
THE ZION HERALD

November 2022

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

The Pastor's Ponderings



Our time in examining the social justice statements of the ELCA continues this month with "A Social Statement on The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries." This social statement was adopted at a churchwide assembly in August, 2013 and is (an astounding) 64 pages in length. You can read the entire Social Statement at the ELCA

Webpage: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements>

Because of the very long length of the social statement, it is nearly impossible to cover every aspect of the statement here in a brief overview. I will do my best to summarize the points that I think are the most important to understanding the overall themes of the statement.

- The ELCA acknowledges and supports the ideal of innocence until guilt is proven. The ELCA recognizes that God's understanding of justice is far better than our human reflections of it.
- The ELCA, its ministries, and its member are called to act in response to the cries of those impacted by the criminal justice system: perpetrators and victims of crimes, families, communities, those wrongfully convicted, those who work in the criminal justice system.
- The ELCA gives thanks for those who do their duty in the criminal justice system with an eye toward both justice and compassion. The ELCA calls its ministries and members to pray for those who work in that system as they live into these challenging vocations.
- With the above in mind, the ELCA recognizes that the criminal justice system has many deficiencies including but not limited to: a punitive mindset (rather than restorative), budgetary constraints, inequalities based on race and class, etc.
- The ELCA supports and encourages its members to support: a focus on the rights and restoration of victims of crime, restorative justice, community-based alternatives to incarceration, reform of sentencing guidelines, specialized courts (drug court, mental health court, etc.), focus on safe reentry.
- The ELCA is deeply troubled by the harm mass incarceration causes to individuals, families, and communities. Members are encouraged to support and advocate for policies that: seek alternatives to traditional incarceration, reform sentencing laws, closely scrutinize and advocate for more equitable drug enforcement policies.

November Readings

November 6

All Saints Sunday

- Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
- Psalm 149
- Ephesians 1:11-23
- Luke 6:20-31

November 13

23rd Sunday of Pentecost

- Malachi 4:1-2a
- Psalm 98
- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
- Luke 21:5-19

November 20

Christ the King Sunday

- Jeremiah 23:1-6
- Psalm 46
- Colossians 1:11-20
- Luke 23:33-43

November 24

Thanksgiving

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Psalm 100
- Philippians 4:4-9
- John 6:25-35

November 30

First Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 2:1-5
- Psalm 122
- Romans 13:11-14
- Matthew 24:36-44



• The ELCA advocates for these actions from policy makers: (1) The criminal justice system must acknowledge and address disparities – particularly those tied to race and class. (2) The criminal justice system must acknowledge and address the special needs of juvenile offenders. (3) The criminal justice system must stop the privatization of prison facilities. (4) The criminal justice system must foster reintegration of ex-offenders into the community.

• Individuals who commit crimes must be held responsible for their actions and behaviors. However, enforcement of our laws should be primarily related to justice rather than punitive.

That's a lot, isn't it? When those are the 'main points' it's not very shocking that the entire document is 64 pages long. With that in mind, what do we do with this statement? I've compiled a list of a few things that you might consider doing if you are interested in calling for a more Christ-like Criminal Justice System:

- 1) Call for reevaluation of charges for drug offenses. While drug use is a big issue in the United States, many of those in jail and prison for drug offenses may be better served by additional treatment rather than time in jail. Blackford County doesn't have a Drug Court (a specialized court that orders treatment rather than jail time). Why not call for action on this?
- 2) Take a look at your investment portfolio. Are you (maybe inadvertently) invested in the for-profit criminal justice system? Consider talking with a financial professional who can help you divest from those funds.
- 3) Do you have time to give? Would you be interested in mentoring a young person who may have a parent in the criminal justice system? It's been shown that having a parent in the criminal justice system has a negative impact on children which can create a cycle of poverty that extends generations. Can you provide a positive role model for them?
- 4) Contact your elected leaders and ask them what they are doing to foster restorative justice measures in our criminal justice system. Hold them accountable and let them know you will hold them accountable.
- 5) Could God be calling you to be a listening ear or volunteer for jail ministry? There is an active non-denominational jail ministry for both the men and women in our county jail and there is training available. Contact Pr. Sharilyn if you would like to serve.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Sharilyn



Please join us on the Saturday after Thanksgiving for the Hanging of the Greens to decorate the church for Advent! We will need help setting up Christmas Trees, lights, banners, and other decorations. We will begin at 9AM. Join us, it's always a fun time!

THANKSGIVING PIE EXCHANGE NOVEMBER 20



Last year's pie exchange experiment was a great success! Let's plan on trying it again this year. Bring a pie – any flavor (homemade or storebought) either 8 or 9 inches. Slice it into 8 pieces and then we will all exchange slices of pie with one another. At the end, you'll have a variety of pies in all different flavors and all different bakers! Last year, I heard about a family who were not going to be getting together for Thanksgiving itself (too many blended families, in-laws schedules, etc.) but they got together for pie and coffee beforehand. What a wonderful new tradition! There's nothing tastier than a Thanksgiving Pie!

November Birthdays

Linda Baker.....	11-11
Steve Willmann.....	11-14
Julie Prout.....	11-17
Keaton Walker.....	11-17
Bryce Stroble.....	11-20
Michelle Monce.....	11-21
Clara Willmann.....	11-21
Carolyn Goetz.....	11-25
Shelley Wise.....	11-27
Tacy VanDevender.....	11-29



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief had a pickup in Fort Wayne on October 15th. Piecemakers from Zion gave:

- 214 quilts
- 15 sewing kits
- 3 health kits
- 10 school kits

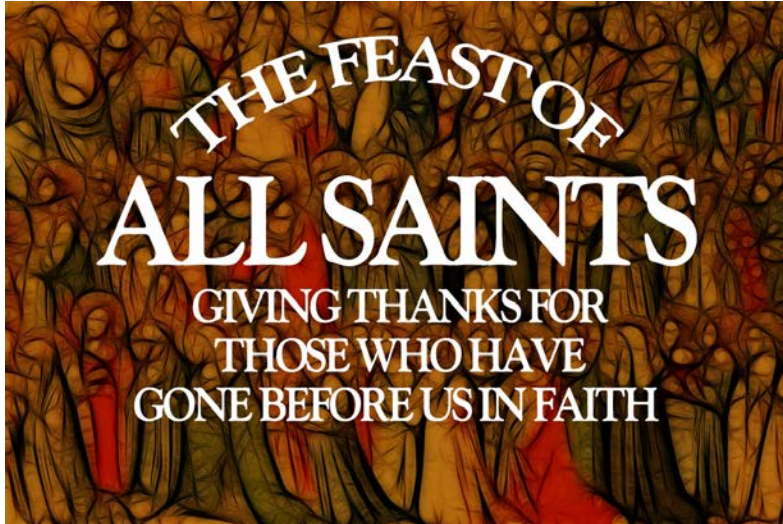
Thank you to all who helped make this happen!

Volunteers Needed!



Since we are moving the midweek Advent services back to 7pm, we would like to provide a light meal beforehand for fellowship during the advent season. Volunteers are needed to provide items for a light meal before each midweek service. The dates are November 30, December 7,

December 14, and December 21. Sign up in the narthex if you would be willing to help!



FOR ALL THE SAINTS...

November 1 has been celebrated as the Feast of All Saints throughout the Western Church since the 9th Century. We typically hold this celebration the Sunday following the day itself as “All Saints Sunday.” At different times in history, the day was used to commemorate (1) Canonized Saints who did not have a feast day of their own (2) All Canonized Saints (3) Saints and Martyrs –

both known and unknown (4) Those who died believers in Jesus.

The word “saint” actually means different things in different branches of Christianity. Common language of being a “saint” is that the person is somehow very good or very Christ-like. The ELCA (and Lutherans in general) teach that saints are not “super-holy people” or somehow special or different because of their own actions. To be a saint is to be a person whose sins are forgiven. Martin Luther described all believers as “simultaneously sinner and saint.”

It's very appropriate, then, that in the ELCA we celebrate all of those who have died in faith on All Saints Sunday. After all, if we are all Sinner and Saint those who have gone before us are as well. We look to the Saints – both the ones in far-off history and the ones we know from our own lives – and can be inspired by them. It can be helpful when the life of a Christian gets difficult: when it is difficult to forgive, or difficult to love, or difficult to accept, or difficult to get along – it can be helpful to look to others who have done it well. It's a time for us to give thanks for the opportunity we had to know and love them and for the things they can teach us about the love of Christ.

I considered cutting out some of the verses in “For All the Saints” for our celebration on All Saints Sunday, but they all talk about something so very important as we look at those who have gone before us. I encourage you to read the hymn sometime again – really read it – and think about who the saints are that shine bright to show you the way to Christ.

TIME & GIFTS SURVEYS

Thank you to all who took the time to complete a Time & Gifts Survey! If you weren't able to, you can still complete one through the Zion webpage: <https://zionhc.org/time-gifts-survey/> or scan the QR code here. If you need a paper copy, there are extras in the back of the sanctuary.



Time & Gifts Survey

Congregational Council - September 21, 2022

Present: Mark Prout, Drew Walker, Cindy Knote, Neil Stroble, Libby Stroble, Pastor Sharilyn, Paige Walker

Absent: None

A. Opening

1. Call Meeting to Order - Mark Prout at 7:01pm
2. Devotions by Neil Stroble

B. Secretary's Report

1. Amend/Approve minutes from last Council meeting
 - a. Motion to approve by Drew, 2nd by Cindy, Approved by All
2. Correspondence
 - a. Thank you letter from Grace Village for Lent Offering
 - b. Thank you from Pastor Nyland for contributions to synod for Q1 and Q2
3. Add Items to Agenda
 - a. Contribution to church for AC in sanctuary
 - b. Followup to God's Work Our Hands
 - c. Special dates for worship
 - d. Collaboration requests

C. Pastor's Report

1. Meet & Know Members
 - a. Membership/Mailing List: Project complete. Plan is to update with the help of the council annually.
 - b. Pastoral Care Visits: 8
 - c. Pastoral Acts: 1 (Funeral-Pam Kizer)
 - d. New Membership Welcome: September 11 (Matt & Jennifer Clamme Family)
2. Youth Education Program
 - a. Confirmation started September 18 with 4 kids.
 - b. Conversations starting with First Presbyterian on collaboration on children/youth ministry.
3. Outreach Program
 - a. God's Work Our Hands (September 11) - Free Laundry Day at Laundromat
 - b. Living Grace Mental Health Support Group (started September 12)
 - c. Regularly being invited to community meetings (attended three since last meeting) on issues including: drug prevention, hunger, mental health, community healthcare, etc.
4. Community Partnerships
 - a. Ongoing local ministerium
 - b. Relationship with First Presbyterian will likely continue/grow in the next year(s)
 - b. Performing hospital rounds at IU Blackford once a week
 - c. Rotating jail ministry
 - d. Town/County Government has requested informal chaplain work from the ministerium (Fire Department, Police Department, Mayor's Office, etc) and I have offered to assist with this.
5. Other Initiatives
 - a. "Tell Your Story" (Spring/Summer/Fall 2022) - Please consider volunteering to speak or write something as members of council.
 - b. Time & Talents (September 11) - Please complete these and encourage your fellow members to do the same.

D. Committee Reports

1. Parish Education & Youth - Drew
 - a. Adult Sunday School and Confirmation have started
2. Worship/Music/Memorial - Libby
 - a. Will be meeting soon to plan for the rest of the calendar year.
3. Mission & Ministry - Cindy
 - a. Setting up a meeting soon to plan for the rest of the year.

E. Council Reports

- 1. Deacon
 - a. Attendance and Holy Communion Report: high 30s, mid 40s
 - b. Assistance Requests: 1 for hotel room, 1 for gas
- 2. Elders
 - a. None
- 3. Trustee
 - a. Boiler in working order? Neil talked with Tom and it seems to be in order.
 - b. Working on leak in pastor's office.

4. Treasurer

a. Report (as of September 13)

Deacon's Fund Checking	734.93
Deacon's Fund Saving	66.24
General Fund, Thrivent Invested	76,982.75
General Fund, VIA Checking	14,329.95
General Fund, VIA Membership	56.28
General Fund, VIA Money Market	55,396.01
Memorial Fund, VIA Checking	17,501.42
Memorial Fund, VIA Money Market	3,654.55
Mission Invest., Memorial Fund	7,040.98
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Savings	1,723.07
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Checking	150.00
TOTAL ASSETS	177,636.18

- b. Libby needs to have a budget meeting. Trustee, Pastor, and President will need to attend.

F. Business

- 1. Blackford County Healthcare Initiative: Questions for synod to be answered soon so decision can be made.
- 2. Contribution for AC in sanctuary: Check to congregation for \$700 designated for sanctuary AC. Neil will pursue an estimate and then present to congregation.
- 3. Followup to God's Work Our Hands: Last minute was a huge donation of quarters so we have \$400 left over. Do we want to do something like the kits again or another laundry day or another outreach? Will use the money to fund Trunk or Treat. Motion by Neil, 2nd by Cindy, Approved by All.
- 4. Special dates for worship: Asked about Thanksgiving or Thanksgiving Eve service. Used to have a Thanksgiving Eve service and Thanksgiving dinner at church. Pastor will pursue the service aspect with Worship/Music/Memorial Committee. Christmas is on Sunday this year. Pastor will plan for a Christmas Day service, as well as check on Margaret's availability for this and Christmas Eve.
- 5. Collaboration requests: First Presbyterian asked if we want to join them during the community Trunk or Treat on the Square to host a hot chocolate, get warm event. Also was asked about 4-H Trunk or Treat. Pastor will pursue both.

G. Closing

- 1. Lord's Prayer at 8:20pm
- 2. Next Meeting: October 18, 2022 at 7:00pm with devotions by Cindy Knotte





November 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Education Hour 9:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am	7 Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am Living Grace Mental Health Support Group 6:30pm	8 Piecemakers 9am	9	10	11	12
13 Education Hour 9:30am Worship 10:30am	14 Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am Living Grace Mental Health Support Group 6:30pm	15 Council Meeting 7pm	16	17	18	19
20 Education Hour 9:30am Worship & Communion 10:30am Pie Exchange after Worship	21 Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am Living Grace Mental Health Support Group 6:30pm	22 Piecemakers 9am	23 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7pm	24 THANKSGIVING	25	26 Decorate the Church for Advent 9am
27 Education Hour 9:30am Worship 10:30am	28 Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am Living Grace Mental Health Support Group 6:30pm	29	30 Midweek Advent Service 7pm			



308 S Monroe St
Hartford City, IN 47348

Sharilyn Wendt, Pastor
Church Office: 765-348-3157
zionluth.hc@gmail.com
www.zionhc.org

Education Hour 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

November 2022

Council Members

President & Elder	Mark Prout
Vice President & Elder	Cindy Knotte
Secretary	Paige Walker
Treasurer	Libby Stroble
Deacon	Drew Walker
Trustee	Neil Stroble

Pastor Sharilyn's Information

Cell Phone: 812-272-2936
Email: sharilyn.wendt@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9am-Noon
Other Times by Appointment
Please call first to be sure she is in!

Sunday Servants

Lector

November 6 - Mark Prout
November 13 - Matt Clamme
November 20 - Mark Prout
November 23 - Mark Prout
November 27 - Mark Prout

Acolyte

November 6 - Clamme Family
November 13 - Walker Family
November 20 - Clamme Family
November 27 - Walker Family

Assisting Minister

November 6 - Mark Prout
November 20 - Michelle Walker