

# Church Notes

**Rose Valley Church**  
With thankful hearts we gathered for worship at Rose Valley Church. Our worship team: Carl- guitar, Brett-bass guitar,Glennys-flute, and Marsha- key-board, provided praise and worship music prior to service.

Carl, our liturgist gave a warm welcome and opened with prayer.

“God made a promise” Pastor Samantha told the children. In the book of John, Jesus called himself a shepherd to his sheep. We are his sheep, and if we follow him he promises everlasting life to those who love him

Pastor Samantha began a new series “Letters: Ephesians 1”. She began by reading scripture from Ephesians 1 to give us context . Ephesians was written by Paul to give encouragement to the church of Ephesus. In this scripture:

-he spoke of God's impact in our lives.

- Paul reminds Ephesus of the blessings from God. -God reins today, and one day it is his will to bring us all together when the times have reached their fulfillment.

Because we believed, the promise of the Holy Spirit will give:

us wisdom to know him better.

- that our hearts will be enlightened to understand the greatness of God who has authority, power and dominion overall.

At this time in our life we hear many voices and opinions of the loss of Love for humanity or our faith is under attack. Fear can lead us to distance ourselves from God; however we serve a powerful God so stand up for truth and do not conform to these ways. Christianity is under no threat. We can be encouraged by the letters as Paul wrote to experience the Hope, Love and power of God.

Upcoming Calendar events:

June 7-8th North Central Youth Camp

June 21st Art in the Park during Downs Celbration Our Pastor contact information: Rev. Wyatt Davis- 620-804-2912 , Pastor Samantha Davis 605-321-9570.15:1-9

**Zion Lutheran Church**

## •Council

that due to upcoming changes with the USPS, he may have to look into other options to get the two samples mailed for testing. The Water Operator and City Clerk will look into options.

City Superintendent Brady Pound reported that the skid steer was delivered last week. He’s hoping to have a newer timeline for the Third Avenue Street project at the next meeting. He also asked the council again concerning paid paternity leave. Council tabled any decision until the next meeting, closer to the due date for baby Pound. Colburn will fill in while Pound is out on leave. Council asked if Pound had checked the clinic last week after the rains. He stated he did and the north wall where the mold was found originally had new wet spots.

City Clerk Miranda Robinson reported monthly financials for April, revenue was \$74,651.92 and expenses were \$89,768.22. Robinson stated that a CPA will be at the June 16th meeting to review the 2026 budget and discuss the Revenue Neutral Rate and Tax levy with council. She also reported that she mailed 50 letters out for dogs who were not tagged, some have come in for the tags. She will have a list for animal control to contact owner’s about tagging dogs

Greetings from the Zion Lutheran Church in Downs!

This Sunday’s church attendance was 48 members with 13 in adult Sunday School this week and 82 people in attendance last Sunday for graduations, new member installation, and baptisms.

Today’s readings were as follows: First reading was from Acts 11: 1-18, Epistle from Revelation 21: 1-7, and the Holy Gospel reading from John 13: 31-35.

Children’s Sermon: Question - is it better to have something old or something new. It depends. Let’s suppose you are thirsty. Would you rather an old bottle of water, or a new one?

How about these two quarters....they look pretty much the same. Last week we received some new members and 2 baptisms. Jesus gave them new life. He gives us forgiveness and reminds us to love one another, even when we don’t want to. Easter reminds us of new life forever in heaven.

Sermon: Pastor Stenson’s sermon topic was on “What’s New?” It would be easy to blame society for how loosely and inappropriately we sometimes use the words “Love” and “New,” because it often seems that those who are trying to sell us something inject them heavily into their marketing efforts. A little modification or change to a product, and suddenly it’s “new and improved.” Any tweak, even if it’s a real improvement, and we’re told, “you’re going to love it.”

But the fact is: It works. If we weren’t listening, and we weren’t buying, then all those claims about newness and love would rapidly fade from the landscape of our consumer culture.

Yet we are listening, and we are buying, and we’re going to keep on hearing those words “love” and “new” until they become more and more prevalent, and therefore more and more meaningless. Don’t get me wrong... love is certainly real, even though most of what we claim we love is actually just something we like, or value, or

on May 11th.

Craig Doane with Osborne Fire District #4 present to discuss with the council the amount they budget for the contract with Downs Fire Department. Last year the contract was for \$16,500. Council held discussion and decided to keep the current contract amount. The City Attorney will work on drawing up a contract for 2026.

It was reported that the pool will be filled starting around the third week in May and opening day will be May 24.

Heather Hancock and Collin Jones went to the Osborne County Community Foundation meeting concerning the possibility of having a county-wide economic development position.

Heather moved, John C. seconded, to approve building permits 25-08 to 25-10. Motion carried with 4 ayes. Heather moved, John C seconded, to approve special use permit 25-49. Motion carried with 3 ayes; John B. abstained. John B. moved, John C. seconded, to approve large animal permits 01-04. Motion carried with 3 ayes; Collin abstained.

Janet Carl with Downs Community Connection was present as the group would like to add lighting to the mural on the old state building. She wanted council approval before moving forward with quotes, and

desire a great deal.

You may not have the sort of love which sends you willingly and sacrificially to that cross of Calvary, the cross which killed our loving Savior. But that death killed your sins as well, because He took those sins upon Himself and took them with Him to that cross. Having been baptized into Him and in His name, you are forever linked to His sin-killing death. A death that showed love: Perfect, limitless, deep and abiding love. It was John who quoted Jesus a short time later as saying, “Greater love has no man than this: that he gives up his life for his friends.”

You are now a member of that new Jerusalem, that heavenly kingdom God has prepared as your dwelling place forevermore. Just like the first heaven and earth will pass away, so has your former life passed away, and you are now freed from sin and death, and are enabled to love others through the love that God has shown to you in Christ... That’s love. And that’s what’s new. Amen.

(You will find a full video of Pastor Stenson’s sermon on our Facebook church page: Zion Lutheran Church.

This week at Zion and the Community:

Monday, May 20th: Zion helps with the Food Bank from 4:00-6:00pm.

Sunday, May 25th: Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.; Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

**Downs United Methodist Church**

On Sunday, May 18th, we were blessed by the musical talents of Maggie McKain as we praised the Lord by singing “The Gift of Love,” “Help Us Accept Each Other,” and “Blest Be the Tie That Binds.” Our Scripture lessons were from Revelation 21:1–6, and John 13:31–35. Pastor Stacy’s message was “The New Commandment.”

Pastor Stacy’s sermon centered on Jesus’s "new commandment" in John 13:31-35, which calls us to love one another as He has loved us. This sacrificial and unconditional love, referred to as agape love, represents a defining feature of true discipleship and serves as a visible reflection of

Jesus’s presence in the world. Agape love is not merely an emotional act but a deliberate choice and action that mirrors Christ's self-sacrificial love, which exemplifies grace, forgiveness, and unwavering dedication.

The sermon emphasized the transformative power of Jesus’s love, rooted in His glorification through His death, resurrection, and ascension. This love offers believers the strength to overcome challenges and divisions in a world often marked by strife. By living out this love, we are empowered to sow unity, grace, and kindness within our communities. Through such actions, believers can become witnesses to Jesus’s eternal hope and offer others the opportunity to experience the transformative power of His resurrection.

He also highlighted that this new commandment is not only a lofty ideal but a practical foundation for the Christian way of life. It challenges believers to examine their own expressions of love to ensure they reflect the selflessness and depth that Jesus demonstrated. In verse 35, Jesus declares that our love for one another will be the defining characteristic of our identity as His disciples, setting a standard for how we share the gospel and embody Christ’s nature.

His sermon concluded by inviting disciples of Jesus to prioritize love as a central element of their faith journey. This includes embracing the Holy Spirit's role in empowering believers to connect God's love to the world. Through acts of love rooted in the Spirit, believers can reveal Christ’s presence, even amid life’s challenges. Ultimately, Pastor Stacy encouraged the congregation to live out this commandment by extending Jesus’s grace, forgiveness, and love in deliberate, sacrificial ways, fostering a transformation in their own lives, their communities, and the world.

He then finished up with the following prayer: “Loving God, please help us to remember that the new commandment given to us by Jesus compels us to love

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Council asked the City Clerk to contact one of the companies who inspected the building to see if they would be willing to come to a town hall meeting.

City council tabled the Memorial Hall tuck point repairs as we are waiting on another bid.

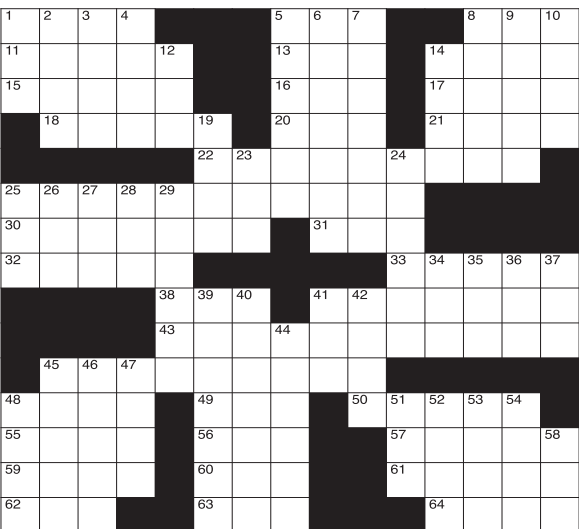
John B. moved, Heather seconded, to approve vouchers and payroll as presented. Motion carried with 4 ayes.

With no further business, Heather moved, Collin seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with 4 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. Minutes by City Clerk

each other in ways that reflect His sacrificial love. May His love shape our identity as His followers and may it transform our relationships with others. Ultimately, may we strive to love as Christ loved us so that we can become living beacons of His love and grace in a world that so des-

perately needs it! Amen.”

On Sunday, May 25, 2025, Pastor Stacy’s message will be “The Role of the Holy Spirit.” It will focus on how the Holy Spirit fulfills the roles of "Advocate," comforter, counselor, helper, and intercessor in our lives.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Herring-like fish

5. Perform on stage

8. Soda

11. Small growth

13. In support of

14. Step taken when walking

15. Hollyhocks

16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)

17. Feel pain

18. San Diego ballplayer

20. Inches per minute (abbr.)

21. Fat from a pig's abdomen

22. Create again

25. Honors once more

30. Thin coating of gold

31. Welsh river

32. Japanese novelist Mizumura
33. Husks of corn

38. Green vegetable

41. Showing guilt

43. Soldier

45. Photographers

48. Language spoken in Nigeria

49. Mimic

50. Expressed pleasure

55. Ancient Greek sophist

56. Beverage container

57. Night monkey genus

59. Lace bugs

60. Hogshhead (abbr.)

61. Frameworks

62. Keyboard key

63. Greek goddess of the dawn

64. Influential Korean independence figure

### CLUES DOWN

1. A place to unwind

2. Helped (archaic)

3. Razorbill genus

4. Bleached

5. Continent

6. Fruit preserved in syrup

7. Impediment to one's freedom

8. Nocturnal rodents

9. Earthy pigment

10. Relieved oneself

12. Golf score

14. Tech hub \_\_\_ Alto

19. Sportscaster Andrews

23. Records electric currents

24. Popular Hitchcock film

25. Revolutions per minute

26. NY Giants legend

27. Sports radio host Patrick

28. When you hope to get somewhere
29. French seaport

34. Thai river

35. Rocker's accessory

36. Extra charge

37. Influential American president

39. Pain in the head

40. Great Plains people

41. Consumed

42. Soluble ribonucleic acid

44. Improves

45. Secret clique

46. Behind the stern of a ship

47. Dough made from corn flour

48. Fallow deer

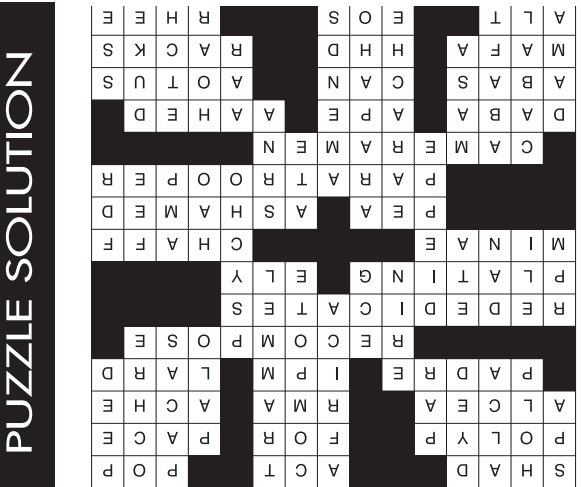
51. Swiss river

52. Grayish white

53. Engrave

54. College's Blue Devils

58. Midway between south and southeast



# SUDOKU

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ANSWER: