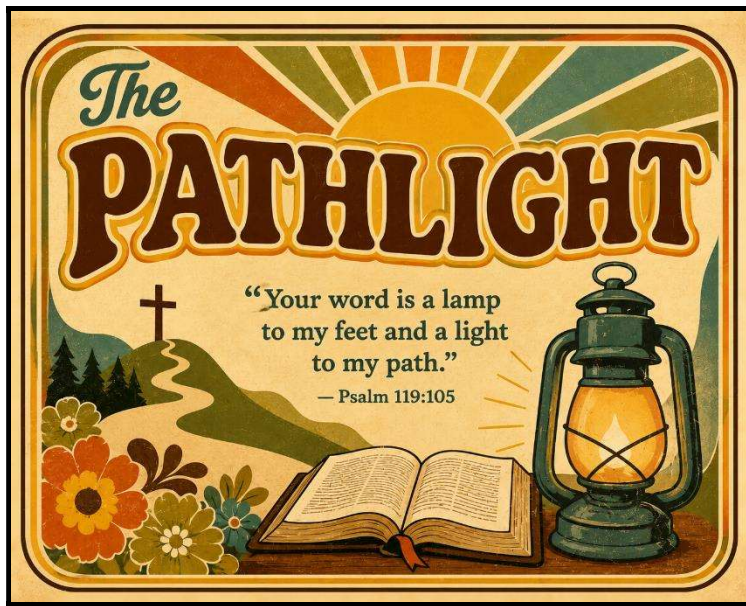


ST PAUL & ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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

September 6, 2026

“Faithfully Reporting God’s Word”

St. Paul Lutheran LCMS
Julesburg, CO

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September 6, 2026
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

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How Great Thou Art!

How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep. Psalm 92:5

Everything in Lutheran worship fits together. The hymns and the readings on any given Sunday from the Introit and Collect through the Gospel are tied together. Hint: each Sunday, start with the antiphon of the Introit (the first and last verse of the Introit). Sometimes the theme will be clear and obvious; other times it will be a little bit harder. It is definitely easier during the festival half of the Church Year (from Advent through Trinity) than it is during the Sundays after Pentecost. Try this: when you are waiting for the service to begin take a look at the antiphon even before the first hymn to help get the Word of God into your heart and onto your lips in preparation for the Divine Service.

For example, this coming Sunday, the Introit is from Psalm 92 with the antiphon being 92:5, which is the above text. The psalm puts side-by-side, God's "works" and God's "thoughts," and says that they are "great" and "very deep." Which moves us to ask, "And what are God's thoughts? Is it possible for me to know them?" If God did not reveal His thoughts, we could not possibly know them. His thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). So then we would (as we often do) make up our own ideas about what God would do or not do.

But God has not left us to merely imagine His thoughts or figure them out on our own. He has revealed Himself in His great works. Christians start with what God has done in the past and then we understand what God is like. What He says is the same as what He does. How He acts is the same as who He is. And He reveals His thoughts finally and forever in His Son, Jesus. In Jesus' death and resurrection, we see the depth, the wisdom, the grace of God's thoughts, and the greatness of His works.

In God's works, we see God's thoughts. Who of us could imagine that God would become flesh and die? Who of us could imagine that God would take on Himself the curse of sin? Who would think that the least, a child, would be the greatest in the Kingdom (Matthew 18:1-2)? Who could imagine that God gives His Kingdom to those who cannot give Him anything in return (18:3-4). None of us could imagine a mercy that seeks those who self-righteous people consider to be "lost" (18:10-14). God seeks us in Jesus, and then He seeks everyone through His Church, wherever two or three are gathered around Him (18:18-20). These thoughts and ways of God would be too deep for us to imagine, IF.... He didn't become one of us in the person of Jesus and revealed His thoughts and ways to us through His works. How great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep!

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 # 915 “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

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: Ezekiel 33:7-9

EPISTLE: Romans 13:1-10

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:1-20

NICENE CREED pg. 191

HYMN of THE DAY # 820 “My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker”

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERTORY pg. 192

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT pg. 194

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

HYMN # 618 “I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”

698 “May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”

BENEDICTION pg. 202

CLOSING HYMN # 707 “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

SILENT PRAYER

Serving Today

St. Paul

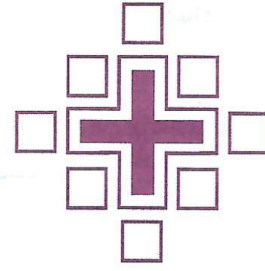
Usher/Greeters-Craig Nicolaus/Rex Nicolaus/Organist-Gail Nicolaus

Zion

Usher/Greeters-Altar Guild-Shelle/Jodi/Tonia/Organist-Gail Nicolaus

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026



INTROIT *Ps. 92:1–4; antiphon: Ps. 92:5*

How great are your works, | O LORD!*

Your thoughts are | very deep!

It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,*

to sing praises to your name, | O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the | morning,*

and your faithful- | ness by night,

to the music of the lute | and the harp,*

to the melody | of the lyre.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad | by your work;*

at the works of your hands I | sing for joy.

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.

How great are your works, | O LORD!*

Your thoughts are | very deep!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *Ps. 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*

for those who fear him lack | nothing!

Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*

but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

DAILY READINGS

September 6: 2 Kings 4:8–22, 32–37; Eph. 5:15–33; **7:** 2 Kings 4:38–5:8; Eph. 6:1–24; **8:** 2 Kings 5:9–27; Phil. 1:1–20; **9:** 2 Kings 6:1–23; Phil. 1:21–2:11; **10:** 2 Kings 9:1–13; 10:18–29; Phil. 2:12–30; **11:** 2 Chron. 29:1–24; Phil. 3:1–21; **12:** 2 Chron. 31:1–21; Phil. 4:1–23.

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Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

Epistle: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child,

he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."



Weekly Church Announcements

St. Paul

Sept. 9-5:00PM- Catechism

Sept. 10-6:30PM-Miriam Circle

Sept. 13-8:00AM-Bible Study

9:00AM-Worship Service

Servants for Worship-Gail Nicolaus/Gayle

Newth/Brain Lanckriet

Zion

Sept. 9-3:30 Midweek

Sept. 13-10:00AM-Sunday School

11:00AM- Worship Service

Servants for Worship- Gail Nicolaus/Altar Guild-

Jodi, Shelle, Tonia

MIRIAM CIRCLE will meet again on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 6:30PM. A casserole will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring salads or sides to share. All women of the congregation are invited to attend and enjoy some Christian fellowship with other women.

SAVE THE DATE! All women and pastors are invited to the NE Zone LWML Fall Rally at Zion, Holyoke, on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. The ingathering for the rally will be "A Caring Pregnancy Resource Center of Northeast Colorado." Most needed items include baby wash/shampoo; bibs; headbands and hats; baby lotion; newborn sleepers; socks; outlet covers; hooded towels and baby outfits and clothes.



September 6-Murl and Judy Abts
September 11-Craig and Gail Nicolaus



September 3-Murl Abts, Juan Ramirez
September 7-Jennifer Law
September 8-Max Cearns
September 11-Joyce Macht,
Jodi Christensen

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Brad Ehmke and his family on the passing of his mother this past week. May God surround Brad and his loved ones with His comfort, peace, and strength during this difficult time. We pray that the Lord's presence and the hope we have in Christ will bring them comfort in the days ahead.



FALL INTO KINDNESS

As the leaves begin to change and we welcome the beautiful month of September, let's take a moment to focus on something that never goes out of season: **kindness!**

This month, we're inviting our church family to join our **"Fall Into Kindness"**

Challenge. The goal is simple: **one unexpected act of kindness each week.**

Kindness doesn't have to be big or expensive. Sometimes the smallest gestures can make the biggest difference. Pay for someone's coffee, check on a neighbor, send a thoughtful text, compliment someone, help someone who is struggling, bring a meal to someone, or simply take the time to listen.

🍁 Your September Challenge 🍁

Week 1: Encourage someone who could use a little hope.

Week 2: Do something helpful for a neighbor, friend, or coworker.

Week 3: Reach out to someone you haven't spoken to in a while.

Week 4: Do something kind for someone who will never be able to repay you.

And here's the fun part: **don't just look for opportunities—create them!** Be intentional about noticing the people around you and finding ways to brighten their day.

Let's fill our homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, and church with kindness this September. You never know—your small act may be exactly what someone needed that day.



4 Weeks. 4 Acts of Kindness. 1 Church Family.



"Let us not grow weary in doing good... let us do good to everyone." 🍃 Galatians 6:9-10

SEPTEMBER DEVOTION

“Becoming Like a Child”

Matthew 18:1–20

September is a month of transition. The days begin to grow shorter, the air becomes cooler, and the leaves slowly begin to change. Nature reminds us that change is a part of life—and sometimes, God uses seasons of change to teach us something about our hearts.

In Matthew 18, the disciples ask Jesus, “Who, then, is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Jesus responds by calling a child to Himself and saying:

“Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” — Matthew 18:3

Jesus wasn't telling the disciples to become childish. He was teaching them about humility, trust, and dependence on God. Children often trust without needing to have every answer. They know when they need help, and they aren't afraid to ask.

A MEANINGFUL STORY

There was an older man who lived alone and rarely spoke to anyone in his neighborhood. He had become comfortable keeping to himself. One afternoon, a young boy from down the street noticed him sitting outside.

The boy walked over and asked, “Are you having a good day?”

The man smiled and said, “I suppose I am.”

The boy sat beside him for a few minutes without saying much. Before he left, he picked up a fallen leaf, handed it to the man, and said, “I thought you might like this. It's my favorite color.”

It was such a small moment, but it meant more to the man than the boy could have known.

The next day, the man was sitting outside again. This time, he had two chairs.

Sometimes we think we need to do something big to make a difference in someone's life. But Jesus reminds us that the kingdom of God often begins with something simple: humility, love, compassion, forgiveness, and a willingness to notice someone who might otherwise be overlooked.

Jesus tells us:

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones.” — Matthew 18:10

Every person matters to God. The person who feels forgotten, the person who is struggling, the person who feels alone—we are called to care for them.

Matthew 18 also reminds us about forgiveness. Jesus says:

“How often will my brother or sister sin against me, and I forgive them? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “Not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” — Matthew 18:21–22

Forgiveness isn't always easy. Sometimes it takes prayer, patience, and time. But as followers of Christ, we are called to extend the grace we have received from Him.



A SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE

As we enter this new season, let's ask ourselves: Who around me might need to feel seen, valued, or remembered? Maybe it's a neighbor who lives alone. Maybe it's someone sitting by themselves at church. Maybe it's a family member you haven't called in a while. Maybe it's someone who has hurt you and needs forgiveness—or someone you need to forgive.

This September, let's slow down enough to notice people. Let's choose humility over pride, forgiveness over resentment, and kindness over indifference.

Jesus reminds us:

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” — Matthew 18:20

What a beautiful promise for our church family. Wherever we gather, wherever we serve, and wherever we show God's love, Christ is with us. Like the changing leaves, may our hearts be willing to change when God calls us to something new.



PRAYER

Lord, thank You for reminding us that greatness in Your kingdom is not about status or recognition, but about humility, love, and service. Help us to have trusting hearts and to see the people around us through Your eyes. Give us opportunities this September to encourage someone, forgive someone, serve someone, and remind someone that they are loved. May our lives reflect Your grace wherever we go. Amen.



SEPTEMBER REMINDER

“Let all that you do be done in love.” — 1 Corinthians 16:14

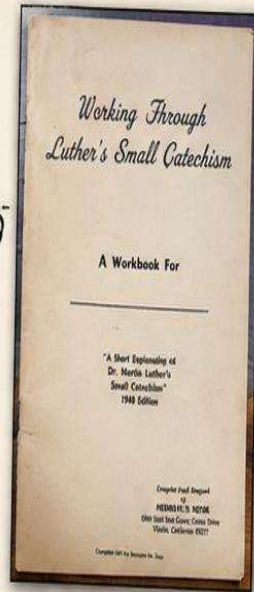
You don't have to change the whole world. Sometimes, changing one person's day is enough to make a difference.

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

How Much Do You Know?

Take a look at this 1948 workbook, *Working Through Luther's Small Catechism*. Long before online Bible studies, apps, and digital devotionals, Lutherans used workbooks like this one to study Scripture and the Small Catechism.

Now it's your turn! See how many of these questions you can answer without looking them up!



LUTHERAN & BIBLE TRIVIA

- What are the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism?

- Who wrote the Small Catechism?

- In what year was Luther's Small Catechism first published?
A. 1517 B. 1529 C. 1546 D. 1948
- According to the old workbook, what are two purposes for which God gave us the Bible?
a. _____
b. _____
- Complete the verse:
"Thy word is a _____ unto my feet,
and a _____ unto my path."
— Psalm 119:105
- How many books are in the Protestant Bible?
A. 39 B. 27 C. 66 D. 73
- How many books are in the Old Testament? _____
- How many books are in the New Testament? _____
- What does the word "Gospel" mean?

- What are the first four books of the New Testament commonly called?

- Who said:
"Father, we are through with the Catechism"?

- TRUE OR FALSE: Luther believed Christians eventually became so knowledgeable that they no longer needed to study the Catechism.

BONUS!

Can you recite the Ten Commandments in order?



NO PEEKING! ANSWERS ARE ON THE NEXT PAGE.

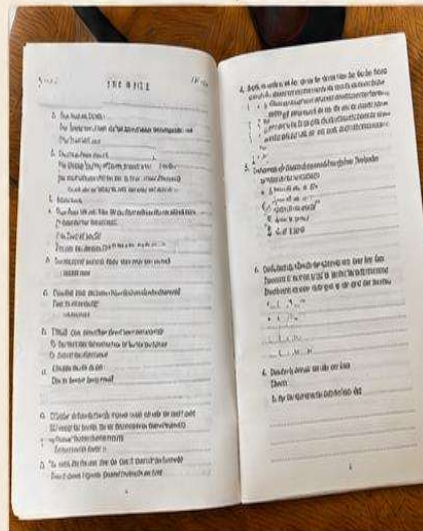


HOW DID YOU DO?

ANSWERS TO OUR BLAST FROM THE PAST TRIVIA

- The Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, Confession, and the Sacrament of the Altar.
- Martin Luther.
- B — 1529.
- From the workbook: the Bible was given so that we may discover our sins and learn the truths of salvation and receive help to live in holy living.
- "Lamp" unto my feet and "light" unto my path.
- C — 66 books.
- 39 books in the Old Testament.
- 27 books in the New Testament.
- "Good News." In the Christian faith, the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- The Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- Hans Luther, in the story included in the workbook.
- FALSE! The workbook quotes Luther explaining that even though he was a doctor of theology, he remained a student of the Catechism and continued studying it.

Some Things Never Go Out of Style



This workbook was prepared in 1948, but look at the questions it asks: What is the Bible? Why did God give it to us? How should we study it? What does it teach us about salvation?

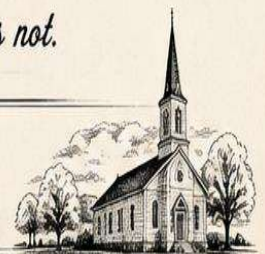
More than 75 years later, those questions are every bit as important.

The books may look different. The classrooms may look different. The way we learn may have changed.

But God's Word has not.

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:
but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Isaiah 40:8





WE NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE!

Rocky Mountain OGT is sponsoring a Mercy Meal Mega Pack
October 2nd & 3rd



Volunteer Details

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, Imperial, Nebraska

At least 250 volunteers needed

Each shift is 1½ hours — arrive 10 min early

Friday: setting up lines, filling totes, making boxes & labeling

Saturday shifts: 8:30-10:00, 10:30-12:00, 1:00-2:30, 3:00-4:30

Sign up using the QR code or email: mhaaiberg@gpcom.net

Now through 9/26/26



Mercy Meals of SW Nebraska is a 100% volunteer-run non-profit that packages nourishing food delivered by Orphan Grain Train to hungry people worldwide. Over 2,251,278 meals packaged since September 2012.



Mercy Meals of Southwest Nebraska • mercymealsofsouthwestnebraska.org



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