



ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

FEBRUARY 2025

A Few Thoughts from Pastor

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, **but encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*
Hebrews 10:23-25

Quite a number of years ago the following article appeared somewhere in a newspaper. It was entitled “The Wordless Sermon.” It’s pretty short, it makes a very important point that echoes the text from Hebrews above, and so I thought I’d share it with you this month.

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The minister found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for the visit, the man welcomed him to a big chair near the fireplace, and waited.

The minister made himself comfortable but said absolutely nothing. In grave silence he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs. After several minutes he took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember, and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember’s flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and “dead as a door-nail.”

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. Just before the minister was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember, placed it back in the middle of the fire, and immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the surrounding burning coals. As the pastor reached the door, his host said, “Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the “fiery” sermon. I’ll be back in church next Sunday.”

continued to next page...

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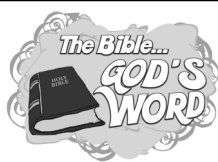
Hours:
8:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday & Thursday
Closed Friday

Gathering to worship, to receive the gifts God gives for the benefit of His people, and to support and encourage one another as we strive to live as Christians in this hostile world is very, very important. And when we think we can do it “on our own” apart from the rest of the body of Christ (the Church), we are merely fooling ourselves and making excuses for what our Old Adam (& Satan) wants us to do, namely, to stay away from God’s Word and from His people. Our attendance and participation in worship and Bible classes is critical for each of us as individuals, **AND** it’s not just for our own good, it’s also for the good of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Looking forward to gathering with you all,

In Christ,

Pastor Holle



MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Midweek Bible Study meets at 7:00pm on Wednesday nights and will rotate between St. Paul and Zion. Please join us!

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.



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!!

Stewardship



God in Man Made Manifest

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The Church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh; that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools.

(Preface to the Book of Romans)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

ZION LWML

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church LWML was called to order by Lela Middendorf on January 14, 2025 with 5 members present. The meeting was opened with a devotion on Spiritual Reflection Questions for a New Year. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and the treasurer's report was given.

Thank you notes were received from the First Baptist Church for our recent donation as well as a thank you note from the Trinity Center for recent donations of food.

Registration for the LWML National Convention in Omaha in June will begin March 1. It was noted that the altar candles have been polished and all candle wicks replaced. Wicks do not need to be trimmed as they are loops.

The meeting was closed with prayer, and the next regular meeting will be February 11, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Anne Arnesen
Secretary.

ST. PAUL DORCAS

On January 12, 2025 we met in the church basement following Sunday morning service. Cindy Manche opened our morning Bible Study with day two of our second lesson titled "The Announcement that Shook Mary's Life". Our study of Mary started by reading Gabriel's announcement in Luke 1:28-29 where he spoke with Mary, calling her highly favored and the mother of Jesus, the Son of the Most High God. When Mary is troubled and asking "how will this be", Gabriel reassures her "the Lord is with you", and tells her that her cousin Elizabeth will also have a son. We read Luke 1:37 "for nothing is impossible with God". Mary's response was "I am the Lord's servant", showing her solid faith and humble trust in God.

President Sarah Kleopfer opened the business meeting. Roll call was taken with 15 members present. The minutes of November and December meetings were read and approved. Treasurer Kathy Heinigier gave the treasurer's report and it was accepted. For correspondence we received a thank you from Tom Krueger's family for our thoughts and prayers, also for preparing and serving lunch at his funeral. Orphan Grain Train sent a thank you for the money we sent from our quilt raffle in August.

Committee reports: Karen Bauman and Cindy Manche are organizing the funeral dinner for Betty Allen. They planned to serve vegetable beef soup and sandwiches. Cakes will be provided by Becky Holle, Deb Sjulín, Nancy Manche, and Sarah Kleopfer. Helpers will be Karen Bauman, Cindy Manche, Kathy Heinigier and Becky Meyer. No unfinished business.

New business: Sadie Meyer will be an alternate YWR for LWML Convention in June. There will be a bus for transportation to the convention in Omaha, deadline to sign up for going on the bus is March 1st.

Announcements: Next month, February 2nd will be our prayer Service led by Sarah Kleopfer. Hostesses will be Evan Brockhoff and Leslie Brockhoff. Altar committee for January and February are Sarah Kleopfer, Cindy Manche, and Elder Galen Meyer.

Collection was taken for LWML offering and also LWML mites.

The meeting was adjourned and we closed with The Lord's Prayer. We then enjoyed King Cake (an Epiphany tradition), banana bread, hot apple cider and coffee served by Sadie Meyer and Becky Meyer.

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: Carol Bauer, Gene Rice, Bonnie Reynolds, Esther Krug, Doris Rice, Juanita Fritz, Don Robidoux.

Also in our prayers: Tim Bianchi, Danny Bauerle, Katie Fry, Jeanne Lowe, Wes Duesing, Richard Clay, Aimee Hampl, Carl Mueller, Sherry Hartley.

We Remember the blessed saints who now rest in the Lord (Betty Allen) and we pray for their families that they remember all who die in the Lord live with the Lord. (Romans 6:5)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb 2-Christine Rosenberger, Feb 4-Nanci Oswald, Feb 5-Cathy Brockhoff, Feb 6-Becky Holle, Feb 6-Larry Walter, Feb 8-Aubrey Rahe, Feb 11-Kathy Heiniger, Feb 11-Tammy Sisk, Feb 16-Avery Davidson, Feb 23-Dawn Stephens, Feb 24-Dennis Manche, Feb 24-Kurt Killman, Feb 27-Milan Kloepper, Feb 28-Margo Fries

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 6-Chuck & Deb Sjulín, Feb 11-Dwight & Charlotte Kruse, Feb 19-Gary & Nanci Oswald

SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

Feb 2nd: Galen & Sharon Meyer

Feb 9th: Darryl & Helen Hoppe

Feb 16th: Eldon & Rosalie Mellenbruch

Feb 23rd: Mark & Becky Meyer

Altar Guild for February: Sarah Kleopfer, Cindy Manche, Mark Meyer

ZION LUTHERAN

Feb 2nd: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman, **Greeters**-Hampl family, **Sound System**-David Middendorf



Feb 9th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann, **Greeters**-Bob & Virginia Freese, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

Feb 16th: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman, **Greeters**-Dwight & Sue Meyer, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

Feb 23rd: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Remington Killman, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann, **Greeters**-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

Altar Guild for February: Lela Middendorf & Jackie Bianchi

FEBRUARY, 2025

◀ Jan 2025	February 2025					Mar 2025 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas	3	4 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	5 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	6	7 Pastor Holle Day Off	8
9 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	10 Pastor gone	11 Pastor gone 9:00 Circuit 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 7:30 Zion LWML	12 Pastor gone	13 Pastor gone 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	14 Valentine's Day 	15 Pastor gone
16 Septuagesima 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	17 Presidents Day Articles Due for Newsletter	18 Pastor gone 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	19 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	20	21 Pastor Holle Day Off	22 Washington's Birthday
23 Sexagesima 9:15 Bible Study @Zion Fellowship @ St. Paul	24	25 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	26 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	27 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	28 Pastor Holle Day Off	