
THE ZION HERALD

October 2025

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

The Pastor's Ponderings

Lutheran Theology: Theology of the Cross

The last two months we have examined some core ideas in Lutheran theology: The Five Solas (Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Christ Alone, for the Glory of God Alone) and Law & Gospel. One of the other core ideas within Lutheran theology is the Theology of the Cross.

The Theology of the Cross is something that I do believe is missing in parts of the modern Christian church – particularly in American Christianity. During Luther's time, he spoke of the Theology of the Cross as a counter to what he called "The Theology of Glory." One of the things that Luther spoke most vehemently about in seeking reform in the church was the sale of indulgences. The church at the time was working to fundraise for St. Peter's Basilica in Rome (and some other incredibly corrupt things the church wanted money for but that's another story...) The use of great wealth to create extravagant and opulent church structures was part of what Luther would call "The Theology of Glory." The Theology of Glory is the idea that God's majesty and Christ's redemption is shown in the works of human hands such as the building of great cathedrals. The Theology of Glory encourages us to try to reveal God's greatness through the works of human hands.

Luther asserted that this was backwards of what we as Christians should be doing. Instead of concentrating on the works of human hands trying to reveal God, we need to concentrate on the power of the cross. The Theology of the Cross asserts that the love and power of God is to be shown in the reflection of Jesus on the cross. It is in that – the death of Jesus – that we should be able to experience and recognize the great power of God. As such, we have a new call as Christians. We are not to concentrate our efforts on reaching up toward God and seeking glory. Instead we should be concentrating on the cross and that Jesus came to us.

Rather than us reaching up toward heaven, we remain here on earth and Jesus does all the work by coming to us.

Like most of Luther's work, it was a pendulum swing reaction. Luther was infamous for pushing far in another direction to counter the corruption that existed in the church of the day. Most of us can see the beauty that comes from humans trying to express the majesty of God and can see inspiration in it while at the same time recognizing that these are works

October Readings

October 5

17th Sunday after Pentecost

- Habakkuk 1:1-4;2:1-4
- Psalm 37:1-9
- 2 Timothy 1:1-14
- Luke 17:5-10

October 12

18th Sunday after Pentecost

- 2 Kings 5:1-3,7-15c
- Psalm 111
- 2 Timothy 2:8-15
- Luke 17:11-19

October 19

19th Sunday after Pentecost

- Genesis 32:22-31
- Psalm 121
- 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
- Luke 18:1-8

October 26

Reformation Sunday

- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Psalm 46
- Romans 3:19-28
- John 8:31-36

of human hands and will always fall short of what Christ has done for humanity. We tend to believe in both of these things.

However, I think that the Theology of the Cross can be a shock to many in American Christianity. As a capitalist society, we are so often striving for bigger and better things. We want big stadiums, big monuments, big trucks, and big churches. We seek wealth and human power and “climbing the corporate ladder.” We have a mindset of striving upward. The Theology of the Cross says that we should be concentrating on remaining where we are and looking for God in the places that seem like weakness – like the cross.

Like all things, I think we Christians need to do our best to seek balance. Look for times when you may find yourself striving upward and ask if this is something that you might find Jesus doing. Look for times when you are seeking bigger and better and ask yourself if it is something that is really for God’s glory or human glory. Like all things that I encourage you as a congregation to do, I admit that I fail at doing it well right alongside each of you. And thankfully, Jesus is right here beside me – just like Jesus is right beside you – accompanying us in that weakness and failure when we try to be more Christ-like. We don’t have to strive upward to Jesus – he chose to be next to us instead. AMEN.

In Christian Love,
Pastor Sharilyn

October Birthdays

Ray Stanley	10-6
Kathy Sharp	10-7
Edi Tarter	10-9
Jody Stanley	10-12
Shay Clamme	10-16
Ashley Digman	10-22
Linda Stanley	10-22
Jay Hendricks	10-26
Aneta Gardner	10-28
Joan Stanley	10-28
Addison Clamme	10-29

SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATION/ SUNDAY SCHOOL

There has been some interest in having a Sunday morning Sunday School or education hour. Details are still being worked out and Pastor Sharilyn has yet to decide on a topic, but it will be a cross-generational education hour and youth and adults will study together. From **Sunday, October 5 until Sunday, November 23** we will meet in the **church library** starting at **9:30am**. If we discover that we have more participants, we will move into the Fellowship Hall. Partway through the 8-week study, we will talk about ongoing education events.

TRUNK OR TREAT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian hosts a warm-up station in their Fellowship Hall during Hartford City's Trunk-or-Treat in downtown Hartford City and they've invited Zion Lutheran to take part! They typically have hotdogs, chips, water, and often some kid's games and candy. Keep an eye on your bulletin for exact dates and times!

LIFELINE SCREENING

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

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 26 is Reformation Sunday! Plan to attend and wear red!

FINANCIAL NEWS AT ZION

Your council leadership continues to work on ways to navigate the future of Zion Lutheran Church. While we aren't at liberty to discuss any details, please know that things are being worked on behind-the-scenes about what is needed to maintain the health of the congregation. That being said, we did "dip into savings" in the first half of the year about \$6000. It's important to remember that we can maintain this for a while, but not indefinitely. Please continue to pray for your leadership that effective solutions are identified.

LOOKING AHEAD GRACE VILLAGE MEALS

Grace Village is the multi-denominational ministry (including ELCA Lutheran) at Ball State and we have long been a supporter of this ministry. Keep your eyes open as in the coming months we will have an opportunity to bring food for Grace Village's God & Grub meals. Stay tuned!

LENA RUTH CLAMME ESTATE FUNDS

This summer, the Lena Ruth Clamme estate was used for three significant projects. The first was our VBS and the 4-H Fair event. We had a great turnout - and it is at least partially due to Every Door Direct Mail postcards and additional promotional items that we purchased for this year's VBS. The second effort this went to was the FFA/4-H Junior Leaders youth specifically. Our VBS was permitted to use the new building that is the FFA/4-H Junior Leaders space and to thank them for this, the four churches together donated \$500 to help them fund their future needs. The final project was purchasing one dairy steer and one hog, paying for the processing, and donating it to our local food pantry. This part of the project supports two local youth (who get a small amount of the money in addition to the market price of the animal), the 4-H program in general (part of the money goes to support the Fairboard), and our local food pantry. It was such a success that Pastor Sharilyn is looking into grant funds and partnering with more congregations to continue the effort next year. Mrs. Clamme remembering us in her estate plans and your faithfulness to the purpose of these funds made this gift possible.

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting August 19, 2025 Minutes

All members were present. President Paige Walker opened the meeting. Mark Prout moved to accept the minutes from the July 2025 council meeting. Drew Walker seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The only correspondence was a question from the insurance company.

The Pastor's report is as follows: there were 4 pastoral care visits in July. Pastor wondered if there would be any interest in an "all ages" Bible study on Sunday mornings. Coffee & Jesus currently gathers around 6-8 people a week, about half are from First Presbyterian. She is looking for Advent study material. The steer and hog have been processed and given to CFS Food Pantry. She will continue to facilitate the scripture study for the women at the Blackford County Jail as requested. She has a monthly worship at Envive Healthcare. Pastor conducted funerals for Merrill Nottingham, Janet Sutton, and Madeline Lennon. God's Work Our Hands will be postponed until repairs/updates are completed at DOK Laundry. Pastor will be out of office for vacation from September 18 - October 1.

The only committee report was from Drew Walker of Parish Education & Youth. He said the congregation would be asked if they want, and would attend, a Sunday morning education hour. Deacon Drew Walker reported 30-40 in attendance each Sunday during the month of July. There were no requests for assistance in July. Trustee Neil Stroble reported that a car that had been in the south parking lot for the last 2 years has been removed, the downspout on the front of the church is being attended to, and wasps have been eradicated from the church mailbox. Treasurer Matt Clamme gave the following report as of July 31. He also reported the giving for the Deacon's fund is low at this time.

Deacon's Fund Checking	\$605.40
Deacon's Fund Savings	\$66.81
Thrivent Invested	\$91,504.66
General Fund Checking	\$1,506.50
VIA Membership	\$46,896.73
General Fund Money Market	\$107.28
Memorial Fund Checking	\$10,639.44
Memorial Fund Money Market	\$16,519.90
Memorial Fund Mission Investment	\$7,125.84
ZLCW Kitchen Fund Savings	\$2,344.70
ZLCW Kitchen Funds Checking	\$150.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$177,492.63

Several people have stepped up to fill council positions for next year.

The meeting closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer. Mark Prout will have devotions for the September 16 meeting.

Respectively submitted,
Sandy Langdon

October 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
Worship & Communion 10:30am 5	Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am W/M/M Committee 7pm 6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 10:30am 12	Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am 13	Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9am Council Meeting in Library 7pm 14	15	16	17	18
Worship & Communion 10:30am 19	Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am 20	21	22	23	Fourth Friday at the Fairgrounds 6-9pm 24	Hartford City Arts Council Spooktacular Trunk-or-Treat at Weiler Plaza 6:30-8:30pm 25
 REFORMATION Sunday Worship 10:30am 26	Coffee & Jesus at Deja Brew 8am 27	Piecemakers in Fellowship Hall 9am 28	29	30	 Happy Halloween 31	



**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:

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

October Sunday Servants

Greeters

Oct 5 - Cindy Knotte; Joyce Willmann

Oct 12 - Larry & Denise Hile; Claretta Dutro

Oct 19 - Larry & Denise Hile; Joyce Willmann

Oct 26 - Buck & Kathy Sharp

Lector

Oct 5 - Cindy Knotte

Oct 12 - Denise Hile

Oct 19 - Denise Hile

Oct 26 - Kathy Sharp

Assisting Minister

Oct 5 - Linda Walker

Oct 19 - Michelle Walker