

ST PAUL & ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER



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

**June 7, 2026**

**"Faithfully Reporting God's Word"**

St. Paul Lutheran LCMS  
Julesburg, CO

970.474.2592  
stpauljules@gmail.com

June 7, 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

### **To Recognize Our Need**

***Jesus said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” Matthew 9:12-13***

It's been a long, long time since you and I played follow the leader. Remember? We all got in a single file line and the person in the front was the “leader.” The leader would take the rest of us wherever (and however) he or she wanted to go. In following the leader, if you didn't do the dinosaur walk just right, or weave your way through the monkey-bars just right, or take a spin on the merry-go-round just right, you were out.

When we school kids played the game I don't ever remember anyone being called out, it was simply fun to try to follow the leader. In Matthew 9, Jesus tells Matthew to follow Him. Consider that Matthew was a tax collector. That meant he was Jewish, but also employed by the Roman government. If that wasn't bad enough, tax collectors' wages came from the money they collected from their fellow citizens. Let's just say that most of the tax collectors extorted a little extra money to line their own pockets. You could say that Matthew, like most tax collectors in those days, was following the idols of money, success, and status. But then Jesus said, “Follow me.” Matthew left his tax booth and his former way of life behind and he followed Jesus.

When Jesus was at Matthew's house, a few verses later, the Pharisees saw Jesus with tax collectors and public sinners. At this point, Jesus makes a powerful distinction between those who are well and have no need of a physician—and the sick, who absolutely need health and healing. Jesus makes the same distinction when He quotes Hosea 6:6, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” Jesus is not impressed with the righteous behavior of the Pharisees. Their “sacrifice” of living extra-holy lives resulted in them thinking that they didn't even really need God all that much..... I'm pretty good, doing pretty good, I really don't need God all that much.

Those Pharisees certainly *thought* they had no need of a Physician. And the tax collectors? These men who were publicly called out as “sinners?” They're the ones that Jesus chooses to eat with. They know that their own righteousness isn't going to cut it with God. They know that they have nothing to offer God. They have come to know that Jesus is not only a Physician for them, but a friend. He calls all of His sin-sick people, to find healing (forgiveness) and life (eternal) in Him. In a word, He invites us to follow Him. Follow Him now for forgiveness and then ultimately to where He has ascended.

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. 1 Corinthians 13:12*



# Lutheran Worship Service Book

## Order of Worship

**HYMN # 812** “Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs”

**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:** Hosea 5:15,6:6

**EPISTLE:** Romans 4:13-25

**HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 9:9-13

**NICENE CREED** pg. 191

**HYMN of THE DAY # 689** “Let Me Be Thine Forever”

**SERMON**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERATORY** pg. 192

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT** pg. 194

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**HYMN # 624** “The Infant Priest Was Holy Born”

# 687 “Thine Forever, God of Love”

**BENEDICTION** pg. 202

**CLOSING HYMN # 803** “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

**SILENT PRAYER**

### Serving Today

#### **St. Paul**

Usher/Greeters-Chuck Juhl/Brian Boehm

Organist-Jeanie Boehm

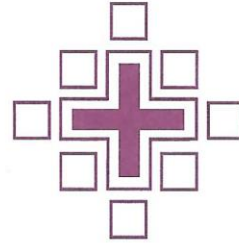
#### **Zion**

Usher/Greeters-Judy Soper, Altar Guild-Shelle/Jodi

Organist-Jeanie Boehm

# Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 7, 2026



**INTROIT**      *Ps. 50:7–10; antiphon: Ps. 50:1*

The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth\*

from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you.\*

I am God, your God.

Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;\*

your burnt offerings are continually before me.

I will not accept a bull from your house\*

or goats from your folds.

For every beast of the forest is mine;\*

the cattle on a thousand hills.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth\*

from the rising of the sun to its setting.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and most merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**GRADUAL**      *Ps. 145:3, 5b, 6b*

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;\*

and his greatness is unsearchable.

On your wondrous works, I will meditate;\*

and I will declare your greatness.

## DAILY READINGS

**June 7:** Prov. 4:1–27; John 12:1–19; **8:** Prov. 5:1–23; John 12:20–36a; **9:** Prov. 8:1–21; John 12:36b–50;

**10:** Prov. 8:22–36; John 13:1–20; **11:** Prov. 9:1–18; John 13:21–38; **12:** Prov. 10:1–23; John 14:1–17;

**13:** Prov. 13:1–25; John 14:18–31.

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](http://CPH.org) 2661

**Old Testament Reading:**  
**Hosea 5:15–6:6**

- <sup>15</sup> I will return again to my place,  
until they acknowledge their guilt  
and seek my face,  
and in their distress earnestly seek  
me.
- <sup>6:1</sup> “Come, let us return to the LORD;  
for he has torn us, that he may heal  
us;  
he has struck us down, and he will  
bind us up.
- <sup>2</sup> After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.
- <sup>3</sup> Let us know; let us press on to know  
the LORD;  
his going out is sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us as the showers,  
as the spring rains that water the  
earth.”
- <sup>4</sup> What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?  
Your love is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes early away.
- <sup>5</sup> Therefore I have hewn them by the  
prophets;  
I have slain them by the words of  
my mouth,  
and my judgment goes forth as the  
light.
- <sup>6</sup> For I desire steadfast love and not  
sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than  
burnt offerings.

**Epistle: Romans 4:13–25**

<sup>13</sup>The promise to Abraham and his  
offspring that he would be heir of the  
world did not come through the law  
but through the righteousness of faith.  
<sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law  
who are to be the heirs, faith is null and  
the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings  
wrath, but where there is no law there is  
no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith,  
in order that the promise may rest

on grace and be guaranteed to all his  
offspring—not only to the adherent of  
the law but also to the one who shares  
the faith of Abraham, who is the father  
of us all, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made  
you the father of many nations”—in  
the presence of the God in whom he  
believed, who gives life to the dead and  
calls into existence the things that do  
not exist. <sup>18</sup>In hope he believed against  
hope, that he should become the father  
of many nations, as he had been told,  
“So shall your offspring be.” <sup>19</sup>He did  
not weaken in faith when he consid-  
ered his own body, which was as good  
as dead (since he was about a hundred  
years old), or when he considered the  
barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No dis-  
trust made him waver concerning the  
promise of God, but he grew strong in  
his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>fully  
convinced that God was able to do what  
he had promised. <sup>22</sup>That is why his faith  
was “counted to him as righteousness.”  
<sup>23</sup>But the words “it was counted to him”  
were not written for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but  
for ours also. It will be counted to us  
who believe in him who raised from the  
dead Jesus our Lord, <sup>25</sup>who was deliv-  
ered up for our trespasses and raised for  
our justification.

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9–13**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus passed on from there, he  
saw a man called Matthew sitting at the  
tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow  
me.” And he rose and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> And as Jesus reclined at table in the  
house, behold, many tax collectors and  
sinners came and were reclining with  
Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> And when  
the Pharisees saw this, they said to his  
disciples, “Why does your teacher eat  
with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup> But  
when he heard it, he said, “Those who  
are well have no need of a physician,  
but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn  
what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and  
not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the  
righteous, but sinners.”



**St. Paul**

June 8-4:00PM- Organist Meeting

June 11-6:30PM-Miriam Circle

June 14-8:00AM-Bible Study

9:00AM-Worship Service

**Servants for Worship**-Gail Nicolaus/Gayle Newth/Jay Lindsay

**Zion**

June 14-10:00AM-Sunday School

11:00AM- Worship Service

**Servants for Worship**- Gail Nicolaus /Judy Soper/Altar Guild- Jodi & Shelle

**MIRIAM CIRCLE** will meet on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.



**June 8-Keegan Conteras**

**June 9-Keith Law**

**June 12-Lauryn Lindsay**

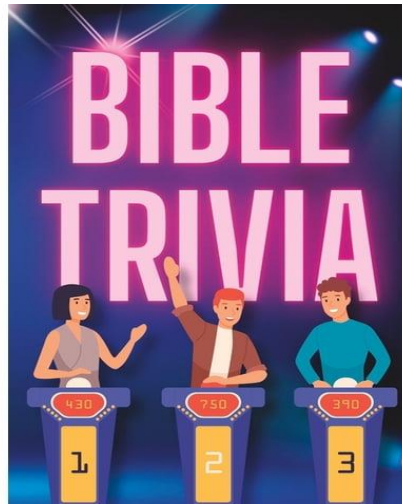
**June 13-Gerald Orth**

**June 14-Jacob Newth, Jared Ehmke, Cable Larsen**



**June 9-Brian and Jeanie Boehm**

**June 11-Gayle and Machele Newth**



## **Bible Detectives: Who Am I?**

**Each description points to a person in Scripture. Some clues are obvious; others are subtle. No peeking at the answer key until you've finished!**

1. I never spoke a recorded word in Scripture.  
I obeyed a difficult command involving a journey and a sacrifice.  
My descendants became a great nation.

**Who am I?**

2. I was not an Israelite.  
My brief conversation changed the course of Israel's history.  
A military commander listened to my advice.

**Who am I?**

3. I lost everything, gained much of it back, and asked questions that still challenge believers today.  
Several of my friends spoke at length but were ultimately rebuked.

**Who am I?**

4. I was a king whose prayer added years to my life.  
Visitors came to see me after my recovery, and my actions led to a troubling prophecy.

**Who am I?**

5. I climbed a tree to see Jesus.  
My occupation made me unpopular.  
My encounter with Christ changed my relationship with money.

**Who am I?**

6. I was known for my wisdom.  
Yet one of my greatest acts of wisdom occurred before I became king.

**Who am I?**

7. I was a foreign widow.  
A field became the setting for God's providence.  
My family line eventually led to the Messiah.

**Who am I?**

8. I asked for death after a great spiritual victory.  
God answered me not with condemnation, but with food, rest, and a whisper.

**Who am I?**

9. I am mentioned only a few times.  
Yet one of those mentions records a gift that supported the ministry of Jesus.

**Who am I?**

10. I doubted, questioned, and demanded evidence.  
Yet one of the strongest confessions of Jesus' divinity came from my lips.

**Who am I?**

11. I was not a prophet, priest, or king.  
Yet an entire book of the Bible bears my name.  
God used my courage to save His people.

**Who am I?**

12. I was asleep when God called me.  
At first I thought someone else was speaking.

**Who am I?**

13. I carried water to a stranger's camels.  
My kindness revealed God's answer to a prayer.

### **Who am I?**

- 14.**I preached reluctantly.  
When my mission succeeded, I became angry.

### **Who am I?**

- 15.**I owned a threshing floor.  
A king purchased my property, and the location became significant in Israel's worship.

### **Who am I?**

## **Master Challenge**

Can you identify the one thing all fifteen people have in common?

(Hint: It is not that they were faithful, blessed, or used by God.)

## **Answer Key**

1. Abraham
2. Rahab
3. Job
4. Hezekiah
5. Zacchaeus
6. Solomon
7. Ruth
8. Elijah
9. Joanna
10. Thomas
11. Esther
12. Samuel
13. Rebekah
14. Jonah
15. Araunah (Ornan)

## **Master Challenge Answer**

Each person's story demonstrates that God accomplishes His purposes through imperfect people whose weaknesses, fears, doubts, or failures are clearly revealed in Scripture.



# Trusting the One Who Leads

## Second Sunday after Pentecost Devotion

### A Little Church Humor

A pastor asked a young boy after worship, "What did you learn in Sunday School today?"

The boy replied, "We learned that Moses led the Israelites across the Red Sea."

The pastor smiled and asked, "And how did that happen?"

The boy answered, "Well, Moses used his walkie-talkie to call in engineers. They built a pontoon bridge, and everyone crossed safely."

The pastor laughed and said, "Is that what your teacher told you?"

"No," said the boy, "but if I told you what she really said, you'd never believe it!"

Sometimes God's works seem so amazing that they are hard to comprehend. Yet throughout Scripture, God repeatedly does the unexpected, reminding us that His ways are far beyond our understanding.

### Scripture Reading

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." — Proverbs 3:5-6*

## **A Story to Ponder**

Years ago, a traveler was driving through a dense mountain fog late at night. The road twisted through steep hills, and visibility was almost nonexistent. Frustrated and nervous, he slowed to a crawl.

Suddenly, he noticed the taillights of another car ahead. He decided to follow those lights. The driver in front knew the road well and maintained a steady pace through every curve and turn.

Several miles later, the lead car pulled into a driveway and stopped. The traveler realized he had reached a small town and had safely passed through the most dangerous part of the journey.

As he thanked the other driver, the man smiled and said, "I couldn't see very far ahead either. I just knew the road."

Faith often works that way.

We would like God to show us the entire journey. We want to know how every problem will be solved, how every prayer will be answered, and what tomorrow will bring. Yet God rarely provides a complete map. Instead, He gives us His promises and asks us to trust Him one step at a time.

The season after Pentecost reminds us that discipleship is a daily walk of faith. Most days are not marked by dramatic miracles. Instead, we follow Christ through ordinary routines, unexpected challenges, and quiet acts of service.

As Lutherans, we confess that our confidence is not in our ability to see the future but in God's faithfulness. Through His Word, God continually points us to Christ. Through Baptism and Holy Communion, He assures us that we belong to Him. Through the Gospel, He reminds us that our salvation rests not on our strength but on His grace.

When life feels uncertain, remember that Jesus is the One who knows the road ahead. He has already traveled the path through suffering, death, and resurrection. Because He lives, we can trust Him even when the way seems unclear.

The Christian life is not about having all the answers. It is about trusting the One who does.

## **Prayer**

Gracious Lord, when the path before us seems uncertain, help us trust in Your promises. Give us faith to follow where You lead, even when we cannot see the whole journey. Strengthen us through Your Word and Sacraments, and remind us that our hope rests in Jesus Christ alone. Keep us steadfast in faith and confident in Your unfailing love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Reflection Questions**

1. When have you had to trust God without knowing the outcome?
2. What promises of Scripture bring you comfort during uncertain times?
3. How can you encourage someone else who is facing an unknown future?

*"For we walk by faith, not by sight." — 2 Corinthians 5:7*

brations but also in its ordinary routines. The same Lord who parted the Red Sea and raised Jesus from the dead is at work in your life today.

You belong to Christ. His promises remain true. His grace is sufficient. His love endures forever.

## Prayer

Gracious Father, thank You for the freedom we have through Your Son, Jesus Christ. In the ordinary moments of life, help us remember that we belong to You. Strengthen us through Your Word and Sacraments. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we may serve our neighbors with joy and confidence. Keep us steadfast in faith and growing in grace throughout this season after Pentecost. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Reflection Questions

1. What ordinary habit helps strengthen your faith each week?
2. When have you experienced God's presence during a difficult season?
3. How can you share Christ's love with someone this week?

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." — Lamentations 3:22-23*





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