



ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

MAY 2026

A Few Thoughts from Pastor



And when (Jesus) had said these things, as they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. Acts 1:9

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Most people think that when Jesus ascended, He went away. He went back up to heaven, wherever that is, and we won't see Him again until He comes back.

But that's not exactly what the Bible says. It says that He ascended until He was "out of their sight." Jesus is not gone. We just don't see Him with our natural eyes. The disciples that were with Him saw Him crucified and saw Him alive and saw Him ascend, all with their own eyes. But after His ascension ... now ... Jesus is not seen with our physical eyes, but with the eyes of faith.

After all, Jesus is not gone. He is here, just as promised, in His Word and in the Sacraments (Baptism and the Holy Supper). He is where His Word is preached, taught, and studied. He is where people are baptized. He is present when His body and blood are offered for believers to eat and drink. He is with us always, even to the very end of the age. Jesus is not gone at all! He's right here, but in a way that we can't see with our eyes.

Jesus didn't ascend so that He could get away from everyone, but so that He can be everywhere around the world, for everyone, in His Word! If Jesus were to limit Himself to one place, where we could see Him, that wouldn't do those of us much good who don't live there. But now that He has ascended into heaven, Jesus goes all over the world wherever His Word is preached and the Sacraments shared. Wherever the Holy Spirit gathers Christ's people, there Jesus is among them; hidden, but just as present as if we could see Him.

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Pastor Brian Holle
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11:00**
Day Off—Friday

OFFICE

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Tuesday & Thursday
Closed Friday

Never think or believe that Jesus is gone! But don't go looking for Him just anywhere either. Just as surely as He was on that cross for your sins and in the tomb for three short days, so He is right where His water and Word and body and blood are ... in His Church. There you will see Him with Spirit created eyes of faith until He comes again to be seen with our own physical eyes on the Last Day. Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



In Christ,
Pastor Holle

A Prayer as we remember the Ascension of Our Lord:

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

ZION LWML NEWS:

We are rebranding the local name of our ladies' group to "Women of Grace". We will CONTINUE our affiliation with the Zone, District and National LWML organizations as well as focusing on our missions and service projects locally and abroad..

Every woman of the congregation is encouraged to join us in our efforts, as we CONTINUE to meet on Friendship Sunday each month.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Diane, Anne or Lela.

Stewardship

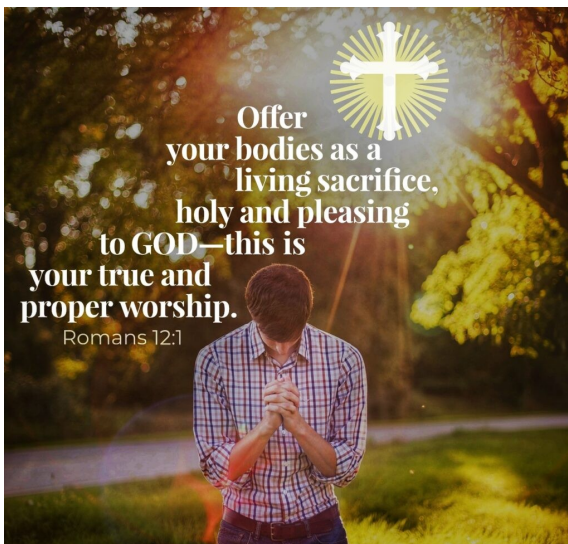


Living Sacrifices

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.



And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

ALL ARE INVITED

**Orphan
Grain
Train** 

All members of St. Paul and Zion congregations, including children, are invited to join the St. Paul Dorcas Group on a journey to the Lincoln Nebraska Orphan Grain Train facility. The group is scheduled to help from 1:00-3:30pm on Thursday, June 18th. They will need to know in advance how many will be coming.

The coordinator said there is something for everyone to help with at the facility. If you feel you cannot stand for very long, they have projects that you can sit while doing.

More information will be coming the weeks ahead. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Manche at 785-547-6202.

QUILT TYING

St. Paul Dorcas will meet on Thursday, April 30th at 9:30 in the church basement for quilt tying. If you have any sheets that you don't need, please bring along to use for quilt backings. Everyone welcome!

Congratulations to our Graduates



Kansas State University:

Joey Meyer

Paige Stover

Sabetha High School:

Naomi Pearson

Horton High School:

Julie Lowe

Hiawatha Middle School:

Noah Rygaard

May God be with each of you as you enter a new chapter in your life.

(We apologize if we have left anyone off the list. Please contact the office if you have a correction or addition. We will add them to our prayers for this important day of their lives!)

*There will be a Graduation Reception at St. Paul
on Sunday, May 10th
following the Worship Service to honor our graduates.*

ZION LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY LEAGUE
Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha, Kansas 66434
March 29, 2026

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Women's Missionary League was called to order on March 29, 2026, by Lela Middendorf with 4 members and 2 guests present. Anne read by the minutes from the previous meeting, and they were approved. Diane gave the treasurer's report.

The annual subscriptions for Lutheran Women's Quarterlies and the Zone website maintenance fees have been paid. A thank you note was read from Traci Rahe for our donations to her medical ministry. Anne will touch base with Pastor about organizing Zion's Altar Guild. Virginia and Lela will deliver large print Portals of Prayer this month to shut-ins and care facilities.

We are currently collecting Gifts from the Heart for District convention in the church foyer. We are additionally collecting different items that will be taken to Nortonville on April 25 for the Zone Rally.

Discussion followed on changing the name of our local organization. Motion was made by Becky and seconded by Virginia to change our local group's name from Zion LWML to Women of Grace. It is agreed that we will continue our efforts to the Zone, District and National LWML as well as service projects and support of missions, both local and abroad.

Becky made a motion, and Virginia seconded to appoint Lela as our delegate to the District Convention in April. Motion carried.

Becky made a motion, and Anne seconded to again support Kansans for Life through its Baby Bottle project between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Motion carried.

We talked about having a booth for the Maple Leaf Festival in September to hand out young plant slips as a service project.

Meeting was adjourned, and our next meeting is April 26 at Zion at 9:15am.

Anne Arnesen
Secretary

***Pastor Holle has a radio broadcast on KNZA
at approximately 10:05am on Sunday mornings.***



Please Update!

***If you have a new cell phone number, address, or email address,
please make sure you send it to the office.***

*You can e-mail the office at stpaulzionlutheran@gmail.com or call 785-742-3995.
The office would also like the names and addresses
of any members who are at college. Thank You!*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Military: Spencer Ernst, Alexander Williams

College: Joey Meyer, Megan Brockhoff, Paige Stover, Gunner Smith, Marcus Hinton, Remington Killman.

Care Facilities & Shut-Ins: Carol Bauer, Gene Rice, Esther Krug, Doris Rice, Juanita Fritz.

Also in our prayers: Carol Rand, Julie Selland, David Davidson, Doug Barrett, Rachel Spann, Malcolm Gigstad, Tim Bianchi, Jill Kohlmeier, Katie Fry, Jeanne Lowe, Wes Duesing, Aimee Hampl, Carl Mueller.

We Remember the blessed saints who now rest in the Lord and we pray for their families that they remember all who die in the Lord live with the Lord. (Romans 6:5)



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1-Marcus Hinton, May 3-Mike Gormley, May 5-Saige Stover, May 7-Kooper Collins, May 12-Bernard Chadwell, May 19-Jennifer Blaske, May 19-Kiaria Collins, May 21-Jeremy Davidson, May 24-Dwight Meyer, May 29-Cindy Manche

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 29-Leon & Susan Wissmann

SERVERS FOR MAY

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

May 3rd: Nancy Flentie & Mark/Kathy Carpenter
May 10th: Kerry & Susan Broxterman
May 17th: Dwight & Charlotte Kruse
May 24th: Dennis & Cindy Manche
May 31st: Paul Middendorf & Shaun Pearson

Altar Guild for May: Helen Hoppe, Susan Broxterman, Mark Meyer

ZION LUTHERAN

May 3rd: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Cal Gigstad, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman, **Greeters**-Hampl family, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

May 10th: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann, **Greeters**-Sharon Lowe & Darlene Atland, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

May 17th: **Elder**-Bob Freese, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Mike Brockhoff, **Greeters**-Dwight & Sue Meyer, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

May 24th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann, **Greeters**-Hampl family, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

May 31st: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman, **Greeters**-Diane Brockhoff & Cathy Brockhoff, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

Altar Guild for May: Anne Arnesen & Becky Holle

St. Paul Dorcas

Dorcas met April 12, 2026 following the Worship Service. Becky Meyer and Sadie Meyer furnished refreshments of Lemon Blueberry Cheesecake and donuts.

Susan Broxterman led the Bible Study on the first section of Lesson 4 on James from *Unshakable* by Donna Snow. The half-brother of Jesus went from a doubting brother to an impactful leader. He is the author of the epistle of James. This lesson included Bible references to Jesus' family and how they followed customs and laws of first-century Judaism.

President Sarah Kleopfer called the meeting to order. There were 13 members present. Acting Secretary Kathy Heiniger read the minutes of the March meeting which were approved as read. There was correspondence from Kansans for Life and the Orphan Grain Train. Treasurer Kathy Heiniger gave the Treasurer's Report. There were no officer reports. Nancy Manche reported that a trip is planned to the Orphan Grain Train warehouse in Lincoln on Thursday, June 18. We are scheduled to work from 1:00 – 3:30pm.

There was no unfinished business.

For new business it was decided to gather food for a Fill the Cupboard event sponsored by Second Harvest for Hiawatha Middle School and High School. Food will be collected on April 26 through May 10. A list of suggested items will be on the bulletin board. On Mother's Day a collection will be taken for Lutherans for Life. A Graduation Reception for Naomi Pearson and Joey Meyer was discussed.

The regular offering and the quarterly mite offering were collected.

Announcements: The Spring Zone Event is April 25 in Nortonville. Those interested in carpooling should talk to Becky Meyer. VBS is planned for June 8-12. The next Dorcas meeting is May 3 following the Worship Service. Becky Holle is the Bible Study Leader and Linda Duesing is the hostess.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's prayer.

Acting Secretary

Kathy Heiniger



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We invite all kids to come and join us for Sunday School!
Sunday School meets each Sunday morning at **9:15am at Zion.**
Sunday School **at St. Paul** starts after the service **at 9:30am.**
The Zion Adult Bible Class meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15am.

SECOND HARVEST-CAMPUS
CUPBOARD AT HMS & HHS

Fill the Cupboard

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26-
SUNDAY, MAY 10TH**

Congregation's are invited to bring food donations to church to support Campus Cupboard at HMS & HHS. Items are assigned point values based on need:

- 1 point - Small items (ramen, mac & cheese)
- 2 points - Standard items (canned vegetables, soup, cereal, boxed meals)
- 3 points - High-need items (peanut butter, protein-rich foods)

The church with the highest point total will receive a \$250 Thrivent Action Team, which can be used to provide doughnuts before a church service or support another church-led activity.



FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

The Elders at Zion have agreed to designate the last Sunday of the month as Fellowship Sunday. There will be no Sunday School classes or adult Bible Class on that Sunday. In their place beginning at 9:15 a.m., the ladies will have their LWML meeting in the Bible Class room, and other Zion members can share fellowship, coffee and food during that time prior to worship services. LWML members will provide the baked goods. Next fellowship is April 26th.

A decorative logo for 'Fellowship' written in a cursive font, surrounded by small flowers and green leaves.



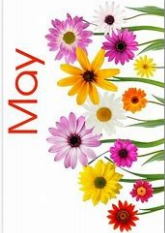
Photo from the LWML Kansas District Convention held in Manhattan April 17-19. There were 283 in attendance. A Mission Goal of \$160,600 was approved by delegates for the 2026-2028 Biennium. Highlights were the Opening Worship Service with Holy Communion, Bible Studies, Mites in Action Mission Speakers, and entertainment by Harmony Hill Farmstead and Band. All activities revolved around the theme "Bear Fruit That Will Last" based on John 15:16 emphasizing that we need to stay connected to The Vine so we can bear good fruit that glorifies God and leads others to eternal life.

YOU ARE INVITED
TO
Court of Awards
American Heritage Girls
Troop KS2315

Tuesday, May 5th 2026
6:30pm @Eternal Hope Church
410 East Iowa Hiawatha KS

BRING A LAWN CHAIR!!!!
Refreshments to follow!!

MAY, 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------|
|  | | | | | 1 <i>Pastor Holle day off</i> | 2 |
| 5th Sunday of Easter 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 St. Paul Dorcas | 4 | 5 6:30 AHG | 6 7:00 Midweek Bible Study | 7 | 8 <i>Pastor Holle day off</i> | 9 |
| 6th Sunday of Easter 9:15 Bible Study @Zion | 11 | 12 Circuit @Wathena | 13 7:00 Midweek Bible Study | 14 The Ascension of Our Lord 7:00pm Ascension Service @Zion | 15 <i>Pastor Holle day off</i> | 16 |
| 7th Sunday of Easter 9:15 Bible Study @Zion | 18 Articles Due For Newsletter | 19 7:00 Zion Council meeting | 20 7:00 Midweek Bible Study | 21 | 22 <i>Pastor Holle day off</i> | 23 |
| The Day of Pentecost 9:15 Zion - Women of Grace Zion Fellowship St. Paul Fellowship | 25 Memorial Day | 26 | 27 7:00 Midweek Bible Study | 28 | 29 <i>Pastor Holle day off</i> | 30 |