



# ST. PAUL-ZION DUAL PARISH

## JULY 2025

### A Few Thoughts from Pastor

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. Romans 13:1a

Well, how's that for a 4<sup>th</sup> of July word from the Lord? Wouldn't this be a better verse for April 15<sup>th</sup>, or for the day after the first Tuesday in November? Doesn't it kind of miss the point for a day set aside for celebrating freedom and independence, or are you wanting to take us back to the days of the pandemic?

Well, in the minds of some, especially those who don't really care what God says anyway, I suppose it might seem odd. But to those who actually care what God says, and I believe even for those who signed the original Declaration of Independence, it's not odd at all. Let me explain ...

In our day, and especially in our country, some not only celebrate freedom, liberty, and independence, they actually worship their own notions of what these words mean. To them these things mean they are free to think, say, and do whatever they want or whatever seems right to them.

But such unfettered personal liberty and freedom give rise to idolatry, where the will-of-self trumps God's holy will, and where tolerance and acceptance of foolish (and abominable) ideas and actions are touted as somehow synonymous with liberty and independence. When creatures choose to exercise their own wills in absence of the Creator's will, or even worse, in opposition to it, they set themselves up as false gods, claiming independence even as they actually serve the king of lies, Satan.

**"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."**

- THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

This was never what the original signers of the Declaration of Independence had in mind. Consider these two lines from the Declaration: *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are en-dowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights ... and ...for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.*

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The independence our forefathers declared 249 years ago was an independence from the tyranny of the British throne, **not from God, His will, providence, and influence, and not from morality or responsibility**. Acknowledging the Creator from whom flow all human rights and all true morality, and declaring their dependence (reliance) on His continued protection, they humbly accepted their place “under” God (not free from God) even as they staked claim to their rights independent of the British monarchy.

On this 4<sup>th</sup> of July, let us celebrate (& thank God for) our nation’s independence and for the freedoms (especially religious freedoms) we enjoy, but let us do so completely aware of our continued dependence on God, His goodness, and on His Son, our Savior. In this world, and this country, we **are free** to live as redeemed children of God **who depend on Him** for all that is good. And if God grants that we remain free of excessive governmental tyranny, then we will continue to celebrate our “independence” even as we humbly remain mindful of our absolute dependence on God ... sinners who by grace through faith and on account of all that Christ has done for them are now regarded as holy (saints) by God ... slaves who have been freed from sin, death, and the devil to now serve God and neighbor because we have been saved, and our eternity in heaven secured for us ... lambs who have been delivered from the tyrannical reign of Satan to live under the care and protection of the Good Shepherd.

May we as modern-day patriots ever fight the temptation to enslave ourselves to some idolatrous notion of self, complete and total independence, or some so-called freedom which masquerades in our day as tolerance or some type of enlightenment. And while we celebrate our freedoms, may we always worship and praise God alone, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To Him, and Him alone, be all glory, honor, and praise!

In His service,  
*Pastor Holle*

***Please Update!***

***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!*

# Stewardship



*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

*Galatians 5:1*

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what we believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents to provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God's servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

## ST. PAUL DORCAS

Our Dorcas group met June 1st, 2025 in the basement after the church service. Sharon Meyer provided tasty strawberry and lemon cake, mixed nuts, mints and tea, coffee and water. Sadie Meyer began our third lesson in our Bible Study "Unshakable" by Donna Snow. This was day 1, David's history and early years.

President Sarah Kleopfer called our meeting to order and Sadie Meyer took roll call; there were 13 members present. May minutes were read by Sadie Meyer and were approved. No correspondence. Treasurer Kathy Heiniger gave the treasurer's report, it was accepted. No officers report.

For committee reports Cindy Manche reported on the funeral dinner for Doug Spellmeier's family, which served 50 people sandwiches, salads and desserts.

Under unfinished business it was decided to visit the Maple Heights nursing home on August 27th at 2pm. We will be celebrating the residents August birthdays.

In new business, the trip to the Orphan Grain Train Facility in Lincoln Nebraska has been postponed due to lack of air conditioning in the facility.

Sarah gave updates for the convention bus.

Evan briefed the group on VBS and had a snack sign up.

General offering was taken.

Announcements: Evan Brockhoff will lead the Bible Study on July 6th and Linda Duesing will be Hostess. Altar Committee for July and August is Karen Bauman, Kristina Costlow and Charlotte Kruse.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Acting Secretary, Sadie Meyer



ZION LUTHERAN WOMENS MISSIONARY LEAGUE  
Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha, Kansas 66434

It was decided that we would not hold regular meetings during the months of June, July and August as we did last summer. Any urgent business that needs to be handled can be accomplished with a short meeting following worship services. The next regular meeting will be September 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

**125th ANNIVERSARY**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**202 W. Main St. Powhattan, KS**

On behalf of the small group who still worships at Zion, I want to extend this invitation to you and your congregation and any who may have had connection to Zion in the past to join with us as we acknowledge the upcoming 125th anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church, Powhattan, in a worship service at 2:00pm on June 29, 2025.

A short time of fellowship and light snacks will follow.

Your presence will highly be appreciated.

Thank you in advance as you look forward to attending the occasion.

Please RSVP by June 25, 2025. Text or call 402-806-1822



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**We invite all kids** to come and join us for Sunday School!

Sunday School meets each Sunday morning at **9:15am at Zion.**

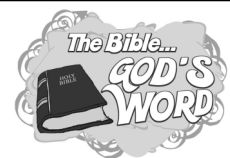
Sunday School **at St. Paul** starts after the service at **9:30am.**

The Zion Adult Bible Class meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15am.

Please come join us!!

**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY**

**Midweek Bible Study** meets at 7:00pm on Wednesday nights and will rotate between St. Paul and Zion. Please join us!



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

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

**Military:** Spencer Ernst, Alexander Williams

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

**Care Facilities & Shut-Ins:** Carol Bauer, Gene Rice, Esther Krug, Doris Rice, Juanita Fritz, Don Robidoux.

**Also in our prayers:** Darlene Atland, Malcolm Gigstad, Jill Kohlmeier, Becky Holle, Tim Bianchi, Danny Bauerle, Katie Fry, Jeanne Lowe, Wes Duesing, Richard Clay, Aimee Hampl, Carl Mueller.

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



**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

*July 1-Chuck Sjulín, July 3-Tim Bianchi, July 4-Stuart Manche, July 4-Laurice Nigus, July 8-Eric Manche, July 9-Michael Moreno, July 10-Mark Meyer, July 10-Juanita Fritz, July 13-Sadie Meyer, July 13-Donna Gormley, July 14-Jenna Smith, July 17-Remington Killman, July 17-Gary Oswald, July 24-Helen Hoppe, July 25-Lela Middendorf, July 27-Carolyn Schneider, July 27-David Davidson, July 29-Julie Lowe*

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

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

**SERVERS FOR JULY**

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

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN**

**July 6th:** Clif & Kathy Heiniger  
**July 13th:** Milan Kloefer & Ray Thieme  
**July 20th:** Chuck & Deb Sjulín  
**July 27th:** Shaun Pearson & Carolyn Schneider

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

**ZION LUTHERAN**

**July 6th:** **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-Bob Freese & Larry Walter,  
**Greeters**-Hampl Family, **Sound System**-Bob & Virginia Freese


**July 13th:** **Elder**-Scott Gigstad, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann,  
**Greeters**-David & Lela Middendorf, **Sound System**-David Middendorf

**July 20th:** **Elder**-Leon Wissmann, **Acolyte**-Grace Hampl, **Ushers**-David Middendorf & Kurt Killman,  
**Greeters**-Sharon Lowe & Darlene Atland, **Sound System**-Leon Wissmann

**July 27th:** **Elder**-Travis Hampl, **Acolyte**-Brady Killman, **Ushers**-Tim Bianchi & Leon Wissmann,  
**Greeters**-Tim & Jackie Bianchi, **Sound System**-Dwight Meyer

**Altar Guild for July:** Diane Brockhoff, Cathy Brockhoff, Lela Middendorf

# JULY, 2025

July 2025							Aug 2025 ▶
◀ Jun 2025	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Indep. Day 	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Dorcas	<b>7</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Pastor Holle Day Off	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	<b>14</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Pastor Holle Day Off	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion	<b>21</b> Articles Due for Newsletter		<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Pastor Holle Day Off	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity 9:15 Bible Study @Zion St. Paul Fellowship	<b>28</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>31</b>	