



ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

JANUARY 2025

A Few Thoughts from Pastor

*Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be,
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.*

TLH – 85 v. 13

As I work on this month's newsletter, Christmas is just a few days away, and my study and preparations recently have focused on the Baby Mary once laid in a manger. There are so many "lenses" through which we might view/consider the Christ Child, and in that way He's a bit like a carefully cut diamond with a whole host of facets for our consideration.

A number of years ago I came across a poem written by Pastor William Cwirla who wrote about the Christ child, and this month I'd like to share his 2004 poem with you. In it, Pastor Cwirla weaves together images, names, and promises from Scripture related to the little Boy born to Mary (& Joseph). I like to read it, slowly and contemplatively, and then let my mind take me through the Bible once again as a reminder that It (the Bible) is all about Him! I offer it to you this month for your consideration.

WELCOME LITTLE ONE

Welcome little One
Lying there on manger bed of straw
Nursing peacefully on virgin mother's milk.
Warrior, enmity-maker, serpent's head crusher,
It's Your natal night, and we bid You welcome.

Welcome little Promised One
Virgin offspring, unspotted by Adam's primal sin
Death-destroyer, darkness conqueror
Your only weapon is Your weakness,
Your victor sign - a cross.



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Closed Friday

Welcome Sin-bearer,
Unashamed in Adam's nakedness
Swaddled in our embarrassment at trading fellowship with You
For a Lie that said we could be like You.
Yet You are not ashamed to be like us.

Who would have known to look at You,
So weak and helpless
That You are the ancient Promise?
Humanity's Head and God's image restored -
Mystery hidden, at last we see You.

Who would have known to look at You,
All helpless at Your birth
That You are Light and Life
Holding the cosmos in hands
Soon to be pierced for our transgressions?

Welcome holy Infinite
Creator of the Universe, Lord of all
Who left the brightness of heavenly splendor
To make Your dwelling place among us
And walk again with us in the cool of the day.



Welcome tender Lamb
Unblemished by our prideful arrogance,
Passover - by whose sprinkled blood we walk in freedom
Holocaust - sin-sacrifice for the world
Heel bruised for our healing.

Welcome little Savior,
The darkness trembles at Your Name,
Devils shudder at the sound of Your infant cooing,
While we wonder at such wondrous love,
That made You be one of us.

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In Christ,

Pastor Holle

Stewardship



Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

ZION LWML

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church LWML was called to order by Lela Middendorf on December 10, 2024, with 3 members present. The meeting was opened with a devotion by Eden Keefe entitled, "Anticipation and Assurance". The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and Diane provided the treasurer's report.

It was noted that information for the 2025 National LWML Convention in Omaha, NE is contained in the latest LWML Quarterly. Members are reminded that will be assisting the Elders with the Advent service meal on Dec. 18. The food pantry items collected during the month of November were delivered to the Trinity Center, Hiawatha.

The meeting was closed with a prayer of Advent reflection.

Lela Middendorf
Acting Secretary

ST. PAUL DORCAS

Our December Social took place on December 1, 2024. 12 members and 4 guests gathered after church to carpool to Kirkwood & Co. for lunch and after that we ventured to Linda Duesing's house for Christmas treats and goodies provided by the officers.

Our program titled "The Pieces of Jesus' Life" written by Kristen Osler was presented by Kathy Heiniger, Sadie Meyer and Sarah Kleopfer. They described different stages of Jesus' life from birth to his crucifixion and how the different colors of a quilt were used to tell his life story. Showing blocks of fabric that came together to make a beautiful cross.

After the program we had a short discussion on an upcoming funeral dinner for Wanda Barrett, December 4th. Karen Bauman and Cindy Manche will organize this meal of ham, green beans, cheesy potatoes, mixed fruit cup and roll. Cakes made by Kathy Heiniger, Sadie Meyer, Linda Duesing, Deb Sjulín, and Nancy Manche. Helpers will be Kathy Heiniger, Becky Meyer, Linda Duesing, and Emily Meyer. Virginia Freeze and Lela Middendorf from Zion will also be helping out.

Sarah Kleopfer will be organizing our Wednesday night Advent meal, December 11th. It will be beef-burgers. Relish trays, provided by Linda Duesing. Cakes / cookies provided by Leslie Brockhoff, Deb Sjulín and Kathy Heiniger.

We collected our stocking monies which will go towards this years three charities. January Bible Study Leader is Cindy Manche, Hosts are Sadie Meyer and Becky Meyer. Altar Committee will be Sarah Kleopfer, Cindy Manche, and Elder Daryl Hoppe.

We thanked Linda for her hospitality and ended our enjoyable afternoon.

Secretary, Becky Meyer

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

American Heritage Girls Troop KS2315 hopes that everyone has a joyful Advent and Christmas season. The girls enjoyed their first ever Mother/Daughter Paint Party December 5th! What better way to celebrate this year's program theme of VISION? They spread Christmas cheer across the globe packing (73!) shoeboxes and nearer to home delivering Giving Bean orders. Adult volunteers highly recommend the espresso shortbread cookies if you have never tried them! Order your favorites anytime

The girls are looking forward to expanding their minds, skills, and faith as they tackle new badge work this year. Happy New Year from your eternally grateful American Heritage Girls!



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, Juanita Fritz, Don Robidoux.

Also in our prayers: 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 (Wanda Barrett) and we pray for their families that they remember all who die in the Lord live with the Lord. (Romans 6:5)



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

*Jan 1-Carol Bauer, Jan 3-Diane Brockhoff, Jan 8-Becky Nimz, Jan 12-Megan Brockhoff,
Jan 12-Regina Rygaard, Jan 15-Paul Cress, Jan 15-Bob Freese, Jan 18-Liesl Gigstad,
Jan 21-Katelyn Costlow, Jan 25-Brady Killman, Jan 26-Leslie Brockhoff, Jan 29-Kristina Costlow,
Jan 29-Alexander Hinton, Jan 29-Andy Trent*

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 4-Kurt & Sherry Killman, Jan 11-Mike & Donna Gormley

SERVERS FOR JANUARY

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

Jan 5th: Dwight & Charlotte Kruse

Jan 12th: Dennis & Cindy Manche

Jan 19th: Jeff & Leslie Brockhoff

Jan 26th: Steve & Nancy Manche

Altar Guild for January: Sarah Kleopfer, Cindy Manche, Darryl Hoppe

ZION LUTHERAN

Jan 5th: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,
Greeters-Dwight & Sue Meyer, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

Jan 12th: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann,
Greeters-Travis Hampl family, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

Jan 19th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman,
Greeters-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

Jan 26th: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Remington Killman, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann,
Greeters-Bob & Virginia Freese, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

Altar Guild for January: Lela Middendorf

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We invite all kids to come and join us for Sunday !
Sunday School meets each Sunday morning at **9:15am** at
Sunday School at **St. Paul** starts after the service at **9:30**
The Zion Adult Bible Class meet on Sunday mornings at
Please come join us!!



Fairview
Lights
Up-2024

Cindy,
Sadie, &
Karen
handed
out Arch
books,
candy
canes with
a card and
shirts to
many.

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!
We will resume on January 7th!

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



JANUARY, 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day	2	3 Pastor Holle Day Off	4	
5 The Epiphany of Our Lord 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas	6 Pre-Lent Conference	7 Pre-Lent Conference 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	8	9 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	10 Pastor Holle Day Off	11
12 1st Sunday after Epiphany 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	13	14 9:00 Circuit-Netawaka 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation 7:30 Zion LWML	15 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	16	17 Pastor Holle Day Off	18
19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	20 Articles Due for Newsletter	21 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	22 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	23 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	24 Pastor Holle Day Off	25
26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:15 Bible Study @Zion Fellowship @ St. Paul	27	28 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	29 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	30 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	31 Pastor Holle Day Off	