

NOVEMBER 2024 SPOTLIGHT

The consequences of shallow thankfulness

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or

following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways

unmindful of a broken brother's need ...

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

A Few Thoughts from Pastor

November is often used as a time for reflection to give thanks and celebrate on the past and to cherish what we have today. **Thanksgiving** celebrations at the end of the month help us to recall the blessings we have received in life and to join with others in praise of our God for His wondrous works among us. But that one day should not be the only time we set aside for such considerations. Our whole lives should be filled with opportunities seized to sit back in wonder at God's creation or His intervention in our daily struggles. As we read or remember His promises in Scripture we recount the times when He has made a difference in our lives. In all these settings we also should realize that if not for the grace of God we would be in worse conditions.

Our loving Father does care for our daily needs. Our wonderful savior, Jesus, has given His life on the cross in payment for our sins in order that we may have forgiveness and the certainty of eternal life in heaven. The Holy Spirit continues to bring these matters of faith to mind and builds us up in spiritual confidence as we grow in being godly disciples. **Our God is so good!** How can I even forget to thank Him every day?!

God has been good to us both as individuals and in our service here at Zion Lutheran Church. Think about some of those special things you have recently experienced and utter a few words in prayer to our Wondrous Lord.

Give thanks and celebrate Thanksgiving! Give thanks and celebrate the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Give thanks and celebrate His death, burial and resurrection. Give thanks and celebrate how God has provided all things in your life.

Give thanks and celebrate with your Zion Church family Wednesday, November 28 at 7:00 p.m. We will be having a Pie Social after worship! Come and give thanks in worship and enjoy some fellowship with your church family.

*O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy endureth forever. Psalm 136:1*

November 2024 News and Notes

Contact information for Rev. James King: Pastor's cell-507-241-0197. Email: revjtking@yahoo.com

You may also contact **Kelsey Hamilton** (Church secretary) at **618-401-7663** (cell) or **zionbunkerhill@gmail.com**.

Pastor remains available for private Confession & Absolution, worship, communion, and counseling/support; please contact him (507)-241-0197 or revjtking@yahoo.com to set up an appointment for individuals or families.

If anyone wishes to provide fresh fruit for any month in 2024, contact Gordon Heuer at 618-535-1844 (call or text). Remember "fresh fruit and doughnuts" is the breakfast of champions.

Announcement: If you are interested in helping to record the services please contact Joe Manar.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: Tuesday, October 28th

MITE COLLECTION BOX: Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the LWML Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program. Our LWML Mite Box is in the back of our church in the narthex. Please feel free to donate at any time. YOUR mites make a big difference!

Donations-The Youth Group needs donations for the Blessing Box, please leave them in the Youth room.

The Youth Group would like to thank those that have donated to the Blessing Box.

Concordia Seminary Guild- There will be a gathering of new socks & underwear for children under the age of 10. These are for the children of Seminary Students of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. It is sponsored by the Concordia Seminary Guild. Please give by December 1st. A basket will be located in the Narthex.

Have you noticed Zion's Cross on the roof is shining brightly? We hired Arrow Signs in Godfrey to convert it to LED Lighting so we wouldn't have to keep adding the neon. We received a note from Arrow thanking us for supporting their small business.

Do you have any good used pillowcases you could part with? How about seam binding? New Berlin Lutheran LWML makes pillowcase dresses for Lutheran World Relief. They made 86 dresses this year. If you have any of these things, please pass to Jane Baker. Derek Whalen's mother helps to sew these.

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions- Renewal Forms have been mailed. Please return to **CHURCH OFFICE ONLY** by **NOVEMBER 25,2024**.

Plasticware- The kitchen is fully stocked with plasticware. Please hold off on buying any for a while.

Thank You- The Youth Group would like to Thank Jack Reeves at East Fast Vending for Donating LOTS to the Blessing Box on a continued basis.

Pastor Terry Grebing will be retiring December 31, 2024. Our Holy Cross congregation is hosting a retirement open house on November 3 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Renault, IL. We would like to express our gratitude to them by extending an invitation to his previous congregations he served. If your congregation would have a moment, please send cards or letters of well-wishes to Pastor Terry and Diane, perhaps including special memories. Our Holy Cross email address is holycross@htc.net or mailing address is PO Box 7, Renault, IL 62279.

Thank you for the generous gift for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. It is greatly appreciated. These past few months have been a delight getting to know the congregation and the local community. I look forward to many years of service with all of you here at Zion as we share the Good News of Christ Crucified. Pastor King

Prayer of thanksgiving for a field fire at Terry Bakers. Many thanks to BHFD for their quick response. No grain lost.

Please prayerfully consider serving on church council, the following positions are available:
Vice-Chair / Treasurer / Trustee / 2 Elders

Altar Guild Meeting- November 10th following worship

Chicken & Dumpling Dinner- The American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 578, of Bunker Hill will host its 11th annual Chicken & Dumpling Dinner to honor our Veterans and their guests on **Sunday, November 17, 2024**, at the American Legion Hall, 319 N. Marion St., in Bunker Hill, IL 62014.

-Dinner will consist of Chicken & Dumplings, green beans, salad, bread/butter, drink & dessert.

-Dinner is **FREE FOR ALL VETERANS & THEIR SPOUSES**, guests will pay **\$10.00 for Adults, \$4.00 for Children 10 and Under.**

-In lieu of the \$10.00, guests may donate a new 3pkg./or larger of underwear, socks, T-shirts or a toy. These items will be taken to Jefferson Barracks Hospital & distributed to hospitalized veterans.

ThriVe- Thank you to all who donated to the ThriVe Baby Bottle Campaign! With your help a total was raised of nearly \$55,000 (and counting). In 2024 Zion Lutheran Church in BH donated \$59.98 towards the ThriVe Baby Bottle Campaign! We thank God for your generosity and obedience to His call, and you can be assured that your gifts have gone directly to rescue children from abortion right here in the Metro East.

Happy Times- Children Pre-School-2nd Grade (Younger children need to be potty trained)

We will meet every **WEDNESDAY** from **3:30pm-4:30pm** in the Pre-School room at Zion. Please bring your child in & pick up as well. We will do songs, children bible study, games, arts, crafts and a small snack will be provided. In November & December the songs will be getting ready for Christmas.

-Weather Info: If School is dismissed early or cancels, we will as well. If roads get bad while we are in session, please feel free to come and get your child.

-Instructors will be: Bill & Shirley Hanks, Michelle King & Becky Johnson

Family Next Door

Owners: Jeff & Becky Johnson



Giving for October 2024

Plate and Envelope: \$13,730.00	Building Fund: \$160.00
Memorial-Charlene Sauerwein: \$210.00	Hall Rental: \$50.00
Youth: \$50.00	Reimbursable: \$44.35
	Thrivent: \$528.00

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSIONS

1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH OFFERINGS
JANUARY- WYCLIFF BIBLE TRANSLATORS
FEBRUARY- THE ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN
MARCH- UNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL
APRIL- LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS
MAY- LCMS MISSIONS-“CLAUSING FAMILY”
JUNE- VBS
JULY- BUNKER HILL AREA FOOD PANTRY
AUGUST- BETHESDA
SEPTEMBER- LCMS LUTHERAN RELIEF
OCTOBER- LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION
NOVEMBER- LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
DECEMBER- LCMS MISSIONS- “CLAUSING FAMILY”

The November Sunday school mission will be designated to:
Lutheran Hour Ministries

October Sunday school perfect attendance:
Ella Weidner, Otto Stolte & Rylee Jarden

Sunday school/Church Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>N-8</u>	<u>H.S.</u>	<u>Adult Bible Class</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Church Attend.</u>
10/6	17	2	31	5	92
10/13	14	1	31	6	85
10/20	14	0	24	4	90
10/27	12	0	25	5	72

Members of Zion Special Intercessions

Denise Baker- (Son Trevor & Parents Ivan & Dorothy) has completed her chemo at this point, waiting for further testing. She is back to work, on light duty & shorter hours. Thanks again for all of your prayers.

Devin Brown- scheduled for neck surgery in February to put a rod in his neck and fix the failed fusion. Seeking help for continuous, swollen lymph nodes in his chest and neck area.

Joanne Brown- Healing from her second successful CMC joint removal surgery and hopes to regain working as a dog groomer by January.

Lyle Henrichs- was hospitalized, home now. Further testing to be done. Please send prayers.

Gordon Heuer- hospitalized at Alton Memorial

Linda Volentine- doing well at home. Receives care in home.

Special Intercessions

Logan Crosly- (Friend of Gwen Isenberg) recovering from surgery.

Linda Cunningham- Prayers for long term condition to improve.

Wayne Enke- fell while cutting down a tree and fractured his elbow in two places. To see an orthopedic surgeon.

Kathy Fahey- On Hospice at Alhambra Nursing Home.

Paul Hamby of Bethalto- (husband of Holly Dillard-Hamby) doing well. He still does dialysis 3 times a week. He is still on transplant list waiting for a match. He is one year cancer survivor as he also had cancer in one of his kidneys that they found during yearly test for transplant list. Thanks for the prayers we greatly appreciate it.

Dale Jones- Call her at 618-339-4957. Scan to be done.

Joyce Lehman- experiencing frailness but continues well at Gillespie Care Center.

Terry Likes & Tim Likes (of Bunker Hill)- ongoing health concerns.

Leo Nevarez Sr.- at home with Son, recovering from accident.

Nora-(Friend of LeAnne Anderson, Daughter of Jami & Brent Bunn, Granddaughter of Rosemary Bunn) she has received radiation and is in a trial at Stanford that will take re-engineered TCells and place them into her brain through a catheter. Please continue to pray for her and her family.

Glen Allen Smith- at Alton Memorial Hospital for care of wound infection. Prayers requested for healing by daughter, Glenna.

Dana & Steve Stagner- ongoing health issues.

Ann Carpenter-Zuk- dealing with her second round of cancer.

Neighbors Dealing with Cancer

John Allen, Dennis Bennett, Mona Brown, Terry Dillard, Chris Gosch,
Jake Hanner, David Jackson & Jake Portugal

Don Gobel- Don went home to be with the Lord on October 26th. Please pray for Cathy and the family during this difficult time.

Greg Smith- Former field worker at Zion who passed away last week. Please pray for his family during this difficult time.

Charlene Sauerwein- passed away on Thursday, October 10th. Friends may call on Monday, October 14th at Kravanya Funeral Home in BH from 5-7pm and on Tuesday, October 15th at Zion Lutheran Church in BH from 10-11am. Funeral services are Tuesday, October 15th at 11am at Zion Lutheran Church in BH. Please send prayers for the family during this difficult time.



LWML LADIES OF ZION MEETING OCTOBER 17, 2024



Our meeting opened with six ladies and Pastor present.

Verlene opened with prayer. Pastor led us in Bible Study from the LWML Quarterly, "A Reason to Celebrate." We can praise God regardless of the circumstances and the shape of our roads.

The Secretary read the September minutes. A correction was made, the next District LWML convention in 2026 will be held at Meto-East High School instead of SIU Edwardsville. Verlene made a motion and Susan seconded it to accept the corrected minutes.

The Treasurers report was given. It will be filed.

Shelter Care – Pastor led the devotion, Michelle played the piano. We played BINGO with the residents. Verlene served Rice Krispies Aquares with candy corn. Next to serve is Louise.

Visiting- Louise visited several shut-ins. Next to visit is Susan.

Organizational Leader- Ruth Ann

LWML Sunday went very well. The Egg Bake was very good and made by Michelle & Ruth Ann. Thank You!

The Fall Workshop is Saturday, October 19th at Emmaus, Dorsey. Michelle made a motion to give \$50.00 for the ingathering, Verlene seconced it.

The Honor Meal is coming up.

Verlene made a motion and Susan seconded it to have our November meeting after Shelter Care. A motion was made by Susan and seconded by Verlene to change our meeting date to the First Thursday of the month starting in January and every month there after. This will allow Pastor King to be able to attend our meetings.

Verlene and Susan were appointed to be the nomination Committee. Next month we will vote for Vice President, Treasurer, and Christian Growth Chairman.

We closed with Prayer and singing "Thank You Lord for this Fine Day." Apple dessert was served by Verlene.

Respectfully Submitted
Louise Weidner, Secretary

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8am-Secretary in Office	2
3 Mission Sunday 8:45am-Sunday School 10am-Divine Service	4 8am-Secretary in Office	5 Election Day! GO VOTE!!!	6 Happy Times- 3:30-4:30pm 6:30pm-Youth Group 7pm-Mid-Week Bible Class	7	8 8am-Secretary in Office	9
10 8:45am-Sunday School 10am-Divine Service	11 Veterans Day 7pm-Elder's Meeting Happy 90th Birthday to Shirley Pomatto	12 8am-Secretary in Office	13 Happy Times- 3:30-4:30pm 5:30pm-Confirmation 7pm-Mid-Week Bible Class	14 1pm-Shelter Care Ladies of Zion Following @ Zion	15 8am-Secretary in Office	16
17 8:45am-Sunday School 10am-Divine Service	18	19 8am-Secretary in Office	20 Happy Times- 3:30-4:30pm 5:30pm-Confirmation 6:30pm-Youth Group 7pm-Mid-Week Bible Class	21 Circuit Winkle @ Zion-BH (8-2pm)	22 8am-Secretary in Office	23
24 8:45am-Sunday School 10am-Divine Service	25 8am-Secretary in Office	26 8am-Secretary in Office *Newsletter Mailing	27 6:30pm-Worship, Pie Social Following No Happy Times NO Confirmation NO Mid-Week Bible Class	28 Thanksgiving Day	29 Secretary OUT of the OFFICE	30

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS...

Happy Birthday!

4th	Tony Davidson
5th	Monica Morrison
6th	Megan Weidner
9th	Mary Jo Henrichs
11th	Shirley Pomatto
12 th	Derek Whalen
13th	Brian Bruckert
15th	Ruth Brown
17th	Megan Allen
19th	Melinda Bertels, Anthony Davidson
22nd	Jim Halpin, Joni Wood, Drew Meehan
24th	Matthew Wilson
25th	Jeff Bond, II
27th	Bill Wood
28th	Joanne Brown, Zoey Bechel
30 th	Ella Weidner

Baptismal Birthdays!

1st	Glenn Bruckert, Kayleigh Trimm
3rd	Halle Perdun
4 th	Garrett Trimm
6th	Jacob Mueller
13th	Chloé Brayman
14th	Caleigh Stolte
15th	Greg Bruckert
17th	Ryan Wear, Dylan Wear
21 st	Derek Whalen
23rd	Allison Hanks
25th	Brandon Sparks
26th	Max Morrison, Alex Wood
27 th	Timothy Hanks
28th	Linda Klopmeier
29th	Dennis Kraner, Gerald Weidner, Steven Scheldt

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation. The old has
passed away; behold, the new has
come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV



Happy Anniversary!

5 th	Courtney & Bill Sielfleisch
8th	Virgil & Sally Karnes
9 th	Marvin & Linda Volentine
	Max & Hanna Morrison
11 th	Mark & Michael Sandwich
13th	Jeffrey & Norine Rodier
14th	Bill & April Wood
15 th	Nathan & Morgan Gray
16th	Regan & Natalie Wear
17 th	Dylan & Jestine Wear
24th	Kyle & Kayla Darr
27th	Lyle & Kathy Mansholt