



ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

APRIL 2026

A Few Thoughts from Pastor (& Martin Luther)

On April 5, 1519, Martin Luther sent a copy of an essay he had written to his good friend George Spalatin. The essay was titled **“How to Meditate on the Passion of Christ.”** With Holy Week now just around the corner, I thought I might “tease” you with a few excerpts. We’ve put copies of Luther’s full piece in the back or narthex at St. Paul and Zion; I pray that we too might benefit from Luther’s essay as we consider our Lord’s Passion again this year. Enough from me; consider Dr. Luther:



When we meditate on the passion of Christ the right way, we see Christ and are terrified at the sight. Our conscience sinks in despair. This feeling of terror needs to happen so that we fully realize how great the wrath of God is against sin and sinners.

You should deeply believe, and never doubt, that in fact you are the one who killed Christ. Your sins did this to Him. Therefore, when you look at the nails being driven through His hands, firmly believe that it is your work. Do you see His crown of thorns? Those thorns are your wicked thoughts.

Pray to God and ask Him to soften your heart now so you can meditate fruitfully on Christ’s passion. It is impossible for us to meditate on the sufferings of Christ by our own ability or power. God must plant these sufferings in our heart.

Take your sins and throw them on Christ. Believe with a joyful spirit that your sins are His wounds and sufferings. He carries them and makes satisfaction for them, as Isaiah 53:6 says, “The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

When we see our sins laid on Christ and see Him triumph over them by His resurrection, and fearlessly believe this, our sins are dead and become nothing. Our sins don’t stay on Christ but are swallowed up by His resurrection.

continued to next page...

**St. Paul Lutheran,
Fairview**
110 East Maple
Fairview, KS 66425
785-467-8816

**Zion Lutheran,
Hiawatha**
613 South 1st
Hiawatha, KS 66434
785-742-3995

Pastor Brian Holle
revholle@sbcglobal.net

618-960-9575

**Office Hours—Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-
11:00**
Day Off—Friday

OFFICE

Phone: 785-742-3995
613 S. First,
Hiawatha, KS 66434

stpaulzionlutheran@gmail.com

Hours:
8:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday & Thursday
Closed Friday

By His resurrection He makes us righteous and free from all sin. If you are not able to believe, then pray to God for faith.

People who make the life and name of Christ part of their own life are truly called Christians, ... We need to meditate on Christ's passion, not with lots of words or with a showy display, but to put it to true use in our lives.

I offer these "bits" of Luther in the hope they will move you to carefully read (& prayerfully/thoughtfully consider) the rest of his essay. Much can be gained from pondering our Lord's suffering and death, especially as the glow of Easter just beyond the horizon of Good Friday begins to brighten.

Allow the joy of Easter to fill your hearts this year by first allowing the reality of our Lord's passion to have its way with us; and then prepare to sing with all the Church, "*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!*"



Pastor Holle

Stewardship

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course they should; everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most often is, "How much should I give?" But often this question really means, "Do Christians really have to give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?"

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no "Thus saith the Lord," or "should" concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They might be afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they want, need, or use.

Continued to next page...

Stewardship



Continued from previous page...

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income - terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7-23; 2 Cor. 9:2-7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all the various ways - time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God - Old and New Testament alike - promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

LENTEN SCHEDULE – 2026

Ash Wednesday – February 18th: Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

February 25th: Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

March 4th: Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

March 11th: Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

March 18th: Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

March 25th: Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

PALM SUNDAY-March 29th

Services @St. Paul 8:30am Services @Zion 10:30am

April 2nd: Maundy Thursday Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

April 3rd: Good Friday Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY: April 5th

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 FEBRUARY 25TH,

AND GO THROUGH MARCH 25TH.

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 in the church basement during that time prior to worship services. LWML members will provide the baked goods. Next fellowship is March 29th.



ZION LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY LEAGUE
Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha, Kansas 66434
February 22, 2026

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Women's Missionary League was called to order on February 22, 2026, by Lela Middendorf with 5 members and 3 guests present. A devotion from "Book of Family Prayer" was read by Becky.

Anne read the minutes of the December meeting, and the same were approved. The January meeting was cancelled because of inclement weather. Diane gave the Treasurer's report.

Discussion was held regarding the hosting of suppers prior to Lenten services on March 4 and March 18 at Zion. It was decided to serve a lasagna meal for one supper and hot turkey sandwiches for the other supper. Sign up lists will be posted to seek commitments for food.

Several pamphlets were distributed regarding the administrative structure of LWML, the purpose of the LWML mites and mission projects for the current biennium. The Kansas District LWML Convention will be held in Manhattan on April 17-19, 2026.

It was suggested and discussion was had on sponsoring a booth at the Hiawatha Spring Fling this year to give away plants or seeds as a service project.

The Luther's Morning Prayer was read for the closing. The next regular meeting will be held March 29 at 9:15 a.m.

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!*



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 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)



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Apr 1-Robert 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-Mike Brockhoff, Apr 24-Sarah Kleopfer, 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 5th: Shaun Pearson & Carolyn Schneider
Apr 12th: Galen & Karen Bauman
Apr 19th: Kristina Costlow & girls
Apr 26th: Sadie Meyer & Evan Brockhoff

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

ZION LUTHERAN

Apr 5th: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman, **Greeters**-David & Lela Middendorf, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese
Apr 12th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Cal Gigstad, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann, **Greeters**-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-David Middendorf
Apr 19th: **Elder**-Bob Freese, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Mike Brockhoff, **Greeters**-Hampl family, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann
Apr 26th: **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann, **Greeter**-Leon Wissmann, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

Altar Guild for April: Diane Davis & Becky Holle

ST. PAUL DORCAS

Our Dorcas group met March 1, 2026. Hostess Kathy Heiniger had coffee cake, cherry coffee cake and cookies with coffee and water in the narthex after our church service. We then met in the nave and Kristina Costlow led our Bible study, having a video to finish up lesson 3. David: From the Youngest Shepherd to the Greatest King.

President Sarah Kleopfer called the meeting to order. Secretary Becky Meyer took roll call. There were 14 members and 1 guest present. January minutes were read and approved. Correspondence were thank you's for Christmas donations from: Crisis Pregnancy Center of Jackson County, Lutheran Indian Ministries, and Disciples of the Way. Maple Heights sent a thank you for providing a birthday party for the August birthday residents and asked us to come again this coming August. We also received a monthly flyer from the Topeka Rescue Mission and Answers in Genesis. Treasurer Kathy Heiniger gave the Treasurer's report. No officers report, and no committee reports.

No unfinished business.

New business: Church cleaning was discussed, then tabled until Sarah can talk to the trustees and they can set a date. Sadie Meyer and Becky Meyer are going to be voting members for LWML District Convention in Manhattan. All nine mission grants are paid off. There will be a box in the narthex for "Gifts from the Heart" items to take to the convention April 17th. There is a list of items elsewhere in the newsletter. April 25th is the date set for the Zone Spring Gathering in Nortonville. Lori Larson and Zon Middendorf would like to have a few ladies help serve the meal at their wedding reception on June 6th at the Fairview Community Center. We passed around a sign up sheet for our second Lenten meal of soup, salad and dessert. (Our first Lenten meal of beef burgers, salad and desserts were over well, around 35 came to eat.)

Offering was then collected.

Announcements: Next meeting on April 12, 2026, we will have LWML mites collection, along with our regular offering. Susan Broxterman will lead our Bible Study. Hostesses will be Becky Meyer and Sadie Meyer. Altar committee for April and May will be Becky Meyer and Sadie Meyer.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Becky Meyer

(Thanks to all who donated food items. Susan Broxterman will be delivering them to the Sabetha Food Pantry.)



ST. PAUL and ZION LWML

St. Paul and Zion LWML
are collecting items
for the Kansas District Convention.
Please find the list below.

Cancer Companion bags

Fleece throw blanket
Curel lotion
Lip balm
Tea bags
Hard candy
Small cross
Devotion

Gifts from the Heart

Peanut butter
Canned meat
Toilet paper
Shampoo


Snack bags

Granola bar
trail mix
drink mix (single)
gum/mints
hard candy
lip balm

Please find donation boxes in the back of the church.



APRIL, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday Joint Service @ Zion	3 Good Friday 7:00 Good Friday Joint Service @ St. Paul	4
5 Easter Sunday 	6	7 6:30 AHG	8	9	10 <i>Pastor Holle day off</i>	11
9:15 Bible Study @Zion						
12 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 9:30 St. Paul Dorcas	13	14 Circuit @Atchison	15 5:00 Confirmation @ Zion 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	16	17 <i>Pastor Holle day off</i> KS District LWML	18 KS District LWML
19 3rd Sunday of Easter KS District LWML 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	20 Articles Due For Newsletter	21 6:30 AHG	22 5:00 Confirmation @ Zion 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	23 7:00 St. Paul Council	24 <i>Pastor Holle day off</i>	25
26 4th Sunday of Easter 9:15 Zion LWML & Fellowship St. Paul Quarterly Voter's meeting	27	28	29 5:00 Confirmation @ Zion 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	30		