

Trinity Tribune: July 2026

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
Paola, Kansas

“Thoughts from Our Founders”

Our second president John Adams wrote this to the Massachusetts Militia during his term in office: “We have no Government armed with Power capable of contending with human Passions unbridled by morality and Religion. Avarice, Ambition, and Revenge ... would break the strongest Cords of our Constitution as a Whale goes through a Net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” This idea comes from our Western heritage, a fusion of biblical and classical principles. Psalm 33:12 declares, **“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.”**

Even ancient Greeks, Romans, and many pagans recognized the importance of morality and religion in supporting a state. Many rulers even claimed divinity, including the Pharaohs, Caesars, and emperors of various nations. Why? Because rulers want to control not only actions but hearts. Laws can regulate behavior, but they cannot create desire. A speed limit can tell me how fast to drive, but it cannot make me want to drive that speed.

Rulers therefore seek obedience through love or fear. Patriotism can inspire people to serve willingly. Fear can also compel obedience. Niccolo Machiavelli argued that a ruler should ideally be both loved and feared, but if forced to choose, it was safer to be feared.

Yet God claims our hearts for Himself. God wants our trust and faith. He wants His love to rule our hearts so that we gladly do good. The law can control outward actions, but love transforms the heart. As St. Paul says, **“Love is the fulfilling of the law”** (Rom 13:10). Because Jesus died for us, we know God’s love and can love others.

Sadly, our sinful hearts rebel against God’s reign. We want to be our own king or choose another. We see this in 1 Samuel 8. For centuries God had been Israel’s king, but the people demanded, **“appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”** Samuel warned that a king would take their sons, daughters, servants, fields, and wealth. Still they replied, **“No! But there shall be a king over us.”** This desire remains in the human heart. We want someone to solve our problems, and leaders are often willing to promise they can.

But human rulers fail. Psalm 146 warns, **“Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.”** Earthly rulers are mortal and sinful.

Two great insights of the Founding Fathers were that man is created in God’s image with God-given rights, and that mankind is fallen—even those who govern. Romans 3 says, **“for all have**

sinned and fall short of the glory of God” and **“None is righteous, no, not one.”** Sin makes us selfish and prideful, especially when we possess power.

The Federalist Papers, no. 51, addresses this problem: “Ambition must be made to counteract ambition. ... If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.”

Government exists to curb sin, even within itself. From this idea come checks and balances: branches of government limiting one another’s power. On Independence Day, we thank God for freedom, rights, and our nation. We can also thank Him for a system designed to restrain sinful impulses, even when politics becomes messy.

The Bible teaches that governing authorities are given by God to **“carry out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer”** (Rom 13:4). They punish evil and protect what is good. This applies to threats inside and outside the nation. We need laws, police, courts, and soldiers to protect us from harm.

For this work, we pay what is owed: **“taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed”** (Rom 13:7). Government deserves honor when it fulfills its God-given purpose. Yet government controls outward actions; it does not own our faith. When it crosses that boundary, Christians answer with Peter, **“We must obey God rather than men”** (Acts 5:29).

Jesus summarized this relationship: **“Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s”** (Matt 22:21). Money bears the images of human leaders, so give it back for earthly purposes. But you bear God’s image. Your money will perish, but you are an eternal soul. Render yourself to God, trusting Him above all.

Finally, consider again Adams’ words that the Constitution was made for a moral and religious people. Many think the only way to improve the nation is politics. While public service is a God-given vocation for some, all Christians serve their country by living faithfully. When we love our families, serve our neighbors, participate in church and community, and live honestly, we shape those around us and strengthen our nation.

Finally, Peter exhorts the Romans and us: **“Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor”** (1 Pet 2:17).

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Woelmer



Birthdays

July 1	Emily Wolf
July 1	Haley Simonsen
July 3	Brandy Allen
July 3	Molly Hermann
July 3	Karen Windler
July 3	Every Massey
July 3	Debra Karina
July 5	Joshua Bunch
July 5	Samantha Prothe
July 6	Ryan Morton
July 6	Macie Garrison
July 7	Regan Boyer
July 7	Shelly D'Amato
July 7	Kennedy Rakoski
July 7	Tamara Mitchell
July 10	Wanda Stagg
July 11	Ken Debrick
July 11	Dennis Prothe
July 12	Joshua Sombke
July 12	Steve Warner
July 13	Steve Grother
July 13	Duane Prothe
July 13	Don Warring
July 13	Lennox Wolf
July 14	Sheryl Holtz
July 14	Rayden Berry
July 15	Karen Kaiser
July 16	David Johns
July 16	Brittannie Ritch
July 17	Ann Davis
July 18	Keith Prothe
July 18	Madison Snider
July 19	Clint Kettler
July 19	Cathy Tesar
July 19	Janet England
July 20	Mallory Tharp
July 20	Norma Peckman
July 21	Dan Hieber
July 21	Chance Mueller
July 23	Lillian Kettler
July 23	Taryn Jones
July 24	Zachary Davis
July 24	Margo Cyphers
July 24	Marcie Reyelts
July 25	Shannon Fanning

July 26	Stephanie Bivins
July 27	Matthew Barnett
July 27	Denna Jones
July 27	Curtis Kettler
July 27	Marla Prothe
July 27	Miciah Carter
July 28	Ben Rakoski
July 29	Lonnie England
July 29	Barbara Herrs
July 29	Cody Weaver
July 31	Barbie Dillenbeck
July 31	Colleen Richardson

Anniversaries

July 1	Dannie & Elaine Stewart (54)
July 1	Lonnie & Cindy England (34)
July 7	Andrew & Brianna Chapman (14)
July 7	Cy and Melanie Pana (2)
July 8	Earl & Darleen Medlin (51)
July 15	Adam & Lorri Jenson (31)
July 18	Paul & Karen Brack (45)
July 22	Charles & Kathy Hall (56)
July 26	John & Kathy Gerken (57)
July 26	David & Carol Wray (46)
July 27	Phillip & Morgan Richards (24)
July 27	Bob & Rose Eberly (52)
July 29	Chris & Sherri Webb (37)
July 30	Justin & Emily Prothe (4)

COFFEE HOUR

Everyone is invited to stay for Coffee Hour in the Gathering Room following worship. Our thanks to those that provide snacks each Sunday. The signup sheet to provide snacks for Coffee Hour in 2026 is on the counter in the Gathering Room. Consider signing up to honor birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS: "Wisdom Literature"

What is "Wisdom"? Our next series of books will be the Wisdom Literature books of the Bible: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. Come to hear what wisdom is and how we can learn from her regarding faith and life. Join the Adult Bible Class at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays in the Heritage Room to learn more!

BLOCKTOBERFEST PLANNING

Join us on Wednesday, July 15, at 7:00 p.m., at the Shelter House to continue planning for this year's Blocktoberfest! Dates for bierock making will be released soon.

"LOOKING AHEAD" BIBLE STUDY

We meet on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 am in the Heritage Room. Join us to study the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday service, so you can get a "sneak peek" of what you will hear on Sunday.

NURSING HOME SERVICES

You are invited to help Trinity provide brief worship services for nursing home residents this month. The simple services are approximately 20 minutes in length at each home. This month, we are scheduled for Sunday, **July 5th**. We will begin at 1:30 pm at North Point, and then go to Medicalodges around 2:15 for the second service. The residents really enjoy these services, especially singing their favorite hymns. It's great to have church members there to greet the residents and sing along. We have a few members who help but we could use your help too!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP JULY 5TH

We will celebrate Independence Day with an outdoor service in the Shelter House on Sunday, July 5th, at 10:00 a.m. The special order of worship will include favorite patriotic songs. Bring your lawn chairs as we give thanks to God for the blessings he has bestowed on our nation!



The new quarterly issue of the devotional booklet Portals of Prayer for July thru September is available at the church, in regular size, large print, and a new "digest" size (same size as Reader's Digest). A great way to keep close to the Lord!

VOTERS AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

The quarterly meeting of the Voters Assembly will be held following worship on Sunday, July 19th. In order to prepare for this meeting, the Church Council will meet Tuesday, July 14th at 7:00 pm.

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS

If you know of anyone who is interested in membership at Trinity or in learning more about the faith, we have already started a class on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. It's not too late to come! Please speak with Pastor if you or anyone else is interested.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to be added to a texting group for getting prayer requests, please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Room, or speak with Pastor or Susan Schmitt.



News from the Clausing Family

June Newsletter

Focus on a Seminarian: Pastor Israel Mollel

As the most senior student of our current seminary cohort, Rev. Mollel is deeply respected by his younger peers. He brings to the classroom a wealth of practical wisdom earned from years of experience in ministry, yet at the same time he is humble, hardworking, and eager to deepen his knowledge of the Scriptures and the Lutheran confessions. One thing he has learned over the years is that a pastor's education is never finished, and that fact has led him to continue his studies at St. Peter's Seminary.

Pastor Mollel is married with six children, ages 8 through 26 (a family very much like my own!), and his current call is to the Engaruka parish in the Arusha region. He planted the parish in July 2023, and since then it has grown from 15 initial members to a current membership of 120. Pastor Mollel's parishioners are largely of the Maasai tribe, and he conducts much of his ministry in the Kimaasai language rather than Kiswahili.

Like all pastors, Pastor Mollel faces challenges in ministry. Bibles and teaching materials in Kimaasai are not as easily obtained as those in Kiswahili. Also, many of his parishioners in rural Tanzania cover significant distances on foot in order to attend worship, and he faces similar logistical challenges when he needs to make pastoral visits to their homes. Despite these challenges and many others, Pastor Mollel says that it is his calling from God that propels him forward. It brings him joy to serve others, and he trusts God will provide the means to carry out the work He has called him to do. Please pray for Pastor Mollel, for his family, for his parish, and for his studies. Thank you for supporting faithful men like him.



In Christian Sympathy

Diane Minden

July 17, 1963 — June 19, 2026

*"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house
of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6*

KANSAS LUTHERAN SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The Kansas Lutheran Schools Scholarship Foundation (KLSSF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, provides essential scholarships for K-12 students attending Lutheran schools in the LCMS Kansas District. As an approved Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) under the Kansas Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program, KLSSF enables donors to support Christ-centered education while receiving a 75% Kansas state income tax credit on eligible contributions. Your gift can directly transform a child's educational journey. Visit www.klssf.org to donate and learn more. Join us in expanding access to Lutheran education and strengthening its mission across Kansas.





SHELTER HOUSE ONLINE RESERVATIONS

As we are now in the summer months, a reminder that we have an online reservation system for the Trinity Lutheran School Memorial Shelter House. It automatically shows which dates and times are open up to one year in advance, and it is easy to make your reservations online. Go to our church website at www.trinitylcms.org/shelter. You will also find there the rules for Shelter House usage. If you do not have access to a computer to make your reservation, you can simply call or speak to Greg Windler or Pastor Woelmer, and they will make the reservation for you.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you have a Thrivent account (or know someone else who does), don't forget to periodically check the account for Thrivent Choice Dollars; you are able to donate them to church or to various charities of your choice. If someone you know is not able to check online easily, feel free to help them see what might be sitting in their account, ready to be designated!

AUBURN PHARMACY CAPS

Please save your Auburn Pharmacy caps; Trinity earns 25 cents for every specially marked cap collected from AuBurn Pharmacy and submitted! There are 4 submission periods per year with an opportunity to earn up to \$2500 per period! There is a box in the gathering room for collection.

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