
THE ZION HERALD

September 2025

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

The Pastor's Ponderings

Last month I wrote about The Solas of the Reformation (Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Christ Alone, Glory of God Alone) and today, I want to talk about the Reformation idea of "Law & Gospel."

Let's start with some definitions. In this context, "Law" most often describes The Laws of Moses – that is, the Law given to the people by God through Moses. For Lutherans, we describe The Law of Moses in three different ways:

- (1)The Moral Laws – laws that instruct how to live in ways that show our love to God and our neighbor.
- (2)The Civil Laws – laws that were given to the people as a way to govern themselves. If you've ever attempted to get through the book of Leviticus, you encountered many of the Civil Law.
- (3)The Ceremonial Laws – laws that were given to guide the people in the proper way to worship including temple sacrifice and other rites and ordinances.

Lutherans teach that the second and third categories can inspire or enlighten us, but are not commands for Gentiles. The second is for one particular group and the third is made redundant by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. However, the first category – the Moral Laws – still hold value and importance to modern-day Christians. We should continue to strive to uphold the Moral Laws.

"Gospel" in a Lutheran context is best described as "promises." The promises that God makes to us.

Because the term "Gospel" is also used for the first four books of the New Testament or describing the message of Jesus, people sometimes mistakenly assume that the Old Testament contains "Law" and the New Testament contains "Gospel," but that's not precisely the case. After all, didn't God give Noah the promise that the world would never again be destroyed by a flood? God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have many descendants.

September Readings

September 7

13th Sunday after Pentecost

- Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- Psalm 1
- Philemon 1-21
- Luke 14:25-33

September 14

14th Sunday after Pentecost

- Exodus 32:7-14
- Psalm 51:1-10
- 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- Luke 15:1-10

September 21

15th Sunday after Pentecost

- Amos 8:4-7
- Psalm 113
- 1 Timothy 2:1-7
- Luke 16:1-13

September 28

16th Sunday after Pentecost

- Amos 6:1a,4-7
- Psalm 146
- 1 Timothy 6:6-19
- Luke 16:19-31

Because we believe so strongly in salvation through Grace, Lutherans also sometimes have a tendency to assume that “Law” is something that Jesus says “no” to or that after Jesus, there was no need for “Law.” This would be a mistake.

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:36-40 (NRSVue)

Jesus gave us Moral Laws as well. Jesus commanded us to love our neighbor. Jesus even gave us new moral laws - to love one another as he loves us. Jesus commanded us to feed the hungry, shelter the stranger, and love our enemies. These are all examples of “law.”

The Law & Gospel framework is helpful for many things, but one of the most powerful is in scripture reading. When you are reading or studying scripture and you struggle with how to make it a part of your life, ask:

(1)Where is the Law in this passage? What is the command? What is the moral teaching I can take from this passage?

(2)What is the Gospel or Promise in this passage? How is God’s action described or shown? What describes God as a god who would choose to come to earth to die for our salvation?

If you can answer those two questions – or even just ponder the questions – scripture can open new understandings for you every time you read it.

In the next few weeks, consider taking one of the lessons we read during worship and looking for the Law and Gospel in the passage. It can be eye-opening indeed!

In Christian Love,
Pastor Sharilyn

September Birthdays

Don Goetz 9-9
Tanner Hendricks 9-11
Barbara Schoel 9-15
Viola Willmann 9-19
Dennis Walker 9-23
Iris Johnson 9-25
Gene Banter 9-27
Max Langdon 9-28
Autumn McCammon 9-29

God's Work - Our Hands

We will be postponing God's Work Our Hands Sunday until later this Fall. DOK Laundry is putting in some new machines and/or fixing others, so we will wait until they are near full capacity before we host our annual free laundry day.



Baptism - September 14, 2025

Be certain to come to worship on Sunday, **September 14** for a baptism! We will welcome Monroe Glancy, son of Brody and Autumn Glancy, as the newest member of Zion Lutheran Church and celebrate his entrance into the Body of Christ.



Volunteers

We are looking for some volunteers to assist in maintaining our oil altar candles. There is a small learning curve to the process, but it is fairly straight forward. Let Pastor Sharilyn know if you are interested!



Sunday Morning Education Hour

Would you like to participate in Sunday morning study of scripture or other topics? Pastor Sharilyn is looking to determine if there is interest in doing this and who might be interested in joining. Watch for an opportunity to sign up as interested during church or let Pastor Sharilyn know.



Deacon's Fund

Our Deacon's Fund helps in our local community with assistance for things such as gas, rent, or groceries. It is funded by direct contributions and 10% of all benevolence funds. As of our August council meeting, our Deacon's Fund has run low. If you are interested in directing your gifts to this fund, you can indicate this on your offering envelope. Thank you for always being a generous congregation to our various ministries!



Church Picnic and Worship

Our friends at First Presbyterian have invited us to their annual church picnic! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 21**. The only thing required will be a lawn chair and a dish to pass. Watch your bulletins for more details!



Pastor Sharilyn Out of the Office

Pastor Sharilyn will be out of the office from September 17 - September 30. You should assume that she will not receive voicemail/text/email during this time out of the office as her online access will be very limited. We will have lay worship leaders on the Sundays during that time and our communion schedule will shift somewhat. You can see the communion schedule on the calendar or watch your church bulletin announcements. If you have pastoral care needs during the time she is out of the office, our church council members will have contact information for pastors who will be on call.

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting July 22, 2025 Minutes

Matt Clamme was absent. Paige Walker called the meeting to order. Sandy Langdon gave devotions on Psalm 138. Neil Stroble moved to accept the minutes from the May meeting. Mark Prout seconded. The motion passed.

The Pastor's report is as follows: there were 5 pastoral care visits in May and 4 in June. Zion partnered with First Presbyterian, Grace Methodist, and Trinity Church for VBS at the 4-H Fair. There was a good turnout of children. The other churches will probably help with expenses. Neil Stroble moved to give any funds received from the other congregations to the Junior Leaders/FFA in appreciation for letting us use their building. Zion purchased one dairy steer and one hog at the fair from designated outreach fund. The meat from these animals will be given to the local food pantry. Other churches/organizations seem interested in this outreach. Pastor will reach out to ELCA World Hunger concerning a grant for next year. A graveside service for Mr. Richard Kinney on May 9, 2025. September 7 is the tentative date for GWOH free laundry. Pastor will be out for vacation from September 18 - October 1.

There were no committee reports. Deacon, Drew Walker, reported attendance for May and June between 30 and 40. There were 5 requests for assistance these 2 months. Elder, Mark Prout, said lay leaders will cover Pastor during her vacation. Trustee, Neil Stroble, reported that there has been a toilet leak in the men's restroom that was taken care of. Tim Cain will mow the grass and insurance has been notified of wind damage on the front of the church's gutter. Repair is being taken care of. Treasurer Matt Clamme gave the following report as of June 30:

Deacon's Fund Checking	\$996.93
Deacon's Fund Savings	\$66.76
Thrivent Invested	\$88,895.59
General Fund Checking	\$3,330.33
VIA Membership	\$46,896.73
General Fund Money Market	\$107.25
Memorial Fund Checking	\$10,639.44
Memorial Fund Money Market	\$16,514.28
Memorial Fund Mission Investment	\$7,113.93
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Savings	\$2,344.70
ZLCW Kitchen Funds Checking	\$150.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$177,055.94

Sandy Langdon moved to revisit the question of having an outdoor worship next year. Drew Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed. The semi-annual meeting packet was reviewed.

The meeting closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer. The next council meeting will be August 19, 2025. Neil Stroble will have devotions.

Respectively submitted,
Sandy Langdon

September 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am					
Worship & Communion 10:30am	Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am	Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9:00am				
Worship & Communion 10:30am	Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am	Council Meeting in Library 7:00pm	Pastor Out of Office			
Picnic & Worship with First Presbyterian		Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9:00am	Pastor Out of Office			
Worship 10:30am						
Pastor Out of Office						



**308 S Monroe St
Hartford City, IN 47348**

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

Worship at 10:30am

Pastor Sharilyn's Information

Cell Phone: 812-272-2936

Email: sharilyn.wendt@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday: 9am-Noon

Other Times by Appointment

Please call first to be sure she is in!

2025 Council Members

President & Elder	Paige Walker
Vice President & Elder	Mark Prout
Secretary	Sandy Langdon
Treasurer	Matt Clamme
Deacon	Drew Walker
Trustee	Neil Stroble

September Sunday Servants

Greeters

Sept 7 - Peggy Willmann; Tom Armstrong

Sept 14 - Claretta Dutro; Tom Armstrong

Sept 28 - Claretta Dutro; Joyce Willmann

Lector

Sept 7 - Mark Prout

Sept 14 - Mark Prout

Sept 28 - Mark Prout

Assisting/Lay Minister

Sept 7 - Michelle Walker

Sept 14 - Michelle Walker

Sept 28 - Mark Prout