

# Memorial Day Reflections 2020

Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio

## Outline of Program

Instrumental Prelude “America the Beautiful”

Musicians of Zion Lutheran Church

Invocation and Opening Thoughts

Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church

“What Memorial Day Means to Me”

Captain James Rockrohr, U.S.M.C.

Song – “Run for the Wall”

Rev. Dr. Frederic W. Baue, Retired LC-MS Pastor

“Memorial Day Thoughts and Prayer”

Navy Chaplain Paul Rockrohr

Closing Hymn “God Bless Our Native Land”

Choir and Musicians of Zion Lutheran Church



Instrumental Prelude “America the Beautiful”  
(Words for Personal Meditation)

*Hymn You Like to Sing #21*

Text: Katherine Lee Bates Tune: Samuel A. Ward

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountains majesties Above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!



Invocation and Opening Thoughts

Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church

Invocation - In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Family, Friends, Neighbors and Fellow Citizens,  
I bring greetings to you from my family and from members of Zion Lutheran Church in Ridgeville Corners, Ohio.

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic there have been many restrictions on various public events. One of the events cancelled in Ridgeville Corners was the Memorial Day Celebrations sponsored by our local American Legion Post 454. It is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Post 454, so it was a disappointment to many people.

But as we all know, the United States of America is larger than any one celebration and any one organization. Our country is blessed to be made up of many people, with many skills, abilities and backgrounds. This little program is put together from contributions of a few of your fellow citizens. I pray you are blessed and encouraged by their contributions and thoughts.

May God Bless You and May God Bless America



“What Memorial Day Means to Me”  
Captain James Rockrohr, U.S.M.C.

Hello, I’m James Rockrohr, Pastor Rockrohr’s son. I’m a Captain in the United States Marine Corps currently stationed at Fort Sill, in OK. I would like to take just a few minutes to share with you what Memorial Day means to me.

To be honest with you, when I first began considering what I would like to share I thought I would discuss the Declaration of Independence and the founding of our country and major military events in our nation’s history. But, while history is important, Memorial Day is not about events. It’s about people. The people are important. In 243 years, the United States of America has seen much. Her people have enjoyed prosperity and endured hardship. They have lived through peace and war. Their stories make our country what it is today. National holidays commemorate the sacrifices and achievements of the American people. Memorial Day



*Captain James and Mrs. Megan Rockrohr and Penny*

commemorates, and honors, those men and women of our armed services who have made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their life for their nation.

Members of our military services know when they raise their right hand and swear to support and defend the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic, that their profession is dangerous. That is just the way it is. Our nation needs some of her sons and daughters to accept that danger on behalf of their fellow Americans to ensure our country's freedom. It is an honorable calling. We are thankful for the many servicemembers who, after their time is up, return to civilian life unharmed. And we care for those who come home wounded or broken.

We regularly honor our current and former service members, thanking them for their service. And rightly so, they are standing or have stood in defense of their nation. But Memorial Day is not for our veterans or active servicemembers among us. I don't want to be thanked today. I want to remember those no longer with us. We are thankful for those willing to give their lives for our freedom. We are thankful for their families and friends who must find a way to continue on without them. We dedicate this day to them, and I pray our nation may continue to be served by such heroes. Thank you for allowing me to share my Memorial Day thoughts with you.



Song – “Run for the Wall”

Rev. Dr. Frederic W. Baue, Retired LC-MS Pastor  
Scholar, Song Writer, Musician, Writer, Performer, Veteran

(from [www.pergolapress.com/blog](http://www.pergolapress.com/blog)  
<https://youtu.be/YgkWXrxBKLk>)

#### THE RUN FOR THE WALL Words and Music by Fred Baue

1. We grew up in the Fifties, in cities, on farms,  
Then along came the Sixties and our call to arms.  
Like our fathers before us, we answered the call.  
Refrain: We are making THE RUN FOR THE WALL.

2. From duck-tails and hot rods and homecoming  
queens,  
To the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, Marines.  
We were young. We were tough. We were ready for  
hell.  
We are making THE RUN FOR THE WALL.

3. In the heat and the jungle, the rain and the mud,  
The claymores, the firefights, the fear and the blood,  
With our buddies beside us we stood brave and tall.  
We are making THE RUN FOR THE WALL.

4. There were some that were broken in body or  
mind.  
There were some that were killed, even some left  
behind.  
They have not been forgotten by one, or by all.  
We are making THE RUN FOR THE WALL.

5. When at last we came home did we find a parade?  
Marching bands? Pretty girls with batons?  
Accolades?  
Or derision and hate from the weak and the small?  
We are making THE RUN FOR THE WALL.

6. Though we suffered so much, we find healing  
today.  
We will rev up our Harleys and ride from LA  
To DC, look up names that we know, stand and bawl.  
We are making THE RUN FOR THE WALL.

7. May our sons and our daughters in this, our fair land,  
Have the wisdom for peace, have the courage to stand  
For our country, and fight, if they must, lest she fall.  
Last Refrain: We are making the run,  
We are making the run,  
We are making THE RUN FOR THE WALL.

© 2012 Fred Baue, BMI 908 Brownell Ave. St. Louis MO 63122 (314) 835-9145 fbaue@sbcglobal.net  
All rights reserved



“Memorial Day Thoughts and Prayer”  
U.S. Navy Chaplain Paul Rockrohr

Hello, I’m Chaplain Paul Rockrohr. I’m a pastor in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and as a United States Navy chaplain I have the privilege of being able to serve with Sailors, Marines, and Coastguardsmen. Currently, I am stationed in 29 Palms, CA, and so I have the honor of serving with Marines.

Memorial Day is incredibly important, though not specifically because of our veterans and current servicemembers. I heard it said recently, “For those who have served in combat and lost someone, we don’t need a day to remember. We remember them every day. But Memorial Day is about others remembering them with us.” I think that is worth holding onto. Many have shed blood and tears for this country. Some have given their life. The depth of sacrifice will tell you about the value of the thing, especially when it is at one’s own cost to preserve it for another.



*U.S. Navy Chaplain Paul Rockrohr*

This country is incredibly blessed. No country in the world has the freedoms that we do. No place in the world has the opportunities that we do. So even during a Pandemic, there is still reason to give thanks. And consider what we are being thankful for, that someone would sacrifice not only blood and tears, but even their life. All so that you and I, your children and my children, might still have those blessings. Memorial Day is about remembering together as a nation the depth of sacrifice made by some. So, I invite you to join me in prayer.

Let us pray: O Lord, according to Your mercy you have raised up men and women to be courageous in the face of great danger, sacrificing all so that we might continue to live in freedom. We ask that you give comfort to their families. Keep in our memory how precious this nation and its people were to them, worth giving all to preserve and protect it. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

God’s peace be with you as we remember together those who have given all, that this Nation might be preserved for us and our children



Closing Hymn "God Bless Our Native Land"  
Choir and Musicians of Zion Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Hymnal # 577*

1 God bless our native land!  
Firm may she ever stand  
Thro' storm and night!  
When the wild tempests rave,  
Ruler of wind and wave,  
Do Thou our country save  
By Thy great might.

2 For her our prayer shall rise  
To God above the skies;  
On Him we wait.  
Thou who art ever nigh,  
Guarding with watchful eye,  
To Thee aloud we cry,  
God save the State! Amen.



**Zion Lutheran Church (LC-MS)**  
20-141 County Road X  
P.O. Box 37  
Ridgeville Corners, Ohio 43555  
419-267-3429 zionrco@bright.net  
[www.zionrco.org](http://www.zionrco.org)  
Worship Restarting June 7 at 10 AM