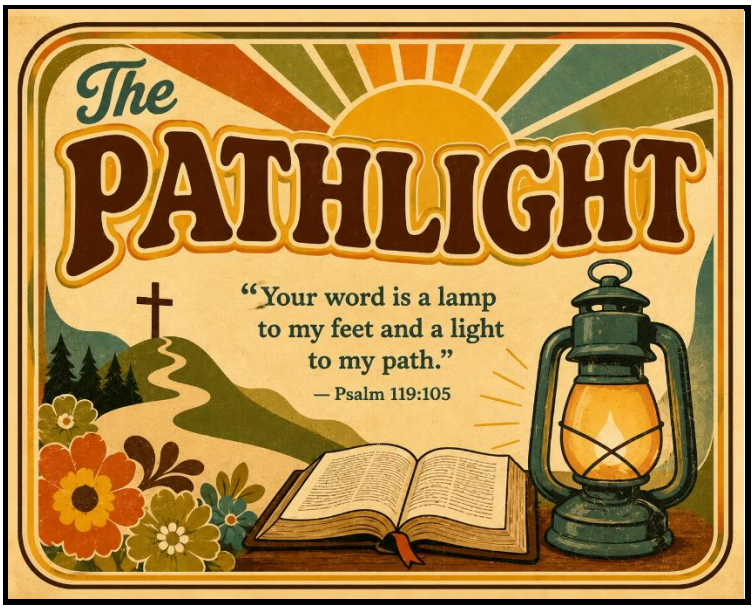
ST PAUL & ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
— Psalm 119:105

October 18, 2026

"Faithfully Reporting God's Word"

October 18, 2026

St. Paul Lutheran LCMS
Julesburg, CO

970.474.2592
stpauljules@gmail.com

The Pathlight
Your Word Is A Lamp To My Feet
And A Light To My Path.
PS 119:105

Zion Lutheran LCMS
Big Springs, NE

308.289.5148
Muleshoexv@gmail.com

I Love to Tell the Story

"We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." Psalm 78:4

College classes are typically numbered in the 100's for freshmen or entry level students and 400's for upper level. In Psalm 78 we have evangelism at the most basic level. Call it E101. We tell of the glorious deeds the Lord has done. Most people tend to be stressed out about sharing their faith. They are not sure exactly what to say. They are afraid of saying the wrong thing or of not having the answers to questions that might be asked. Psalm 78 keeps it simple and natural. You don't have to come up with your own words or some spectacular story. Just tell of the glorious and mighty deeds of the Lord, the wonders that He has done.

You have the Scriptures. Let *them* tell the story. You can start by telling of God's creation and the Fall and how God made the first gospel promise in Genesis 3:15, and then how he clothed Adam and Eve with the skin of a sacrificed animal. You can tell how God made good on a promise to a 75-year-old man and his wife that they would have a son, and God did when they were in their 90's. Through this family, all the families of the earth would be blessed. Tell the incredible story of Joseph and Moses. How God used them to preserve and then rescue His people out of an impossible situation. So many glorious deeds and wonders!

In the telling of these stories, you are telling the story of Jesus. You are letting the *Scriptures* speak about Jesus. He is the fulfillment of the first gospel promise in Genesis. He is the one who was sacrificed to cover our shame. He was made man to save His people from their sin. Jesus is the great Rescuer who delivered us from our bondage to sin and death. Through His death and resurrection and by faith, we are set free and have the promise of the Promised Land with Him.. You have the greatest book on evangelism, the Scriptures, and as you tell the story, you are proclaiming Jesus.

By all means, tell your story too. Tell of the glorious deeds and wonders God has done in your life on account of Jesus. That's what the demon-possessed man did after Jesus cast a legion of demons out of him. He begged Jesus that he might go with Him, but Jesus instead said, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you." Think about it, isn't it amazing how much the Lord has done for you and how He has had mercy on us all? Not to hide it, but to go and tell the story. It is a marvelous, wonderful story.

Pastor Christensen

For now we see in a mirror dimly but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 1Cor. 13:12

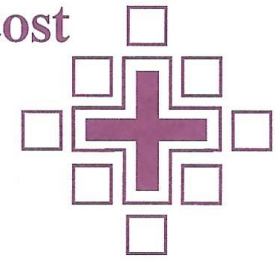
Lutheran Worship Service Book
Order of Worship

HYMN #782 "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings"
LITURGY pg. 184 Divine Service (setting Three)with Communion
CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION pg. 184
INTROIT pg. 186
SALUTATION and COLLECT pg. 189
OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 45:1-7
EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22
NICENE CREED pg. 191
HYMN of THE DAY # 940 "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"
SERMON
OFFERING
OFFERATORY pg. 192
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT pg. 194
DISTRIBUTION HYMN
HYMN # 621 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"
783 "Take My Life and Let It Be
BENEDICTION pg. 202
CLOSING HYMN # 525 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"
SILENT PRAYER

Serving Today
St. Paul
Usher/Greeters-Gerald Orth/David Orth/Organist-Jeanie Boehm
Zion
Usher/Greeters-Mark & Shelle Heidemann/Altar Guild-Shelle/Jodi/Tonia
Organist-Jeanie Boehm

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026



INTROIT *Ps. 121:1–4, 7–8; antiphon: Ps. 121:5*

The LORD is your | keeper;*
the LORD is your shade on your | right hand.
I lift up my eyes | to the hills.*
From where does my | help come?
My help comes | from the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.
He will not let your | foot be moved;*
he who keeps you will not | slumber.
Behold, he who keeps | Israel*
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep.
The LORD will keep you from all | evil;*
he will | keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your | coming in*
from this time forth and for- | evermore.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
The LORD is your | keeper;*
the LORD is your shade on your | right hand.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *Ps. 91:11; 103:1*

He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!

DAILY READINGS

October 18: Deut. 17:1–20; Matt. 14:1–21; **19:** Deut. 18:1–22; Matt. 14:22–36; **20:** Deut. 19:1–20; Matt. 15:1–20; **21:** Deut. 20:1–20; Matt. 15:21–39; **22:** Deut. 21:1–23; Matt. 16:1–12; **23:** Deut. 24:10–25:10; Matt. 16:13–28; **24:** Deut. 25:17–26:19; Matt. 17:1–13.

The Introit, Collect, and Gradual are from *Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book* © 2006 CPH. All Scripture quotations, including those from *Lutheran Service Book*, are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

© CPH Printed in USA Concordia Publishing House • Your church's publisher • Visit us at CPH.org 26103

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 45:1–7

1 Thus says the LORD to his anointed,
to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
2 "I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of
bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
3 I will give you the treasures of
darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the
LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by
your name.
4 For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not
know me.
5 I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not
know me,
6 that people may know, from the rising
of the sun
and from the west, that there is
none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no
other.
7 I form light and create darkness,
I make well-being and create
calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these
things."

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

1Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.
2We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 3remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. 9For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15–22

15Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. 16And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. 17Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 18But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" 21They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 22When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

October Happenings

St. Paul

Oct. 19-9:00AM-Bible Study
7:00PM-Council Meeting
Oct. 21-3:45-Midweek
5:00PM-Catechism
Oct. 25-8:00AM-Bible Study/S.School
9:00AM- Worship Service
Servants for Worship-Jeanie Boehm/Chuck Juhl/Murl Abts

Zion

Oct. 21-3:45PM-Midweek
Oct. 25-10:00AM-Sunday School
11:00AM-Worship Service
Servants for Worship- Jeanie Boehm, Mark & Shelle Heidemann/Altar Guild- Jodi, Shelle, Tonia

You're Invited to Our Thanksgiving Feast! There's nothing quite like gathering around the table with friends, family, and our church family to share good food, laughter, and thankfulness! **Please join us for a St. Paul & Zion Thanksgiving Feast on November 1, 2026, at 5:30 PM at St. Paul's.** We'll enjoy all the Thanksgiving favorites, including turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls, and pie! Everyone from St. Paul's and Zion are welcome! If you're able, please bring a side dish to share. But if you can't bring a dish, please come anyway with your appetite! We want you there, and there will be a place at the table for everyone. Let's gather in the spirit of Thanksgiving to enjoy wonderful food, warm fellowship, and the many blessings God has given us. Bring your appetite, pull up a chair, and come share in the joy of being together. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

WEEK 4:

THE BEAUTY OF A GRATEFUL HEART

“Give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.” — Psalm 107:1

Have you ever noticed how one small thing can change your entire day?

A kind word from a friend. A hug from someone you love. The sound of laughter around the dinner table. A beautiful sunrise that reminds you to slow down and take a breath. Sometimes it is the smallest things that bring the biggest smiles to our faces.

Autumn seems to invite us to notice these little blessings. The trees display their brilliant colors, the air carries the familiar scent of the season, and the world around us reminds us that our Creator is wonderfully generous. Everywhere we look, there are reminders of His goodness.

Yet sometimes, in the busyness of everyday life, we forget to stop and notice.

We become so focused on what needs to be done, what needs to be fixed, and what we wish were different that we overlook the blessings sitting right in front of us. We may spend an entire day thinking about what went wrong and never stop to thank God for the many things that went right.

What would happen if we began each day by looking for reasons to give thanks?

Not because every day is easy. Not because every circumstance is exactly as we would like it to be. But because God is good, His promises are true, and His love for us does not change with our circumstances.

A grateful heart does not require a perfect life. It grows from recognizing the goodness of the God who gives us life.

Psalm 107:1 tells us, "Give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Notice where this verse directs our attention. It does not tell us to give thanks because everything in our lives is perfect. It tells us to give thanks because the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever.

Our gratitude begins with Him.

Every breath we take is a gift. Every opportunity to love and serve another person is a blessing. Every morning brings another opportunity to hear God's Word, encourage a neighbor, share a meal, or remind someone that they are loved.

And even when we cannot find the words to express our gratitude, we have the greatest reason of all to give thanks.

Jesus Christ.

Think about the incredible gift God has given us through His Son. Jesus came into our broken world, carried our sins to the cross, and rose again so that we might have forgiveness and everlasting life. We did not earn this gift. We could never deserve it. It is given to us through the boundless grace and mercy of God.

Because of Jesus, we can face each day with hope. Because of Jesus, our failures do not have the final word. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven, loved, and given the promise of life everlasting.

That is a reason to give thanks on the very best days of our lives and on the days when we struggle to find a smile.

Gratitude does not mean that we ignore the hard parts of life. It means that we remember God's goodness even when life is difficult. We can acknowledge our struggles while still trusting His promises. We can experience sadness and still know the comfort of His presence. We can have unanswered questions and still rest in the certainty of His love.

And something beautiful happens when gratitude becomes part of our daily lives.

We begin to notice people differently. We become more aware of the kindness others show us. We recognize opportunities to help instead of waiting for someone else to step forward. We become more willing to offer encouragement, share what we have, and make room for others at our tables and in our hearts.

A grateful heart often becomes a generous heart.

Perhaps someone in your life needs to hear a simple thank-you this week. Perhaps a neighbor could use a helping hand. Perhaps someone who has been absent from church would appreciate a

phone call reminding them that they are missed. Perhaps the person standing beside you on Sunday morning needs nothing more than a warm smile and a genuine welcome.

We may never know how much a small act of kindness means to someone else. But we can trust that God gives us opportunities to reflect His love in the ordinary moments of our lives.

As members of our church family, we have so much to be thankful for. We have the opportunity to gather around God's Word, receive His gifts, pray for one another, and encourage each other through life's many seasons. We can celebrate together, serve together, and remind one another of the hope we have in Christ.

What a blessing it is to belong to a family of believers who can share both the joys and the burdens of life.

This week, I encourage you to make gratitude a little more intentional. Before the day gets busy, name one thing you are thankful for. Tell someone how much you appreciate them. Notice the beauty around you. Thank God for the people He has placed in your life. And when you gather with your church family, look for an opportunity to encourage someone else.

You may discover that the more you notice God's blessings, the more reasons you find to give thanks.

The leaves will soon fall, the days will grow colder, and another season will arrive. But the goodness of God will not fade with the colors of autumn. His mercy will not run out when the seasons change. His love will not grow cold when the weather does.

The same Savior who redeemed us yesterday is our Savior today and forever.

So let us give thanks with joyful hearts. Let us celebrate the blessings we have received, share those blessings with others, and live each day remembering the wonderful grace of our Lord.

We do not need to wait for a special occasion to be thankful. Every day is an opportunity to recognize God's goodness and reflect His love.

🍁 A MOMENT TO REFLECT 🍁

Take a few quiet moments this week to think about these questions:

🍂 What is one simple blessing that brought joy to my life recently?

🍁 Who has shown me kindness that I may not have fully acknowledged?

🌿 How has God's faithfulness carried me through different seasons of my life?

❤️ What is one way I can show appreciation or kindness to someone this week?

🕊️ How does the gift of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus give me reason to be thankful every day?

🙏 Three things I am thankful for this week:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

🙏 A PRAYER FOR A GRATEFUL HEART 🙏

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your goodness, Your mercy, and the countless blessings You place in our lives each day. Forgive us for the times we become so distracted by our worries and responsibilities that we forget to stop and give You thanks.

Open our eyes to the beauty of Your creation, the kindness of those around us, and the many opportunities You give us to love and serve our neighbors. Teach us to recognize Your gifts, both great and small, and to receive each day with grateful hearts.

When life is difficult, remind us of Your faithfulness. When we are discouraged, comfort us with Your promises. When we are joyful, help us share that joy with others. Make us generous with our time, gentle with our words, and eager to encourage those who need a little extra love.

Above all, thank You for Jesus Christ, our Savior. Thank You for His sacrifice on the cross, the forgiveness of our sins, and the promise of everlasting life through His resurrection. Help us never to take Your grace for granted, but to live each day in the freedom and joy of knowing that we belong to You.

Bless our church family, strengthen the bonds of fellowship among us, and help us be a light to those around us. May our words and actions reflect the love You have so generously shown us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

🍂 A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK 🍂

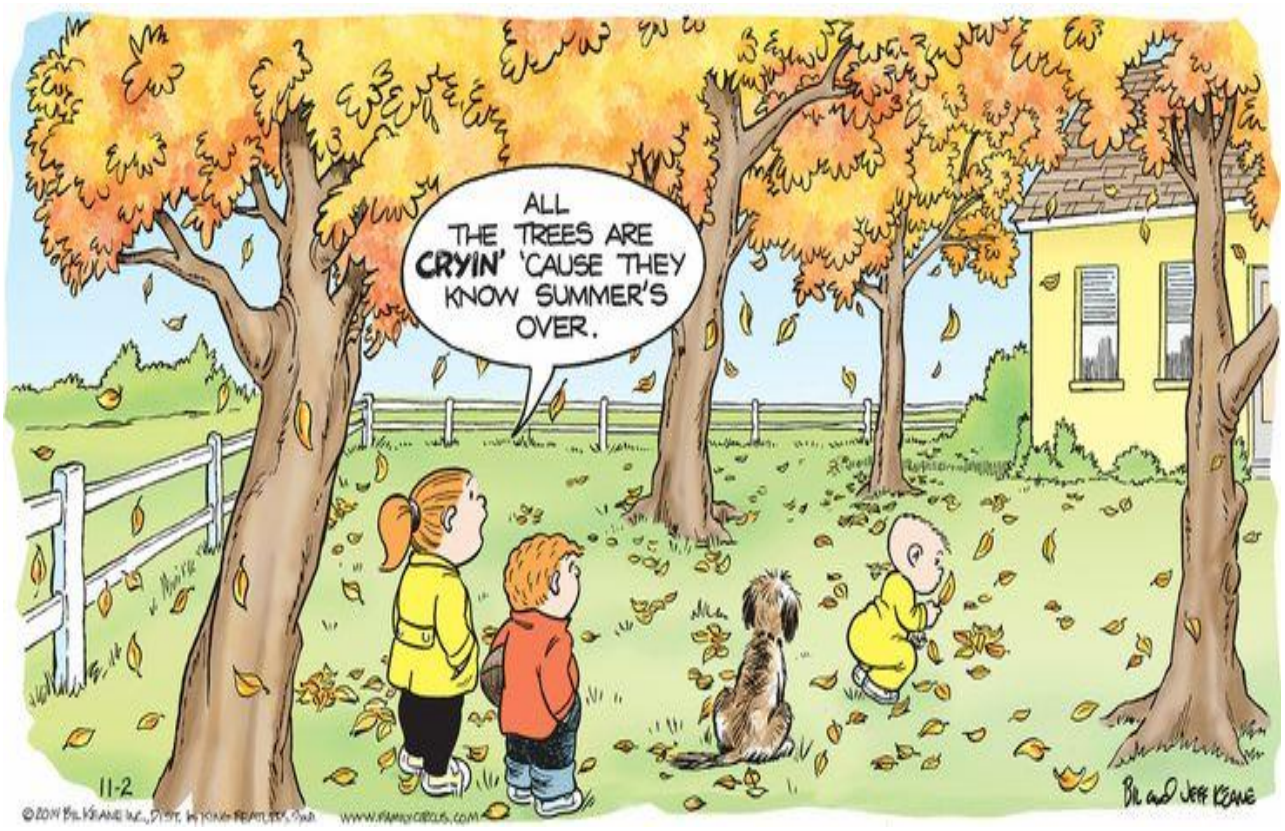
A grateful heart does not count blessings because life is perfect. It gives thanks because God is faithful.

The colors of autumn will fade, the seasons will change, and our circumstances will come and go. But the mercy of our Lord endures forever.

So look for the blessings. Speak the words of appreciation. Share the joy. Encourage someone who needs it.

And above all, remember the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ, through whom we are forgiven, loved, and given a hope that will never fade.

You may not have everything you wish for, but in Christ, you have a Savior whose grace is sufficient, whose promises are sure, and whose love endures forever.



THE PATHLIGHT

CONGREGATION MYSTERY BOX

WHO AM I?

Think you know the people sitting around you on Sunday morning? It's time to put that knowledge to the test!

This week's mystery person has spent much of her life making sure things run smoothly, even when someone else gets the attention. She's been part of some interesting partnerships, has a competitive side, and enjoys a little freedom when the weather cooperates.

Some clues may sound familiar, but don't jump to conclusions! A good detective gathers all the evidence before naming a suspect.

Read all ten clues before making your guess. The answer might be closer than you think—or maybe not!

CLUE #1

I've spent a good part of my life making sure the little things don't become big problems. Some people notice the finished product, but they may not realize how much work goes on behind the scenes to get there.

CLUE #2

I've worked in more than one place where numbers, records, and getting the details right were important. Let's just say that paying attention has been a useful skill throughout my working years!

CLUE #3

At one point in my life, my work had a connection to something that begins in the ground, depends on the weather, and means a great deal to people who make their living from the land.

I didn't have to be the one doing the growing to play a part in the process!

CLUE #4

I once worked alongside someone who had a way of getting people's attention. While one of us handled the more public side of things, the other made sure the details were taken care of.

Let's just say that teamwork was important—and so was keeping everything in order!

CLUE #5

One of my jobs has involved a place where decisions, documents, and rules all have their proper place. It's not exactly the kind of place where you want to misplace an important piece of paper!

CLUE #6

I've learned that not every competition requires a running track, a big stadium, or a crowd of thousands. Sometimes, all you need is a little space, the right equipment, a good opponent, and the determination to win!

And who knows? There may even be a victory or two in my story!

CLUE #7

When the warmer months arrive, I enjoy getting out and about. I don't always need a big vehicle or a long travel plan to enjoy a little adventure.

Sometimes, the journey itself is the best part!

CLUE #8

I've shared a working life with someone who was much more than a coworker. Together, we built something that required effort, trust, and a good deal of teamwork.

That chapter of my life holds memories that go far beyond the work itself.

CLUE #9

My family includes a son and a daughter. But there's another generation that has brought a special kind of happiness into my life.

Some accomplishments can be measured in numbers, and others are measured in the moments you get to spend with someone you love.

CLUE #10 — THE FINAL CLUE

Here's where all the pieces may finally come together!

Think of a woman who spent years working with grain, helped keep an auction business organized while her husband did the calling, and now works in a place where official records and paperwork matter.

Add a love of pickleball, a summertime ride on two wheels, two children, and one very special grandchild.

Have you figured out who our mystery member might be?

🎾 **YOUR FINAL GUESS**

I think the mystery member is:

💗 JUST A LITTLE GLIMPSE

Ten clues can offer a few hints, but they can never tell a whole story.

Behind every job are years of experiences. Behind every partnership are memories that others may never fully know. And behind every familiar face are family moments, challenges, laughter, changes, and accomplishments that have helped shape a life.

Some chapters are filled with hard work. Others bring unexpected changes. And some of the sweetest chapters involve simply spending time with the people we love.

Even when we think we know someone well, there may be a whole story waiting to be discovered.

💗 THE REAL MYSTERY

The real mystery isn't just figuring out a name. It's discovering how much there is to learn about the people we see every week.

We share a congregation, worship together, visit with one another, and sometimes know the same people for years. Yet we may know very little about the adventures they've had, the work they've done, the challenges they've faced, or the memories they hold dear.

Every person has a story. Some parts are easy to see, while others take a little time and a few thoughtful questions to uncover.

Here's your challenge for this week: Ask someone in our congregation about a job they once had, something they enjoy doing, or a memory that still makes them smile.

You may discover something you never knew about someone you've known for years!

After all, sometimes the best way to solve a mystery is simply to start a conversation. ❤️

🎉 THE ANSWER

Did you solve the mystery?

This week's mystery member is:

Mary Michael

Over the years, she has taken on many responsibilities, from working in an office connected to agriculture to helping run a business alongside her husband. While he handled the auctioneering, she kept track of the paperwork and helped keep things running smoothly.

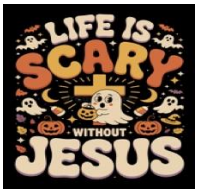
She has also worked at the courthouse, where careful attention to records and details continues to be important.

But work is only one part of her story! She enjoys playing pickleball and may have a championship accomplishment to celebrate. When summer rolls around, she likes to enjoy the fresh air on her mo-ped.

She is the mother of a son and a daughter and a grandmother who treasures time with her one grandson Archer

Her story reminds us that a person's life is made up of many different chapters—hard work, teamwork, family, new adventures, and the memories that stay with us along the way.

And that's what makes getting to know one another a little better so worthwhile! ❤️



St. Paul Lutheran Church
7th & Maple
PO Box 72
Julesburg, CO 80737