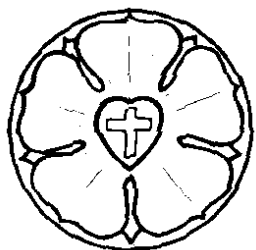


## The Pastor's Ponderings

**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 Sixth Commandment:

You shall not commit adultery.

What is this, or what does this mean?

We are to fear and love God so that we lead pure and decent lives in word and deed, and each of us loves and honors his or her spouse.

This is another commandment that gets awkward during confirmation. However, I do think we focus too heavily on the sexual nature of this commandment as if that is the only way to break it. Once again, we are stuck with a Hebrew phrase that is quite broad, like our previous study on do not murder. For the sake of how short this article needs to be, I am going to focus more on how this commandment disrupts human relation-

ships.

Jesus refers to this commandment at various times throughout his ministry, particularly around the context of divorce. During Jesus's time, people had created interpretations of this commandment to create structures for divorce. Jesus rages against these structures by arguing that they bring harm to the women involved in these situations. Ironically, while Jesus's teachings in the New Testament regarding divorce were meant to protect women and children, the Church has instead created new ways to interpret these teachings in ways that once again bring harm to women and children who need to leave bad marriages.

Central to Jesus's argument, however, is a desire to protect and support people in loving and supportive relationships. The Bible and science are very clear that human beings are indeed social creatures and that we need social relationships in order to be healthy. Even people who have withdrawn from society still owe their communities for raising them to survive in this world. Underlying these structures is the basic unit we call the family. While families can look very different, we as human beings need these family groups to not only raise our children but also to give mutual support to all of the caregivers/providers in the family.

As I said previously, teachings regarding this commandment often focus more on the sexual nature of partners within family groups, but this denies the full scope of what it is trying to convey. For family systems to function, there need to be strong bonds of loyalty and love and other bonds, which can differ from family to family. While a monogamous couple will certainly be disrupted if one partner "cheats" sexually on the other, there are certainly other things that can break the bonds of the relationship. A hidden addiction to a substance or activities like gambling can certainly be seen as a betrayal between members of a family group. Neglect, whether that be of the partner or of other members of the family group, can also create feelings of betrayal. Ultimately, the one who causes the betrayal in the partnership has either sought an idol, such as in the case of an addiction,

(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

or played God by neglecting their need to maintain the gifts of relationships given to them by God.

This commandment should not be simplified to just address sexual betrayal. Instead, this commandment also refers to the disruption of intimate relationships among family members, particularly partners who may or may not have a sexual relationship. While this can seem overwhelming, a beauty of this commandment is that it acknowledge both the diversity of family structures as well as how family structures change throughout time. When this commandment was written, family structures were quite different than they are today. They would often consist of a husband and his wife or wives along with his concubines or slaves. Children were produced by both women with official "wife" status and concubines. Our family structures have evolved a lot since these old biblical marriages, but yet there are still actions that can disrupt the loving relationships in these groups. This commandment is designed to protect those who are harmed by the betrayal and then seeks to restore the family relationship to a healthy life.

Some questions to ponder:

1. Who makes up your family? How do you define family?
2. What hopes do you have for 2021 regarding your family after the trauma of 2020?

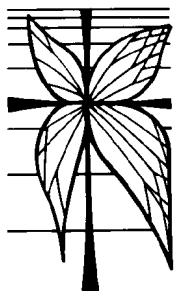
*Pastor Erik*

## Parish Register

Barbara Hardwick passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Interim Pastor Erik Grayvold presided at a private service with Barb's family. Burial followed at Asbury Cemetery.

May God comfort Barb'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."*



## January Lectionary Readings

### 2 Christmas - January 3rd

1st Reading - Jeremiah 31:7-14  
 Psalm 147:12-20  
 2nd Reading - Ephesians 1:3-14  
 Gospel - John 1:1-18

### Epiphany of Our Lord - January 6th

1st Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
 2nd Reading - Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Gospel - Matthew 2:1-12

### Baptism of Our Lord - January 10th

1st Reading - Genesis 1:1-5  
 Psalm 29  
 2nd Reading - Acts 19:1-7  
 Gospel - Mark 1:4-11

### 2 Epiphany - January 17th

1st Reading - 1 Samuel 3:1-20  
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
 2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 Gospel - John 1:43-51

### 3 Epiphany - January 24th

1st Reading - Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
 Psalm 62:5-12  
 2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Gospel - Mark 1:14-20

### 4 Epiphany - January 31st

1st Reading - Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm 111  
 2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Gospel - Mark 1:21-28

## January Birthdays

Carolyn Chandler	1-12
Pat Gillis	1-12
Val Hiatt	1-12
Mike Clamme	1-14
Elonda Pethel	1-19
Virginia Langdon	1-23
Larry Hile	1-28



# Zion Lutheran Church

308 S. Monroe St. Hartford City, Indiana 47348

Parsonage, 322 S. Jefferson St.  
765-348-1326

Church Office  
765-348-3157

December 18, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

On December 17, 2020, the council gathered to discuss ongoing issues regarding the COVID-19 virus and the pandemic. After prayerful discernment, the council has decided to suspend in-person worship until at least January 17<sup>th</sup>. We are sad to say that this does indeed include Christmas Eve services for this year.

This year has been challenging. There is no way around that. We look in hopeful anticipation of what 2021 has to offer for Zion. This year could very well be when Zion calls a new pastor to serve and lead Zion to their next mission. Until then, we do need to take precautions to keep our most vulnerable people safe, as well as those they love.

We will continue with the new online worship format that was started on the First Sunday of Advent. There will be a Christmas Eve e-service, which will hopefully include not just myself and my spouse Ancy, but also other members from Zion. If you are interested in helping more with these e-services, please contact me at [grayvolde@gmail.com](mailto:grayvolde@gmail.com).

We will hope to return to in-person worship on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. However, we will need to pay close attention to how the virus impacts our communities and take into advisement the guidelines and suggestions from the Synod office. Bishop Bill Gafkjen will be issuing another pastoral letter sometime after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Until then, our portion of the body of Christ will gather for e-services.

The council and I wish you the warmest of Christmas cheer and keep yourself safe and healthy.

In the peace of Christ,

*Pastor Erik Grayvold*

## Virtual Worship Service



In addition to Pastor Grayvold's worship service on Facebook: [facebook.com/zionhartfordcity](https://www.facebook.com/zionhartfordcity) we would like to share the web address

for Pastor Kal Rissman's sermons. He has a 30 minute virtual service each week that includes music, scripture readings, and his sermon. The address is:

[www.ourblessedsavior.org](http://www.ourblessedsavior.org).

We had sermons at Zion in 2009 and 2010 that were written by Pastor Rissman while we were looking for a new pastor. He is the pastor at Our Blessed Savior Lutheran Church in Alexandria and also at St. John's Lutheran in Elwood.

## Un-decorate the Sanctuary

If you are available to help un-decorate the sanctuary, we will be meeting on Saturday, January 9th, at 10:00 a.m. (*Please wear a mask.*)

## November Council Minutes

Zion's council members did not meet in November due to the increase in the number of cases of COVID 19 in Blackford County.



# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Christmas 2 <u>No</u> worship service	4	5	6 Epiphany of Our Lord	7	8	9
10 Baptism of Our Lord <u>No</u> worship service	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Epiphany 2 Please wait to hear when our in-person worship services resume.	18 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	19	20	21	22	23
24 Epiphany 3 Please wait to hear when our in-person worship services resume.	25	26 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Piecemakers	27	28	29	30
31 Epiphany 4 Please wait to hear when our in-person worship services resume.						

# The Zion Herald

## January 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



✠ Serving the Lord in Gladness ✠

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

**Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

## January 2021 Lay Ministry Servers

### Worship Leaders

Jan. 3	No service
Jan. 10	No service
Jan. 17	Pastor Erik Grayvold
Jan. 24	Jody Stanley
Jan. 31	Neil Stroble

### Lectors

Jan. 3	No service
Jan. 10	No service
Jan. 17	Linda Baker
Jan. 24	Sandy Langdon
Jan. 31	Linda Baker

### Acolytes

Jan. 3	No service
Jan. 10	No service
Jan. 17	Addison Clamme and Ryne Clamme
Jan. 24	Reece Walker and Keaton Walker
Jan. 31	Deacon

### Ushers

Jan. 3	No service
Jan. 10	No service
Jan. 17	Drew Walker
Jan. 24	Drew Walker
Jan. 31	Drew Walker