



ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

MAY 2024

A Few Thoughts from Pastor



*Let her who bore you rejoice.
Proverbs 23:25b*



April showers bring May flowers. What do May flowers bring?
Pilgrims ... *ba-dum--bum*
(*my apologies for the weak, 2nd grade humor*).

But May also brings with it the Kentucky Derby, Mother's Day, the annual commemoration of our Lord's Ascension forty (40) days after His resurrection, various graduations, Memorial Day, and the "official" beginning of summer. But for now, let's just think "Mom" for a bit.

When I think "Mom," I of course recall fondly my mom, Lola, and all that she has meant to me through the years. I suspect most of you are like me in that there are not enough cards, flowers, gifts, words, or money in the world to fully capture what our moms mean to us ... and so to my Mom, who often reads these newsletters, thank you and I love you.



And though she probably won't believe it ... my track-record on Mother's Day isn't all that great ... Mother's Day also provides me the opportunity to consider just how much the mother-of-my-children means to me. I loved her before children, and even more now, and though she is technically not my mother, she is the mother of some pretty special kids, and my partner in life and parenting, and so to my beautiful bride, Becky, thank you and I love you!

"I forget. Do we do things for YOU on Mother's Day, or are you s'posed to do things for US?"

And Mother's Day also brings to my mind some other very special mothers, my own grandmas and sister, my daughter and daughters-in-law, my aunts, and all the women whom God has blessed with children. And when I think about the moms in the Bible, I can't help but think of Eve, Mrs. Noah (who so patiently put up with her husband as his project took years to complete), Sarah, Hannah (mother of Samuel), Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist) and of course, Mary, the mother of our Lord.

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And all those moms did (& do) what moms do ... they carried, gave birth to, nurtured, fed, comforted, consoled, disciplined, taught, and loved their children. They sacrifice(d), usually in ways that are never fully understood or appreciated, and worked tirelessly for their kids ... kids who were conceived and born very selfish and sinful (Ps 51:5). Good moms are God's way of caring for His most precious little lambs.

And while we might hope that all children would ultimately bring great joy to their mothers (Proverbs 23:25), such is not always the case. Kids sometime disappoint and often bring worry and heartache to their mothers, and yet the mother-child bond is truly one of the most incredible relationships in the world; why else would grown men be so quick to shout "Hi Mom!" whenever they get on camera.

And **the Church is also our mother** (Galatians 4:26). It is, after all, through the Church that God re-birthed us to new life as one of His own. She is the Bride of Christ and it is through Her that God cares for and provides for His children. She's always there for us; She teaches us tirelessly; She feeds and nourishes us with God's Word and the blessed Sacraments. And though we often disappoint and hurt Her with our selfish and sinful wills, words, and ways, She is always there willing to take us back, for She loves us even as She is loved by our Heavenly Father.

And so, while there are not enough cards, flowers, gifts, words, or money in the world to fully capture what our earthly, physical moms mean to us, the same is also certainly true of the Church. It is through Her that God has given us life, and She has been given to us, as our Mother, to nurture, feed, comfort, console, discipline, teach, and love us as we live our lives as God's children. And as She shows us our Savior, and shares His gifts with us, well, truly there can be no better "Mom."

So don't forget your spiritual "Mom" this Mother's Day. Give Her a reason to rejoice; be sure to visit Her and come to the table She will set for you ... it is, after all, the Lord's Table. And don't forget to wash-up as you arrive (by recalling your Baptism), and remember, Her words are His, and She wants only the very best for you, as does Her Bridegroom. Seriously consider, again and always, our Mother, the Church, and your ongoing relationship with Her, the Bride of Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Holle

A Few Thoughts from Martin Luther in *Bondage of the Will*



But now, since God has taken my salvation out of my hands into His, making it depend on His choice and not mine, and has promised to save me, not by my own work or exertion but by His grace and mercy, I am assured and certain both that He is faithful and that He will not lie to me, and also that He is too great and powerful for any demons or any adversities to be able to break Him or snatch me from Him.

No man can be thoroughly humbled until he knows that his salvation is utterly beyond his own powers, devises, endeavors, will, and works, and depends entirely on the choice, will, and work of another, namely, of God alone. For as long as he is persuaded that he himself can do even the least thing toward his salvation, he retains some self-confidence and does not altogether despair of himself, and therefore he is not humbled before God, but presumes that there is - or at least hopes or desires that there may be - some place, time, and work for him, by which he may at length attain to salvation.

It is the mark of a discerning reader of Scripture to notice what are words of law and what are words of grace, so as not have them all jumbled up.

Stewardship



More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without technically lying. You tell just enough of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing how close we can get to sinning without technically going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people - we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time, and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

ST. PAUL DORCAS

Sarah Kleopfer opened our meeting with our 2nd of 5 Bible studies of Joseph in our workbook "Unshakable". Our study was titled: When God Shook Joseph's Life. Joseph embarked on a three day journey to reach his brothers. That's when his troubles began, the brothers went from sarcastically declaring "here comes this dreamer" to "let us kill him." Through reading Genesis 37:12-35 we focused on his brothers jealousy; through plotting his death, by killing or leaving him to die in a deep, dry well, and finally leading Joseph into slavery, by selling him to traders. Then for them to take his torn and bloody, ruined coat back to their father; letting Jacob mourn, believing Joseph had been ripped to shreds by a wild animal, without telling him the truth. We discussed our relationships with our siblings, past suffering, hardened hearts, and Jesus' suffering and sacrifice for us. Connections to Jesus as he is a beloved Son, also hated, with great humility and love for us, to seek and save us. Donna asks us to "pause for a moment to ponder what Jesus suffering and sacrifice mean to you. How does it make you feel?"

After our lesson, President Sarah Kleopfer opened the meeting. The minutes were read, and approved as read. Roll call was taken, with 12 members present. Kathy Heiniger gave the treasurer's report and it was accepted.

No correspondence. No committee reports. Under unfinished business: A few ladies reported on the LWML Spring Rally in Wathena. There were 29 present from 9 churches, 6 from St.Paul.

We finalized State Convention questions, (April 12-14).

We will put together 24 hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train after the meeting.

No new Business.

Sonshine is online or will be handed out at church next Sunday, (4-14). Rosalie will be putting up a display on Mother's Day, (5-12) for Lutherans for Life.

We took our offering, and LWML offering for mites.

Announcements: Next month May 5th, our Bible Study Leader will be Becky Meyer; Hostess Cindy Manche; Alter committee for May and June will be Helen Hoppe and Nancy Manche.

The meeting was adjourned and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Becky Meyer



**Dual Parish attendees
at the KS District
LWML Convention
which was held
in Wichita
April 12,13, and 14.**

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, Jaynell Robidoux, Don Robidoux, Charles Fritz, Lois Voss, Tom Hansen, Bonnie Reynolds, Esther Krug.

Also in our prayers: Andy Trent, Darlene Atland, Darwin Hoppe, Dale Strobel, Charlotte Kruse, Wes Duesing, Richard Clay, Aimee Hampl, Carl Mueller, Sherry Hartley, Janice Grubb.

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-Gunner Smith, May 11-Dale Strobel, May 12-Bernard Chadwell, May 12-Karoline Chadwell, May 13-Jaxon Torkelson, May 21-Jeremy Davidson, May 22-Noel Boye, May 24-Dwight Meyer, May 29-Cindy Manche

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 5-Travis & Aimee Hampl, May 11-Debbie & Terry Reschke, May 15-Charles & Juanita Fritz, May 22-Jr. & Jeannie Lowe, May 27-Kenny & Dawn Stephens

SERVERS FOR MAY

(Please trade if you have a date conflict)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

May 5th: Dwight & Charlotte Kruse

May 12th: Dennis & Cindy Manche

May 19th: Jeff & Leslie Brockhoff

May 26th: Steve & Nancy Manche

Altar Guild for May: Helen Hoppe, Nancy Manche, Mark Meyer

ZION LUTHERAN

May 5th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Corey Dunaway, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann & Tim Bianchi, **Greeters**-Sharon Lowe & Darlene Atland, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

May 12th: **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter, **Greeters**-Larry & Doris Kneisel, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

May 19th: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Remington Killman, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman, **Greeters**-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

May 26th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann & Tim Bianchi, **Greeter**-David Middendorf, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

Altar Guild for May: Debbie Reschke, Anne Arnesen

NOTICE

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



New officers for the Northeast Zone of the Kansas District LWML were elected and installed at the Zone Spring Event held April 6 at Christ Lutheran in Wathena. Becky Meyer of St. Paul, Fairview was elected as Special Focus Ministries Chairman. Melissa Fuhrman of Trinity, Atchison was re-elected as Zone Treasurer. Lela Middendorf of Zion, Hiawatha, was elected as Caring Services Chairman.



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!



Talk and Tie

Seven ladies tied a dozen quilts on April 10 that were delivered to the Orphan Grain Train warehouse in Wichita on April 12.

To God Be The Glory!

Thanks ladies !

ZION LWML

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church LWML was called to order by Lela Middendorf on April 9, 2024 with 5 members present. The meeting was opened with a devotion called Serving Others, taken from 1Peter: 4 written by Alli Bauck. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and Diane provided the treasurer's report. The Spring issue of the Kansas District Sonshine was available and distributed.

We received a thank you from the Atland family for the funeral dinner. An additional donation was given with the request that the funds go toward purchasing needed items for our church kitchen. We will table a decision on the items needed until the next meeting.

We received word that Traci Rahe is going on a mission trip to Guatemala in May and will be working with water purification.

The Spring Event was held on April 6 at Christ Lutheran in Wathena. Lela was elected Zone Caring Service Chairman. It was announced that all Kansas District Mission Grants and Financial Aid Scholarships have been paid, and the Zone By-Laws have been updated. There is no longer a need to collect stamps for missions.

The Kansas District Convention is April 12-14 in Wichita. The Wichita Zone and Northeast Kansas Zones are serving as hosts this time. The Gifts of Love ingathering is new socks and underwear and/or gift cards for local non-profits including Trinity Center in Hiawatha. Becky moved that we provide a \$100 gift card to Gifts of Love. Jackie seconded. Motion carried.

Three snack bags were packed for our college students as survival kits for their upcoming finals.

The meeting closed with Praying the Psalms based on Psalm 119:57-80. The next meeting will be held on May 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Anne Arnesen, Secretary

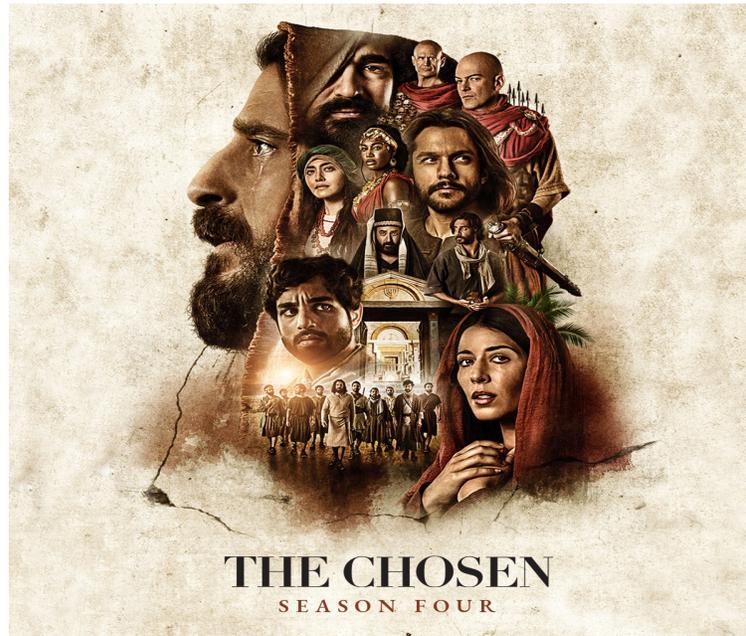


Congratulations to our Graduates

Southeast Community College: Paul Pearson

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!)



**THE CHOSEN
SEASON FOUR**

The Chosen Movie night—Season 4.

We will meet on Sundays at 6:30 pm at Zion
and we will plan to meet every Sunday till graduation weekend,
and then finish up in June (8 episodes).

We plan on just showing one episode a week
which will run a little over an hour.

Evan will have themed treats and we ask everyone to bring a treat to share.

Please plan to join us!

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

American Heritage girls celebrated their tea party on April 18 at Eternal Hope Worship Center. They had over 100 girls and guests in attendance! Sarah Jeschke presented for her level award. She instructed the girls on how to make beautiful tissue paper flowers in honor of spring. The girls and guests and attendance were led through a devotion and song, and enjoyed finger foods, tea and lemonade.

AHG troop KS2315 invites everyone to their Court of Awards Ceremony at 6:15 on Thursday, May 2. Unit leaders will say a few words about the badges that the girls have been working on and each girl plans to share a sentence or two about her experience this year. They will enjoy refreshments and a slideshow in the fellowship hall afterwards. It's been a wonderful year of growth and learning for all. The girls remain grateful to Zion Lutheran Church for providing them with a meeting place and for its generous support!



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



MAY, 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
|  | | | 1 7:00 Midweek Bible Study @St. Paul | 2 AHG Troop mtg. – Court of Awards | 3 Pastor Holle Day Off | 4 |
| 5 6th Sunday of Easter Cinco De Mayo 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas 6:30 The Chosen | 6 7:00 St. Paul Elder mig | 7 6:30 Ladies Bible Study | 8 7:00 Midweek Bible Study @Zion | 9 7:00 Ascension Service @Zion | 10 Pastor Holle Day Off | 11 |
| 12 7th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 6:30 The Chosen | 13 7:00 Zion Elder mtg | 14 Circuit mtg. 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 7:30 Zion LWML | 15 7:00 Midweek Bible Study @St. Paul | 16 | 17 Pastor Holle Day Off | 18 Armed Forces Day 3:00 pm Graveside service for Robert Jones |
| 19 The Day of Pentecost 9:15 Bible Study @Zion 6:30 The Chosen | 20 Articles Due for Newsletter | 21 6:30 Ladies Bible Study | 22 7:00 Midweek Bible Study @Zion | 23 | 24 Pastor Holle Day Off | 25 |
| 26 The Holy Trinity 9:15 Bible Study Zion Fellowship @St. Paul 6:30 The Chosen | 27 Memorial Day  | 28 6:30 Ladies Bible Study | 29 7:00 Midweek Bible Study @St. Paul | 30 | 31 Pastor Holle Day Off | |