

August

ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH AUGUST 2024

A Few Thoughts from Pastor

The Joy of Giving to God

(Jesus said,) "No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." Luke 16:13

This week, while studying the Gospel text assigned for the coming Sunday, I again came across an incredible text in the book of 1 Chronicles. The Gospel text was Luke 16:1-13 in which Jesus tells the parable of the "Dishonest Manager" and in which He warns us about the place money/stuff can take in our lives.



Of the many things that might be said in connection with this text is the simple, yet profound reminder that **we are not lords of our own possessions; we are simply stewards (managers) of God's "stuff."** My study along those lines took me back to the time of King David as he assembled the officials of Israel, and his son Solomon, to tell them of God's plans to have Solomon, not David, build the great Temple in Jerusalem. And while David would not get to build God a more permanent home (as compared to the Tabernacle), he was able to begin gathering material and riches to facilitate its construction. He gave generously with a joyful heart, as did the people of Israel, and then he prayed:

"Blessed are You, O LORD, the God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all. In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank You, our God, and praise Your glorious name.

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**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@neknpartnership.org

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



*"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You. For we are strangers before You and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building You a house for Your holy name comes from Your hand and is all Your own. I know, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now **I have seen Your people**, who are presented here, offering freely and joyously to You. O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of Your people, and direct their hearts toward You. Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep Your commandments, Your testimonies, and Your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision." 1 Chronicles 29:10b-19*

What more can I add? Amen, David. Amen! Maybe he should have tried his hand at writing poetry and psalms ... oh wait, he did. Thanks for that, too, God, for You are our Shepherd; we shall not want!

In Christ,

Pastor Holle



Zion will be holding Vacation Bible School August 5th-9th.

Registration is the first night starting at 5:30pm.

VBS will be from 6:00-8:00pm each night. Please tell your friends and neighbors!

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Davis at 785-741-2529 or Michelle Moreno at 785-741-9155. If you would like to register early, go to vbsmate.com/zionlutheranhiawatha

Stewardship



When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them." And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures; who gave her everything she had; who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil; who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament; would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts, it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves (children of the slave woman) under the Old Covenant (Gal. 4); we are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs, and heirs receive the inheritance. Everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So, what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide. We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)!

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, and without resources for the poor and needy.



Let's Honor The Lord With Our Giving

"Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly.
And whoever sows generously will also reap generously."
2 Corinthians 9:6



In short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God's gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your

fingers to your neighbors – your family, your church, your friends, your community.

You cannot serve God and money. But you can certainly honor God with your gifts and by returning a portion of what is His back to Him.

ST. PAUL DORCAS

On July 7, 2024, the St. Paul Dorcas meeting took place in the narthex following our Sunday morning service. We had our last lesson on Joseph's story, while we shared treats which Evan Brockhoff made (cherry coffee cake, cinnamon bundt cake, blueberry scones).

In Genesis 42, we looked back at Jacob and the brothers who are feeling the famine and must go to Egypt for help. Jacobs favoritism stands out when he keeps Benjamin at home. Unknown to them, their long lost brother Joseph is ruling (whom they will not recognize). Joseph instantly recognizes his brothers and recalls his dreams where God reveals his brothers bowing down before him. God is forever faithful. We think of all the emotions that must be present and focus on revenge, judgment and forgiveness; all which belong to God. God remains in control through Genesis 42 to 45 as Joseph puts his brothers through a series of tests revolving around Benjamin. After Joseph reveals the truth about himself in Genesis 45, we see Jacob trust God and move the family to Egypt in 46-47. In Genesis 48-49, Jacob blesses Joseph's sons, and rights the wrong done two generations before. Jacob then blessed his own twelve sons. Through Genesis 50:20 we understand, God meant it for good.

President Sarah Kleopfer opened the business meeting. Roll call was taken by Becky Meyer - there were eleven members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were corrected by removing that "Dorcas would be providing the table service and drinks for the service and potluck in the park". Treasurer Kathy Heiniger gave the treasurers report, and it was accepted. There was no correspondence; and no committee reports.

In old business, Sarah Kleopfer reported that VBS went well and thanked anyone who helped put it on.

Under new business, we discussed the congregational picnic which will be Sunday evening, August 18th at 6:30pm. We decided to grill and have everyone bring a side or dessert. We will be asking the congregation in our next congregational meeting if we can use funds from the Thrivent Choice Dollars account to purchase the meat, buns and supplies; our officers will be in charge of organizing it. Also under new business, in October we will put together the school and hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train. Cindy Manche and Linda Duesing will be purchasing the supplies for the school kits with help from their thrivent cards. Karen Bauman and Sharon Meyer will be purchasing the hygiene kit supplies with help from their thrivent cards.

Collection for LWML mites and our group offering were taken. Announcements: the De Soto Kansas Church mission grant has been paid!

Our next meeting is September 8th. Sharon Meyer will lead the Bible study and Karen Bauman will be hostess. Altar committee for August continues to be Karen Bauman, Kristina Costlow and Charlotte Kruse. September and October altar committee will be Evan Brockhoff and Nancy Manche.

The meeting was adjourned and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Becky Meyer

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!*



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, Tom Hansen, Bonnie Reynolds, Esther Krug, Doris Rice.

Also in our prayers: 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 (Darlene Covert) 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 9-Alisha Barnhart, Aug 10-Sharon Lowe, Aug 12-Hannah Gavin, Aug 14-Darlene Atland, Aug 14-Jr. Lowe, Aug 14-Camryn Rahe, Aug 15-Allie Jante, Aug 14-Carol Hanrahan, Aug 19-Jodi Lee, Aug 21-Brandon Walter, Aug 26-Derek Stephens, 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 4th: Galen & Karen Bauman

Aug 11th: Kristina Costlow & girls

Aug 18th: Sadie Meyer & Evan Brockhoff

Aug 25th: Dwight & Charlotte Kruse

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

ZION LUTHERAN

Aug 4th: **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann & Tim Bianchi,

Greeters-Larry & Carol Walter, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

Aug 11th: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Remington Killman, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,

Greeter-David Middendorf, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

Aug 18th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman,

Greeters-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

Aug 25th: **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Corey Dunaway, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann & Tim Bianchi,

Greeters-Bob & Virginia Freese, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

Altar Guild for August: Jackie Bianchi & Doris Kneisel

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).

Every girl needs to know that there is a God who sees her in her high, low, good, challenging, exciting, and unpleasant life moments—and loves her at all times! This Program Year, AHG is exploring what it means to have a Biblical Worldview and to focus the EYES of your heart (your mind, will, and emotions) on Christ so He can fulfill your longing for belonging, speak truth into your identity, and be the lens with which you view the world. May girls discover God's VISION for their lives so they can lead and influence their family, Troop, and community for Him!

Looking back on the summer, the girls walked in the Brown County Parade in Horton, had a wonderful turnout for their sweet corn fundraiser, and the Pioneer and Patriot Unit enjoyed water sport adventures at Duck Creek in Waterloo, Nebraska. The anticipation for August is building! Welcome Back night is Thursday, August 29 and with the year's theme being VISION, the girls are excited to SEE what God has in store for them. The troop welcomes Pastor Holle as their new Troop Shepherd! The girls and adult volunteers request prayers for a safe year, and thanks the Charter for their continued support. How grateful we are for YOU!



NOTICE

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



Ladies Bible Study

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

ST. PAUL CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

St. Paul will have their congregational picnic on August 18th at 6:30pm in the church basement.

Meat, Drink & Table Service will be provided.
Please bring a side or dessert to share.

All members are invited! Please join us!



The first day of school for the Hiawatha, Horton, and Sabetha Schools is Thursday, August 15th.


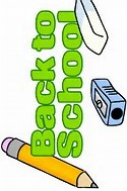
St. Paul and Zion members pray for a successful and fulfilling year for all of the students in Sunday School and in the local schools. We pray for all of those students furthering their education after graduating from high school. We also pray for the teachers and families of the students.

“Things to Ponder”

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set alarms to wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man’s shirt was written a sentence “I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years experience.” That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember—Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!

AUGUST, 2024

| ◀ Jul 2024 | August 2024 | | | | | Sep 2024 ▶ |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  | | | | 1 | 2 Pastor Holle Day Off | 3 |
| 4 9:15 Bible Study @Zion | 5 6:00-8:00pm VBS @Zion | 6 6:00-8:00pm VBS @Zion | 7 6:00-8:00pm VBS @Zion | 8 6:00-8:00pm VBS @Zion | 9 Pastor Holle Day Off 6:00-8:00pm VBS @Zion | 10 |
| 11 9:15 Bible Study @Zion | 12 | 13 6:30 Ladies Bible Study | 14 | 15 1st day of School  | 16 Pastor Holle Day Off | 17 |
| 18 9:15 Bible Study @Zion | 19 Articles Due for Newsletter | 20 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Zion Council | 21 7:00 Midweek Bible Study | 22 | 23 Pastor Holle Day Off | 24 |
| 25 9:15 Bible Study @Zion Fellowship @ St. Paul St. Paul Congregational Picnic | 26 | 27 6:30 Ladies Bible Study | 28 7:00 Midweek Bible Study | 29 6:15 AHG Welcome | 30 Pastor Holle Day Off | 31 |