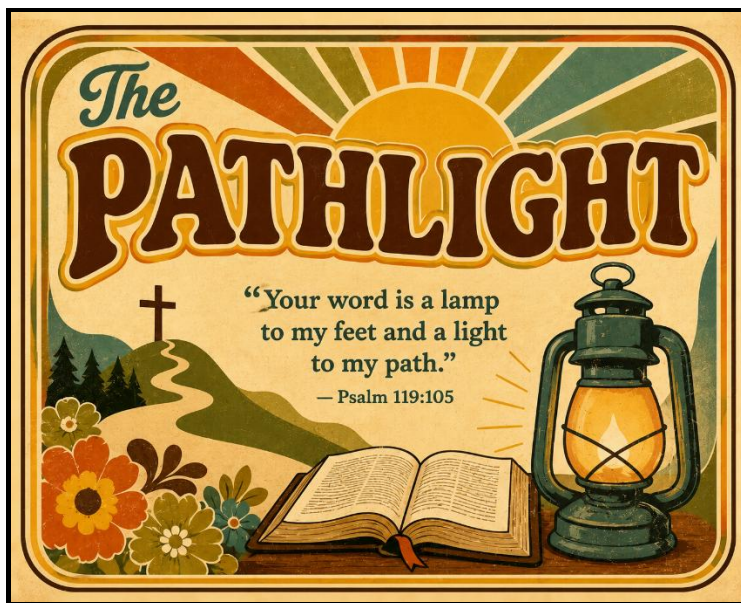


ST PAUL & ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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

August 16, 2026

"Faithfully Reporting God's Word"

St. Paul Lutheran LCMS
Julesburg, CO

970.474.2592
stpauljules@gmail.com

August 16, 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

308.289.5148
Muleshoexv@gmail.com

A Divine Reprieve

“Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David.” Matthew 15:22

Mercy..... An undeserved reprieve..... Declared innocent when there is clear guilt.

The context of this passage is a mother crying out for mercy for her daughter. She is desperate and turns to Jesus. The diagnosis was: demon possession. Her daughter needs the only cure: Jesus. But she is rebuked by the disciples and, at first, seemingly dismissed by Jesus. Still, she is persistent. She comes to Jesus, kneels, and cries out for help. She has nothing to pay with, nothing to bargain or trade with.

In fact, when Jesus tells her that she is not an Israelite, she rightly acknowledges her status. She knows and admits who she is and what she needs. Yes, she may be an outsider, but she knows who the Master is and what He can do. She feels the weight of her daughter's circumstance and knows that the solution must come from someone outside herself. She is weak, helpless, and unable to save her daughter.

We were also once outsiders; before our Baptism that is. Once dead in our sins and enemies to God. *Dead!* And dead things can't fix themselves. *Enemies!* Even if we could do something, we would do the wrong thing - the sinful thing. We are guilty. We are broken and left to ourselves; we are hopeless.

We know the weight of sin; sin caused what was created to be perfect to break. We have been brought to our knees in the face of the consequences of sin: our own sin and the sins done against us. We are indeed like this Canaanite woman. Everyone single one of us. We are guilty, broken, and have no option except to cry out to God for mercy.

There is Good News! God has and continues to show us mercy! It is undeserved and an absolution from everlasting death. In your Baptism, you were given new life; you are covered by Jesus and named one of God's children. An heir. We who were enemies have now been claimed and redeemed, chosen and washed clean from our sin. We have God's infinite mercy, won for us by Jesus, through His death and resurrection. We didn't earn it, can't earn it, and we don't deserve it, but it is ours. Be at peace in the merciful goodness of our Lord.

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 Service Book Order of Worship

HYMN # 845 “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

LITURGY pg. 151 Divine Service (setting one) with Communion

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

INTROIT (insert)

KYRIE pg. 152

SALUTATION and COLLECT

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

EPISTLE: Romans 11:1-2, 13-15, 28-32

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28

NICENE CREED pg.158

HYMN OF THE DAY # 649 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

OFFERING

OFFERTORY pg.159

PRAYER OF

THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT pg.160

HYMN # 617 “O Lord, We Praise Thee”

HYMN # 610 “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

LORD’S PRAYER pg.162

NUMC DIMITTIS pg. 165

COLLECT

BENEDCTION

HYMN # 832 “Jesus Shall Reign”

SILENT PRAYER

~~~~~

**Servants for Today**

**St. Paul**

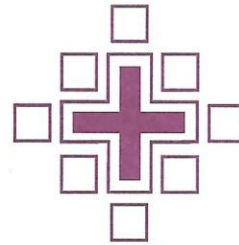
Greeters and Ushers -Brian Boehm/Brad Ehmke, Organist-Jeanie Boehm

**Zion**

Greeters and Ushers- Judy Soper/Altar Guild-Jodi, Shelle & Tonia Organist-Jeanie Boehm

# Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026



**INTROIT**      *Ps. 28:1–2, 6–7; antiphon: Ps. 28:8*

The LORD is the strength of his | people;\*  
he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.  
To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not | deaf to me,\*  
lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down | to the pit.  
Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to | you for help,\*  
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctu- | ary.  
Blessèd | be the LORD!\*

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for | mercy.  
The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and | I am helped;\*  
my heart exults, and with my song I give | thanks to him.

**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 the strength of his | people;\*  
he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; 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

**August 16:** 2 Sam. 6:1–19; 1 Cor. 9:1–23; **17:** 2 Sam. 7:1–17; 1 Cor. 9:24–10:22; **18:** 2 Sam. 7:18–29; 1 Cor. 10:23–11:16; **19:** 2 Sam. 11:1–27; 1 Cor. 11:17–34; **20:** 2 Sam. 12:1–25; 1 Cor. 12:1–13; **21:** 1 Kings 1:1–4, 15–35; 1 Cor. 12:14–31; **22:** 1 Kings 2:1–27; 1 Cor. 13:1–13.

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**Old Testament Reading:**  
**Isaiah 56:1, 6–8**

- <sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD:  
“Keep justice, and do  
    righteousness,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
    and my deliverance be revealed.  
    . . .
- <sup>6</sup> “And the foreigners who join  
    themselves to the LORD,  
    to minister to him, to love the  
    name of the LORD,  
    and to be his servants,  
everyone who keeps the Sabbath  
    and does not profane it,  
    and holds fast my covenant—
- <sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy  
    mountain,  
    and make them joyful in my  
    house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their  
    sacrifices  
    will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a  
    house of prayer  
    for all peoples.”
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord God,  
    who gathers the outcasts of  
    Israel, declares,  
“I will gather yet others to him  
    besides those already  
    gathered.”

**Epistle:**  
**Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32**

<sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. . . .

<sup>13</sup>Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry <sup>14</sup>in order somehow to

make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. <sup>15</sup>For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

<sup>28</sup>As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. <sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 15:21–28**

<sup>21</sup>Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” <sup>24</sup>He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup>And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

## Weekly Church Announcements

### St. Paul

**August 17**-7:00PM-Council Meeting

**August 23** -8:00AM-Bible Study

9:00AM-Worship Service

Servants for Worship- Gail Nicolaus /Murl

Abts/Dennis Aulston

### Zion

**August 23**-10:00AM-Sunday School

11:00AM- Worship Service

Servants for Worship- Gail Nicolaus/Judy

Soper/Altar Guild- Jodi, Shelle, Toni

### Mission Festival Sunday – August 30, 2026

On Sunday, August 30, 2026, St. Paul and Zion will observe a special Mission Sunday with guest speaker Rev. Jason Cody. Rev. Cody serves at Trinity Lutheran Church in Alamosa, Colorado. He also serves the Rocky Mountain District as the Assistant to the District President for Missions and Advancement.

On August 30, our dual parish will gather at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Julesburg for Rev. Cody's mission presentation at 9:00 a.m., followed by a joint worship service at 10:00 a.m., where Rev. Cody will also serve as our guest preacher. A meal will be served following the worship service. Meat, potatoes, and cake will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share! We encourage everyone to join us for this special day of worship, fellowship, and learning more about God's mission work.



**August 19-Mark Berges**

**August 21-Caila Botha**

**On August 16, St. Paul's Lutheran Church** in Ogallala NE will be celebrating their 100 years! Church starts at 8:30AM followed by a potluck! The congregation is invited to attend their celebration!



## 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 & labelling  
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: [mhaarberg@gpcorn.net](mailto:mhaarberg@gpcorn.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](http://mercymealsofsouthwestnebraska.org)



Choose a category and dollar amount. Read the clue and answer in the form of a question—just like *Jeopardy!*

| BIBLE BOOKS | PEOPLE & DISCIPLES | HYMNS & LUTHERAN | PARABLES | NEW TESTAMENT |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------|----------|---------------|
| \$100       | \$100              | \$100            | \$100    | \$100         |
| \$200       | \$200              | \$200            | \$200    | \$200         |
| \$300       | \$300              | \$300            | \$300    | \$300         |
| \$400       | \$400              | \$400            | \$400    | \$400         |
| \$500       | \$500              | \$500            | \$500    | \$500         |



## BIBLE BOOKS

### \$100

This book comes immediately after the four Gospels and records the growth of the early Christian Church.

### \$200

This Old Testament book contains the story of Ruth, a Moabite woman who becomes the great-grandmother of King David.

### \$300

This short New Testament letter is addressed to a Christian named Philemon concerning a runaway or enslaved man named Onesimus.

### \$400

This Old Testament book contains the vision of the valley of dry bones and the phrase, “I will put my Spirit within you.”



**\$500**

This Old Testament book contains the words, “The righteous shall live by his faith,” a verse later quoted by Paul and central to Reformation theology.



## PEOPLE & DISCIPLES

**\$100**

This disciple was known as “the twin” and initially refused to believe Jesus had risen until he saw His wounds.

**\$200**

This disciple was originally called Levi and worked as a tax collector.

**\$300**

This man was chosen by the apostles to replace Judas Iscariot.

**\$400**

This woman was the first person recorded in John’s Gospel to whom the risen Christ appeared and spoke.

**\$500**

This man, a Pharisee and teacher of the law, told the Sanhedrin that if the apostles' work was from God, they should not oppose it.



## HYMNS & LUTHERAN

**\$100**

Martin Luther's famous hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” is based primarily on this Psalm.

**\$200**

This Lutheran hymn begins, “Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,” and tells the story of salvation by grace through Christ.

**\$300**

This hymn by Paul Gerhardt begins, “Why should cross and trial grieve me?” and reflects on God's faithfulness in suffering.

**\$400**

This hymn begins, “Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,” and asks Christ to remain with His Church amid spiritual darkness.

**\$500**

In “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” Luther says that even if the devil's forces are arrayed against us, one thing cannot ultimately be taken from us: this.



## PARABLES

**\$100**

In this parable, a man discovers something of such great value that he sells everything he owns to obtain it.

**\$200**

In this parable, a shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep in search of one that is lost.

**\$300**

In this parable, a son demands his inheritance, leaves home, wastes it, and eventually returns to his father.

**\$400**

In this parable, a Samaritan helps an injured man after a priest and a Levite pass him by.

**\$500**

In this parable, servants are entrusted with different amounts of money while their master is away. Two servants invest what they receive, while another buries his portion.



## NEW TESTAMENT

**\$100**

Jesus' first recorded miracle in John's Gospel occurred at a wedding in this town.

**\$200**

This Gospel is the only one that contains the account of Jesus sweating blood during His prayer in Gethsemane.

**\$300**

According to Acts, this couple fell dead after lying about the amount of money they had given to the church.

**\$400**

Paul describes this Old Testament figure as an example of justification by faith in Romans 4.

**\$500**

In Revelation, this number is associated with the beast.

---



## **FINAL JEOPARDY!**

### **CATEGORY: FAITH & GRACE**

#### **CLUE:**

Paul writes that Abraham believed God, “and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

This Old Testament book contains the original passage Paul is quoting.

**Write your answer here:**

---

---

**FINAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## BIBLE JEOPARDY!

### ANSWER KEY

#### BIBLE BOOKS

\$100 — Acts

What is Acts?

\$200 — Ruth

What is Ruth?

\$300 — Philemon

What is Philemon?

\$400 — Ezekiel

What is Ezekiel?

\$500 — Habakkuk

What is Habakkuk?

---

#### PEOPLE & DISCIPLES

\$100 — Thomas

Who is Thomas?

\$200 — Matthew

Who is Matthew?

\$300 — Matthias

Who is Matthias?

\$400 — Mary Magdalene

Who is Mary Magdalene?

\$500 — Gamaliel

Who is Gamaliel?

---

#### HYMNS & LUTHERAN

\$100 — Psalm 46

What is Psalm 46?

\$200 — “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”

What is “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”?

\$300 — “Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me”

What is “Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me”?

\$400 — “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

What is “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”?

\$500 — Our victory / salvation in Christ

What is our salvation and victory in Christ?

---

#### PARABLES

\$100 — The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

What is the Parable of the Hidden Treasure?

\$200 — The Parable of the Lost Sheep

What is the Parable of the Lost Sheep?

\$300 — The Parable of the Prodigal Son / Lost Son

What is the Parable of the Prodigal Son?

\$400 — The Parable of the Good Samaritan

What is the Parable of the Good Samaritan?

\$500 — The Parable of the Talents

What is the Parable of the Talents?

---

#### NEW TESTAMENT

\$100 — Cana

What is Cana of Galilee?

\$200 — Luke

What is Luke?

\$300 — Ananias and Sapphira

Who are Ananias and Sapphira?

\$400 — Abraham

Who is Abraham?

\$500 — 666

What is 666?

---

#### FINAL JEOPARDY

CATEGORY: FAITH & GRACE

Answer:

What is Genesis?

Paul is quoting Genesis 15:6, where Abraham believed the Lord and it was counted to him as righteousness.

---



## What Are You Carrying?



**“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28**

There is an old story about an elderly woman walking along a country road carrying a large, heavy basket on her back. A truck came along, and the driver stopped and offered her a ride. She gratefully climbed into the back of the truck. After driving for a while, the driver looked in his rearview mirror and noticed something strange. The woman was still standing in the back of the truck, carrying the heavy basket on her shoulders. “Ma’am,” he called out, “why don’t you put the basket down? The truck is carrying you.” She smiled and replied, “Oh, I know. But I didn’t think it was right to make the truck carry my basket too.”

It is a simple story, but there is something deeply familiar about it. How often do we do the same thing with God? We come to Jesus. We pray. We hear His Word. We sing about His faithfulness. We confess our sins and hear those beautiful words, “Your sins are forgiven.” And then we pick up the basket again. We carry the worry, the guilt, the fear, the grief, and the uncertainty about tomorrow. We carry things God has invited us to place in His hands.

Jesus says, **“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”** Notice that Jesus doesn’t say, “Come to Me when you have everything figured out.” He doesn’t say, “Come to Me when your faith is strong enough.” He doesn’t say, “Come to Me after you have solved your problems.” He simply says, **“Come to Me.”** His invitation is for the weary, the worried, the grieving, the guilty, the frightened, and the broken. His invitation is for you and for me.

Peter gives us the same invitation when he writes, **“Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you”** (1 Peter 5:7). Not some of our anxieties. Not only the ones we think are important enough to bring to God. **All of them.** The things we understand and the things we don’t. The things we can change and the things we cannot. The things we are willing to talk about and the things we have never told anyone. We can bring them to God because, as Peter reminds us, **He cares for us.**

The Psalms tell us, **“Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you”** (Psalm 55:22). Notice that God doesn’t promise that He will always explain everything. He promises that He will sustain us. Sometimes God changes our circumstances. Sometimes He gives us strength to walk through them. Sometimes He gives us people who walk beside us. And sometimes He gives us a peace that we cannot explain. Paul writes, **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”** Then comes the promise: **“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 4:6–7). Scripture doesn’t promise that we will understand everything. It promises that God’s peace can guard us even when we don’t.

But there is an even deeper burden that Christ came to carry for us: our sin. The prophet Isaiah wrote, **“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all”** (Isaiah 53:6). Hundreds of years later, Peter would write about Jesus, **“He himself bore**



**our sins in his body on the tree**" (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus carried to the cross the sins we are ashamed of, the words we wish we could take back, the failures we cannot undo, and the guilt we continue to carry long after God has forgiven us.

From the cross, Jesus said, **"It is finished"** (John 19:30). He didn't say, "You finish it." He didn't say, "Do your part and I'll do Mine." **It is finished.** Our salvation does not depend upon how well we carry our burdens. It rests upon how faithfully Christ carried the cross for us. That is why Paul can say, **"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"** (Romans 8:1).

So perhaps today we need to ask ourselves a simple question: **What are you carrying?** Maybe it is worry about your children or someone you love. Maybe it is grief that hasn't gone away. Maybe it is loneliness, financial stress, a difficult relationship, fear about the future, or something from your past that you have never been able to forgive yourself for. Maybe nobody else knows what you're carrying. But Jesus knows. And His invitation remains the same: **"Come to me."**

Go back to the woman in the truck. The truck was already carrying her. She simply hadn't realized she could put down the basket. Sometimes I wonder if that is us. Christ is already carrying us, but we're still carrying the basket. We kept carrying yesterday. We will keep carrying tomorrow. We keep carrying our guilt and our fear. We keep carrying burdens God has invited us to give to Him.

Paul reminds us, **"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"** (Romans 8:32). If God was willing to give His Son for you, you can trust Him with what is troubling you today. You may not know what tomorrow will bring, but you know who will be there. You may not know how a difficult situation will turn out, but you know who holds you in the middle of it. You may still have questions. You may still have tears. You may still have burdens. But you do not have to carry them alone.

Perhaps that is what Jesus wants us to hear today. **You are not strong because you can carry everything. You are not faithful because you never struggle. You are not saved because you have everything under control. You are a child of God because Christ has carried what you could never carry yourself.** He carried the cross. He carried your sin. He carried your shame. And He carries you.

So, whatever you walked in carrying today, take it to Jesus. You may have to do it again tomorrow. And the next day. That is okay. Faith is not pretending that life isn't heavy. Faith is trusting the One who promises to carry us when it is.

**You don't have to carry what Christ has already carried for you.** Put down the basket. Come to Jesus. And rest.

## **Prayer**

Gracious Lord Jesus, You know the burdens we carry, even the ones we hide from everyone else. You know our worries, our fears, our grief, our guilt, and our weariness. Thank You for inviting us to come to You. Teach us to cast our anxieties upon You because You care for us. When we are worried, remind us of Your promises. When we are guilty, remind us of Your cross. When we are afraid, remind us that You are with us. When we are weary, remind us that You give rest. Help us to trust You with the things we cannot control and to leave our burdens in Your hands. Most of all, thank You for carrying our sin to the cross and declaring, "It is finished." Give us faith to trust Your grace, courage to face each day, and peace that comes from knowing that we belong to You. In the name of Jesus, who carries us and never leaves us, **Amen.**



## Holy Humor Corner

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

#### When Your Pastor Stops by for a Visit

A new pastor was visiting the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card that had printed "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it for just such an occasion, and stuck it in the door. When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned.

Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

**A Christian Puppy.....**A Baptist couple decide that they want to get a dog. As they are walking down the street in town, they notice that a sign in the pet shop is advertising "Christian Puppies." Their interest piqued, they go inside. "How do you know they're Christian puppies?" "Watch," says the owner, as he takes one of the dogs and says, "Fetch the Bible." The dog runs over to the desk, and grabs the Bible in its mouth and returns. Putting the Bible on the floor, the owner says, "Find Psalm 23." The dog flips pages with its paw until he reaches the right page, and then stops. Amazed and delighted, the couple purchase the dog and head home. That evening, they invite some friends over and show them the dog, having him run through his Psalm 23 routine. Impressed, one of the visitors asks "Does he also know 'regular' commands?" "Gee, we don't know. We didn't ask," replies the husband. Turning to the dog, he says, "Sit." The dog sits. He says, "Lie down." The dog lies down. He says "Roll over." The dog rolls over. He says "Heel." The dog runs over to him, jumps up on the sofa, puts both paws on the owner's forehead and bows his head. "Oh look!" the wife exclaims. "He's PENTECOSTAL!"



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



