



# **ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH**

## **JULY 2024**

### **A Few Thoughts from Pastor**



The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is just around the corner, and for many this will give rise to a renewed sense of patriotism and pride ... for believers and unbelievers alike. Some will humbly give thanks to God for the gifts of a good land and the freedoms we've enjoyed, while others will revel in the "greatness" that is the USA and all that it supposedly represents. As I prepare to mark this now largely secular holiday, I'm struck by how potentially idolatrous an unguided and radical focus on freedom and independence can be (or has become).

We Christians worship God, not country. We humbly give thanks to God for His gifts of government and ongoing providence, even as we resist the temptation to misuse/abuse the freedoms (& liberty) we enjoy. While originally offered nearly 30 years ago, consider the following prayer offered during the opening session of the Kansas Senate in 1996. I suspect those assembled were expecting some sort of general, thank-you God, God-help-us type prayer, but this is what they got:

*"Heavenly Father, we come before You today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.*

*We confess that ....*

- ... we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it Pluralism,*
- ... we have exploited the poor and called it the lottery,*
- ... we have rewarded laziness and called it welfare,*
- ... we have killed our unborn and called it choice,*
- ... we have shot abortionists and called it justifiable,*
- ... we have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem,*
- ... we have abused power and called it politics,*
- ... we have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition,*
- ... we have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression,*
- ... we have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.*

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Tuesday & Thursday  
Closed Friday**

*Search us, oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will. I ask these things in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!"*

We could probably add to Rev. Joe Wright's list of "we have ...," but I hope the point has already been made. I am thankful to be an American, and I thank God that I was born and raised in a part of the world where we enjoy so many important freedoms. I thank God for the many brave men and women who have served, fought, and died protecting those freedoms, and I still love Old Glory.

But sometimes I worry; I worry about some of the "freedoms" and things that many claim our flag now represents. The "freedom" to live in ways that are counter to God's revealed will. The "right" to do as we please rather than as God would have us do, and to live in ways that "seem right to us" but which are at odds with how God says people should live.

Amidst all the reflecting and remembering, and all the celebrating, eating and drinking, and fireworks of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, I hope and pray that all of us will pause to repent, to confess our sins and wrong-headedness, and to turn to God once again for forgiveness and for guidance. And don't just pray for yourselves, pray for our country and its leaders as well ... God knows we/they need it.

God bless the USA? He has; He is. But I think it's high time the USA blesses Him! Yes, blesses Him by listening to Him once again, and by praising, worshipping, and glorifying Him! And I don't mean some loosely defined idea of a god that everyone can rally around; I'm talking about the one and only true God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Wonder how that would go over in Congress? Or in Topeka? Or in Fairview or Hiawatha?

Lord, have mercy! ... and come Lord Jesus, come quickly! Amen

**In Christ,**  
*Pastor Holle*

***Worship in the Park!***



***ST. PAUL AND ZION  
JOINT SERVICE***

***JUNE 30, 2024***

***FAIRVIEW CITY PARK***

***10:30AM***

***POTLUCK TO FOLLOW THE SERVICE  
AT THE PARK  
(BRING A DISH TO SHARE AND YOUR LAWN CHAIRS)***

***PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US!!***

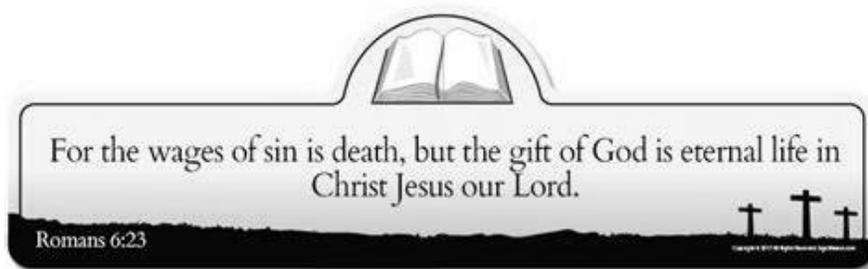


# Stewardship



## The Rewards of Godliness

It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "*For the wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23) and the person who "*keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it*" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "*the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus*" (Romans 6:23).



So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the "Close of the Commandments":

*What does God say about all these commandments?*

*He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Exodus 20:5-6)*

*What does this mean?*

*God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)*

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land*" (Ephesians 6:1-3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "*Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life'*" (Matthew 19:28-29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.

## ST. PAUL DORCAS

Our Dorcas Group met in the basement following our Sunday morning church service June 2, 2024. Sharon Meyer served yummy strawberry or blueberry cream cheese pie and juice, while Sadie Meyer led our fourth Bible study on Joseph.

To often we cannot understand God's plan and loose hope or try to ask, "what now" and will it work out for us? In Genesis 39:21-23 we are reminded that the Lord is always with us. This is shown to Joseph as he is in prison and yet he gets placed in charge. We jumped into reading Genesis 40 through 41:46. Two new prisoners (Chief cupbearer and Chief baker) are placed in prison under Joseph's care and Joseph really does care for them. They tell him their dreams and he interprets the outcome. As Joseph matures he becomes a humble servant of the Lord and continues to give credit to God. Two years later Pharaoh seeks Joseph to explain his twin dreams and through Joseph's interpretation Pharaoh, like Potiphar, recognizes the Spirit of God in Joseph. Joseph was elevated to second in command (prime minister) to preserve and rescue His people over the next 14 years. Joseph's suffering taught him much, and led up to him being in charge of an entire land. Nothing is impossible by God's will.

President Sarah Kleopfer opened the business meeting with roll call taken by Becky Meyer, with 11 members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Sarah Kleopfer gave the treasurer's report and it was accepted.

For correspondence, we received a thank you from Lutheran Bible Translators.

There were no committee reports.

Under old business, we discussed VBS, and that we would have a meeting with anyone who wanted to help, Tuesday June 4th at 7pm. We also decided who would help with making snacks.

Under new business, we discussed having our joint church service under the shelter at the Fairview City Park. Dorcas will provide table service and drinks for the potluck after the service.

We set a date for church cleaning, July 20th at 9:00am. We will make a list of things to do so we can check things off as they are done.

Offering was collected.

Announcement: next meeting, July 7th, Evan Brockhoff will have our final study and discussion of Joseph. Hostess will be Becky Meyer. Altar committee for July and August will be Karen Bauman, Kristina Costlow, and Charlotte Kruse.

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

Secretary, Becky Meyer

## **ATTENTION!!**

**Zion Lutheran will be holding Vacation Bible School August 5th-9th from 6:00-8:00pm.  
Please consider helping us! There will be a meeting for all those wishing to help us  
on Monday, July 1st, at 6:30pm at Zion.**



*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!*

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Military:** Spencer Ernst, Bert Ernst, Alexander Williams

**College:** Joey Meyer, Megan Brockhoff, Paige Stover, Gunner Smith.

**Care Facilities & Shut-Ins:** Betty Allen, Carol Bauer, Gene Rice, Darlene Covert, Don Robidoux, Tom Hansen, Bonnie Reynolds, Esther Krug, Doris Rice.

**Also in our prayers:** Charlotte Kruse, Wes Duesing, Richard Clay, Aimee Hampl, Carl Mueller, Sherry Hartley.

**We Remember** the blessed saints who now rest in the Lord (Dale Strobel, Lois Voss) and we pray for their families that they remember all who die in the Lord live with the Lord. (Romans 6:5)



**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

*Jul 2-Isaac Covert, Jul 3-Tim Bianchi, Jul 4-Stuart Manche, Jul 8-Eric Manche, Jul 9-Michael Moreno, Jul 10-Juanita Fritz, Jul 10-Mark Meyer, Jul 13-Sadie Meyer, Jul 13-Donna Gormley, Jul 14-Jenna Smith, Jul 17-Remington Killman, Jul 17-Gary Oswald, Jul 24-Helen Hoppe, Jul 25-Lela Middendorf, Jul 27-Carolyn Schneider, Jul 27-David Davidson, Jul 29-Julie Lowe, Jul 30-Doug Spellmeier*

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

*Jul 3-Scott & Jessica Gigstad, Jul 4-Wes & Linda Duesing, Jul 7-Galen & Karen Bauman, Jul 7-Dwight & Sue Meyer, Jul 9-Levi & Teresa Manche, Jul 21-Doug & Sarah Kleopfer, Jul 22-Harlan & Susan Kneisel, Jul 23-Mark & Becky Meyer, Jul 30-Clif & Kathy Heiniger, Jul 30-Tim & Jackie Bianchi*

**SERVERS FOR JULY**

*(Please trade if you have a date conflict)*

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN**

**Jul 7th:** Clif & Kathy Heiniger  
**Jul 14th:** Milan Kloepfer & Ray Thieme  
**Jul 21st:** Wes & Linda Duesing  
**Jul 28th:** Shaun Pearson & Carolyn Schneider

**Altar Guild for July:** Karen Bauman, Kristina Costlow, Charlotte Kruse, Darryl Hoppe

**ZION LUTHERAN**

**Jul 7th:** **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Saige Stover, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman, **Greeters**-Scott & Jessica Gigstad, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese  
**Jul 14th:** **Elder**-Kurt Killman, **Acolyte**-Remington Killman, **Ushers**-Leon Wissmann & Tim Bianchi, **Greeters**-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann  
**Jul 21st:** **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter, **Greeters**-Larry & Carol Walter, **Sound System**-David Middendorf  
**Jul 28th:** **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Corey Dunaway, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman, **Greeters**-Hampl family, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese

**Altar Guild for July:** Barbara Shefferd & Lela Middendorf



*Zion and the Evangelism-Outreach Committee  
will be serving hotdogs, chips, cookies, and bottled water  
for the community for a free will offering  
at the City Fireworks Display  
on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 6:30.*

*There will also be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board  
for donations of cookies, please sign up!  
We will also welcome anyone wishing to help in any way  
with set-up, grilling hotdogs, serving, and cleanup.*

*If you have any questions please feel free  
to call or text Jackie at 785-741-5056.*

### **NOTICE**

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



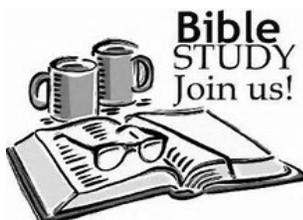
### **AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS**

In July, American Heritage Girls plan to walk in the Brown County Parade. They are also looking forward to their sweet corn fundraiser, be on the lookout for dates and locations!

The Pioneer and Patriot units started their new year with campouts at Banner Creek in May and Duck Creek in June.

The troop board is working on the annual re-chartering process and thanks Zion for continuing to graciously be our charter organization!

VISION, based on Ephesians 1:18, is the new program year theme and we look forward to "seeing" all God has in store for our troop's girls and families this next year as they grow in faith and friendship.



### **Ladies Bible Study**

*Tuesday nights at 6:30pm  
at Zion Lutheran.  
Please join us!*

# JULY, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<b>1</b> 6:30 Vacation Bible School mtg. @Zion	<b>2</b> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Indep. Day 	<b>5</b> Pastor Holle Day Off	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>10</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study @St. Paul	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Pastor Holle Day Off	<b>13</b>	
<b>14</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Joint Elder mtg. @St. Paul	<b>17</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study @Zion	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Pastor Holle Day Off	<b>20</b> St. Paul – Church Cleaning	
<b>21</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	<b>22</b> Articles Due for Newsletter	<b>23</b> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>24</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study @St. Paul	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Pastor Holle Day Off	<b>27</b>	
<b>28</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion Fellowship @ St. Paul	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30 Ladies Bible Study	<b>31</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study @Zion				