



## **ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH**

### **OCTOBER 2024**

#### **A Few Thoughts from Pastor**

Saved by Grace alone, through  
Faith alone, on account of Christ alone,  
as revealed in Scripture alone  
(small brass plaque on bottom rail of frame).

The four Latin phrases surrounding Luther's seal in this painting remind us of the Biblical truth highlighted above. And while it summarizes the very heart and foundation of the Christian faith, some find it a bit confusing how there are four "sola (o)s" (or "alones") at the center of our faith. So let me try to explain.

You see, when it comes to our salvation, to our being saved, all credit must go to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is the long-promised Messiah (or Christ) that God had promised to send to save His people all along. "All we, like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). It's not what He did PLUS what we do or decide, or intend to do, or even try to do. He died for and atoned for the sins of all mankind; He paid the price; He rescued us. And so, we are saved "solo Christo" or by (on account of) Christ alone.

We also learn from God's holy Word (the Bible) that God the Father sent His Son, and that His Son came and lived and died for us, because God loves us (see John 3:16). Even though we were sinners and enemies of God, still, **because of His great love for us**, He set out to save and to redeem us (see Romans 5:8).



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This great love that God has for humankind, this “favorable disposition He has toward mankind” is Grace, and so we can say with Paul (& more importantly God) that “*by grace [we] have been saved through faith ... it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast*” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Our salvation, our being saved, is a gift from God. We can’t / don’t / didn’t earn it, merit it, or work for it. It’s a gift from an incredible heavenly Father, and so we acknowledge that we are, in fact, saved “*sola gratia*” or by grace alone ... and to Him, and Him alone, must go all the credit and glory.

Now it is also true that we receive this great gift by faith; faith which is, not so coincidentally, something that God creates and sustains in us. Even faith isn’t something we “do” or “decide.” Rather, it is the means by which we “grab hold of and receive” the benefit of what Jesus Christ, and He alone, has done for us. We, like Abraham, are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8 & Romans 4). God given, Holy Spirit created faith is/are the hands with which we receive the benefit of all that Christ did for us, and so it is “*sola fides*” or by / through faith alone that we are saved. It is by faith alone that His righteousness becomes ours (Romans 1:17); He takes our sin and by faith, and faith alone, we receive His righteousness.

Of course, we would have no way of knowing all this unless God revealed it to us in some way. That way is through the Scriptures; through the Old Testament prophets and the apostles and evangelists who recorded His holy Word in Scripture (the Bible). It’s the Word the Spirit uses to create the faith necessary to receive Christ. No pope could point us to Christ in this way; human logic and reason responding to observations in this world would never lead us to such conclusions; and no philosopher would ever dream something like this up ... it is only in the Scriptures, and them alone (*sola Scriptura*) that we know what we know about God and about His plan and actions for our salvation. And so we have His instruction (through Paul) to Timothy (and to us) to “... *continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work* (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

And so, it’s actually all quite simple, isn’t it? We are saved by Grace (alone), through Faith (alone), on account of Christ (alone), as revealed in Scripture (alone). Thanks be to God that He has created saving faith in His dear children, that He has given them the eyes of faith to see and the hands of faith to receive the gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation He has won for us in the person and work of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and praise be to Him for making this all known to us through the holy Scriptures. This, people loved by God, is the very heart and center of the Christian faith. And it was at the very heart and center of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation, and so they became known as the “Sola’s of the Reformation.”

In Christ,

*Pastor Holle*

## Stewardship



Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the Word and instruction of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 6:6).

But there’s more to it than just obligation. We’re not just trying to fulfill a work of the law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we’re not just doing what our Father said, we’re also doing what He did.

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Children emulate their parents. When they grow up, they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents. But there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, and how they do and say most everything. Then children try to copy it.

This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable – and embarrassing situation – where a child does or says something one of

their parents have done or said that is less than polite. Sitcoms thrive on these. It only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents, and they do it because they want to be like them.

We are children of God – by grace through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, “You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins. In exchange, He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit – by which we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

We are born again – born from above, born of water and the Spirit – to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ through Baptism. Since we are sons, we are heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace, mercy, and generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

This is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.



More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As *Luther's Small Catechism* teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

*What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

In other words, He gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. This is not done because He has commanded us so to do but rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

## **SEPTEMBER SERVICES**

**September 29th—Joint Service at St. Paul at 10:00am  
with Joint Voter's Meeting and Potluck to follow service.**

On **September 29<sup>th</sup>** there will be a Joint Service held at St. Paul starting at **10:00am**.  
This will be followed by the Joint Voter's meeting and potluck lunch after the meeting.

The potluck lunch will be at the Fairview Community Building.  
Drinks and table service provided, just bring a dish to share!

## **ST. PAUL DORCAS**

On September 1, 2024 we met in the church basement following Sunday morning service. We started our second lesson from the "Unshakable" Bible Study by Donna Snow. Sharon Meyer started this out with showing a video that Donna had done. In this lesson, we will turn our attention to Mary, the highly favored woman whom God chose to be the mother of Jesus. Before we dive into Mary's life, what about her most stands out to you? When Gabriel told Mary that she would be the mother of the Messiah, she wrote a song. When something shakes your life, how do you usually respond? Mary's life was not an easy one as she watched her son go through the things he endured. Yet Mary trusted God, and did not interfere.

Karen Bauman served coffee cake and a variety of breads which we enjoyed before the meeting started.

President Sarah Kleopfer opened up the business meeting. Roll call was taken by Becky Meyer—there were 13 members and one guest present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Kathy Heiniger gave the Treasurer's report and it was accepted. For correspondence, we received a thank you from Lutherans For Life for sending in donations from our Mother's Day offering at church. There were no committee reports.

In old business, Karen, Sharon, Linda and Cindy reported all the supplies to make school and hygiene kits had all been purchased. We will be assembling and packing them for Orphan Grain Train at our October 6th meeting.

New business: We talked about the Fall Event at Trinity Church in Atchison on September 21st, all ladies from church are invited to attend. Ingathering items for Orphan Grain Train are any supplies for the school kits. Kathy reported grant #2 LWML Kansas District 2024-2026 Mission Grants has been paid. (Concordia Theological Seminary Co-op, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. (\$5,000)

We were reminded that our September 8th church service would be out at Albany Days at 10:30. Sarah will be checking with Pastor about what we will be doing for LWML Sunday. (Possibly October 6th "Ready to Serve").

Announcements: October 6th Nancy Manche will have a devotion before we start working on the kits. Linda Duesing will be hostess. Altar committee for September and October is Evan Brockhoff and Nancy Manche. The meeting was adjourned and we closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Becky Meyer

## **ZION LWML**

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church LWML was called to order by Lela Middendorf on September 10, 2024 with 5 members present. The meeting was opened with a devotion taken from Isaiah 12 entitled Renewed Praise.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and the treasurers report was given. Thank you notes were received from the Dale Strobel family and the Darlene Covert family for the funeral dinners that we served.

Lela announced that quilts for Orphan Grain Train will be tied on Wednesday, September 25, at 1:00 at Lela's house.

The Zone Fall Event will be held Saturday, September 21 at Atchison beginning at 9:00 a.m. Registration is \$5. Gifts of the Heart ingathering will be school kits for Orphan Grain Train.

Discussion was had on supporting Neil Weiland (a former member of Zion) who is now serving as a mission teacher Slovakia.

Lela shared papers entitled "LWML: Time for a Clean Sweep" and "LWML : What's Your Why?" to be used in brainstorming and discussion at the next meeting about the future of Zion's LWML.

Our next regular meeting will be October 8, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Anne Arnesen, Secretary

**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, Bonnie Reynolds, Esther Krug, Doris Rice.

**Also in our prayers:** Katie Fry, Jeanne Lowe, David Davidson, Martha Pearson, Charlotte Kruse, Doris Kneisel, 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)



**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

*Oct 1-Nate Bianchi, Oct 3-Karen Bauman, Oct 4-Shaun Pearson, Oct 4-Leon Wissmann, Oct 5-Barb Shefferd, Oct 7-Betty Allen, Oct 7-Rosalie Mellenbruch, Oct 10-Ray Thieme, Oct 12-Bill Rahe, Oct 25-Kinsley Costlow, Oct 27-Save 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-Bill & Traci Rahe, Oct 14-Darryl & Helen Hoppe, Oct 20-Paul & Judith Cress*

**SERVERS FOR OCTOBER**

*(Please trade if you have a date conflict)*

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN**

**Oct 6th:** Eldon & Rosalie Mellenbruch  
**Oct 13th:** Mark & Becky Meyer  
**Oct 20th:** Doug & Sarah Kleopfer  
**Oct 27th:** Clif & Kathy Heiniger

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

**ZION LUTHERAN**

**Oct 6th:** **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Remington Killman, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman, **Greeters**-Larry & Carol Walter, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

**Oct 13th:** **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann & Tim Bianchi, **Greeters**-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

**Oct 20th:** **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter, **Greeters**-Bob & Virginia Freese, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

**Oct 27th:** **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman, **Greeters**-David & Lela Middendorf, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

**Altar Guild for October:** Carol Walter & Michelle Moreno

## 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).

The new program year is beginning! Welcome Back Night was Thursday, August 29. The girls also had their All Troop Campout Friday, September 20. The girls request prayers for a safe return to their fall activities and give thanks to God for His VISION for the Troop. They're also thankful for the Charter's support and for a robust, passionate team of adult volunteers!



### 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!!

### *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.**



# OCTOBER, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>2</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>3</b> 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	<b>4</b> Pastor Holle Day Off	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 St. Paul Dorcas	<b>7</b> Ks. Dist. Pastors Conference 7:00 St. Paul Elders	<b>8</b> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Zion LWML	<b>9</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Pastor Holle Day Off	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	<b>14</b> Columbus Day 7:00 Zion Elders	<b>15</b> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>16</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>17</b> 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	<b>18</b> Pastor Holle Day Off	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	<b>21</b> Articles Due for Newsletter	<b>22</b> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>23</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Pastor Holle Day Off	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:15 Bible Study @Zion Fellowship @ St. Paul	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>30</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>31</b> Halloween 