

ST PAUL & ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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

July 19, 2026

"Faithfully Reporting God's Word"

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Julesburg, CO

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July 19, 2026

The Pathlight

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

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Law AND Gospel

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.” Isaiah 44:6-8

Would you agree that one of the worst jobs ever was being an Old Testament prophet? We hear of them appearing before hostile Kings and being threatened by death. Indeed, many of them were martyred. We hear of them standing on the street corners in poor clothing, with wild hair and a long beard, pleading with people that God’s punishment is right around the corner, and **YOU BETTER REPENT OR FEEL HIS WRATH!**

There are plenty of examples of this in both the Old and New Testaments (Jeremiah and John the Baptist to name two). However, these men of God were not only Law proclaimers in all its righteous severity. They spoke the entirety of God’s Word to His people. Sometimes, it was a word of condemnation, yes, but just as often it was a word of consolation, peace, and the love of the Lord.

While Isaiah has just given God’s people a tongue lashing for their unfaithfulness, he starts Chapter 44 with a “but...” He reminds them that despite their sin they are still His chosen people, and He will restore them. Then Isaiah reminds them who He is as their God with the words above, and a few verses later reaffirms His covenant promise to save and preserve them through all trouble. Much like a loving parent that disciplines a child, so does our Father. The Lord God Almighty, who spoke and all the universe came into existence, He who made you and all you see, He who became man for your salvation, He is our King and Redeemer, even though we have all sinned against Him.

You might have days when you feel like God has “gone Old Testament” on you; that His anger has come down on you. Has it really? His full wrath and anger? No, that was laid on Jesus. Even IF He is disciplining you, your Lord God is with you. Even then He is acting in love for you. There are examples throughout Scripture where God’s words of comfort follow words of discipline. Your God never wants you to think that He has abandoned you, or that He is powerless in the face of this sinful and broken world. You are always safe in his hands, always preserved from evil when He is your Redeemer and King.

John quotes Jesus in His Revelation to us, that He is “the Alpha and the Omega,” that He is “the first and the last,” and He will never leave you nor forsake you. It has always been this way for God’s people, and so it will be for you. Your God is with you now and always, He is all-powerful for you, and—oh, yes—He’s the only God there is **AND...** He is your Savior!

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 # 804 “O Worship the King”

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 44:6-8

EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:18-27

HOLY GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

NICENE CREED pg. 191

HYMN OF THE DAY # 585 “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY pg. 192

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT pg. 194

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

HYMN # 636 “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

BENEDICTION pg. 202

CLOSING HYMN # 809 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

SILENT PRAYER

St. Paul

Usher/Greeters-Les Ebke/Gerald Orth

Organist-Jeanie Boehm

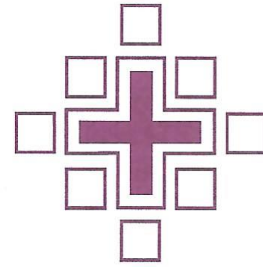
Zion

Usher/Greeters-Randy Schlake, Altar Guild-Shelle/Jodi/Tonia

Organist-Jeanie Boehm

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026



INTROIT *Ps. 86:11–15; antiphon: Ps. 86:6*

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*

listen to my | plea for grace.

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk | in your truth;*

unite my heart to | fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with | my whole heart,*

and I will glorify your name for- | ever.

For great is your steadfast | love toward me;*

you have delivered my soul from the depths | of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men | seek my life,*

and they do not set you be- | fore them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious,*

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and | faithfulness.

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.

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*

listen to my | plea for grace.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *Rom. 11:33, 36*

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*

To him be glory forever. | Amen.

DAILY READINGS

July 19: 1 Sam. 2:18–36; Acts 15:22–41; **20:** 1 Sam. 3:1–21; Acts 16:1–22; **21:** 1 Sam. 4:1–22; Acts 16:23–40; **22:** 1 Sam. 5:1–6:3, 10–16; Acts 18:1–11, 23–28; **23:** 1 Sam. 6:19–7:17; Acts 19:1–22; **24:** 1 Sam. 8:1–22; Acts 21:15–36; **25:** 1 Sam. 9:1–27; Acts 21:37–22:16.

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Old Testament Reading:
Isaiah 44:6–8

- ⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of
Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of
hosts:
“I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and set it before
me,
since I appointed an ancient people.
Let them declare what is to come,
and what will happen.
⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and
declared it?
And you are my witnesses!
Is there a God besides me?
There is no Rock; I know not any.”

Epistle: Romans 8:18–27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the

Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Holy Gospel:
Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”



Weekly Church Announcements

St. Paul

July 20-4:00PM- Organist Meeting

7:00PM-Council Meeting

July 26 - 8:00AM-Bible Study

9:00AM-Worship Service

Servants for Worship-Jeanie

Boehm/Gerry Priest/Gayle Newth

Zion

July 26-10:00AM-Sunday School

11:00AM- Worship Service

Servants for Worship- Jeanie

Boehm/Randy Schlake/Altar Guild-

Jodi, Shelle, Tonia

Rocky Mountain District wishes to introduce ‘The District Ambassadors Initiative’

Through this initiative, we are asking each congregation, with the help of its pastors, to identify a District Ambassador. This may be an individual or a married couple willing to serve together. The District Ambassador(s) will serve as a simple liaison between the congregation and the district.

The District Ambassador(s) role, the ambassadors will serve as a point of contact and collaboration to communicate information between their congregation and the district. We are seeking faithful and trusted people who love the Church and are willing to help keep their congregation connected to the broader mission we share. District ambassadors will also be invited to a kickoff event this fall. The date and location will be shared soon. **The Rocky Mountain District LCMS, 88 Inverse Circle East, Unit A210, Englewood, Colorado 80112, (303)-695-8001.**



Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School a wonderful success! Your time, talents, and servant hearts made a lasting difference in the lives of our children and families. We are grateful for all you did—from planning and teaching to decorating, serving, and cleaning up. May God bless each of you for your faithful service. Thank you for helping make VBS 2026 such a joyful and memorable week!



**July 20-Kent Mauser
July 22-Jace Ehmke**



**July 18-Matt and Amber Contreras
July 24-Mark and Rhonda Berges**

LWML MITE SUNDAYS will be held on **July 26, 2026, and August 2, 2026, at St. Paul's.** New projects were chosen by the delegates at the Rocky Mountain District LWML Convention delegates at the convention on June 5-7, 2026. The project receiving the most votes was "Ysleta Bringing the Gospel to Mexico Missions". This grant supports Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care in El Paso, Texas, and its partnership with Lutheran congregations in Mexico serving communities affected by poverty, displacement, and limited resources. These ministries provide both physical care and spiritual nourishment through worship, feeding programs and discipleship. The large mite box will be in the sanctuary on July 26, 2026, and August 2, 2026. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church with Miriam Circle on the memo line. All gifts are appreciated!



Bible Brain Teaser

Old Testament or New Testament?

Directions: Without looking in your Bible, decide whether each person, event, or teaching is found in the **Old Testament (OT)** or the **New Testament (NT)**. Place a ✓ in the correct column.

Item	OT	NT
1. Lydia, a seller of purple cloth	☐	☐
2. The Valley of Dry Bones	☐	☐
3. The Beatitudes	☐	☐
4. Queen Esther	☐	☐
5. Zacchaeus climbs a tree	☐	☐
6. Balaam's donkey speaks	☐	☐
7. The Good Samaritan	☐	☐
8. Jonah and the great fish	☐	☐
9. Pentecost	☐	☐
10. Gideon and his 300 men	☐	☐
11. The Prodigal Son	☐	☐
12. Daniel in the lions' den	☐	☐
13. The Fruit of the Spirit	☐	☐
14. Elijah calls down fire from heaven	☐	☐
15. The Ten Commandments	☐	☐
16. The Road to Emmaus	☐	☐
17. The Sermon on the Mount	☐	☐
18. Ruth gleans in Boaz's field	☐	☐
19. The conversion of Saul	☐	☐
20. The vision of the New Jerusalem	☐	☐



✦ RELIGION-THEMED RIDDLE SET

NUMBER ONE — *The Mystery of the Missing Offering*

A church treasurer, Mr. Ellis, had been counting the Sunday offering. When he finished, he accidentally left a \$100 bill on his desk. When he returned, it was gone. Only two people had been in the office: the church custodian and the church secretary.

The secretary said she had tucked the bill safely under a green hymnal on the desk. But when they looked, it wasn't there.

The custodian said he found the bill where the secretary left it and placed it *inside* the hymnal so it would be even safer. He said he wrote down the page numbers so he wouldn't forget: the bill was between pages 35 and 36. But when they looked, the money wasn't there.

After hearing both stories, Mr. Ellis called the pastor. He already knew who took the money. **Who was it, and how did he know?**

NUMBER TWO — *Who Am I?*

I work in small, hidden places. I repair crowns and build bridges. I use silver and gold every day. Everyone needs me eventually, yet many people are nervous when they see me. **Who am I?**

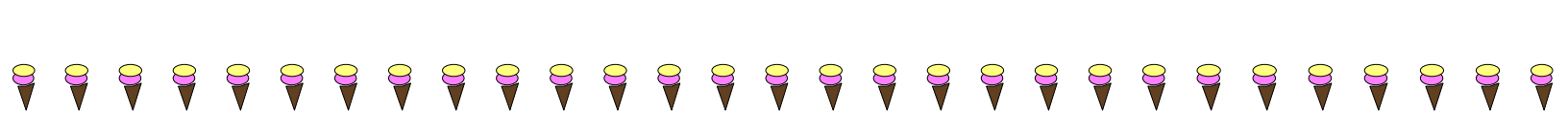
NUMBER THREE — *Seven Letters of Faith*

I have seven letters. The first two stand for a boy. The first three stand for a girl. The first four stand for a brave boy. But all seven letters stand for a brave woman of faith. **What word am I?**

NUMBER FOUR — *A Family Puzzle*

A beggar's brother died, but the man who died had no brother. How can this be?





ANSWER KEY

Answer Key

1. NT 2. OT 3. NT 4. OT 5. NT 6. OT 7. NT 8. OT 9. NT 10. OT 11.
NT 12. OT 13. NT 14. OT 15. OT 16. NT 17. NT 18. OT 19. NT 20.
NT

Answers:

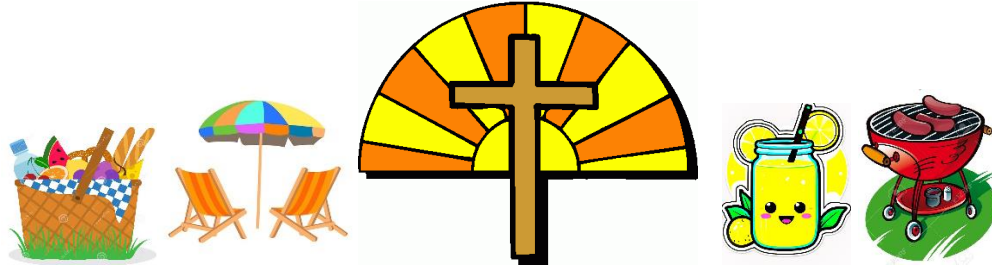
NUMBER ONE: The **custodian** took it. Pages 35 and 36 in a hymnal are printed on opposite sides of the same sheet — you can't hide anything *between* them.

NUMBER TWO: A **dentist** — and thank the Lord for them.

NUMBER THREE: Heroine — a brave woman of faith.

NUMBER FOUR: The beggar was a **woman**, so her brother died, but the deceased man had no brother.





Summer Plans and God's Perfect Timing

**“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”
— Ecclesiastes 3:1**

One Sunday morning, a church member announced, “I have the perfect summer schedule. I am going to slow down, rest more, and enjoy a peaceful summer.”

Everyone smiled and thought, “That sounds wonderful!”

Then came the questions...

“Who is bringing the cookies for the fellowship hour?”

“Who can help water the church flowers while people are on vacation?”

“Who can fill in for the usher next Sunday?”

“Who can help with the summer picnic?”

“Who can bring extra chairs?”

By the end of the conversation, that same person looked around and said, “I think my peaceful summer just joined three committees!”

Everyone laughed because church families know how it goes. We make plans to rest, but then someone needs a helping hand, a ministry needs support, or an opportunity comes along to serve. Before we know it, our calendars are full again.

But maybe that is not always a problem. Sometimes God's blessings come disguised as interruptions.

Jesus showed us that serving others is part of living a life of faith. He said:

“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” — Matthew 20:28

Of course, God also understands that we need rest. Jesus invited His disciples:

“Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” — Mark 6:31

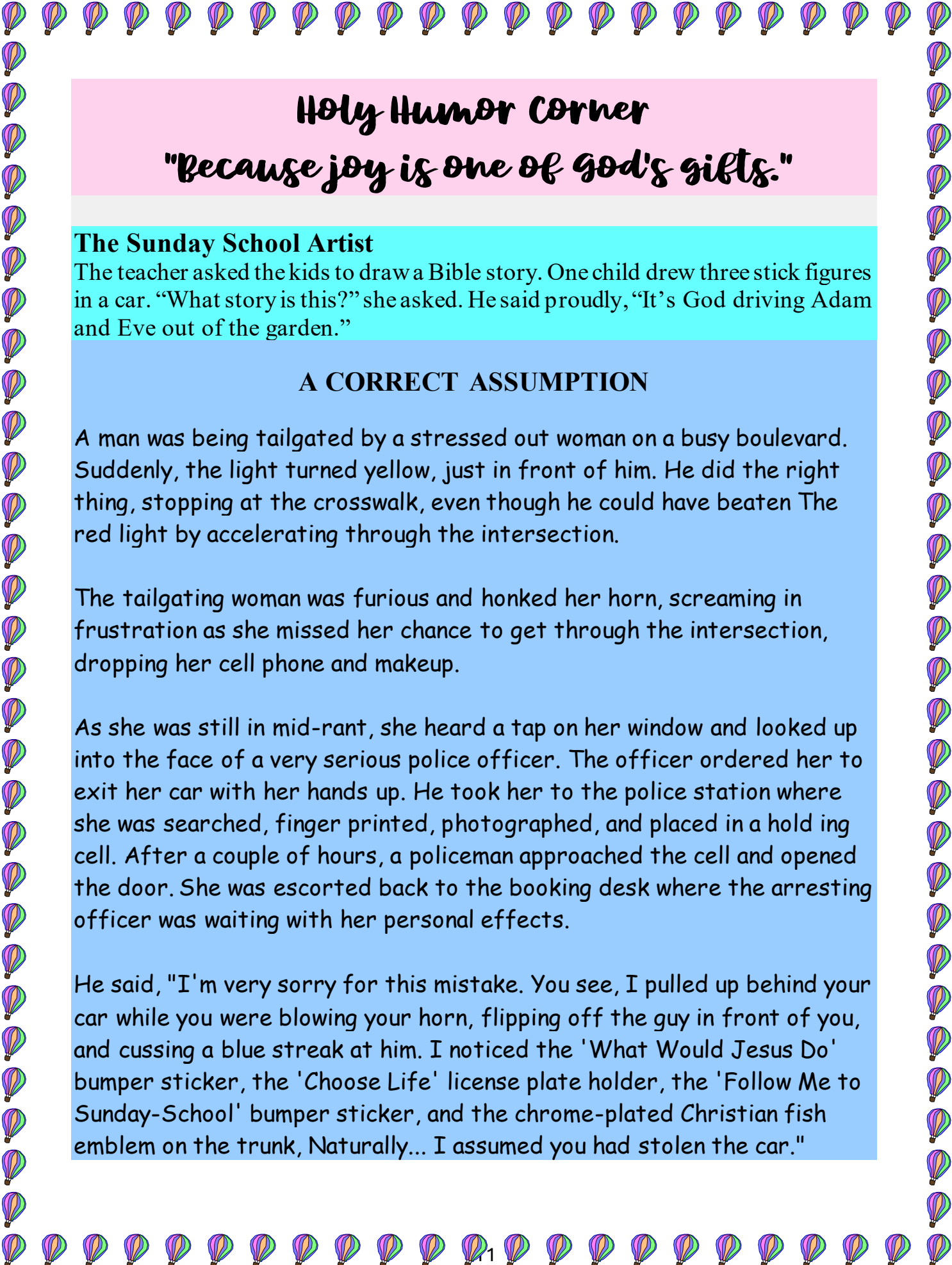
The Christian life is a beautiful balance of serving and resting, giving and receiving, working and trusting. God does not call us to do everything—but He does invite us to use the gifts He has given us to bless others.

This summer, may we enjoy the sunshine, the slower moments, the laughter with friends, and the opportunities God places before us. And when our plans change, may we remember that God is still at work. After all, some of the best memories are made when we say, “I didn’t plan this...but God did.”

Prayer:

Gracious Lord, thank You for the gift of summer, for our church family, and for the many ways You allow us to serve one another. Help us find joy in both the quiet moments and the busy ones. Guide us to be Your hands and feet in the world. Amen.





Holy Humor Corner

"Because joy is one of god's gifts."

The Sunday School Artist

The teacher asked the kids to draw a Bible story. One child drew three stick figures in a car. "What story is this?" she asked. He said proudly, "It's God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden."

A CORRECT ASSUMPTION

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten The red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a hold ing cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, Naturally... I assumed you had stolen the car."



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