



ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

MARCH 2024

A Few Thoughts from Pastor

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking Him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from Your commandments and rules. We have not listened to Your servants the prophets ..." Daniel 9:3-6a

Last week I “marked” a number of you with an ashen cross on your forehead (or hand) as we gathered to confess our sinfulness on Ash Wednesday. And thus began the penitential season of Lent; and I think Daniel would have approved. We certainly didn’t do it to be noticed by others, and it didn’t mark us as better Christians than others, but it was a part of our worship that day as we returned to the Lord with mourning over our lack of righteousness.



And by the crosses that darkened our brows that day I pray we were reminded of our mortality (*for you are dust, and to dust you shall return ... Genesis 3:19*) even as we lamented the blackness of our sin. And so we began our Lenten journey.

It is sometimes said that we Lutherans know how to “do” Lent. Acknowledging our sin, its horrific cost, and renewing our focus and attention on Jesus Christ and His substitutionary work on our behalf is at the very heart of our Lenten devotion. The Lenten hymns tell the story so well, and they invite us to ponder once again the significance of all those incredible events associated with our Lord’s arrival in Jerusalem and all that followed leading up to His death and burial.

And focused on His cross and suffering, we see rightly, with Spirit-created eyes of faith, the result and seriousness of our sin. But we also see God’s great (and undeserved) love for His creation and for all mankind. He did it all for us! He sent His Son, He took on our humanity to suffer and die, and He works tirelessly to point us to the Savior there on the cross to make (& keep) us holy.

There are probably numerous words that one might use to describe a proper attitude for Lent, but I pray that right at the top of any such pile of words would be **HUMILITY**. We didn’t / we don’t / we will not ever deserve what God so graciously promised, **and then did** (& *does*), for us. It’s all gift, by grace (God’s undeserved love), and it’s all on account of Jesus and all that He endured and did/does for us.

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I pray that we will all deliberately and soberly reflect on and consider our sin and sinfulness this Lenten season, that we will be granted a greater understanding and appreciation of its seriousness and cost, and that we will humbly turn, in faith, to the Savior who once hung and died on a cross.

Yes, we are from dust, and to dust we shall return, but only for a time. Our Savior has come ... and done what we could not ... and He did it so that we might be freed from sin, death, and the devil and so that we would not be separated from God as His enemy forever. *Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5b)*. I pray that we are all humbled by that great truth as well!

**In Christ,
*Pastor Holle***

LENTEN SCHEDULE – 2024

February 28th: Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

March 6th: Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

March 13th: Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

March 20th: Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

March 28th: Maundy Thursday Services @ Zion at 7:00pm

March 29th: Good Friday Services @ St. Paul at 7:00pm

PALM SUNDAY-March 24th

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

EASTER SUNDAY: March 31st

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

Midweek Lenten Meals will start at 6:00pm,
with Lenten services following at 7:00pm



Stewardship



Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse **as a gift from God** that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes.

All these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church, and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

ST. PAUL DORCAS

President Sarah Kleopfer opened our Dorcas meeting upstairs for the Prayer Service which was led by Kathy Heiniger. *Grace, Mercy, and Peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 1 Timothy 1:2b & 2 Timothy 1:2 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God, the Father, and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love (2 John 1:3).* This service was designed around those three words, those three gifts that come to us from our gracious Father and our Savior: Grace, Mercy, and Peace. Many songs were sung.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and corrections were made. There were 14 members present. No correspondence. Kathy Heiniger gave the treasurer's report and it was accepted. Old business, financial review has been completed. The final two LWML Mission grants have been paid off. We were reminded that convention deadlines are coming up.

In new business, President Sarah Kleopfer mentioned the zone will be looking for a Committee Chairman for Caring Service and Special Focus Ministries. Fairview, Atchison and Easton are the nominating committee. President Sarah Kleopfer also mentioned they were looking for a theme for the 2026 District Convention. That theme should include a Bible verse, artwork, devotions and music to coordinate. Let Sarah know if you have any ideas. State executive committee will finalize. There will be tours given of the Orphan Grain Train facility in Wichita on Friday at the convention. Kathy is taking donations for hygiene kits. Sarah said she has Convention t-shirts if anyone would like to purchase one, they are \$20.00.

We will be having a "Gifts from the Heart" box in the narthex. Please bring food to be donated to Trinity Food Pantry in Hiawatha. Suggestions were soup, low salt items, cake mix and canned meat. The box will be in the back for a few weeks. (Last year the food collected was taken to Sabetha food pantry).

We talked about Lenten meals and decided Sadie Meyer could work out the details and she will contact the ladies with more information. Easter Breakfast was also talked about—Leslie Brockhoff and Becky Meyer will be getting together to organize something for after church on Easter morning (March 31st). President Sarah announced the Spring Event will be held in Wathena on April 6, 2024.

Leslie and Evan Brockhoff served delicious cinnamon rolls, coffee cakes, and cherry bars with coffee and water after church for everyone before the Prayer Service.

Next month, March 3rd, our Bible Study Leader is Leslie Brockhoff. Hostesses are Becky and Sadie Meyer.

Altar committee for March and April are Becky and Sadie Meyer. Our closing song was "Go, My Children, With My Blessing". The Prayer Service offering went to LCMS National Offering.

Secretary, Becky Meyer

ZION LWML

The regular meeting of the Zion Lutheran Church LWML was called order by Lela Middendorf on February 13, 2024 with 5 members present.

It was noted that the January, 2024 meeting was cancelled because of inclement weather.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Thank you notes were received from Pastor and Becky Holle as well as the St. Louis Seminary Food Bank for Christmas gifts. Diane provided the treasurer's report.

Information was provided to the members regarding the 40th Biennial Convention of the Kansas District LWML to be held in Wichita on April 12-14, 2024. A motion was made by Virginia and seconded by Jackie to have Lela serve as Zion's delegate to the Convention. Motion carried.

Discussion was held relative to Zion LWML hosting a fundraising Chili Cook-off for the Lenten service meal on February 28. Four chili-cooking competitors have been secured. A signup sheet will be listed for congregational members to provide desserts as they have done in the past.

A Mustard Seed devotion entitled "Rejoice" was read, and the meeting was closed with prayer.

Lela Middendorf, Acting Secretary

St. Paul-Zion Dual Parish Committee Meeting Minutes February 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Dwight Meyer at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Kurt Killman, Lela Middendorf, Darryl Hoppe, Virginia Freese, Galen Meyer, Pastor Holle, Mark Meyer, Dwight Meyer, Dwight Kruse, Nancy Manche, Leon Wissmann and Jeff Brockhoff.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Holle led us in an opening prayer.

Agenda - Leon moved and Kurt seconded to approve agenda as is. Motion passed.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – Lela moved to approve minutes with two corrections – Mark Meyer second. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Holle provided a schedule of services for the upcoming year. He also provided Lenten Mid-week Services for 2024. Ascension services will be held on May 9th at Zion at 7:00. Pastor will be gone on July 7th on vacation. He is looking for someone to serve the pulpit.

Treasurer's Reports – Jeff presented a report for everyone to look at Pastor's salary according to the District Guidelines. The District recommends a 3.7% cost of living raise for all workers. He presented a budget for the Dual Parish totaling \$125,151.00. This would be \$62,575.50 per church.

The phone number for the Northeast Kansas Partnership has been disconnected. The cost of the internet is be paid by both St. Paul and Zion.

Credit cards have been issued to Pastor Holle, Sue Beyer and Jeff Brockhoff. The fee for the card is \$95.00 a year. Jeff pointed out that they can earn points on purchases. Credit card points can be used on Amazon and there are limitations on where you can use the points. Kurt moved to accept Treasurer's reports. Galen seconded and the motion which passed. Pastor and Sue had talked about Zion possibly having a credit card. At this time is was deemed not necessary.

Elder's Reports – Galen talked about the 15 minute radio spot on Sundays. The amount would be \$1755.00 a year for 52 weeks. This is a year long contract. Galen moved to proceed and Kurt seconded the motion which passed. Leon moved that Pastor be given a salary of \$84,000.00 with appropriate benefits retro to the first of the year. This amounts to \$8729.85 a month or \$4364.93 for each congregation retro to first of year with five weeks of vacation. Galen seconded the motion. It was noted that Pastor Holle is trying to take Fridays off. Motion passed.

Old Business

Website – Jeff reported that the newsletters are out on the new website – there are calendars for each church and he continues to work on it. Pastor would like to give information when he does his radio spots. Jeff will let Pastor know when everything is up and ready to go live. Sue will be running it once Jeff has everything ready to go.

New Business:

Future Meeting Dates – The attendance numbers will be looked at in June and possibly adjusted at the September Joint meeting. The Dual Parish Committee will meet on Monday, September 16. At that time, the Dual Parish Agreement will be reviewed for any possible changes. The September Joint Dual Parish meeting will be held on September 29. The location is to be determined as this is also a fifth Sunday.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m. with Pastor Holle closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Virginia Freese, Recording Secretary

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: 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 (Connie Kneisel, Robert Jones) 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-Layton Dunaway, Mar 3-Carter Jante, Mar 5-Linda Duesing, Mar 6-Bob Smith, Mar 7-Sherry Killman, Mar 8-Maurice Atland, Mar 10-Galen Bauman, Mar 11-Jeremy Arnesen, Mar 13-Johanna Brockhoff, Mar 14-Malerie Manche, Mar 16-Jill Smith, 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-Wes Duesing, Mar 27-Sue Meyer, 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

March 3rd: Doug & Sarah Kleopfer
March 10th: Clif & Kathy Heiniger
March 17th: David & Danny Bauerle
March 24th: Milan Kloepfer & Ray Thieme
March 31st: Wes & Linda Duesing

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

ZION LUTHERAN

March 3rd: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Usher**-Leon Wissmann,
Greeters-Dwight & Sue Meyer, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

March 10th: **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Corey Dunaway, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,
Greeters-Dwight & Sue Meyer, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

March 17th: **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman,
Greeters-Bob & Virginia Freese, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

March 24th: **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Remington Killman, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann & Tim Bianchi,
Greeters-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

March 31st: **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,
Greeters-Kurt Killman & Brady Killman, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

Altar Guild for March: Jackie Bianchi, Diane Davis

NOTICE

*Pastor Holle will be starting a radio broadcast on KNZA
on March 3rd, 2024.
This will be at approximately 10:05am on Sunday mornings.*



EASTER 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 Easter Cantata,
Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

*The cantata will be at 2:00pm on Sunday, March 24th,
at Zion Lutheran Church, 1521 Prairie Road, Everest.*

CHILI COOK OFF

Lenten Pre-service Meal
February 28, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
at Zion Lutheran



JOIN THE FUN !!

Four versions of Prize-Winning Chili provided by:
Chef Pastor Brian
Chef Kurt
Chef Leon
Chef Scott

(Chicken/Noodle soup also provided for those
not wishing to enjoy chili.)
Cinnamon Rolls and Cornbread
Desserts

Voting will be conducted by cash donations.
FUNdraiser sponsored by Zion LWML



*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!*



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

AHG Troop KS2315 is looking forward to a spring full of fun activities. Here is an update on the Troop!

The girls welcomed two new Pathfinders in February!

Tenderhearts are working to complete their Our Heritage Badge, which focuses on learning about our country's early history.

Many of our Explorer Level girls are preparing to level up to Pioneer! They are working to earn their level awards by making a presentation, or planning a troop/community event. They are also working to complete the Our Heritage Badge. This past month, Madeline Aller presented an engaging speech to her fellow Explorers about how America came to be.

The Pioneers and Patriots (PiPa) are working to complete their Craft Badge and have lots of creative ideas and activities in store for the Mother/Daughter Tea. This year's theme is "English Garden" and troop leaders are handing the majority of the planning over to the more senior girls!

The Troop prays for God's blessings for their Charter Organization and wishes all a blessed Lenten and Easter Season!

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



MARCH, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor Holle Day Off	2
3 3 rd Sunday in Lent 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas	4 7:00 St. Paul Elder mtg.	5 9:00am Circuit @Netawaka 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	6 6:00 Lenten supper @St. Paul 7:00 Lenten Service @St. Paul	7	8 Pastor Holle Day Off	9
10 4th Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Begins 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	11 7:00 Zion Elder mtg.	12 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	13 6:00 Lenten supper @Zion 7:00 Lenten Service @Zion	14 6:15 AHG Troop Mtg.	15 Pastor Holle Day Off	16
17 5th Sunday in Lent St Patrick's Day 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	18 Articles Due for Newsletter	19 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	20 Start of Spring 6:00 Lenten supper @St. Paul 7:00 Lenten Service @St. Paul	21 6:15 AHG Board of Reviews	22 Pastor Holle Day Off	23
24 Palm Sunday 9:15 Bible Study @Zion Fellowship @St.Paul	25	26 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	27	28 Holy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service @Zion	29 Good Friday 7:00 Good Friday Service @St. Paul	30
31 Easter 						