



Zion
Lutheran
Church

2421 Avenue C
Kearney, NE 68847
Phone: 308-234-3410
Email: school@zionkearney.org
Website: www.zionkearney.com

April Sower 2023

God's Gift of Forgiveness - Part Two Individual Confession & Absolution

By Rev. James DeLoach

Note: I am indebted to the late Dr. Rev. Kenneth Korby for exposing me to the nature and benefits of Individual Confession and Absolution (ICA). This article draws heavily upon the writings of the Rev. Todd A. Peperkorn.

During our Lenten mid-week series this year, we have been praying and hearing God's Word via the Catechism on Individual Confession and Absolution. This has been a wonderful study. Perhaps there are still questions in the minds of our congregation about the nature of sin and forgiveness.

This is a very good thing. As a congregation, what we are about is studying and hearing God's Word of forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ. God has great gifts to give to us. Why not hear what God has to say? Here are some questions and answers that I thought might be helpful to you.

1. Does this mean that God only forgives my sins if I go privately and speak to the pastor?

No. Remember, God forgives sins by several different means: Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, general absolution, the Lord's Supper, AND individual absolution. It is not really our place to play one of God's gifts off against another, or to try and say that one is more important than the other.

2. Isn't Individual Confession/Absolution Roman Catholic?

No. Our Lutheran Confessions repeatedly state that this is a good, evangelical practice. Remember, the point of confession and absolution is the absolution, that is, forgiveness.

3. Does God forgive me when I pray for forgiveness?

Yes and no. Yes, God forgives my sins, but no He doesn't do it by means of my prayers.

When we pray to God to forgive our sins, we are asking God to forgive our sins. That is what prayer is, asking God for something. We pray this every day in the Lord's Prayer: forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. But prayer is not the same thing as

the Word of God. God forgives us through His Word. In other words, when I pray that God would forgive me, He does so by pointing me to His Word of truth in the Scriptures, giving me a pastor to speak forgiveness to me, by drawing me to the Lord's Supper, and by giving me His Word. But prayer, in and of itself, does not forgive sins.

Let me give you an example. If I ask my parents to buy me a new car, that does not give me the new car. They must actually do it. So when I ask God to forgive my sins, He answers my plea through the Scriptures and the Sacraments. That's how God speaks to us.

4. So how exactly do I go to the pastor for individual confession and absolution?

Simply contact Pastor DeLoach (308-627-5260) or Pastor Gaunt (1-308-455-0552) and arrange a time with one of them to hear your confession and give God's absolution. Either of them will show you what to do and lead you through the ICA service from the Lutheran Service Book (p. 292).

5. What if I have something really bad to confess? Will the pastor tell anyone?

When pastors are ordained, they make a vow before God never to reveal the sins confessed to them. God throws your sins into the depth of the sea. When you confess your sins to the pastor, you are confessing them to God. He would go to jail or do whatever was necessary to keep those sins hidden in God forever.

6. But I feel awkward talking to my pastor about these things. Won't I be embarrassed?

You might be embarrassed. It is proper to be ashamed of our sins. But remember: this isn't about the pastor, this is about your relationship to God. God is there waiting to forgive you. If you are ashamed, then confess your shame to God! He will cover up your sins forever. I go to my own pastor for confession and absolution as I have need. Sometimes it's easy to do and other times feel hesitant. By nature we want to cling to our sins and keep them to ourselves. But every time I go, I thank God that He gave me a pastor to hear my confession, so that I can hear God's Word of forgiveness in my ears. Thanks be to God.
—Pastor DeLoach

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

The Palm Sunday Luncheon will be served by Mary Martha after church on April 2nd. The ladies are asking for gift cards from Target, Walmart and Kohls (any denomination) for Refuge for Women, a recovery program for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. They will also be collecting playing cards, and hats (knitted, crocheted, or baseball) for Phil's Friends. This group provides Christ-centered support and hope for those affected by cancer. Please consider providing donations for these organizations and keep them in your prayers as they continue to do God's work.

EASTER SCHEDULE

4/2 - <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9am & 5pm Palm Sunday Luncheon 11:30am
4/6 - <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7pm
4/7 - <i>Good Friday</i>	7pm
4/8 - <i>Holy Saturday</i>	Easter Vigil - 7pm
4/9 - <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Sunrise Service-7am Easter Breakfast - 8am Festival Service - 9am

EASTER LILIES

Easter lilies can be picked up after services on Easter Sunday.

MARY MARTHA

Mary Martha will meet on Monday, April 10th at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. All ladies of the congregation are invited. We will be doing a bible study from the Spring Quarterly. Bring your bibles and mites. Carol Kreutzer will be serving as well as leading devotions.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, April 20th at 7:00pm.

VOTERS' MEETING

The next regular voters' meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 23rd after the 9am service. There will be no Adult Bible Study.

KEARNEY ZONE SPRING WORKSHOP

Mary Martha will be hosting The Kearney Zone Spring Workshop on Saturday, April 22. The bible studies will be on Christ in the Old Testament. The past workshops have been very enjoyable so we hope to have a good group.

SCRIP CARDS

Scrip cards are still available at the office during the week and in the Book Nook on Sundays.

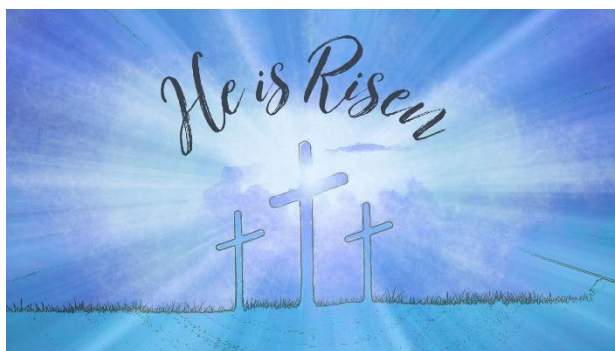
AMAZON.COM PURCHASES

Did you know you can support Zion when you shop at Amazon? Simply go to smile.amazon.com and designate Zion as your charity. Amazon will then donate 0.5% of your eligible orders to Zion. Call the office if you have questions.

APRIL RADIO BROADCAST

Date	Radio
4/2	Carolyn Wilkens
4/9	
4/16	Dennis & Sue Bartels - 50 th Anniversary
4/23	Dan Oertwig & Cinda Ward - in memory of Merna Oertwig
4/30	

Please help Zion spread the Gospel! Consider sponsoring (or going in with another family) one of our radio broadcasts. The cost is \$162.



APRIL ALTAR FLOWERS

Please consider signing up for altar flowers to beautify the sanctuary during the worship services. There are several spots available and we are able to enjoy them during the service times.

Date	Flowers
4/2	Palms
4/9	Easter Lilies
4/16	Dennis & Sue Bartels - 50 th Anniversary
4/23	Dan Oertwig & Cinda Ward - in memory of Merna Oertwig
4/30	

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

James & Patricia Catterson	4/1
Ryan & Brooke Fisher	4/6
Marc & Lyn Hoffman	4/20

Happy Anniversary!

*Where our Triune God strengthens us through
His mercy in faith toward Him
and in fervent love toward one another.*

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Quentin Lange	4/3
Addison Helmbrecht	4/5
Donald Richmond	4/5
Holly Reid	4/5
Ellen Hockemeier	4/7
Frances Junge	4/7
Brynne Fisher	4/9
Chelsea Junge	4/10
David Hartman	4/12
Sarah Burger	4/13
Lorelie Hanneman	4/13
Jami Helmbrecht	4/13
Linda Johnson	4/14
Lisa Splittgerber	4/14
Jessica Shiers	4/19
Becky Thornton	4/20
Patricia Flodine	4/21
Philip Wellman	4/23
Theodore Florang	4/24
Margaret Smith	4/26
Waunita DeLaet	4/28
Udeane Fischer	4/30
Alexis Wollberg	4/30



OUR MEMBERS RESIDING IN CARE FACILITIES

Cambridge Court -4107 Central Ave	Pat Flodine
Mt. Carmel - 412 West 18th	Vaughn Albrecht
Northridge - 5410 17 th Ave.	Norraine Rockwell
Mother Hull-125 East 23 rd	Lyle Colsden
	Evelyn Heiden
St. John's 3410 Central Ave	Hazel Stickney
	Vi Fox
Christian Homes - Holdrege, NE	Phyllis Willuweit
Brookstone Meadows - Elkhorn, NE	Norman Abels

School News

✦ **Track & Field:** The season is starting this month! Below is the current schedule:

Date	Invitational	Time	Location
4/11	Alma	1:00p	APS
4/20	Kearney Middle School	2:00p	Horizon
4/25	Wilcox	2:00p	Wilcox-Hildreth
4/27	Gothenburg	2:00p	Gothenburg
5/2	Shelton	11:30a	Shelton High
5/5	Heartland Field Day	8:00a	GICC
5/13	All Lutheran Championship	9:30a	Concordia
5/13	Jr High State	11:00a	Gothenburg

✦ **No School** There will be no school on Thursday-Monday, April 6-10 in observance of Easter. Below is the office schedule during the break:

Day	Hours
April 6 th	Open 8a-4p
April 7 th	Closed
April 10 th	Closed

✦ **Plant Sales** - Thank you for your support! Note: plant pickup will be Friday, April 21st from 10a-6p (No School) and Saturday, April 22nd from 8a-12p.

✦ **Scrip Cards** - Scrip cards are still available during this time. Visit the office during normal hours to purchase your gift cards.

Our theme this year is "Christ Be My Leader", based on the lyrics of the Timothy Dudley-Smith hymn.

Zion Lutheran School held its 14th P.E.A.C.E. Auction and Dinner on March 18th. The event raised over \$65,000 for Zion Lutheran School! Thank you to all our generous donors and volunteers. None of this would be possible without your continued support. We apologize if a name was omitted.

Individual Auction Item Donors

Carol Anderson
Anonymous
Scott and Julie Baker
Rev. Tim and Megan Barone
Adrian and Susanne Boykin
Kara Dauel
Mark and Marilyn Debban
Matt and Sarah Filbert
Dr. Reese and Jade Florang
Rev. Doug and Carol Gaunt
Dr. Nathan and Liz Gaunt
Doug and Deb Hild
Steve and Frances Junge
Kent and Russtanna Lutt
Andy and Jamie Markowski
Joel and Jenn McReynolds
Juanita and John Musfelt
Jonathan and Miriam Nikkila
Jamie Nikodym
Jasmine Ratzlaff
Stacey and Zachary Schwarz
Dan and Peggy Staack
Stephanie Stubbs
Chrissy Towery
Mike and Deanne Twitchell
James and Vivian Van Amburg
Norm and Becky Voller
Chase Willers
Cody Willers
Andy and Jeanne Wollberg
Dallas Wymore

Corporate Auction Item Donors

Apple Acres Orchard
Axe Holes
B-D Construction
Birdies and Brews
Bomgaars
Bow & Arrow Boutique
Brown's Shoe Fit Company
The Buckle
Buff City Soap
Buffalo Outdoor Power
Buffalo Records
Central Mercantile ft Ktown Cakery
Chipotle
City of Kearney Park & Recreation
CNH Industrial
Coca-Cola
CR Toys
Crane River Theater
Dairy Queen
Daylight Donuts
Deterding's
Eakes Office Solutions
Earl May
Elk's Country Golf
Firehouse Subs
Five Points Bank
Greg's Auto Repair LLC
Holistic Healing Spa & Bohemian Boutique
Holmes Plumbing
Home Within
HyVee
Indigo Bungalow
Jersey's Sports Bar & Grill
Juice Stop
Jump A Roo
Just for Ladies
Kearney Area Children's Museum
Kearney Country Club

Corporate Auction Item Donors

Continued

Kearney Volunteer Fire Department
Kearney Winnelson
Kitt's Coffee Bar
Lucky Dog's Place...a Pet Boutique
Masters True Value
Mead Lumber
Melissa McCartney - Well Traveled Soles
Menards
Merryman Performing Arts Center
Modern Cleaners
Nelson's Furniture
Omaha Storm Chasers
Perkin's Restaurant
Platte River Builders
Quilters Cottage
Rainmaker Custom Wood Products
Raising Cane's
Rasmussen Mechanical Services
Red Lobster
Riddle's Jewelry
Salon Eleven 27
Sandhills Oral & Facial Surgery
Scooter's Coffeehouse
Slumberland Furniture
Sonic Drive In
Stagecoach
Sweetwater Hemp Co.
Target
Thunderhead Brewing
Titan Machinery
Tractor Supply Co
Trius Federal Credit Union
U Med Spa & Weight Management
Upper Room Brewery
Walk-N-Stix
Yandas Music & Pro Audio
Yellow Van Cleaning Service
YMCA

Cash Donors

Love Sponsors - (\$500 or greater)

Anonymous
Lisa and Ryan Burger
Cash-Wa Distributing Company
Wes and Mary Fiddelke
Fred and Jana Flessner
Rev. Doug and Carol Gaunt
Robert and Wanda Glanzer
Gary Goelz
Peggy Hawbaker – In memory of Bud and
Nora Erickson
Hellman, Main, Coslor, and Kathol P.C.
Lennis Hodgson
Klute Investment Services
Rebecca and Joseph Klute
Phil and Corlis Kozera
Joyce and Mark Lase
Dan and Shirley Oertwig
Rich Peters Agency, Inc.
Dennis Schutz
Stonebridge Insurance and Wealth
Management

Hope Sponsors - (\$250 - \$499)

Ed and Connie DeLaet
Deanna (Fiddelke) Mackie
John and Sharon Martin
Sanctuary Consulting LLC
Harry and Mary Sue Schmidt
Lee and Phyllis Wells
Carolyn Kay Wilkens

Faith Sponsors - (\$100 - \$249)

Marian Allwardt

Brady and Sherri Bonsall

Exchange Bank

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and
Cremation Services

Ron Jiede

Dale and Lynette Johnson

Quentin and Janel Lange

Lindsay and Kyle Larson

Mel and Michelle McNea

Optical Gallery

PEP Co., Inc.

Russell and Marilyn Rathjen

Re/Max Executives - Rocky Geiser

Mark and Beth Reid

Titan Machinery

Susan J Tonniges

Other Cash Donors

Scott and Nancy Bunger

Rev. Robert and Amy Kuefner - In Memory
of Jenna Bloom

Landmark Implement

Cheryl E Scarborough

Table Sponsors

Norman and Cindy Erickson

Florang Chiropractic & Wellness

Michael and Amy Freitag

Rev. Doug and Carol Gaunt

Graham Tire Co.

Holy Cross Lutheran

Ryan and Kylie Hulme

Alton and Cathy Kahle

Rebecca and Joseph Klute

Kevin and Jesse Loeffler

Jamie Nikodym

Platte River Builders

Eric and Beth Rosenthal
Stacey and Zachary Schwarz

Mike and Kim Wilkens

Josh and Tricia Young



Volunteers

General Chairpersons

Rachael Burger

Elizabeth Gaunt

Lisa Splittgerber

Decor

Julie Baker

Melissa McCartney

Gift Acquisition/Mailings

Rachael Burger

Sarah Filbert

Chelsea Herrera

Steve Junge

Holly Reid

We would like to thank the many volunteers who have devoted their time, energy, and talents over the past several months. Thank you to those that helped with final preparations and auction night. Thank you!

2023

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
02 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Sunday School 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM 11:30am Palm Sunday Meal 5:00 Divine Service	03	04 1:30 Sleeping Mats 7:00 Bd. of Stewardship	05 8:30 Chapel 5:30 Midweek	06 Office Open 8a-4p 7:00p Maundy Thursday	07 Office Closed 7:00p Tenebrae Service	08 7:00p Easter Vigil
				No School - Easter Break		
09  <i>Happy Easter!</i> 7:00 Easter Sunrise 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Easter Festival Service	10 Office Closed 7:00 Mary Martha	11 1:30 Sleeping Mats 7:00 Board of Elders 7:00 Board of Trustees 7:00 Board of Education	12 8:30 Chapel 5:30 Midweek	13	14	15
	No School - Easter Break					
16 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Sunday School 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM 5:00pm Divine Service	17 12:00p Sr. Citizens Potluck	18 1:30 Sleeping Mats 7:00 Church Council	19 8:30 Chapel 5:30 Midweek	20 7:00pm Men's Bible Study	21 NO SCHOOL	22 LWML Kearney Zone Fellowship Hall
					Plant sale in the gym	
23 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Voter's Meeting 10:30am Sunday School 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM 5:00pm Divine Service	24	25 1:30 Sleeping Mats	26 8:30 Chapel 5:30 Midweek	27	28	29
30 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Voter's Meeting 10:30am Sunday School 10:30AM Radio Broadcast 1460AM & 92.1FM 5:00pm Divine Service						

Zion Service Calendar

Time of Service	Acolyte	Elder	Usher Captain	Engineer	Announcer	Altar Guild
Sunday, April 2 9:00 am Divine Service Palm Sunday Crucifer	Miriam Gaunt Landen Eckhoff	Nathan Gaunt	Fred Flessner	Eric Rosenthal	Carol Kreutzer	Ellen Hockemeier Sue Bartels
Thursday, April 6 7:00pm Maundy Thursday	Reilly Fisher	Nathan Gaunt	Fred Flessner	Eric Rosenthal		Shirley Helmbrecht
Friday, April 7 7:00pm Tenebrae Service Good Friday	Addison Splittgerber	Nathan Gaunt	Steve Junge	Jared Nuttelman		Shirley Helmbrecht
Saturday, April 8 7:00pm Easter Vigil	Jamie Wilkens	Keith Nuttelman	Steve Junge	Reilly Fisher		Ellen Hockemeier Sue Bartels
Sunday, April 9 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise 9:00 a.m. Easter Service Crucifer	Addison Helmbrecht Harper Florang Graydn Fisher	Keith Nuttelman	Andy Wollberg	Jared Nuttelman	Brooke Fisher	Ellen Hockemeier Sue Bartels
Sunday, April 16 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Lauren Starkey	Bruce Brooks	Andy Wollberg	Reilly Fisher	Lonna Gronewoller	Ellen Hockemeier Sue Bartels
Sunday, April 23 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Eli Randolph	Dan Oertwig	Mike Wilkens	Eric Rosenthal	Carol Kreutzer	Ellen Hockemeier Sue Bartels
Sunday, April 30 9:00 a.m. Divine Service	Amy Tonniges	Eric Rosenthal	Keith Nuttelman	Reilly Fisher	Brooke Fisher	Shirley Helmbrecht