



ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

APRIL 2025

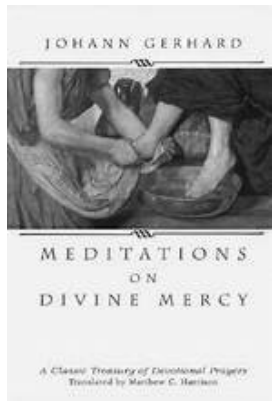
A Few Thoughts from Pastor (& Johann Gerhard)

God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

In just under a month, our journey through Lent will once again draw to a close, and we will gather, by faith, at the foot of a cross outside Jerusalem. And there, I pray, we can add our “Amen” to this piece written by the great Lutheran theologian Johann Gerhard nearly 400 years ago. The prayer considers our Lord’s Passion even as it thanks Him for the gift His Passion brings. Read, ponder, and enjoy ...

Thanksgiving for Christ’s Suffering

O most godly Jesus, I thank You that, receiving the penalty of my sin, You willingly underwent hunger, thirst, cold, exhaustion, ridicule, persecution, sorrow, poverty, imprisonment, scourging, the piercing of thorns, and even a bitter death on a cross. How great is the fire of Your love that persuaded You to plunge willingly into the sea of that suffering for a miserable and ungrateful slave. In Your innocence and righteousness, You were free from all suffering, but Your immeasurable and indescribable love made You a debtor and a defendant in my place. I committed the crime; You underwent the punishment. I plundered; You made amends (Psalm 69:4). I sinned; You were punished.



O kindest Jesus, I recognize the depth of Your mercy and the earnestness of Your love (Luke 1:78). You appear to love me more than You love Yourself because You gave Yourself up for me. Why was the sentence of death pronounced on You? You are completely innocent. Why were You, the fairest among the sons of men, spit on (Psalm 45:2)? Why did You, the righteous one, undergo flogging and fetters? All these abuses rightly belonged to me. But You, because of unspeakable love, descended to the prison of this world. You clothed Yourself with my servile dwelling, willingly taking on Yourself what I justly deserve. Because of my sin, I was to be assigned to the unceasing, scorching flames of hell. But You boiled with the fire of love on the altar of the cross, setting me free from those flames. I was to be cast away from the face of the heavenly Father because of my sin. But for my sake, You chose to be abandoned by Your heavenly Father. I was to be tormented forever by the devil and his angels. But You, because of immeasurable love, gave Yourself for me and were harassed and crucified by the servants of Satan.

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In the various ways You were made to suffer, I see evidence of Your love for me. Those fetters, those scourgings, those thorns that injured You were because of my sins. You bore all this because of me, because of Your indescribable love. Your love was not satisfied by the assumption of my flesh. You desired to establish that love even more firmly through that most bitter passion of Your soul and body. Who am I, most powerful Lord, that for the sake of a disobedient slave You willingly served so many years? Who am I, the most disgraceful bond-servant of sin and whore of the devil, that for my sake You, fairest bridegroom, did not refuse to die? Who am I, kindest Creator, that for my sake, a most wretched creature, You did not shrink from the punishment of the cross?

Truly, most loving Bridegroom, to You I am a blood bride. For my sake, You poured forth blood so abundantly. Truly, fairest Lily, to You I am an injurious piercing thorn. I placed on You a harsh and enduring load. The weight of this so pressed You that drops of blood freely flowed from Your body. Because of Your love, Lord Jesus, only redeemer and mediator, I will sing psalms of praise to You for eternity. Amen

Gerhard, "Meditations on Divine Mercy," CPH 1992.

I look forward to Easter morning as the Church once more breaks out with shouts and songs of victory, thanks, praise, and adoration, and to the return of the triumphant "Alleluia" (*praise the Lord!*) to the Church's worship ... and I look forward to joining my voice with yours as we rejoice Easter morning. See you at church!

In His service,

Pastor Holle

LENTEN SCHEDULE – 2025

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, THROUGH APRIL 9TH .

Stewardship



Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have every bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

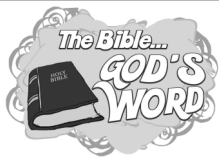
You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are his: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.



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 names and addresses
of any members who are at college. Thank You!*



***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!!



ST. PAUL DORCAS

On March 2, 2025, our Dorcas group met in the basement after the morning church service. Delicious refreshments of blueberry coffee cake, cinnamon coffee cake, peanut butter cornflake cookies and coffee were served by Kathy Heiniger. Our morning Bible study leader, Leslie Brockhoff, opened with a prayer. We then proceeded with Lesson 2, Day 3, titled "Mary's Magnificat". We looked into how Mary wrote her Magnificat of praise to God. We compared it to Hannah's song and Psalm 113. It was clear they knew their scripture and had faith filled trust in the Lord. What a reminder to us, the joy of the lord is our strength. Leslie closed the Bible Study with a prayer.

President Sarah Kleopfer called the business meeting to order. Sadie Meyer filled in as secretary, and roll call was taken with 15 members present. February minutes were read and approved. For correspondence we had a thank you from the family of Betty Allen for her funeral dinner, and a thank you from Lutheran Urban Mission Agency. We also received flyers from Topeka Rescue Mission and Lutheran World Relief. Treasurer Kathy Heiniger gave the treasurers report and it was accepted.

Old business: We discussed the LWML Spring Event on April 12th at the Fairview Community Center which will start at 9:00am. Speakers for the day are Marvin Kohlmeier and Elaine Engelman. During registration we will serve rolls and coffee purchased by Dorcas. Our group will be providing a salad and dessert luncheon. We will need someone for the welcome table, set-up and clean-up. Ingathering items to be collected are hygiene supplies for Orphan Grain Train kits (see list on bulletin board). We discussed serving the Lenten meals on March 19th, which will be a potato bar, and on April 2nd it will be a taco bar with the ladies bringing supplies.

New business: We talked about discussing church cleaning for next month. Offering for Dorcas mites was taken.

Announcements: On April 6th we will have LWML and Dorcas mites. The Bible Study leader will be Kathy Heiniger and Hostess will be Sarah Kleopfer. Altar committee for April is Sadie Meyer, Becky Meyer and Elder Darryl Hoppe.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Acting Secretary,
Sadie Meyer

Thank you for supporting the food pantry during our Food Gathering of Love.



ZION LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha, Kansas 66434

March 11, 2025

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran LWML was called to order by Lela Middendorf on March 11, 2025. Five members were present to hear the opening devotion entitled "The Lord is Near". The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as well as the Treasurer's Report.

A thank you was received from Kaden's Klostet in Troy, KS for last years donation of 15 quilts, and Virginia presented a bill for 2 crockpots purchased for the church kitchen.

Lela announced that the NE Zone LWML Spring Event would be Saturday, April 12 beginning at 9:00 am hosted by St. Paul, Fairview at the Fairview Community Center. The LWML National Convention registration is open now and must be done online. The convention is June 26-29 in Omaha. The three" Gifts From the Heart" recipients are Camp Luther in Nebraska, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska and the Campus Ministry at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Donations are to be made by gift cards or online donations.

It was decided to host a casserole buffet for our second Lenten service meal on March 26, 2025.

The next regular meeting will be April 8, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.. Meeting was adjourned.

Anne Arnesen
Secretary

LWML Northeast Zone Spring Event

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Fairview Community Center, 511 Front St.

Hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Dorcas

Registration begins at 9:00am (\$5.00 Registration Fee)

Speaker: Marvin Kohlmeier
Salad Luncheon to follow.

Gifts from the Heart:
Items for Orphan Grain Train,
Hygiene Kits: Bath towel, wash cloth, soap, plastic soap box, toothbrush,
comb, band-aids, small packet of tissues, and nail clipper.



INVITATION

St. Paul and Zion have been invited to The Chosen, Season 5, Part 1 Movie night. Part 1 releases to theaters on March 28. This showing will be at the Regal Theatre in St Joseph at 6 pm on March 30th.

You are responsible for your own tickets and are invited to St Paul Lutheran Church on Fredrick Ave for discussion and fellowship afterwards. Part 1 is episodes 1 and 2 which has a runtime of 2 hr and 10 min and will cover Palm Sunday and the first part of Holy Week.

Regal Theatre
5405 N. Belt Hwy
St. Joseph, MO 64506

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4715 Frederick Ave.
St. Joseph, MO 64506

SAVE THE DATE—FAITH AT WORK

Save the date: April 27th after St. Paul's worship service

This year we will be participating in the second district-wide "Faith at Work" community service event.

Projects to be completed will be:
tying fleece blankets, planting flowers, and writing cards for local facilities.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

Questions? Contact St. Paul's Evangelism Committee (Sadie Meyer, Cindy Manche, Kathy Heiniger)



CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS

Ephesians 2:10

| | |
|---------------|---|
| WHO: | EVERYBODY! Churches, Schools, & RSOs |
| WHAT: | District-wide service project |
| WHEN: | April 2025 |
| WHERE: | Your community |
| WHY: | For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:10) |

ABOUT FAITH AT WORK

The LCMS Kansas District invites our congregations, schools, and RSOs to save the date for April 6, 2025, for the second annual *Faith at Work* kick-off Sunday! *Faith at Work* is an annual District-wide service event where groups of all ages and skill sets find needs within their local communities to serve throughout the month. Each spring, since 2024, we encourage every person, young and old, to serve friends and neighbors in their communities in the name of Jesus.

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!!

FIRST STEPS:

PRAY

JOIN OUR PLANNING TEAM

BRAINSTORM POSSIBLE PROJECTS

DONATE TO OUR LOCAL EFFORTS

WATCH BULLETIN FOR MORE INFO!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Military: Spencer Ernst, Alexander Williams

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

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

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

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)



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Apr 1-Josh Smith, Apr 4-Debbie Trent, Apr 6-Becky Meyer, Apr 6-Darrell Bauer, Apr 8-Kellen Doyle, Apr 8-Travis Hampl, Apr 17-Greg Davis, Apr 19-Michelle Moreno, Apr 20-Brantley Doyle, Apr 22-Galen Meyer, Apr 24-Sarah Kleopfer, Apr 24-Mike Brockhoff, Apr 29-Annalee Kleopfer

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 9-Eldon & Rosalie Mellenbruch, Apr 22-Josh & Selena Smith, Apr 24-Greg & Diane Davis

SERVERS FOR APRIL

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

Apr 6th: Shaun Pearson & Carolyn Schneider

Apr 13th: Galen & Karen Bauman

Apr 20th: Kristina Costlow & girls

Apr 27th: Sadie Meyer & Evan Brockhoff

Altar Guild for April: Becky Meyer, Sadie Meyer, Darryl Hoppe

ZION LUTHERAN

April 6th: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter, **Greeters**-Sharon Lowe & Darlene Atland, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

Apr 13th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann, **Greeters**-Sharon Lowe & Darlene Atland, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

Apr 20th: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman, **Greeters**-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

Apr 27th: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann, **Greeters**-Dwight & Sue Meyer, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

Altar Guild for April: Diane Davis

APRIL, 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | 1 6:30 Confirmation | 2 6:00 Lenten supper 7:00 Lenten service @St. Paul | 3 6:15pm AHG Troop Mtg. | 4 Pastor Holle Day Off | 5 |
| 6 5 th Sunday in Lent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas Zion-special Council Mtg. (after church) | 7 7:00 Zion Elder meeting | 8 9:00 Circuit 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Zion LWML | 9 6:00 Lenten supper 7:00 Lenten service @Zion | 10 6:15pm AHG Troop Mtg. | 11 Pastor Holle Day Off | 12 9:00 Zone Spring Event @St. Paul |
| 13 Palm Sunday 9:15 Bible Study @Zion | 14 | 15 6:30 Confirmation | 16 | 17 Holy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday service @St. Paul | 18 Good Friday 7:00 Good Friday service @Zion | 19 |
| 20 Easter 9:15 Bible Study @Zion  | 21 Articles Due for Newsletter | 22 6:30 Confirmation | 23 | 24 6:15pm AHG Tea Party | 25 Arbor Day Pastor Holle Day Off | 26 |
| 27 2 nd Sunday of Easter 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Fellowship Zion Voter's mtg. (after worship) | 28 | 29 6:30 Confirmation | 30 |  | | |