
THE ZION HERALD

November 2025

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

The Pastor's Ponderings



I thought I would try something a little different this month and talk about the place for animals in our faith. Most of you know that I love animals – I have a cat, Samwise, and many of you met my dog, Charlie, before he died. I know that many of you also have animal companions or had them in the past. Animals are a big part of our life – whether it is livestock animals, pets, or wildlife. So, what does our faith teach us about animals?

One of the questions pastors will often get – especially from young people but it happens with people of all ages – is about what happens to our pets when they die. The difficult answer to this question is that we don't really know. Scripture is (appropriately!) concerned with our own salvation and doesn't talk about the role of animals in heaven or in the promised New Creation when Jesus returns. There are those that believe that animals don't receive the promise of salvation because – unlike humans – they believe animals don't have a soul. That's something that – to be blunt – this pastor has some trouble believing.

Martin Luther and Tölpel: There are accounts of Luther's interaction with his dog who was named "Tölpel," which isn't a very flattering name (it means "fool" or "numskull" but it seems to have been a teasing name said in love). Tölpel was a beloved family pet and one of my favorite stories is when Luther looked at his dog who was begging at the supper table and said, "Oh, if I could only pray the way this dog watches the meat! All his thoughts are concentrated on the piece of meat. Otherwise he has no thought, wish, or hope." There is another story where Luther is described as looking at his dog and saying: "Be thou comforted, little dog, Thou too in Resurrection shall have a little golden tail." While I can't say that scripture tells us dogs will share in the glory of the resurrection with us, that Martin Luther believed they would!

We also get some great information about animals in the story of creation:

Genesis 1: Human beings are given stewardship (or "dominion") of animals but I think that's only part of what we ought to learn from the story of creation. Notice first that God's initial intention was to create a world where animals and humans ate plants alone. "... every green plant for food." When creating the animals, God also called the creation "very good."

November Readings

November 2

All Saints Day

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

November 9

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

- Job 19:23-27a
- Psalm 17:1-9
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17
- Luke 20:27-38

November 16

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

November 23

Christ the King Sunday

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

November 27

Thanksgiving

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

November 30

1st Sunday of Advent

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

The creation was called “very good” before humanity was on the scene. That tells me that the animals are a part of the “good creation” and not only “good” because they are useful to humans.

Food Choices: As people who have stewardship of the animal kingdom, it’s our job to safeguard it. As I was doing some reading on this topic, I discovered a movement within Christianity that claims Christians should choose vegan or vegetarian diets because to do otherwise would be to harm God’s Creation. I’ll admit this cheeseburger-loving pastor pushed back at that a bit and I’m not quite sure God is calling us to live in that way. I do think, however, that if we choose to eat meat and animal products, we can be better stewards of God’s creation by calling for humane conditions for livestock animals and more humane meat production. Can you purchase from smaller producers or from cooperatives that have a high standard of animal welfare? Can you purchase seafood from companies that promise to harvest sustainably? It’s wise to remember that we have the food we do because God grants us stewardship over animals and plants – and to be grateful for that specifically.

The Wild Beasts Describe God: Scripture mentions animals many times in many different ways. You may remember that Jesus told the disciples that God knows when even a sparrow falls to the ground (Matthew 10) and reminds us that we are worth more than many sparrows. The prophet Isaiah illustrates the peace that comes with the promised Messiah by saying, “The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.” God’s nature is clearly illustrated through animals.

There are so many more examples of how animals can be a part of our life of faith. What are some that you can think of?

In Christian Love,
Pastor Sharilyn

Hanging of the Greens



Join us on Saturday, November 29 at 9:00am as we decorate Zion for the Advent and Christmas season! All ages are welcome--many hands make light work! Thank you for helping us prepare our sanctuary for the weeks of joyful expectation!

Piecemakers Report

Every year, Zion participates with Lutheran churches throughout the United States in providing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. This year, Zion provided 167 quilts for those in need! What an amazing gift of time, love, and compassion! Thank you to our Piecemakers for their contribution to Lutheran World Relief and serving our neighbors around the world.



Join us as we gather to give thanks to God for our blessings at our annual Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00pm.
All are welcome!

2026 Council Election

On Sunday, November 16 please plan on staying after worship for a quick meeting to elect our 2026 Council. Nominees are:

Elder/VP: *Paige Walker*
Secretary: *Sandy Langdon*
Treasurer: *Matt Clamme*
Trustee: *Neil Stroble*
Deacon: *Scott Clamme*
Cemetery Trustee: *Chris Stroble*



ALL SAINTS' DAY

All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. It is a day of remembering those who have gone before us, and whose baptism is now complete.

Please keep the families and friends of those who have died since our last All Saints celebration in your prayers.

Merrill Nottingham - June 1, 2025
Madeline Lennon - July 24, 2025
Larry Hile - October 7, 2025

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

Sunday Morning Education/Sunday School



We have been studying Psalms during our Sunday School hour. This is an opportunity to talk about what the Psalms can mean for us and we are discovering the Psalms can be praise and worship, lament, prayers, and more! Consider joining us Sundays at 9:30!

Laundry Ministry



The large-capacity machines at DOK Laundry are still awaiting repairs. For that reason, Mission & Outreach has elected to wait on our official "Free Laundry Day" but to return to our COVID-era version: Laundry Kits! Stay tuned to your bulletin, as details and dates are being worked out for when we will get together to produce these

laundry kits to give to those who may need a little assistance in getting their laundry done.

Thanksgiving Pie Exchange

On Sunday, November 23, we will gather in Fellowship Hall after worship for the Zion Lutheran Annual Pie Exchange! Bring an 8- or 9-inch pie of your choosing cut into eight pieces. We will then pick-and-choose different slices of pie and you will go home with a pie of all sorts of flavors! There's nothing as delicious as a Thanksgiving Pie and with this, we get to share pie with our church family.



Food Pantry Updates

A number of congregations, businesses, and individuals are organizing food help while a long-term solution is developed after the closing of Community & Family Services. If you would like to help, here's what you can do:

Financial Help: Zion is collecting any monetary donations given by the community. Please indicate that it is for the food pantry on the donation.

Shelf-stable food: If you wish to donate items, you can do so at: Blackford County Senior Center, Hartford City City Hall, Lighthouse Church, Hartford City Public Library, and Tyler & Nick's Lounge.

Volunteer: If you wish to donate time, you can contact the mayor's office who will get your information to those who are organizing volunteers.

Prayer: Prayer is needed for everyone involved in this effort! Please pray for volunteers and organizers, the staff and board of Community & Family Services as their work and lives change, those who will receive assistance, and that an effective long-term solution is put in place soon.

Current November Food Distribution Centers and Times:

Thurs, Nov 6 at 4-H Building (10am)
Mon, Nov 10 at CFS Building (9am-3pm)
Wed, Nov 12 at HC Armory (4-6pm)
Thurs, Nov 20 at 4-H Building (10am)
Mon, Nov 24 at CFS Building (9am-3pm)



Lifeline Screening

Lifeline screening will be back at Zion on Wednesday, November 5. Lifeline offers a variety of screening designed for you to take to your doctor to talk about risks of cardiovascular disease and stroke. Zion often receives some vouchers for low-cost screenings as a thank-you for Lifeline hosting the event here, so if you're interested, let Pastor Sharilyn know.

Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you!
800-324-9458 and use code: **HABC001**



Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting September 16, 2025 Minutes

All members were present. President Paige Walker opened the meeting. Mark Prout gave the devotions from Ezekiel. Neil Stroble moved to accept the minutes from the August meeting. Mark Prout seconded the motion. The motion passed. The only correspondence of note was from the insurance company wanting a form filled out concerning sexual offenses. Pastor will complete this form.

Pastor Sharilyn's report is as follows: she had 4 pastoral care visits, there are a few individuals interested in a Sunday morning study – she will look for something through the Advent season, CFS Food Pantry is looking to resume services ASAP, she conducts a monthly worship at Envive Healthcare and Zion hosted a joint worship and picnic with First Presbyterian Church on September 21. Pastor conducted Madeline Lennon's funeral in August. She will be out of office for vacation from September 18 – October 1.

There were no committee reports. Deacon, Drew Walker, reported August attendance between 30-40. There was one request for financial assistance. Trustee, Neil Stroble, reported that the downspout on the front of the church has been fixed for a total of \$1,100. Treasurer, Matt Clamme, gave the following report as of August 31.

Deacon's Fund Checking	\$2.74
Deacon's Fund Savings	\$13.81
Thrivent Invested	\$91,904.66
General Fund Checking	\$3,796.10
VIA Membership	\$36,896.73
General Fund Money Market	\$107.31
Memorial Fund Checking	\$10,639.44
Memorial Fund Money Market	\$16,525.52
Memorial Fund Mission Investment	\$7,128.25
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Savings	\$2,344.70
ZLCW Kitchen Funds Checking	\$150.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$169,100.00

There was no new business.

The meeting closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting is October 14 with devotions from Matt Clamme.

Respectively submitted,
Sandy Langdon

November 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 All Saints' Day Worship & Communion 10:30am	Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am Grace Village God & Grub		Lifeline Screenings in Fellowship Hall			1
Worship 10:30am	Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am	Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9:00am				8
Worship & Communion 10:30am	Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am	Council Meeting in Library 7:00pm				15
Worship 10:30am Pie Exchange	Bible Study at Deja Brew 8:00am		Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:00pm			Hanging of the Greens 9:00am
Worship & Communion 10:30am						



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Sharilyn Wendt, Pastor
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www.zionhc.org

Worship at 10:30am

Pastor Sharilyn's Information

Cell Phone: 812-272-2936

Email: sharilyn.wendt@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday: 2:30pm-5:30pm

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

November Sunday Servants

Greeters

Nov 2 - Peggy Willman; Cindy Knoté

Nov 9 - Ma & Sandy Langdon

Nov 16 - Buck & Kathy Sharp

Nov 23 - Neil & Libby Stroble

Nov 26 - Neil & Libby Stroble

Nov 30 - Gene & Aneta Gardner; Claretta Dutro

Lector

Nov 2 - Cindy Knoté

Nov 9 - Sandy Langdon

Nov 16 - Kathy Sharp

Nov 23 - Neil Stroble

Nov 26 - Neil Stroble

Nov 30 - Mark Prout

Assisting Minister

Nov 2 - Mark Prout

Nov 16 - Linda Walker

Nov 30 - Michelle Walker