



# The Teller

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 2021

When my wife and I were first married, now some twenty-seven years ago, and we moved into our first apartment, I came home one evening and she was looking at me in a sort of an expectant way. I could tell that she was expecting some sort of reaction from me. I didn't know what that reaction was supposed to be. It started to get a little uncomfortable because I could tell she was expecting me to react, but I just didn't know what I was supposed to react to. Finally, she said, "So, what do you think?" That was what I was afraid of. I had absolutely no idea what she was referring to. She didn't look any different. I looked at her, I looked around the room, and I really didn't notice anything different. I finally had to say, "What do I think about what?" I could see the disappointment in her face. She said, "about the boxes?" Honestly, that wasn't really much help. She could see that in my face, so she said, "I unpacked the last boxes and put everything away and so now we are completely unpacked and moved in." As obvious as it was, I hadn't noticed, even though she had unpacked the remaining 15 or so boxes that had been in the dining room where we were eating dinner. I hadn't seen something that was very clear. I was, of course, reminded of that experience, despite it happening so long ago, by today's gospel involving Bartimaeus. It's a great story. Bartimaeus, who is blind, and is forced to beg because of his disability, hears that Jesus is coming. He shouts out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus hears him, calls him, heals him. "Immediately, the man regains his sight and follows Jesus." It's a great story, but there is so much more to it, if we notice the details. Did you notice that when Bartimaeus shouts out to Jesus "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" the other people in the town aren't so happy about it? They seem to be embarrassed by Bartimaeus. The gospel tells us that "many sternly ordered him to be quiet." It's the people who are closest to Jesus who don't want him to be pestered by this bothersome guy who is creating a traffic jam in the road and making a bunch of noise. They certainly don't want to give up their spot near Jesus so that someone else can get near to him. It's interesting that Bartimaeus calls Jesus "Son of David" because by doing so he reveals that he understands that Jesus is the Messiah.

So far in St. Mark's gospel, those who are close to Jesus haven't really fully understood who he is. They've not understood that to be greatest is to be least. They've not understood the importance of little children. They've not seen that we need to serve. They've asked Jesus to let them sit on his left and his right. But Bartimaeus grasps that Jesus is the Messiah. They are telling him to be quiet and yet he's the one who actually understands. Of course, they don't stop Bartimaeus. He just shouts more loudly. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" But then did you notice what Jesus did? Jesus stopped walking. He stood still. He looked at the crowd pressing in around him and he made room for one more. Jesus said to the crowd, "Call him here." Jesus didn't call Bartimaeus directly. Jesus calls the crowd to call him. These people who were trying to keep Bartimaeus away from Jesus have been changed. It's like they are transformed. They say to Bartimaeus, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." They went from excluding Bartimaeus to telling him to take heart and go forward into Jesus' embrace. When Bartimaeus learns that Jesus is calling for him, he throws off his cloak and hurries toward Jesus. That's a pretty important detail. Your cloak kept you warm at night. It hid your head and face from bad weather and, if need be, from being recognized. A cloak could be used as sort of collateral for a loan. Your cloak's decoration signaled your social importance to other people. Ornamentation on your cloak could also show how religious you were. Bartimaeus' cloak was so important that that if Jesus had not healed his eyesight, he would have lost his most important possession. If Jesus didn't heal Bartimaeus, Bartimaeus would have been ruined. When he jumped up and threw off his cloak, he was all in. He had faith that Jesus would heal him. Jesus asks Bartimaeus a very simple, but remarkable question: "What do you want me to do for you?" It's remarkable because Jesus had just had a similar encounter with James and John when they said they wanted to sit at his right and left in the kingdom of God. Jesus asks Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" He answers, "My teacher, let me see." Jesus doesn't have to touch Bartimaeus or spit on the ground to make mud. He just has to speak. He says, "Go; your faith has made you well." The gospel tells us that Bartimaeus immediately regains his sight and begins to follow Jesus. Bartimaeus doesn't go back or go away, he follows Jesus. He joins the others who are following Jesus to Jerusalem and to the cross. The disciples wanted to keep Bartimaeus from Jesus, but as always, Jesus opened his arms to all. Jesus asked Bartimaeus, "What you do want me to do for you?" And Bartimaeus' words are our words, "My teacher, let me see." We need to see how loved we are, how hungry for love others are, how worthy of love they are, how precious and wonderful our neighbors are.



We need to see that this love comes from God, our creator, from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. “My teacher, let me see.” Sometimes when we look at ourselves, when we look at our lives, we notice our failings. We notice the weight we could stand to lose or the wrinkles that have come with age or the job we wish we had or the student loan payment that is too high or the illness that we face or the uncertain future or the broken relationship and we don’t see how loved we are...loved by family and friends most likely, but loved by God for sure. We don’t see that we are so loved by God that God sent Jesus who died on a cross and then rose from death to new life conquering death and the grave forever and giving us the gift of eternal life. “My teacher, let us see.” Sometimes when we notice others, we notice differences. We notice what divides us, what separates us, what pulls us apart. We notice what we think their shortcomings are or how their views and beliefs diverge from our own. We overlook their needs. We overlook those who are hungry, those who lack adequate employment or medical care, sufficient housing, or acceptance, justice, and respect. We don’t see how hungry for love others are, how worthy of love they are, how precious and wonderful our neighbors are. “My teacher, let me see.” My friends, Bartimaeus’ words are our words. “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” “My teacher, let me see.” Amen

*Pastor Dan Fugate*



## Announcements

### Worship Leaders:

November 7 – Pastor Jeff Hawkins

November 14 – Pastor Nancy Nyland, (Director for Evangelical Mission – I/K Synod)

November 21 – Pastor Dan Fugate, (Assistant to the Bishop for Discipleship - I/K Synod)

## Scripture for November

### November 7 All Saints Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 24 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44

Gathering: ELW 873 Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart

Hymn of the Day: 422 For All the Saints

Sending: ELW 423 Shall We Gather at the River

### November 14 Pentecost 25 B Lectionary 33

Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8

Gathering: ELW 632 O God Our Help

Hymn of the Day: 438 My Lord, What a Morning

Sending: ELW 793 Be Though My Vision

### November 21 Christ the King Sunday

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

Gathering: ELW 805 Lead On Oh King, eternal

Hymn of the Day: 439 Soon and Very Soon

Sending: ELW 838 Beautiful Savior

# *Pray for one another*

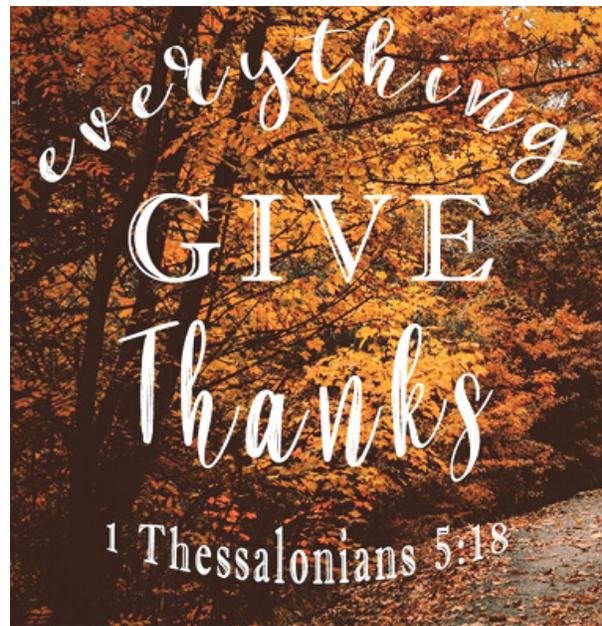
Earl McKinley, Shirley Williams, Bonnie Hileman, Dale Neild, Peggy Gilbert, Mara Joy Nelson, Linda Rager Hampton, Mary Chrastil, Marie Betten-Niccum, Joanne Boettcher, Nancy Coble, Betty Hamlin, Betty Lawrenz, and Robert & Lois Dowd.

## **Birthdays in November**

Travis Bradford- 11/21  
Jaime Good-11/20  
Zachary Hawkins-11/13  
Earl McKinley-11/2  
Lin Metzger-11/3  
Emily Neild-11/22  
Mary Beth Perkins-11/5  
Jack Vineyard-11/24

## **Baptisms in November**

Marie Betten-Niccum-11/18  
Patty Grant-11/18  
Janet Shull-11/1



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

***John 3:16-17***





# Council Update

The life of our congregation continues apace, with Sunday worship happening in the fellowship hall until our elevator can be repaired. Unfortunately, the elevator repair will likely not happen until after the first of the new year. Thanks, everyone for your patience as we await the parts and labor needed for this to happen. We continue to be grateful for all who have stepped up to serve in the absence of a called or interim pastor. Whether on committees, in the pulpit, or in the kitchen, we are thankful and inspired by the devotion shown to our congregation and Christ's mission among us.

We continue to plan for transitions. Cheryl Spratt, after many years serving as our custodian, will be resigning at the end of the year. If anyone knows of someone who might take over that responsibility, please pass the name along to a council member. Sadly, too, Pam Haynes will be stepping down from our piano bench soon, and we will be looking for someone who can take over that role. Thanks to both of these individuals for their service to Zion, which will be greatly missed.

Two dates should be kept in mind in the near future. Our council is beginning a process of discernment with Pastor Nancy Nyland of the synod office called "Exploring God's Expectations." After worship on November 7, we invite you to stay for conversation with the council for an update on numerous items, and a beginning discussion of the questions that will be raised in this process. Then, on November 14, Pastor Nyland will be leading us in worship and staying to consider these questions with council. Congregation members are welcome to join that day. If you are unable to join either day, please give feedback to a council member, so that we are better able to represent the congregation in this process.

Among others, Pastor Nyland will ask us to consider:

- Where do you see energy and/or excitement in the congregation?
- What are the greatest challenges or fears in your congregation?
- How do you see God at work in your congregation?
- What is happening both inside and outside the church walls?
- What would people in your community say about your congregation? What are you known for in your community?
- How is the congregation living into Jesus' call to be a missional church?
- What is God calling the congregation to do and to be in the next chapter of your ministry?
- How does this impact who you will call as your next pastor?
- How do all of you listen deeply to one another and God during this time of transition?

Finally, we ask your assistance in making sure no members are feeling left out or neglected in this time of transition. If you know of a member who needs a call, or a prayer, or if you are willing to make phone calls to check in on people, please let a council person know.

Thank you all for continuing to be the body of Christ among us and in our community.

## Honeywell Music Lessons at Zion

Established at the Community Foundation of Wabash County in 2002, the Eileen Mills Strauss and Daniel Arden Strauss Music Ministry Endowment has supported the music life of Zion for many years. Beginning this fall, with the endorsement of Zion's council, the grant is contributing to the Honeywell Foundation music lesson program happening at Zion. With Zion's long and rich musical history, this outreach into our community is a perfect fit. Piano lessons, ukulele lessons, and a community drum circle all carry our love of music to students who have struggled to find instructors in recent years. Zion benefits by welcoming folks into our facility who might not otherwise enter our doors. Children and adults who are interested may get more information or register for lessons by contacting Carolyn Stoner at the Honeywell Foundation 260-274-1412.



## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

113 W Main St. N. Manchester, IN 46962

[office@zionlutheranchurch.net](mailto:office@zionlutheranchurch.net)

(260)982-6570



@TheLutheranChurch



[www.zionlutheranchurch.net](http://www.zionlutheranchurch.net)



The Lord is calling Zion to live out its calling in being to Jesus Christ and to each other by virtue of our baptism; to believe in Jesus Christ by virtue of our faith given as a gift of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament; to be sent by Jesus Christ as ambassadors of the gospel in our homes, workplaces, communities and to the ends of the earth.

**Zion  
Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

113 W. Main Street  
North Manchester, IN 46962

