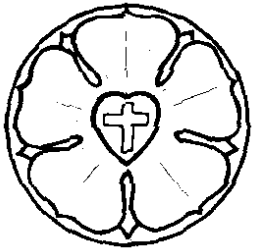


# The Pastor's Ponderings

**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 Eighth Commandment:

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What is this, or what does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.

When someone is a victim of a crime or similar situations, our first conclusion is to look at what the person did that could have caused the problem to arise. Should that person have been walking through that neighborhood? Was that person wearing the wrong type of cloth-

ing? Should that person not have been carrying around that cash? Should that person know that they should not have gone to "X" place in the first place? This type of mindset is called "blaming the victim," and it is an unhelpful and toxic mindset that does not return a community to harmony after a crime is committed.

What does this have to do with the commandment we often minimize to "don't lie?" Luther argued not only that lying was wrong but that any way we manipulate the truth or twist in any way also breaks this commandment. While it is hard to think about how to interpret a crime in "the best possible light," the critical component is to instead see the truth for what it is: a crime was committed. Now the community must work towards justice for the victim. This mindset not only benefits the victim the most but also the perpetrator of the crime since it takes admitting one's fault before someone can be reformed from their criminal activity.

When I worked in a maximum-security prison for juveniles, twisting the truth was common among the boys under my care. When confronted with the reality in all of its harshness, there was, of course, a lot of initial resistance. However, as time went on, these boys did come to accept that they were indeed at fault for the crimes they committed. Well, most of the time. Some just lived in a constant reality where they were always the victim, and the world was out to get them.

Too often, we put the guilt of a crime on those who are victimized by it. This situation is especially true when the person who commits the crimes has a lot of power, prestige, and/or money. When we ignore the truth for what it is, we are just as guilty of breaking this commandment as we are when we speak a "little" fib to a loved one. When we allow the world to dismiss justice when the facts are plain to see, we break this commandment. Instead, we are called as the people of God to not add to the confusion nor stand idly by, but rather to speak the truth for what it is.

## 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

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## The Pastor's Ponderings continued

Some questions to ponder:

1. We all have broken this commandment at some point, whether it is a boldface statement or not spoken up for justice. What are some of your motivations that put you in danger of breaking this commandment?
2. How can we help the world speak the truth more plainly?

## Parish Register



Reda Belle Nottingham passed away on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Reda Belle was cremated and a Celebration of Life Service will be held on June 5, 2021. Location will be announced later.

Imogene Schmidt passed away on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. A service to celebrate Imogene's life was held at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home at 12 p.m. on Saturday, February 13th.

Joanne Stoll passed away on Friday, February 19, 2021 surrounded by family. Joanne's funeral service and entombment will be private.

Betty Bell passed away on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. Pastor Erik Grayvold will preside at Betty's funeral service at Keplinger Funeral Home at 1 p.m. on March 1st. Burial will follow at Gardens of Memory in Muncie.

May God comfort the families of Reda Belle, Imogene, Joanne and Betty 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."*

## March Lectionary Readings

### 3 Lent - March 7th

1st Reading - Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Gospel - John 2:13-22

### 4 Lent - March 14th

1st Reading - Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

2nd Reading - Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel - John 3:14-21

### 5 Lent - March 21st

1st Reading - Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16

2nd Reading - Hebrews 5:5-10

Gospel - John 12:20-33

### Palm Sunday - March 28th

1st Reading - Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

2nd Reading - Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel - Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-17

## March Birthdays

Chris Stroble	3-8
Chris Coy	3-11
Joyce Willmann	3-12
Betty Rinker	3-19
Susan Cook	3-23
Scott Clamme	3-26
Isola Banter	3-28

## January Council Minutes



Congregation Council met on January 18, 2021.

Members present were Pastor Erik Grayvold, Jody Stanley, Mark Prout, Shay Clamme, Libby Stroble, Drew Walker and Scott Clamme

Council president Jody Stanley called the January council meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with everyone meeting on Zoom

Drew Walker gave the devotion from Matthew 2.

Secretary's Report: No discussion. Drew made a motion to accept the December minutes as printed. Pastor Erik seconded. Approved by all.

Correspondence: Correspondence was read.

Mission Support Share - 2021. Letter of intent to donate was sent. Jody plans to discuss this with Debbie.

ELCA Ministries - They are asking for money again. It was discussed that we regularly give to them. So this was set aside for the time being.

Mennonite Mutual Inspection Notice - We need Debbie to set this up. Jody plans to discuss this with Debbie and the process that we will need to go through.

Blackford County 4-H Booster Club - Should we donate? Libby suggested that this would give us the opportunity to use the Rogers Fund. Motion to donate \$150.00 made by Pastor Erik and Drew seconded. Approved from all others.

Proposed Synod Constitution Changes. This was tabled until February council meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Erik gave his report.

More shut-ins were visited via the phone. More know his number now and will answer.

Three funerals were preformed this month.

Church needs to get it's own Zoom account.

Averaging 20-25 views for sermon videos posted.

Problem with ELW, but we have no LBW to use.

Some of the older hymns have now been added to ELW. This may help.

We as a church need to develop more of an online presence.

Committee Reports: There were no Parish Education or Mission and Ministry reports

Worship/Music/Memorial: Nyla continues to practice and play at home. Otherwise, no report.

Council Reports: There were no reports from the elders.

Deacons: The last time we met in church we had 36 attend.

Trustees: Jody stated that there is a sound of rushing water through the pipes in the hallway. Debbie has already talked to Tom about this and he said that someone would be coming to bleed air out of the pipes.

Scott plans to also do a walk thru of the church since not many people are there and something could be overlooked.

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

\$5,234.00 Envelopes, \$224.00 Benevolence, \$1,000.00 Outdoor Ministry (came out of Rogers Fund), \$1,773.00 Food Pantry and Adopt a Family.

Drew made a motion to approve reports, Scott seconded. Approved by all.

Old Business: None

New Business:

How will the Annual Meeting, January 31st, be handled this year? The Annual Meeting will be moved online to a Zoom meeting. Due to the continued closure of church. We need Debbie to mail out all materials to be discussed (agenda, all reports, budget, etc.) A letter needs to be drafted to accompany the materials explaining why we are to move online, when the meeting will be, and how to access the meeting. Pastor Erik will begin work on acquiring a zoom account for the church. Debbie will need to talk to Jody and Pastor Erik to get all details.

Congregational Report for 2020 needs to be filed at the Synod Office by February 15th. The real estate section needs to be an assessment of all buildings and property the church owns. This might be on the last report. Questions were discussed and answered to the best of the council's ability. Libby and Debbie will work on the financial questions.

Discussion about Ash Wednesday and Lenten services. Who will receive the Lenten and Easter offering? Ash Wednesday and Lenten services will be held online. More videos will be produced by Pastor Erik to provide

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## Council Minutes continued

these services. Pastor Erik plans to see what other churches are planning to do and how they are navigating these services online. He will let council know and we will discuss if any new plans need to take place. Lenten and Easter offerings will go to Grace Village and Helping Hands.

Discussion about Sunday services and the pandemic. Council made the decision to keep the church closed until next council meeting on February 15th when we will revisit this topic.

Jody Stanley closed the meeting at 7:35 p.m. with all praying the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be February 15, 2021. Mark Prout will have the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Shay Clamme,*  
Recording Secretary

## Lenten Services

Midweek services will be using Holden Evening prayer as our structural liturgy. A special treat will be an introduction to the ELCA's new supplemental hymnal All Creation Sings. Most hymns of the days will be taken from this new supplement. The themes for the midweek services are as follows (as a reminder, there is always a worship guide included in the description of the you tube videos.):

- Feb 24: Healing from Sickness
- Mar 3: Healing from Grief
- Mar 10: Healing from Broken Relationships
- Mar 17: Healing from Loss of Daily Bread
- Mar 24: Healing from Guilt of Sin

## Lent and Easter Offering



Offering received in Lent and Easter envelopes will be equally divided between Grace Village at Ball State University and Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center in Bluffton and Montpelier.

# March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7:30 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service <u>online only</u>	4	5	6
7 <b>Lent 3</b> 10:30 a.m. In-person Worship	8	9 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers	10 7:30 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service <u>online only</u>	11	12	13
14 <b>Lent 4</b> 10:30 a.m. In-person Worship	15 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting via Zoom	16	17 7:30 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service <u>online only</u>	18	19	20
21 <b>Lent 5</b> 10:30 a.m. In-person Worship	22	23 9:00 a.m. Piecemakers	24 7:30 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service <u>online only</u>	25	26	27
28 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:30 a.m. In-person Worship	29	30	31			

# The Zion Herald

## March 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 ✠

**Zion's  
in-person worship services  
will resume on Sunday,  
March 7th, at 10:30 a.m.**

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

## March 2021 Lay Ministry Servers

### Worship Leaders

Mar. 7 Pastor Erik Grayvold  
Mar. 14 Michelle Walker  
Mar. 21 Pastor Erik Grayvold  
Mar. 28 Jody Stanley

### Ushers

Mar. 7 Drew Walker  
Mar. 14 Drew Walker  
Mar. 21 Drew Walker  
Mar. 28 Drew Walker

### Lectors

Mar. 7 Sandy Langdon  
Mar. 14 Linda Baker  
Mar. 21 Nolan Willman  
Mar. 28 Linda Baker