Him be all thanks, praise, glory, and honor, forever and ever. Amen!

Pastor Holle



Stewardship



Harmonious Stewardship

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

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Stewardship



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Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the base line can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to "carry the tune" for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

ST. PAUL DORCAS

Today, October 5, 2025 we celebrated LWML Sunday. A couple of the ladies were greeters, and we also had a beautiful display of quilts on the pews, which Pastor Holle blessed during the service. The ladies of LWML were recognized.

Our Dorcas group met in the church basement after the church service. There were 11 members and 1 guest present. Karen Bauman served assorted apple desserts along with candy corn and nuts for refreshments.

Nancy Manche gave instructions on how to assemble the kits. We then assembled and packed 118 school kits, 135 hygiene kits, and also packed 21 quilts to take to Orphan Grain Train. Nancy Manche will take these to the warehouse in Lincoln, Nebraska later in October.

Sarah Kleopfer, Nancy Manche and Kathy Heiniger will be attending the Women in Mission Christian Life Retreat. This will feature Donna Snow and will be in Salina November 7th and 8th.

We collected the group offering and LWML mites.

Announcements: The next meeting will be on November 2nd. Bible Study Leader will be Kristina Costlow. Hostess will be Nancy Manche. Altar committee for November and December will be Leslie Brockhoff and Kathy Heiniger.

Secretary, Becky Meyer

ZION LWML

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church was called to order on October 14 with 3 members present. The meeting was called to order by Diane Davis. A devotion was read from the Portals of Prayer on Matthew 12:40.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as well as the treasurer's report.

Becky moved and Anne seconded to send the Hiawatha Community Thanksgiving Dinner \$100.00.

Discussion followed on helping with a food drive for Trinity Center. Becky moved and Anne seconded to hold this in the month of November. We will seek donations of non-perishable food items for the food pantry.

It was noted that LWML Mites were exceeded greatly by 120% nationwide for the 2023-2025 Biennium Mission Goal !

Diane brought up hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner at Zion, and we talked about the pros and cons. Becky thought that we should concentrate on the Advent meals in December. We will host one meal on December 10th at Zion.

The next meeting will be on November 11, 2025.

Anne Arnesen
Secretary

ST. PAUL



Linda, Karen, Cindy and Annalee



Karen, Cindy, Linda, Annalee and Nancy



Henry, Selena and Sadie



Cindy, Linda, Nancy, Henry and Sadie



135 Health Kits



118 School Kits



Joint Thanksgiving Service

***Wednesday evening
November 26th***

***at Zion Lutheran
7:00pm.***

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.

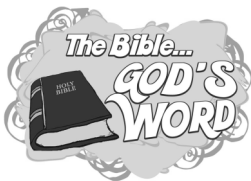
*The office would also like the names and addresses
of any members who are at college. Thank You!*

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: Janette Thonen, David Davidson, Doug Barrett, Rachel Spann, 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)



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov 1-Mitch Meyer, 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-Tim Davidson, Nov 16-Richard Shefferd, Nov 18-Doris Kneisel, Nov 18-Sharon Meyer, Nov 18-Deb Sjulin, 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 2nd: Milan Kloepfer & Ray Thieme
Nov 9th: Wes & Linda Duesing
Nov 16th: Shaun Pearson & Carolyn Schneider
Nov 23rd: Galen & Karen Bauman
Nov 30th: Chuck & Deb Sjulin

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

ZION LUTHERAN

Nov 2nd: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,
Greeters-Bob & Virginia Freese, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

Nov 9th: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann,
Greeters-David & Lela Middendorf, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

Nov 16th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman,
Greeters-Hampl family, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

Nov 23rd: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann,
Greeters-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

Nov 30th: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman,
Greeters-Sharon Lowe & Darlene Atland, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

Altar Guild for November: Virginia Freese & Donna Gormley

AHG NOVEMBER 2025 NEWS!

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)

Coming up, American Heritage girls are looking forward to Our Flag badge workshop on November 8 and a mother-daughter tea party in December! The troop is also looking forward to their service project of packing shoeboxes in November!”

The Troop thanks the Charter Organization for a safe place to gather, learn and grow together, as well as support with fundraisers. May God bless and keep us all!



Pictures from the Bring a Friend Night
and AHG 30th Birthday Priceless Party.

NOVEMBER, 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 All Saints' Day Daylight Saving Time Ends 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas	3	4 6:30 AHG Troop mtg.	5 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	6 7:00 Zion Council meeting	7 Pastor Holle Day Off	8
9 21 st Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	10	11 Veterans Day  6:30 Zion LWML	12 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	13	14 Pastor Holle Day Off 9:30 Quilt Tying @ St. Paul	15
16 22 nd Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	17 Articles Due for Newsletter	18 6:30 AHG Troop mtg.	19 5:30 Confirmation 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	20	21 Pastor Holle Day Off	22
23 Last Sunday of the Church Year 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	24	25	26 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Zion	27 Thanksgiving Day 	28 Pastor Holle Day Off	29
30 1 st Sunday in Advent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Fellowship						