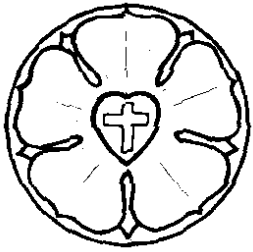


The Pastor's Ponderings

Pastor Erik's cell phone—(906) 364-1035 and email address—grayvolde@gmail.com



Since it is rather difficult for us to gather in any way to do Christian education or formation, I have decided that I will be taking the space for these articles to review and write some small reflections on Luther's Small Cate-

chism. Unless something else comes up that requires a specific article, please follow along over the next months as we review Luther's perspective on the ten commandments. Feel free to dust off your old Catechism if you wish to read ahead or if you have a smartphone, you can download a free version of it both from the ELCA and LCMS publishing houses. You can also find a copy of it within the ELW if you have one at home.

The Seventh Commandment:
You shall not steal.

What is this, or what does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither take our neighbors' money or property nor acquire them by using shoddy merchandise or crooked deals, but instead help them to improve and protect their property and income.

My spouse and I get overly excited when one of our favorite comedians, Charlie Berens, posts a new video on Youtube. He tends to play characters that resemble exaggerated (though sometimes only slightly) individuals from Northern Wisconsin. Among his vide-

os, he has a series called "Midwest Nice," which opens with him mowing his neighbor's lawn since he was mowing his lawn. He then explains that he had some time to do it between driving a buddy to the airport and helping another move. As someone who comes from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, his antics resemble several people that made up my early life.

Do not steal seems pretty evident to most people, but Luther goes a little further with it. Luther argues that following this commandment also means practicing good business practices and going the extra mile to help your neighbor even improve on their property. In a culture that focuses on competition and individuality, this commandment becomes quite challenging to follow due to its communal nature. Instead of "keeping up with the Jones," we are instead called to "help the Jones." While this commandment does not say to do anything to the detriment of anyone's personal well-being, it does make an argument to seek prosperity not just for oneself but also for their neighbor.

It is easy to be critical of people who practice business in shady or dishonest manners. Still, it is more difficult to make sacrifices for the livelihood of our neighbor. We like our stuff, and we often get very attached to "our" stuff. However, Christians do not believe that anything we have or own is entirely ours. Instead, all things, whether they be our physical "stuff" or our relationships or anything else we need in our daily lives, are gifts from God. These gifts are meant for our sustenance, yes, but none of it is intended to be hoarded.

In the wilderness, God told the Israelites only to gather enough Manna and quail for their needs. Some became greedy and collected more than their needs found it molded and filled with worms. God wanted God's people to practice sustainable living in that hoarding was not a virtue. Instead, God calls us to practice business and our daily lives in ways that do not harm our neighbor but help our neighbor to live sustainable lives.

(continued on the following page)

Zion's 2021 Council Members

- Elder & President..... Jody Stanley
- Elder & Vice-President..... Mark Prout
- Secretary Shay Clamme
- Deacon Drew Walker
- Trustee..... Scott Clamme
- Treasurer Libby Stroble

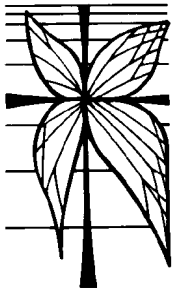
The Pastor's Ponderings continued

Some questions to ponder:

1. What is something your family hoards? How can you give some of it away to help others?
2. What is something you can give to your community to help your neighbors?

Pastor Erik

Parish Register



Judy Willmann passed away on Saturday, January 2, 2021. Interim Pastor Erik Grayvold presided at Judy's funeral service at Zion on Thursday, January 7th. Burial followed at Greenlawn Cemetery in Hartford City.

May God comfort Judy's family with the Resurrection promise.

"If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with him."

February Birthdays

Tim Stanley	2-3
Allen Stallsmith	2-5
Drew Walker	2-5
Makenna Walker	2-7
Griffin Banter	2-12
Grant Banter	2-17
Don Ladd	2-17
Raymond Boozer	2-20
Denise Hile	2-24
Vicki Willman	2-26

February Lectionary Readings

5 Epiphany - February 7th

1st Reading - Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Gospel - Mark 1:29-39

Transfiguration of Our Lord - February 14th

1st Reading - 2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2nd Reading - 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel - Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday - February 17th

1st Reading - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2nd Reading - 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Gospel - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

1 Lent - February 21st

1st Reading - Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

2nd Reading - 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel - Mark 1:9-15

2 Lent - February 28th

1st Reading - Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

2nd Reading - Romans 4:13-25

Gospel - Mark 8:31-38

Community & Family Services

Dear Lutheran Church,

Thanks for your faithfulness to our local food pantry. Your \$1,250.00 blessed so many families here in Blackford.



Without people like you we could not do what we do.

Truly thankful,

Love Mel

December Council Minutes

Congregational Council met on December 21, 2020. Members present were Larry Hile, Max and Sandy Langdon, Jody Stanley, Libby Stroble, Drew Walker. Absent Scott Clamme.

Council president Larry Hile opened the December council meeting with Pastor Erik Grayvold and Mark Prout joining virtually .

Libby Stroble gave the devotion based on passages from Joshua.

Secretary's Report: There was a correction in the October minutes. The deacon's fund had \$816.68, not \$4816.68. Max moved to accept the corrected minutes. Jody seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Correspondence: Correspondence was read.

Libby Stroble moved to give \$62.50 to the Hartford City fire department for educational material to be used in local classrooms. Drew Walker seconded the motion, the motion passed. The money will be taken from the out reach fund.

Michelle Walker asked that the web address of Pastor Kal Rissman be shared. The address is www.ourblessedsavior.org. He has a 30 minute virtual sermon with scripture readings and music each week. This would be a good addition to Pastor Erik's worship service. This address will be in the January newsletter.

Items Added: Several new items were added to the agenda.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Erik gave his report.

He has been able to enhance his virtual worship service; his wife Angy has been leading songs and playing the ukulele and Pastor did a remote service. If anyone would like to play a piece of the liturgy, contact Pastor Erik.

Pastor covered 2 funerals not connected with Zion, because of others being tested positive with Covid.

Pastor commented that he has tried to be in contact with shut ins via phone. He leaves messages, but the calls are not returned.

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

Council Reports: There were no reports from the elders or trustees.

Deacons: Drew Walker presented the Deacons report.

There have been no requests for the deacon's fund.

Treasurer's Report: Libby Stroble gave the treasures report.

There is \$20,512.98 in the general checking fund and \$816.68 in the deacon's fund.

Wernle Youth and Family Treatment Center was presented \$270.00 after a guest speaker from there was at Zion in November.

\$1250.00 was given to Blackford Community and Family Services from Zion's Thanksgiving offering. Drew Walker moved to accept all reports. Max Langdon seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Old Business:

Sandy Langdon moved to give the Advent and Christmas offerings to Blackford Community and Family Services . Libby Stroble seconded the motion, the motion passed.

There was \$70.00 left from the Adopt A Family program. This money will be used to purchase socks and gloves for distribution as needed at Northside School.

Drew Walker moved to accept the 2021 budget as presented. Jody Stanley seconded the motion. After much discussion concerning Pastor's Compensation line, the motion passed.

New Business:

Sandy Langdon moved to cancel Christmas Eve Services for 2020. Libby Stroble seconded the motion. After discussion and with a heavy heart, the motion passed.

With family gatherings during the Christmas holiday, and considering quarantine times, the next targeted date for in house worship will be January 17 . This date can change with information from the bishop.

The next council meeting will be January 18, 2021. Drew Walker will have the devotions.

The meeting closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Langdon,

Recording Secretary



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice®—Generosity Strengthens Communities

Thanks to Thrivent and its clients, Zion Lutheran Church has received \$1,1250 Choice Dollars® grant funds since January 1, 2020.

Grant funds distributed nationally

The Thrivent Choice program has helped support churches and other nonprofit organizations since 2010:



More than \$458 million in Choice Dollars grant funds distributed



More than 585,800 clients participated



More than 41,500 organizations received outreach funding

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Michelle Walker, CFP®, FIC, CLTC®, (765) 212-2307
3621 N. Everbrook Ln., Suite #4, Muncie, IN 47304

*Thrivent will pay the online processing fees for personal donations made through InFaith Community Foundation up to \$100,000 per calendar year.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's [Terms and Conditions](#) available at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

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Thrivent members, please remember to direct your 2020 Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31st by logging into Thrivent.com or by calling 1-800-Thrivent. Any questions call Jan Segedy, 765-212-2307, at Michelle Walker's Thrivent office.

Information received at the church office

We have received news from Melanie McCammon that her aunt, Judith Stroble, passed away in Marion, Ohio on December 15, 2020 at the age of 94. Judith was the wife of Rev. Howard Stroble, 'a son of Zion's congregation'. Pastor Stroble passed away on November 2, 2004.

Pastor Stroble and his wife Judith served congregations in WaKeeney, Kansas; Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada; Saginaw, Michigan; Alma and Republican City, Nebraska; Union City, Indiana; and St. John Lutheran Church (Windfall) in Cardington, Ohio.

Judith is survived by her son, Kevin Luther Stroble, of Marion, OH, her daughter, Ruth Jeannine Roberts, of Moriarty, NM, a grandson, a granddaughter, and a great-granddaughter.

Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center

Greetings Friends,

This has been a very difficult year for all of us. Our faith is what keeps us positive and moving forward. Your gift is always extremely important but never more so than in this strange year of 2020. Churches and businesses are shutting down again. Things are tough and yet you have not forgotten the children here at Wernle. From every child here and every staff member, we thank you for your gift. May you and all your loved ones have a sage and blessed Advent and Christmas.

Thank you for your most recent gift. You are part of a 141-year-old mission to help children in need. The torch has been passed to us and so we carry it on.

Please visit us on our new and improved Facebook page and don't forget to visit our website often, www.wernle.org, to learn more about our current needs and special events.

Blessings,

Chris Parker

Church Relations Officer

cparker@wernle.org

Office 765-939-4598 Cell 765-967-8435

Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven.—Henry Ward Beecher

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Epiphany 5 No worship service	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Transfiguration of Our Lord No worship service	15 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21 Lent 1 Please wait to hear when our in-person worship services resume.	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Lent 2 Please wait to hear when our in-person worship services resume.						

The Zion Herald

February 2021

"Happy are those whose strength is in God, in whose heart are the highways to Zion." (Psalm 84:5)

Zion Lutheran Church
308 S. Monroe Street
Hartford City, IN 47348



February 17, 2021

✠ Serving the Lord in Gladness ✠

Erik Grayvold, Interim Pastor
Church Office: 765-348-3157
zionluth.hc@gmail.com
www.zionhc.org

Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers and if you would like to add to or remove someone from the prayer list please contact the church office. (765) 348-3157

Rita Ferguson
Nancy Cortright
Sue Rinker
Elonda Pethtel
Betty Rinker
Iris Johnson

Carolyn Hughes
Carolyn Ingle
Rebecca Slater
Bill Hartley
Joanne Stoll
Linda Stanley

Linda Rogers
John Brown
Max Hile
Glenda Hartley
Geoff Witt
Reda Belle Nottingham

Military Personnel:
Tyler Atkinson
Dakota Willmann

Zach Forrester

Peyton Smith