

EPIS⁺LE



St. Paul's Lutheran The Church On The Hill

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July - 2025

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Pastor's Message

4th of July Devotion

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance." Psalm 33:12

St. Paul's held a patriotic service on June 29th. It was followed with a time of fellowship, with large cinnamon rolls.

As we approach the 4th of July, our nation's Independence Day, we are reminded of the many blessings we enjoy as citizens of this great country. It is a day to celebrate freedom, reflect on the sacrifices made by those who came before us, and honor the ideals of liberty and justice that form the

foundation of our nation. Fireworks, parades, and gatherings with family and friends remind us of the joy and gratitude we feel for the freedoms we hold dear.

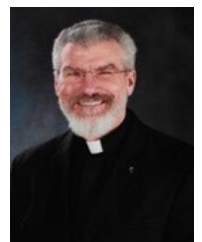
However, as Christians, we recognize that our ultimate freedom is not rooted in national identity but in the work of Jesus Christ. Galatians 5:1 tells us, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." While we are grateful to live in a land where we can worship freely and pursue our dreams, we know that true freedom comes from the grace and salvation we have received through Christ.

The 4th of July is an opportunity to reflect on the blessings of earthly freedom while remembering the deeper spiritual freedom we have in Christ. As we celebrate our nation's independence, let us also remember the dependence we have on God. Psalm 33:12 reminds us, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance." We are called to live as citizens of God's kingdom first, allowing our faith to guide how we live, give, and serve in our families, communities, and nation.

While patriotism is a wonderful expression of gratitude for our country, it should never take the place of our devotion to God. The Bible reminds us that earthly kingdoms will pass away, but the Kingdom of God is eternal. As we wave flags and sing patriotic songs this holiday, let us also lift our voices in praise to the One who has given us eternal life and hope.

This 4th of July, as we celebrate with fireworks and festivities, let us pause to thank God for the freedoms we enjoy and commit ourselves to using that freedom to serve Him and others. May we be inspired to pray for our nation, its leaders, and its people, that we may always seek God's guidance and live in a way that honors Him.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor David Viles



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Angela Tierney
- 2 Kaylin Dunlap
- 2 Christopher Murphy
- 4 John Berry
- 4 Chris McNamar
- 5 Vanessa Soell
- 5 George England
- 8 Gus Fischer
- 10 Sherry Williams
- 11 Joshua Ferrell
- 12 Ashleigh Hillen
- 15 Sherman Koestner
- 16 Philip Scott Soell
- 16 Wayne Linsenbardt
- 17 Jonathan Kalaf
- 17 Shawn Williams
- 20 Remington Ferrell
- 20 Charlie Mae Ferrell
- 21 Laney Hager
- 21 Jessica Stoermer
- 24 Debbie Boyce
- 24 Colin Woehrer
- 26 Emma Steele
- 27 Angela Stubinger
- 27 Stacy McNamar
- 31 Tyler Hager
- 31 Lyndli Thompson

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month/Day	Attendance Phys./Virtual	Offering
JUNE 01	103 / 239	\$ 3,306.00
JUNE 08	84 / 237	\$ 3,502.00
JUNE 15	76 / 280	\$ 3,639.53
JUNE 22	61 / 299	\$ 2,228.00
JUNE 29	55 / 235	\$ 3,802.00

Additional Income:

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

St. Paul's is thankful for Gus Fischer and his gift of mowing St. Paul's hill in anticipation for parking hundreds of vehicles for the 4th of July celebration. He is a blessing to our church.



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------|
| 2 | Stacy & Chris McNamar | 2022 |
| 13 | Kara & Andrew Richart | 2019 |
| 18 | Craig and Angie Stubinger | 1998 |
| 23 | Rich and Gina Prosch | 1988 |
| 27 | Harry & Jana Thompson | 1974 |
| 29 | John and Dee Dee Loesch | 1978 |

Continued prayers for:

Glenda Hake, Curt Bracher, Stacy McNamar, Don Buchta, Julie Carel, Debi Berry's sister, Nathan Hollis (Bill Wyss Grandson-in-Law) and all those we hold dear in our hearts.

Congregational Council Meeting, June 9th, 2025

- † At 6:01 pm the regular monthly meeting of the Congregational Council of St. Paul's ELCA, Lohman, Missouri was called into session by Council President Zola Finch. The council members present were Misty Schroeder, Debbie Raithel, Gus Fischer, Zola Finch, Pastor David, Dan Tschirgi, Debi Berry, Michelle Collins and Kent Nelson. Those absent were Ashleigh Hillen and A.J. Ferrell. The meeting was started with a prayer by Pastor David Viles.
- † The President requested approval of the previous Council minutes; this was done upon a motion by Debi Berry, seconded by Kent Nelson and approved by all.
- † **Church Treasurer's report** provided by Michelle Collins was presented. May 31, 2025 financial statements show YTD the church has income over expenses of \$5,705.75 and are tracking in line with the budget. The church has over 12 months of cash in reserves which exceeds the not-for-profit standard of a minimum of six months. The church is financially healthy. There was a correction made for the previous month of \$252.00 interest payment
Copier costs are increasing. The annual and various charges seem to have risen. Possibly time to consider other options. Epistle colored copies (22) cost more. Discussion occurred on the balance in the checking account. Maintain (6-12 months) short term investments which are paying more than in the long term currently. Motion made by Deb Raithel and seconded by Dan Tschirgi to maintain a 6-7-month reserve in the checking account and purchase a 9-month CD at 4% interest. Approved by all. A motion was made by Kent Nelson and seconded by Dan Tschirgi to approve the ordering of envelopes for next year. If the envelopes are not picked up next year, then yours will not be ordered for the following year. Approved by all.
A motion was made by Debi Berry and seconded by Misty Schroeder to approve the treasurer's report. Approved by all.
- † Pastor's report showed four May services, and vacation. Pastor attended 5 meetings. He had 6 visits and daily answering text messages and phone calls and communications. Activities were varied. Creation of June Epistle and emailed. Updated website with service videos. Attended 3 graduation parties, 1 birthday celebration, 1 50-year wedding celebration, and recognized 2025 Graduates in a church service. Received 8 new members on the first service of the month. Vacation from 15-21 May to perform Granddaughter's wedding service. Held two noncommunion services, one communion service, and prepared a service and sermon for lay ministers to do while he was on vacation. No mileage this month.

President Finch: requested our committee chairpersons to present their reports on recent activities.

Evangelism: Misty Schroeder reported Evangelism report. She went over the Patriotic Services with more info to follow. Requesting donations of sodas, drinks, etc. Menu the same. JR Lutherans and Evangelism will split the profits. Discussion on Battle of the Bands. Parking is still being worked out but there will be safety orange vests for the parkers to wear.

Motion was made by Gus Fischer and seconded by Misty Schroeder to approve the report. Approved by all.

Technology: Dan Tschirgi reported on technology. The efforts to use the sanctuary monitors with a convenient handheld device have continued and has proved to be not possible. Casting devices to use with a laptop computer have been procured and progress is expected soon to get a working system in place. The transition will be made gradually to determine what works best for our worship services. The patience shown by the congregation is appreciated as we work toward this goal. The livestreaming is continuing to function adequately with only an occasional glitch. Motion was made by Debi Berry and seconded by Misty Schroeder to approve the report. Approved by all.

Worship & Music: Ashleigh Hillen was absent. It was reported that hymn choices were chosen via email by the participating committee members. Motion was made by Gus Fischer and seconded by Misty Schroeder to approve the report. Approved by all.

Parish Education: A.J. Ferrell reported by email. Sunday School - 1st Sunday of each month for June, July, and August. Return to 1st and 3rd Sundays in September. VBS @ Trinity is July 13-17. Registration details are being finalized and should be going out this week (digital form available new this year!)

Trinity registrations covered by Zola again this year - THANK YOU!

Motion was made by Debi Berry and seconded by Misty Schroeder to approve the report. Approved by all.

Church Improvement: Kent Nelson reported that the plexiglass over the front stained-glass window fell out. We need to replace it to protect the wood. Suggested replacing them all so that they match. Roger Pennell is working on an estimate. Kent will follow up. Kent has obtained a digital lock for the parsonage. He is currently working on the leak in the parsonage basement. Motion was made by Debbie Raithel and seconded by Debi Berry to approve the report. Approved by all.

Stewardship/Finance: Gus Fischer reported that our sign on Rt C is missing. He made a motion that we just forget about it. It was seconded by all and passed by all. Gus provided a letter from the Insurance company to Kent for discussion and possible action. On hold for now. Motion was made by Gus Fischer and seconded by Debbie Raithel to approve the report. Approved by all.

Mutual Ministry: Debbie Raithel reported that they are still gathering furniture and furnishings for the parsonage. Need 2 bedframes for queen size. Need bedding, towels, and pillows. Any and all kitchen items. Coffee maker and dishes. Need a cleaning company. Zola and Misty are looking into this. Still looking for a gas stove – natural gas, and a washer and dryer. WELCA is providing new drapes. Working on obtaining tables and chairs for the parsonage for meetings. Meetings may meet over there next month! The security lamps are on timers. Zola is researching a new pest control company. Motion was made by Dan Tschirgi and seconded by Kent Nelson to approve the report. Approved by all.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Pastor led us in the Lord's Prayer.

At 7:44 Kent Nelson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dan Tschirgi. Motion was approved by all. The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 14, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Debi Berry

STARS: Jeannette Fischer, Erika Gerth;

There were 33 STARS in attendance at our June meeting and a very interesting program was presented by Megan Dudenhoeffer who cultivates a flower farm in our area. And she very generously gave each one of us a small bouquet to take home. Our next meeting is scheduled for July 16 and our program will be '**Understanding Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia**'. Our program will be given by Teresa Brown, a Dementia Care Certified Program Manager for the Alzheimer's Association Greater Missouri Chapter. Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available, and Alzheimer's Association resources. Teresa Brown, our presenter, and her family have been touched by Alzheimer's disease twice, which left her with a motivation to provide a light to others who find themselves on the journey, especially in rural communities.

In honor of the month of July, our menu will feature grilled hot dogs and brats. If you plan to attend, please make reservations with Rose Strobel at 782-4553 or 694-3634 by Monday evening, July 14.

Margaret Circle: Erika Gerth

Low hanging clouds and the threat of storms did not dampen the spirits of St. Paul's Margaret Circle. Once again, we gathered at the home of Kay and Frank Pascoe for Margaret Circle's annual salad supper. Frank met us in the drive way and helped with parking cars and carrying tote bags up the steps. Kay had everything prepared for us to enjoy the wide variety of salads brought by the group. The meal concluded with brownies and coffee as we settled in for Ruth Stubinger's meaningful Bible study entitled "Keeping Our Spiritual Vision Clear". She spoke of physical reality, that which we see with our eyes, and eternal reality, which we gain through our belief in Jesus and God. Ruth concluded her study with the words of a prayer: "Open the eyes of my heart, O God."

Margaret Circle supports a number of organizations whose purpose is to make the lives of children better in a variety of ways. Two of these agencies, Prison Patch and Special Learning Center, received portions of the evening's offering. Prison Patch is located in Chillicothe, MO, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting children of incarcerated mothers and strengthening the bond between them. Special Learning Center is in the process of building a new facility in Jefferson City. It is dedicated to providing comprehensive education and therapy services to children with developmental disabilities and delays.

Margaret Circle's next meeting will take place at St. Paul's on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 6:30 PM. Kathryn Linsenbardt will host and Kay Pascoe will lead the Bible study. We extend a special invitation to women who are new to St. Paul's: Come and experience for yourself Margaret Circle's spirit of service and friendship!

Mobile Food Pantry: The June 10th Mobile Food Pantry Truck was in Russellville at Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot, it was a nice afternoon with a breeze. We served 120 families with 331 people in those families. Some of the items given out were produce: cabbage, corn on the cob, kale, lettuce, onions, turnips, zucchini, other items assorted breads, chicken patties, chicken tenders, cottage cheese, eggs, French bread loaves, macaroni noodles, propel drink, from the Methodist Church canned tuna and kid packs containing fruit cups and snack bars. Volunteers from the Lohman Lions Club were Gary and Alberta Zumwalt, from St. Paul's Lutheran were Rosemary Heidbreder, Dan Tschirgi, Gary and Audrey Bunch. Next mobile food truck will be July 8th at 1:00 P.M.

Joan Stubinger is thankful for this St. Paul's Church family, for the love and support she received when Melvin suddenly passed away. The words of comfort, food prepared for the dinner, cards, memorials, texts, phone calls, visits and HUGS were truly appreciated!

Also, thank you for the offers to help me after my knee revision surgery. Checking on me, sending get well cards, calling and texting, and all the prayers for my recovery made this long journey easier. May God bless each and everyone of you!

Children's Sunday School & VBS: Sunday school is July 6th only. VBS will again be held at Trinity in Russellville on July 13-17. Pastor David Viles will participate on Monday for the skit on Jonah with a whale of a good time including a monster whale created by Harry Thompson.

Jr. Lutherans had wonderful delicious cinnamon rolls for starting our 4th of July celebration. Unfortunately, while we were enjoying our fellowship, the rain outside was pouring down and caused the evening events to be canceled. So, we will try again next Sunday.

We want to thank Dave and Trish Russell for helping make the cinnamon rolls and Misty Schroeder for baking them and placing them out for breakfast with help from Kathryn Linsenbardt, Delores Vlach, Trish and Dave Russell. On Sunday, July 6, 2025, our food stand will open at 6:00 p.m. The menu will consist of Super Hot Dogs, Nacho Cheese Chips, Rootbeer Floats, Homemade Pies, and drinks. Please join us to help raise funds for our activities. Don't forget about VBS, we are also planning a Pool Party for August.

Baptisms of the Month – Gathering around the Font

On Sunday, June 1, 2025 Allie Mae Richart traveled with her parents Andrew and Kara Richart to St. Paul's church from Ozark, MO. for her Baptism. She wasn't too happy with Pastor David pouring water on her head or holding her, but with the help of the Holy Spirit this sweet child was Baptized and sealed with the Cross of Christ.



On Sunday, June 8, 2025 we had a double Baptism with sisters Stella Rose Williams, who will be 4 years old three days later on June 11th, and Hailey Grace Williams, who will be 7 years old eight days later on June 16th. Their parents Cleo Scheperle and Nichole Williams of Lohman, MO. Have been attending St. Paul's for about a year and these sweet girls are a regular during the Children's Sermon and Sunday school.



Central States Synod Assembly: Pastor David Viles attended this year's Synod Assembly in Olathe, KS on June 5th-7th. Below is Pastor's report on this event.



2025 Central States Synod Assembly, June 5-7, 2025

EMBASSY SUITES, 10401 S. Ridgeview Rd., Olathe, KS 66061

Rev. David Viles represented St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Lohman, MO

Thursday, June 5, I arrived in Olathe, KS at 2:30 p.m. and registered for the assembly which began at 3:30 p.m. Unfortunately, when I booked my hotel four week prior, the Embassy Suites was already booked full. I booked a room at their other facility Hampton Inn - Olathe, KS, about six miles away.

The first session began at 3:30 p.m. with a land acknowledgment, recognizing the Indigenous people who have called Kansas and Missouri home. We specifically named and honored the Kaw, Kickapoo, and Osage peoples, upon whose ancestral lands we gathered, and acknowledged that the Central States Synod is located on the original and ancestral lands of the Comanche, Kaskaskia, Kiowa, Pawnee, Sioux, and Ute peoples.

Bishop Susan Candea welcomed everyone and introduced: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, churchwide representative. Bishop Becca Middeke Conlin (Arkansas-Oklahoma), Bishop Scott Johnson (Nebraska), and Bishop Sue Briner (Southwestern Texas), Dr. Laura Crawley, President of Bethany College, Candidacy and Leadership Manager, Deacon Shannon Johnson, and Bishop Amy Dafler Meaux from the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri.

First Ballot - After prayer, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton led us through the first ballot. In Central States Synod the first ballot is ecclesiastical. Any name of a rostered minister of word and sacrament can be put forward on the ballot. The assembly cast their ballot to uplift the name of the next bishop of the Central States Synod. After the ballots were collected the assembly was released for break at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Opening Worship - After breaking bread together, we entered into a time of worship together. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preached on John 14. This was a wonderful sermon and included her time spent in Jerusalem for Palm Sunday the past April. If you would like to hear her sermon you may visit YouTube at <https://youtu.be/rnsRsv9QvIq>.

After worship we heard the results of the first ballot. Total votes cast: 284. Total legal votes cast: 283. Number of legal votes needed for election on this ballot (75%): 213.

Donna Simon:	80	Jill Seagle:	3	Linda Anderson:	1
Zac Sturm:	59	Jon Brudvig:	2	Aimee Appell:	1
Chad Langdon:	52	Ethan Feistner:	2	Scott Benolkin:	1
Peter Rehwaladt:	42	Winston Persaud:	2	Nadia Bolz-Weber:	1
Dave Whetter:	4	Delvin Strecker:	2	James Brandt:	1
Josh Brecht:	3	Sue Tarkka:	2	Roy Christell:	1
Kendra Nolde:	3	Adam Wutka:	2	Austin English:	1

Ryan Fletcher:	1	Ashley Masoni-Huber:	1	Amy Stewart:	1
David Frerichs:	1	Kristin Neitzel-Woelk:	1	Jordan Stone:	1
Ben Fulton:	1	Cassandra M Overcash:	1	Gary Teske:	1
Dan Hanson:	1	Michael Peck:	1	Thomas Wehrman:	1
Michael Kern:	1	Jim Peters:	1	Kathrn Whitney:	1
Janice Kibler:	1	William Peterson:	1	Stephen Zeller:	1

Worship concluded with the singing of The Canticle of the Turning, an invitation to look towards how our synod has and continues to change and turn.

Friday morning, June 6, 2025 The second session - Rev. Mandy Todd led us through morning prayer. Bishop Sue Briner offered a reflection on Genesis 1:1-5. Bishop Becca Middeke-Conlin offered a reflection on John 5:2-9. Bishop Scott Johnson offered a reflection on Ephesians 4:11-16. After worship, we heard from the Right Reverend Amy Dafler Meaux, the Bishop of the Episcopal Dioceses of Western Mo. She brought us greetings and a reminder that the Spirit is moving and God is with us as we elect a new bishop.

Bishop Candea brought us her final report. She spoke about how she approaches life and her ministry from a place of grace. "Grace is at the center of who we are and what we are about. It is all about grace." She noted our Synod has 149 active congregations; 13 closed; and 11 disaffiliated since she was elected 6 years ago. 89 congregations average less than 50 at worship, 17 congregations average less than 20 at worship. Bishop Candea said, "The Spirit does not rewind, it renews." She said, "we should advocate for everyone; old, young, races, genders, act and speak as Jesus, even with it is difficult." Following her report, the assembly voted on synod council and committee nominees.

Ballot 2 for Bishop commenced at 10:15 a.m. As an assembly we sang, prayed, and gathered our thoughts. After ballots were collected the floor was turn back over to Bishop Candea.

The assembly heard from Scott Schulte, Synod Council Treasurer, who presented both the treasurer's report and the 2026 budget. [Video Link](#). After some questions and answers, the budget passed at 11:30 a.m. as it appeared in the assembly materials. [Link to Budget](#)

Results of the synod elections were announced:

At large, lay female, person of color - Tullia Hamilton

At large, deacon – Joanne Hickey

At large, lay male – Robert Corrothers

At large, young adult – Bethany Hill

For the consultation committee Clergy – Rev Melissa Woepfel

Clergy – Rev Karen Sherer

For the discipline committee Lay member – Douglas Reed

Clergy – Rev Chris Deines

Released for lunch at 12:00 p.m. After lunch, the results of the second ballot were given. Total votes cast: 311. Total number of legal votes cast: 311. Number of votes needed for election on this ballot (75%): 234.

Donna Simon:	109	Nadia Bolz-Weber:	12	Ryan Fletcher:	2
Zac Sturm:	73	Jill Seagle:	5	Sue Tarkka:	2
Chad Langdon:	66	Linda Anderson-Little:	4		
Peter Rehwaladt:	35	Dan Hanson:	3		

The top 7 candidates were each given 5 minutes to answer the question "Considering what you understand about our world, the Central States Synod, and your calling to be bishop, what do you see the Spirit calling the Central States Synod to do and be?"

We heard answers from Rev Jill Seagle, Rev Donna Simon, Rev Chad Langdon, Rev Peter Rehwaladt, and the Rev Zac Sturm. [Video Link](#)

Ballot 3 - We moved to the third ballot. Our worship team led a song, and a prayer was offered as ballots were passed out. Once ballots were collected, we continued with assembly business.

Nancy Nagel came forward to present the Synod Vice-President Report. Nagel pointed out a few emphases. The decrease in our budget and revenue comes from a decrease in congregational giving. Our synod staff has worked to be as efficient as possible. Nancy Nagel brought up different ways the synod has been renewed by the spirit and working across different contexts in Missouri and Kansas.

[Video Link](#)

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton brought us the Churchwide Report. She thanked the Central States Synod for their financial commitment to supporting missions around the ELCA. She shared a video about how the ELCA is changing and shaping itself in new ways so that we can meet people where they are.

[Video Link](#)

Rev Sue Tarkka was invited forward to present the following resolution. SA25.01 – Commitment to the Development of New Congregations The following amendment was offered. "new ministries-congregations, Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities and Synod Authorized Outreach Ministries" in place of "new congregational ministries of Word and sacrament" in numbers 1, 2, 5, and 6.2.A, and in place of "new congregations starts" in number 6.1. The amendment passed. After further discussion, the resolution as amended passed. [Video Link](#)

Results of the third ballot at 2:00 p.m. Total number of votes cast: 308. Total number of legal votes cast: 308. Total number of votes need for election: 206.

Zac Sturm:	130	Peter Rehwaladt:	24	Nadia Bolz-Weber:	2
Donna Simon:	100	Linda Anderson-Little:	2	Jill Seagle:	0
Chad Langdon:	50				

We moved into a time of Question and Answer where the top three nominees were asked the following questions:

- As the number of rostered clergy continues to decline, how would you encourage and equip lay leaders to keep congregations active in ministry?
- Given that about one-half of our synod's congregations average fewer than 40 people in worship, and financial resources continue shrinking, how would you encourage vitality in the midst of scarcity?
- The synod covers a large and widely diverse geographic area that includes both rural and urban areas. Describe your experience and how you would keep us connected.
- The positions and values of the ELCA on such topics as racial justice, human sexuality, gender equity, care for creation, immigration, and poverty are countercultural to many. How would you lead the Central States Synod in the midst of this tension?
- What book are you currently reading?

[Video Link](#)

Ballot 4 - Following the questions and answers, Bishop Eaton and Cathy Hohl gave us information and instructions. The assembly was led in song and prayer and the ballots were cast and collected.

The assembly business was concluded for the day, and we enjoyed a time of celebration with a banquet to celebrate milestone anniversaries. Pastor, David Viles received a certificate of ordination for 10 years in addition to the 3 years of service as a Synod Authorized Minister. [Video Link](#)

Saturday, June 7 - Bishop Eaton and Cathy Hohl were invited to lead us in the next ballot. Ms. Hohl presented the results of the fourth ballot. Total number of votes cast: 304. Total number of legal votes cast: 304. Total number of votes needed for election on this ballot (60%): 183. The results were as follows: Donna Simon: 138 Zac Sturm: 103 Chad Langdon: 63

Ballot 5 – Our assembly went straight into the fifth ballot. Our worship team led us in song, and a prayer was offered as we cast our final vote for the next bishop of the Central States Synod. Once all of the ballots were collected, the vote was officially closed.

Rev Sue Tarkka was brought forward to present the remaining resolutions. SA25.02 – A Season of Global Awareness passed. SA25.03 – Thanksgiving for Ministry was not voted on. Instead, we took a moment of silence and Bishop Candea offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the different people and ministries named in the resolution.

Rev Dave Whetter came forward to present us the updated compensation guidelines and recommended changes for 2026. The compensation guidelines as presented were voted on and passed. [Video Link](#)

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Cathy Hohl came forward to read us the report of the fifth ballot. The number of votes cast: 295. The number of legal votes cast: 295. The number of votes needed for election: 148.

The results were as follows: Zac Sturm: 144 Donna Simon: 151

Bishop Eaton declared "Based upon the report of Ballot 5, the Rev. Donna Simon has been elected bishop of the Central States Synod."

Bishop-Elect Donna Simon was invited forward to give us her remarks. She thanked everyone who went through the election process, specifically Rev. Sturm and Rev. Langdon. She mentioned her history of synod assemblies and uplifted the ways this synod has grown and changed. She asked to be invited to the congregations to continue the conversation about culture and what the Gospel is teaching us. [Video Link](#)

The 2025 Central States Synod Assembly ended with worship together. Bishop Susan Candea brought us Good News from Luke 5. "We can open our hearts, our minds, our lives, our communities, and let the Spirit blow as she will. Renewing us and this church so that we can participate in healing this world. I don't know about you, but is there any greater celebration." Bishop-Elect Donna Simon offered the closing blessing. [Video Link](#)

We were also made aware of the upcoming retirement of Churchwide Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Following is more information:



In February and March 2025, voting members were invited to pre-identify up to three individuals whom they believed could be possible nominees for presiding bishop of the ELCA. The following individuals were identified and chose to submit paperwork to be publicly identified for this process. In completing the biographical form, respondents were asked to limit their response to each prompt to 200 words.

The Rev. Amy Current

The Rev. Emily Ebert

The Rev. Angela Shannon

The Rev. Kevin Jones

The Rev. Craig Schweitzer

The Rev. Kevin Strickland

The Rev. Erik Gronberg

Blessings in Christ to the Central States Synod, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lohman, Missouri. Pastor David Viles.

Kathy Meller has a heart that is thoughtful and keeps on giving. Thank you for the Father's Day Treats.



Calendar of Events and Schedules

July 6th, Sunday: Fellowship hour celebrating Rose Strobel's birthday with cinnamon rolls.

July 6th, Sunday: Children's Sunday School.

July 6th, Sunday: July 4th celebration with fireworks beginning at 6:00 p.m.

July ???, Tuesday: Worship and Music meeting TBA

July 8th, Tuesday: Food Pantry Volunteers at Trinity Lutheran in Russellville at 1:00 p.m.

July 9th, Wednesday: Craft group meets in the basement at 7:00 p.m.

July 13-17th, Sunday-Thursday: Vacation Bible School at Trinity Church Russellville.

July 14th, Monday: Church Council will meet in the Sunday School room upstairs at 6:00 p.m.

July 15th, Tuesday: Basement reserved for Lohman City Council 5:30 p.m.

July 16th, Wednesday: STARS will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

July 16th, Wednesday: Mutual Ministry Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

July 24th, Thursday: Epistle News Deadline, please have all articles in as soon as possible.

July 26th, Saturday: Howard Woehrer Family Reunion in Church Basement

Bulletins are normally printed on Wednesdays. Pastor David normally plans Fridays as his day off.

Council Schedule

July – 06	Misty Schroeder
July – 13	Gus Fischer
July – 20	Ashleigh Hillen
July – 27	Debbie Raithel

Greeters Schedule

July – 06	Audrey Bunch	Jerry Koestner
July – 13	David Russell	Trish Russell
July – 20	Donald Weber	Marie Scheperle
July – 27	Rosemary Heidbreder	Richard Heidbreder

Acolyte Schedule

July – 06	Morgan Schroeder
July – 13	Oliver Stoermer
July – 20	Madeline Stubinger
July – 27	Morgan Schroeder

Readers Schedule

July – 06	Trish Russell
July – 13	Delores Vlach
July – 20	Jerry Koestner
July – 27	Frank Pascoe

Song Leader

July – 06	Kathy Meller
July – 13	Dan Tschirgi
July – 20	Dan Tschirgi
July – 27	Kathy Meller

Audio / Video Technician

July – 06	Dan Tschirgi
July – 13	Roger Pennell
July – 20	Roger Pennell
July – 27	Dan Tschirgi

Organist / Keyboard

July – 06	Zola Finch
July – 13	Zola Finch
July – 20	Zola Finch
July – 27	Zola Finch

Communionware for the Month

Benne & Stubinger Families

Communion Assistants

July – 13	Jessica Stoermer
July – 27	Donald Weber

Altar Flowers for the Month

Julie Nelson

* Communion Days noted in Yellow