



From the Desk of Pastor Meyer

June 24, 2025

The last few weeks have been a whirlwind of activity. From the Sunday I received the Call to Enid, it's been a hectic time of visiting Oklahoma, celebrating our God-daughter's graduation, and then announcing the acceptance of that Call. Things only sped up from there. There was Vacation Bible School, trying to get Megan moved to her own apartment, traveling to see Christopher return from deployment, and finally getting our own things packed up. As I write, we're frantically scrambling to get everything done with less than a week to go.

It's the culmination of a little over eight years of ministry here in Mission Valley. By God's grace, in that time, 25 people were baptized – including 6 in the last month alone. Most were babies and infants, but a few older children and even a couple of adults were made children of God by water and Word. Twenty children and 18 adults were confirmed in their Baptismal faith, while thirty other adults affirmed their Christian faith to become members of Zion. Twelve couples were united in holy marriage as husband and wife. Twenty-four saints of God were laid to rest – interestingly, the first funeral I had here was Gilbert Krueger and the last was his wife, Doris. Ballpark, together, we made it through almost 500 sermons, weekly and bi-weekly Bible classes, and countless meetings. I have no idea how many steps I did through area hospitals and nursing homes and in your own homes while caring for hurting bodies, souls and troubled consciences.

Thank you for the very warm, heart-felt, and tearful "farewell" potluck last Sunday. It was good to be surrounded by all of you whom I hold dear. Many of you spoke very kindly about my service here. Thank you, but truly, I believe all of it was God at work in the words spoken, in the messages preached, in the conversations that were had, and in the time spent together. When I arrived, Pastor Judge told me you were if not the most then one of the most loving and caring congregations he had ever seen. I agree. You graciously accepted me and my family. You put up with my quirks, laughed at my jokes, supported me when I was broken and hurting, and through it all demonstrated grace.

I want you to know, the very fact that you elected to call me to be your pastor was God's mercy in action. Without hyperbole, this congregation saved my ministry. It re-energized me. You rejuvenated me. You refilled my heart with joy, my spirit with excitement, and my work with vigor. I have no doubt God led me here in the summer of 2017. And, by the same token, I have no doubt that God is leading me, again, guiding my feet in all of their questionable beauty to Enid, Oklahoma, and St. Paul Lutheran Church and School.

I know many of you have some level of anxiety about the coming vacancy, ranging from mild curiosity to true concern about what is to come. How long will the vacancy last? Who will serve us? Who will be our next full-time pastor? Good questions. The answer is, "I don't know, but God already does." Trust Him and His love for you. As much as possible, also trust the process. Be patient. Don't try to short-cut it or circumvent it.

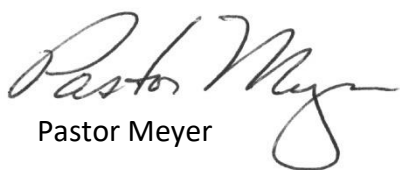
I offer two Scripture themes for you to reflect on. The first is, "Cast all your cares on Him, because He cares for you," (1 Peter 5:7). Likewise, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding," (Prov. 3:5). I don't think worry and concern are necessarily absence of faith, but I do think it is faith that is curved back on itself. Zion is the Lord's – it's not yours. Surrender your cares about the pastorate to the Lord. After all, if it is His Church (and it is), He will also provide a pastor to serve the Church (which He will).

The second theme is, "Consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near," (Hebrews 10:25). Be in the Lord's House. Jesus is here! If someone is absent more than a week or two, pick up your phone and reach out: "I miss you!" Encourage each other to be faithful, prayerful, and intentional in coming together as the Body of Christ.

There was a television show called Boy Meets World, the story of kids growing up through middle school and high school. Their homeroom teacher, Mr. Feeny (played by William Daniels) was a tough but tender-hearted man. In the final episode, as the seniors are leaving the classroom for the last time, each student has a special moment with Mr. Feeny. In the final moment of the show, right before the final fade-out to the credits, Mr. Feeny faced the empty classroom and said, "I love you all... Class dismissed."

Thank you for being part of Zion, part of my ministry, and part of my life. I love you all.

**The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him,
that you may overflow in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
(Romans 15:13)**


Pastor Meyer