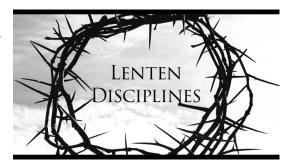


ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH MARCH 2025

A Few Thoughts from Pastor

At St. Paul and Zion, we use the one-year lectionary (a schedule of readings from the Bible) for our Sunday and feast/festival services. In this one-year cycle, the final three weeks before Ash Wednesday are known as "gesima" Sundays (Septua, Sexa, and Quinqua), and collectively they make up the season of pre-Lent. The Gospels assigned for these Sundays invite us to remember that salvation is a gift (by grace), not the result of our work, intentions, or efforts; that God's holy Word is the ultimate "seed" of faith; and that it is by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ that we truly "see" Him as the one and only Savior of the world. This mini-season sandwiched between Epiphany and Lent provides a great foundation from which to start our Lenten journey each year.

And Lent is the time someone will usually ask me about ashes, fasting, giving something up for Lent, or something along these lines. A full and complete answer to such "simple" questions about Lenten discipline and past or historic practices/customs is usually more than the person inquiring is really after, and I'm certainly not going to try to answer all the permutations of these questions here in the newsletter. But Lent IS an excellent time to "discipline" our bodies (and hearts and minds) in preparation and anticipation for the full and unabashed joy of Easter.



A number of years ago my field-work and vicarage supervisor, Pastor William Weedon (St. Paul – Hamel) posted his suggestions related to Lenten "disciplines," and I believe each is worthy of consideration even (& especially) in our day. As Adolf Köberle once noted: "At all events even asceticism [austerity and self denial] can be described by the paradoxical statement: Its exercise can give salvation to no one but its neglect can corrupt anyone." Pastor Weedon then continued:

So as not to fall into that corruption, the Lenten disciplines are set before us. Not as though they are tools we ought use only during the Lenten days, but as training for all our days of battling the old man in the power of the Holy Spirit and with the joyful concurrence of the new man.

continued to next page...

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Hours: 8:00am-1:00pm Tuesday & Thursday Closed Friday **PRAYER** - can I spend more time intentionally in prayer this Lent? Here's a prayer that might be of use:

[Pastor Weedon then includes a "Lenten Litany" which we have included as a separate page of this newsletter. In addition, I might suggest Luther's Morning & Evening Prayers, the "Our Father …" each and every day, or even the Collect from the previous Sunday prayed once or more each day.]

ALMSGIVING - can I find ways to increase my giving to the poor and suffering in this world? Can I grow in my experience of the profound truth of our Lord's words: "It is more blessed to give than to receive"? What can I do to concretely bless the poor this Lententide both in my own local community and in the world?

FASTING - can I limit my intake of food during these days? One tradition of the Western fast would encourage you to eat only 1/4 meal at breakfast, a regular lunch, and 1/4 meal in the evening. No one who has a medical condition that would endanger their body (or is pregnant) should fast in this way; but others might find it a very fruitful and useful reminder that "man does not live by bread alone; but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

CONFESSION - before you head into Lent, why not schedule a time with your pastor to confess your sins and receive forgiveness? This wonderful gift is far too underutilized in the Church - Luther professed that he was so blessed by it, that he'd never let anyone deprive him of it. Sadly, we've been depriving ourselves far too often.

COMMITMENT TO ATTEND THE EXTRA SERVICES - make a commitment to be present when the Word of God is preached, His praises sung, and His sacrament distributed during Lent. The Lenten mid-week services are a great blessing as we follow our Lord's Passion. ... It is the Word of God that transforms us, and so the more richly we let the Word of Christ dwell in us, the more our joy in the Kingdom will increase.



I would also suggest some type of **DAILY DEVOTION** if you and your family have not already made that a part of your daily routine. The daily devotions by the folks at Higher Things or Lutheran Hour Ministries (copies will be available in the narthex during Lent), Portals of Prayer, the Book of Family Prayer, or some other suitable devotional are an excellent way to consciously set aside some time with God's Word each and every day. If you have any questions or world like one of these devotional resources, please don't hesitate to let me know. And may God bless all our efforts to discipline (& train) ourselves this Lenten season.

In Christ.

Pastor Holle

Stewardship



God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as "the most forgotten words in the Scriptures." They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need is as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!



MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Midweek Bible Study meets at 7:00pm on Wednesday nights and will rotate between St. Paul and Zion. Please join us!

Please Update!

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 785-742-3995.
The office would also like the <u>names and addresses</u> of any members who are at college. Thank You!





Ladies Bible Study

Tuesday nights at 6:30pm at Zion Lutheran.

Please join us!

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





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.
Please come join us!!

<u>LENTEN SCHEDULE – 2025</u>

Ash Wednesday – March 5th: Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

March 12th: Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

March 19th: Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

March 26th: Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

April 2nd: Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

April 9th: Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

April 17th: Maundy Thursday Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

April 18th: Good Friday Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

PALM SUNDAY-April 13th Services @St. Paul 8:30am Services @Zion 10:30am

EASTER SUNDAY: April 20th Service @St. Paul 8:30am Services @Zion 10:30am



LENTEN MEALS WILL BE HELD

BEFORE THE LENTEN SERVICE EACH WEEK,

STARTING AT 6:00PM.

THESE WILL START ON MARCH 12TH AT ZION, AND GO

THROUGH APRIL 9TH.

ST. PAUL DORCAS



On February 2, 2025, our Dorcas group met in the sanctuary after the morning church service. We started with our annual Prayer Service led by Sarah Kleopfer "Blessed are They" based on the Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5:1-12. The prayer service was prepared by Rev. Brian Noack.

The beatitudes are some of the most beloved words of Jesus and there are teachings of Jesus demonstrating how Christ has filled these beatitudes for us. Jesus highlights people in various situations of life, situations that are not always easy to endure—or even envision—as a child of God. Yet, our Lord calls the people in each condition "blessed" and assures each of them of their place in the kingdom of heaven. As you hear the precious beatitudes from our Lord or sing the selected hymns and pray for people in the various stages of life, may you indeed be blessed and encouraged in your life of faith. May your mind be drawn to the work of Christ, His life, and His death and resurrection which bless you each day until He brings you home to the Kingdom of Heaven forever.

We closed the prayer service with Lord's Prayer.

We then went downstairs for our February meeting. We started with tasty refreshments of blueberry coffee cake, scones, scotch-a-roos and coffee brought by Leslie and Evan Brockhoff.

President Sarah Kleopfer called our meeting to order. Roll call was taken with 15 members present. January minutes were read and approved. There was no correspondence. Treasurer Kathy Heiniger gave the treasurer's report and it was accepted.

Old business: Sarah had registration and emergency contact forms if we were interested in taking the bus to Omaha for the LWML Convention in June.

New business: for our February Food Gathering of Love, we will be placing a box in the back of the Narthex for the local food pantries until March 2nd. Five Valentine cards were signed and mailed. The Spring Event will be April 12, which we are hosting. Also to be discussed in March—St. Paul will provide two Lenten meals before the March 19th and April 2nd services.

Today's offering is going to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Next month Bible Study leader will be Leslie Brockhoff and Hostess will be Kathy Heiniger. Altar Committee for March is Sadie Meyer, Becky Meyer and Elder Galen Meyer. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Becky Meyer

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Military: Spencer Ernst, Alexander Williams

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

<u>Care Facilities & Shut-Ins</u>: Carol Bauer, Gene Rice, Bonnie Reynolds, Esther Krug, Doris Rice, Juanita Fritz, Don Robidoux.

Also in our prayers: Becky Holle, Mike Dunaway, Tim Bianchi, Danny Bauerle, tie Fry, Jeanne Lowe, Wes Duesing, Richard Clay, Aimee Hampl, Carl Mueller, Sherry Hartley.

<u>We Remember</u> 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)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar 3-Joyce Brockhoff, Mar 3-Carter Jante, Mar 5-Linda Duesing, Mar 6-Robert Smith, Mar 7-Sherry Killman, Mar 10-Galen Bauman, Mar 11-Jeremy Arnesen, Mar 13-Johanna Brockhoff, Mar 14-Malerie Manche, Mar 17-Kelsey Collins, Mar 18-Aimee Hampl, Mar 19-Jackie Bianchi, Mar 21-Larry Kneisel, Mar 23-Amanda Hinton, Mar 24-Ryan Davis, Mar 25-Virginia Freese, Mar 27-Sue Meyer, Mar 27-Wes Duesing, Mar 30-Barb Lay, Mar 31-Jillian Hefner

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 6-Tom & Hannah Gavin

SERVERS FOR MARCH

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

Mar 2nd: Doug & Sarah Kleopfer Mar 9th: Clif & Kathy Heiniger Mar 16th: Chuck & Deb Sjulin

Mar 23rd: Milan Kloepfer & Ray Thieme

Mar 30th: Wes & Linda Duesing

Altar Guild for March: Becky Meyer, Sadie Meyer, Galen Meyer

ZION LUTHERAN

Mar 2nd: Elder-Scott Gigstad, Acolyte-Saige Stover, Ushers-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,

Greeters-Bob & Virginia Freese, Sound System-David Middendorf

Mar 9th: Elder-Leon Wissmann, Acolyte-Brady Killman, Ushers-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann,

<u>Greeters</u>–Dwight & Sue Meyer, <u>Sound System</u>-Bob & Virginia Freese

Mar 16th: <u>Elder</u>-Travis Hampl, <u>Acolyte</u>-Grace Hampl, <u>Ushers</u>-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman,

Greeters-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, Sound System-Dwight Meyer

Mar 23rd: Elder-Scott Gigstad, Acolyte-Remington Killman, Ushers-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann,

Greeters-David & Lela Middendorf, Sound System-Bob & Virginia Freese

Mar 30th: Elder-Leon Wissmann, Acolyte-Brady Killman, Ushers-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,

Greeters–Gigstad family, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

Altar Guild for March: Anne Arnesen & Deb Reschke

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH **BOARDS & OFFICERS - 2025**

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Leslie Brockhoff

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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Recording Secretary: Virginia Freese	Virginia.Freese@gmail.com	Dec 31/2027
Financial Secretary: Cathy Brockhoff	cathyjo66425@yahoo.com	Dec 31/2026
Treasurer: Lela Middendorf	Lela0725@hotmail.com	Dec 31/2025
Head Elder: Scott Gigstad	gigstad@rainbowtel.net	Dec 31/2025
Worship: Anne Arnesen	anniea50@hotmail.com	Dec 31/2026
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Fellowship/Outreach:		Dec 31/2027
Church Properties: David Middendorf	dlmiddendorf@sbcglobal.net	Dec 31/2026

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Leon Wissmann <u>leonwissmann68@gmail.com</u>
Travis Hampl <u>travishampl@gmail.com</u>

MARCH, 2025

Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri		7 Pastor Holle Day Off	14 Pastor Holle Day Off	21 Pastor Holle Day Off	28 Pastor Holle Day Off	
Thu		9	13 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	20 Start of Spring	27 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	
Wed		5 Ash Wednesday 7:00 Ash Wednesday service	12 6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten service	19 6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten service	26 6:00 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten service	
Tue		4 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	11 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	18 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	25 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation	
Mon		3 7:00 St. Paul Elder meeting	10 7:00 Zion Elder meeting	17 St Patrick's Day	24	31
Sun	Segulation of the segulation o	2 Quinquagesima 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas	9 1st Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Begins 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	16 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	23 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Fellowship	30 4th Sunday in Lent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion

Lenten Litany

(as recommended by Pastor William Weedon, St. Paul – Hamel)

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal Word of the Father,
Lord Jesus Christ, the Word through whom all things were made,
Lord Jesus Christ, foretold by the prophets in signs and words,
Lord Jesus Christ, in the fullness of time conceived by the
Holy Spirit,
Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Holy Virgin,
Lord Jesus Christ, hymned by the angels,
Lord Jesus Christ, adored by the shepherds,
Lord Jesus Christ, worshipped by the Magi,
Lord Jesus Christ, held by St. Simeon,
Lord Jesus Christ, praised by St. Anna,
Lord Jesus Christ, obedient to your parents,
Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to a sinner's baptism,
Lord Jesus Christ, fasting in the wilderness,
Lord Jesus Christ, driving out demons,
Lord Jesus Christ, cleansing the lepers,
Lord Jesus Christ, giving sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf,
Lord Jesus Christ, teaching the precepts of the kingdom,
Lord Jesus Christ, raising the dead,
Lord Jesus Christ, walking on water and changing water into wine,
Lord Jesus Christ, praised by the little children,
Lord Jesus Christ, riding into Your city as the sacrifice appointed,
Lord Jesus Christ, giving your body and blood to be eaten
and drunk,
Lord Jesus Christ, praying in the garden,
Lord Jesus Christ, bound and mocked,
Lord Jesus Christ, stripped and beaten,
Lord Jesus Christ, innocently condemned to death,
Lord Jesus Christ, opening Your hands upon the cross to
embrace the world,
Lord Jesus Christ, knowing the loneliness of our exile and our sin,
Lord Jesus Christ, trampling down death by death,
Lord Jesus Christ, pouring forth water and blood to save the world,
Lord Jesus Christ, sanctifying our graves by lying in a tomb,
Lord Jesus Christ, harrowing hell and releasing the prisoners,
Lord Jesus Christ, rising in victory over death and corruption,
Lord Jesus Christ, appearing to the disciples in the broken bread,
Lord Jesus Christ, ascending in triumph,
Lord Jesus Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father,
Lord Jesus Christ, High Priest who ever lives to intercede for us,
Lord Jesus Christ, coming on the clouds of glory to renew all things,
Lord Jesus Christ, dread Judge at the Last Day,
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

have mercy on me a sinner. have mercy on me a sinner.

have mercy on me a sinner. have mercy on me a sinner. have mercy on me a sinner. have mercy on me a sinner.

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