

DECEMBER 2023



Pastor Brian Holle

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Hours:
8:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday, Thursday

A Few Thoughts from Pastor

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4-5

As I sit down to put these “thoughts” onto paper, Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and Christmas is on the not-to-distant horizon just beyond Advent. I find myself both thinking about giving thanks AND eagerly anticipating the annual celebration of our Lord’s birth. But most of all, I’m thinking about how thankful I am for the Christ Child; for His incarnation, His birth, His life of perfect obedience, and the incredible gifts (Word & Sacraments) that I am privileged to share with His people.



While many of my thoughts this month will be centered on a manger, and on the Christ Child lying there on the hay, His cross is also never far from my mind. Yes, in my mind, looming behind the manger is always a bloody wooden cross. His swaddling clothes

bring to mind bloody garments for which Roman soldiers will cast lots, and His little halo (from paintings and depictions of that most holy night), at least for this season, “hides” the crown of thorns that will one day adorn His brow. And I remain humbly most thankful for the redemption that we have through Jesus Christ, that Sinless child of God and man.

Johann Gerhard once wrote a meditation (or prayer) focusing on the redemption we receive through Christ, and as our focus again turns toward Bethlehem and to the expectant virgin Mary and her incredible Son, I thought I would share it with you ... read (I suggest reading slowly), reread, consider, and enjoy:

Eternal, omnipotent God, I give to You the greatest thanks because You created me when I was nothing. I thank You much more because You redeemed me when I was lost and condemned, caught in the jaws of hell. But You removed me by the blood of Your Son (Colossians 1:14). I was a slave to Satan. But by Your grace, You freed me from the dominion of the devil and placed me in the kingdom of Christ.

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I am entirely indebted to You because You formed me in my entirety. I am obliged to praise You with my tongue because You gave it to me (Psalm 51:15). My mouth is obliged to announce Your praise because it breathes the air and breath You provide. My heart is obliged to cling to You with continual love because You formed it. All my members are obliged to serve You quickly because, however many and great they are, You wondrously made them all.

If I am already indebted to You because You have made me, what can I possibly give back to You for my redemption from servitude and captivity to sin? You have rescued the lost sheep from the claws of the infernal wolf (John 10:28). You have freed the runaway slave from the prison of the devil. You have anxiously sought the lost coin (Luke 15:8).

In Adam, I fell. You raised me up. In Adam, I was held captive by the chains of sin. You broke those chains. In Adam, I perished. You desired to save me again.

Who am I, miserable worm, that You were so anxious for my redemption and desired to do so much for my salvation? If the parents of our race were utterly rejected by You after the fall, and they, together with all their descendants, were removed from the sight of Your glory and cast into the deepest hell, not one of us could complain of injustice. We receive what our deeds deserve. What else could we ask or expect from You, who created us in Your image and provided us with sufficient power to guard our innocence?

You showed Your incomprehensible and unspeakably great love toward us when You promised a Son, a Savior, to the first parents after the fall (Genesis 3:15). In the fullness of time, You sent this Savior to us. Through Him, You recall us from death to life, from sin to righteousness, from hell to heavenly glory.

O Lover of all humanity, whose delight is in the children of men (Proverbs 8:31), who can offer worthy praise for this philanthropy? Moreover, who can conceive of it? These are the incomprehensible riches of Your goodness. This is the immeasurable treasure of Your kindness, which our impoverished understanding cannot grasp. The slaves were so valuable that for their redemption the Son was given up to death. The one hostile to You was so loved that You appointed the beloved Son to be my Redeemer. My soul is astounded as I reflect on this kindness. It is deeply moved and melts in love for You. Amen.

What a gift ... a Son, His Son, our Savior ... wrapped not in pretty paper with a bow, but in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Behold, consider, rejoice, and give thanks!

In Christ,
Pastor Holle





FAIRVIEW LIGHTS UP

***St. Paul Lutheran Church
Evangelism & Outreach Committee
will be hosting an Ornament Display
at the Fairview Community Building
on December 14th.***

This will be from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

***Ornaments will be given out to
families with children.***

***If questions, please contact Sadie Meyer
at 785-288-8223.***

ZION LWML

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church LWML was called to order by President Lela Middendorf on November 14, 2023 with 4 members present.

Lela opened the meeting with a devotional overview entitled "Joyfully Ever After" which was the theme of the recent Kansas District LWML Retreat in Wichita. Author Sharla Fritz had been the main speaker for the Retreat.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Anne and approved, and Diane gave the treasurer's report.

Discussion followed on the possibility of changing our LWML format from what it is now to simply an executive committee with committees that emphasize designated service projects. No decisions were made at this time.

Diane moved that we donate \$100 to St Louis Seminary Food Bank and \$100 to Pastor Holle for Christmas. Jackie seconded the motion and the motion carried.

We plan to finalize preparation of 9 Christmas goodie bags at our next meeting on December 12 to be distributed to our shut-ins prior to the holidays. We are reminded to pickup our LWML Quarterlies and Kansas District LWML Sonshine at church.

Anne Arnesen, Secretary

Ladies Bible Study
***Tuesday nights at 6:30pm
at Zion Lutheran.
Please join us!***



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Military: Spencer Ernst, Bert Ernst, Alexander Williams

College: Joey Meyer, Sage Meyer, Paul Pearson, Megan Brockhoff, Paige Stover, Gunner Smith.

Care Facilities & Shut-Ins: Betty Allen, Carol Bauer, Gene Rice, Darlene Covert, Connie Kneisel, Jaynell Robidoux, Don Robidoux, Charles Fritz, Lois Voss, Tom Hansen, Bonnie Reynolds.

Also in our prayers: Bill Rahe, Dale Strobel, Charlotte Kruse, Wes Duesing, Richard Clay, Aimee Hampl, Carl Mueller, Sherry Hartley, Randi Fischer Murphy, Tammy Shefferd Miller, Edna Coonce, Janice Grubb, Kurt Killman.

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)



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec 1-Charlotte Kruse, Dec 3-Scott Gigstad, Dec 4-Pastor Brian Holle, Dec 6-Jackson Manche, Dec 7-Diane Davis, Dec 8-Corey Dunaway, Dec 8-Henry Smith, Dec 8-Kenny Stephens, Dec 12-Jennifer Lowe, Dec 18-Helen Bauerle, Dec 18-Susan Wissmann, Dec 25-Tanner Smith, Dec 27-Daniel Kruse, Dec 28-David Middendorf, Dec 30-Anne Arnesen

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 3-Larry & Carol Walter, Dec 4-Janis & Ken Krug, Dec 12-Richard & Barbara Shefferd, Dec 28-Matt & Jill Sprick, Dec 30-David & Lela Middendorf, Dec 31-Chad & Amanda Hinton

SERVERS FOR DECEMBER

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

December 3rd: Dwight & Charlotte Kruse
December 10th: Milan Kloepfer & Ray Thieme
December 17th: Wes & Linda Duesing
December 24th: Jeff & Leslie Brockhoff
December 31st: Mark & Becky Meyer

Altar Guild for December: Leslie Brockhoff, Kathy Heiniger, Galen Meyer

ZION LUTHERAN

December 3rd: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Corey Dunaway, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter, **Greeters**-Scott & Jessica Gigstad, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

December 10th: **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Remington Killman, **Usher**-Leon Wissmann, **Greeters**-Kurt Killman & Brady Killman, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

December 17th: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Usher**-David Middendorf, **Greeters**- Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

December 24th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter, **Greeters**- Bob & Virginia Freese, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

December 31st: **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Usher**-Leon Wissmann, **Greeters**- , **Sound System**-Jr. & Jeanne Lowe

Altar Guild for December: Lela Middendorf, Diane Davis, Barb Mueller

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!



During our mid-week Advent services this year we will focus on the
“coming” (or Advent) of our God.

On Dec. 6, at St. Paul, we will consider how **He came**

On Dec. 13 at Zion, we will consider how **He comes**

And on Dec. 20, at St. Paul, we will consider how **He will come again**

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
and St. Paul Bible Class meet after their service.
Please come join us!!



PLEASE HELP TO KEEP US UP TO DATE:

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

You can e-mail the office at
office@NEKpartnership.org or call 785-740-0268.
The office would also like the names and addresses
of any members who are at college. Thank You!

ST. PAUL DORCAS

The St. Paul Dorcas met November 5, 2023 upstairs in the sanctuary for a brief meeting after our church celebrated Bertha Kruse's 100th birthday. We had a beautiful cake, candy corn, peanuts and coffee.

President Nancy Manche read a devotion called Harvest Time "Ready Set Go" from Galatians 6:9. With a message that Christ made everything ready, "Go and Tell".

President Nancy Manche opened the meeting. Roll call was answered by 13 members and 2 guests present. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

President Nancy shared our condolences from the Dorcas ladies to Kathy Heiniger for the passing of her father, David Rupp. Kathy Heiniger reported on the Fall LWML Event that was October 7th, in Sabetha. There were 30 ladies in attendance. National President, Eden Keefe was able to attend and introduced herself; she encouraged young adults to get involved and answered questions. Pastor Kinney had a Bible Study from the book "A Lineage of Grace". Everyone enjoyed the skit by Cindy Manche and Rosalie Mellenbruch. Followed with a soup and salad luncheon.

Nancy Manche and her sister Jane took the school and hygiene kits along with the quilts to Topeka, October 10th to be shipped to the Orphan Grain Train facility.

President Nancy Manche asked if there were any volunteers or changes to the slate of officers. Annalee Kleopfer made a motion to accept the slate as is. Karen Bauman seconded the motion.

Sarah Kleopfer said she'd be working on the new Dorcas book for the 2024 year. With the theme, "Jesus is Our Anchor".

We were reminded about our Christmas stockings and handed out a few stockings to new members. Christmas stocking money goes to charities.

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 2nd at 6 PM, followed with a pizza meal.

For our Christmas social December 3rd, we'll be leaving after church to gather at 11:30 in Highland at the Kirkwood restaurant. Then we'll meet at Linda Duesing's for dessert and more socializing and also collecting monies from our stockings. We will resume our mite collection in January.

We were reminded to keep Charlotte Kruse in our prayers. She will be having another ultrasound on November 17.

Offering was taken. We closed with the Lord's prayer

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

American Heritage Girls

Troop 2315 packed a total of 93 shoe-boxes! (Exactly the same as last year!)

After carefully packing and praying, the boxes went to Eternal Hope's collection center. The boxes began their journey at a regional collection point in St Joe, then onto a national PRC (processing center) where each box was inspected and its destination country determined. The girls are tracking the boxes and are eagerly waiting to hear of their final destination.

The Troop is so grateful for the generous donations from church members, what a blessing to have such a supportive Charter Organization!

Merry Christmas from American Heritage



PICTURES FROM BERTHA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



2023
HOLIDAY WORSHIP
SCHEDULE



*Joint Advent 1 -
Wednesday, December 6
at St. Paul - 7:00pm*

*Joint Advent 2 -
Wednesday, December 13
at Zion - 7:00pm*

*Joint Advent 3 –
Wednesday, December 20
at St. Paul - 7:00pm*

Christmas Eve Services, December 24

St. Paul - 6:00pm (subject to change)

Zion - 8:00pm (subject to change)

*Joint Christmas Day services
will be held at Zion – 10:00am*

*Joint New Year's Eve service
will be held at St. Paul starting at 5:00pm*

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

*The choir of Zion Lutheran Church, Everest,
along with several members of the community,
would like to invite you to the performance
of the beautiful Christmas Cantata,*

Come Worship the King.

*The cantata will be at 2:00pm on Sunday, December 10th,
at Zion Lutheran Church, 1521 Prairie Road, Everest.*



DECEMBER, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 11:00 Zion decorate 6:00 St. Paul decorate
3 1st Sunday in Advent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 Bible Study @StP 11:30 St. Paul Dorcas	4	5 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	6 7:00 Advent Service @St. Paul	7 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	8	9
10 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 Bible Study @StP	11 7:00 Elder's Mtg. @Zion	12 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 7:30 Zion LWML	13 7:00 Advent Service @Zion	14	15	16
17 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 Bible Study @StP	18 7:00 Elder's Mtg. @St. Paul	19 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	20 7:00 Advent Service @St. Paul	21 Start of Winter	22	23
24 4th Sunday in Advent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 Bible Study & Fellowship @StP 6:00 Christmas Eve service @St. Paul 8:00 Christmas Eve service @Zion	25 Christmas  10:00 Service @Zion	26	27	28	29	30
31 1st Sunday after Christmas 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 Bible Study @StP 5:00 New Year's Eve service @St. Paul						