

Church Notes

Zion Lutheran Church
Greetings from the Zion Lutheran Church in Downs!
This Sunday's church attendance was 44 in church and 8 in adult Bible study.
Today's readings were as follows: Old Testament reading was from Genesis 18: 17-33, Epistle Reading from Colossians 2: 6-19, and the Holy Gospel reading from Luke 11: 1-13.
Children's Sermon: The

disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Who taught you to pray? I imagine lots of people. Your parents, teachers, brothers and sisters. They knew that teaching you to pray leads you to God and his love. We need to teach others to pray, to learn about God. We don't want the chain to be broken.
Sermon: Pastor Stenson's sermon topic was on

"On the Lord's Prayer" today. The Christian life, properly lived, is one of great adventure and challenge. It's marked by ongoing confrontations and temptations, because—let's face it: the world hates Christ, so the world hates Christians. It doesn't help that our own sinful flesh continually rebels against God, either. And if those obstacles aren't difficult

enough, then the great deceiver, Satan, stands at the ready. He's always hoping for one opportunity after another to encourage us and encourage the world around us to fight God's kingdom and God's will.

He blotted it out with His blood, and in that blood was His life exchanged for yours and mine. That Great Exchange satisfied God, it tempered and cooled the anger and the wrath and the destruction meant for you. In that, there is forgiveness, and we pray that in that forgiveness, our heavenly Father would look upon us as He has promised to do, seeing not our unworthiness, but Christ's righteousness.

That forgiveness will not always come easy. Sometimes it will go against your better judgment, knowing full well that others will take advantage of your goodwill, sin against you again in the future, and be ungrateful for your forgiveness. But don't worry... you'll be in good company. The forgiveness you've received didn't come easy, either.

Yet we ask God in this prayer to keep us from these things, not only to not lead us into temptation, but to lead us into righteousness and sanctification, according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He provides us the spiritual armor of which Paul wrote in Ephesians, to protect us from the devil's schemes—armor which comes from the factory of God's Word, working in our lives when we hear it with willing hearts. To be covered with this armor is to be

clothed in Christ, knowing that no temptation is stronger than His love and faithfulness to us.

(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, July 28th – Community Food Bank from 3:45-5:15 p.m.

Saturday, August 2nd – Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet at the Methodist Church at 7 a.m.

Sunday, August 2nd – Communion Worship service at 9 a.m.; Bible study at 10 a.m.

Downs United Methodist Church

On Sunday, July 27th, we were blessed by the musical talents of Kathy McCrary as we praised the Lord by singing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and "Take My Life, and Let It Be." Our Scripture lessons were from Colossians 2:6-19 and Luke 11:1-13. Pastor Stacy's message was titled "Rooted in Christ."

This week's sermon, "Rooted in Christ," offered a thoughtful exploration of faith inspired by Paul's message in Colossians 2:6-19. Pastor Stacy encouraged the congregation to build their lives on a strong spiritual foundation, rooted deeply in the teachings and love of Jesus Christ. The sermon emphasized that, especially amid life's uncertainties and changing circumstances, having faith as our anchor helps us nav-

igate challenges with hope and resilience.

Drawing from the evocative lyrics of the song "Temporary Home" by Carrie Underwood, Pastor Stacy illustrated how different people—whether a newcomer adjusting to a new home, a single mother striving for a better life, or an elderly patient surrounded by loved ones—face transitions and hardships that remind us this world is not our final destination. The refrain, "This is our temporary home," became a powerful motif, serving as a reminder that, while our situations may feel overwhelming, they are fleeting compared to the eternal hope found in Christ.

Although the song does not explicitly mention Jesus, its message of finding identity and strength in faith resonated throughout the service. Pastor Stacy shared how the individuals in the song found a sense of peace and purpose by grounding themselves in something greater than their immediate circumstances. The sermon went on to encourage everyone to seek their foundation in Christ, highlighting that through faith and the support of one another, we can weather any storm.

Next Sunday, August 3, 2025, Pastor Stacy will present the message "Whatever You Do..." It will focus on how Paul teaches that living with a heavenly perspective means focusing on what is above rather than earthly distractions. Additionally, our personal

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115 Years Ago
July 28, 1910
Tom Armstrong and Nate Wells were coming down the street in opposite directions last Thursday, the former riding a bicycle and the latter on a motorcycle. They tried to dodge one another, but didn't manage it very well and the result was collision in which the latter when ridden by Mr. Armstrong suffered a bursted tire. The bursted tire made a report like the crack of a rifle. Neither was hurt.

The thirty-first annual celebration of the birth of this good old town started off on schedule time Tuesday morning. For the past week every train has brought crowds of people until Monday night the streets looked as though the celebration was already on in full blast. The weather this week is the hottest for many years at celebration time, but even the fierce heat does not seem to be interfering with the attendance which is fully up to the average.

Sealed bids for the grading of Poppen Hill, seven and half miles north of Downs, according to the specifications and profile, will be received by said committee up to 12 o'clock noon, Aug. 2, 1910. Specifications and profile may be found with Ralph Rhoades, Sec., Downs, Kans., and A. W. Green, Route 1, Downs, Kans.

60 Years Ago
August 5, 1965
Leone Guihard, a teacher of history and geography from Sevres, France, was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson last weekend.

Airman Eddie Hefley caught a 20-pound king salmon on the Naken River in Alaska. Eddie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hefley, is stationed at the King Salmon Air Base there.

Gloria Bartholomew of Alton, International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) delegate to Japan from June to December, inspects rice stored in large baskets made of strong grass. Learning about the production of food

is one of the parts of the IFYE assignment. Gloria is writing of her experiences and her letters will be published in this newspaper from time to time.

Outdoor dancing is on the program for the Osborne County Fair this year, as a new outdoor platform is under construction at the fairgrounds.

50 Years Ago
July 31, 1975

The junior and senior high drill teams were kept busy during the Celebration and took part in the following events: serving at the banquet on Friday afternoon; performing two routines (A pom-pom and 50s routine) at the Miss Solomon Valley pageant; marching in the parade Saturday; and many other events. The girls involved are Sheila Cole, Diane Bortz, Kathy Sullivan, Denise and Jeanne Reinert, Janelle Schneider, Terry and Bobbi Dooley, Chris Lenhart, Lori Sharp, Gayle McComb, Cheryl Berkley, Janet DeBey, Susan Weeks, Linda Long, Donna Miller, Lori Gustafson, June Folkner, Suzanne Kiper, and Debbie Hammerl.

Dr. Ralph N. Garner has practiced his chiropractic profession for 50 years and still has his offices in Downs west of the State Bank of Downs. He began his profession in Guthrie, Okla., practiced in Morland and Hill City, then in Osborne for 37 years. He and Mrs. Garner moved to Downs in 1966 where his practice continues. Dr. Garner has been active in civic community affairs, the Methodist Church, Rotary Club, and is a golf enthusiast.

The North Central Kansas Slo-Pitch Softball League will hold its season-ending tournament on the local field next week. League teams entered are: Lucas, Glen Elder, Cawker City, Osborne Roskilly and Anderson, Lebanon, Osborne Watkins, Downs, and Dispatch.

40 Years Ago
August 1, 1985
Miss Solomon Valley

1985, Deborah Ann Benoit, with the other scholarship winners of the pageant Friday night: Christine Stejskal, second runnerup; Jan Devlin, first runnerup; Shay Blanding, third runnerup; and Brenda Sweat, fourth runnerup.

Little Miss and Mr. Solomon Valley, were crowned at the baby contest Saturday. First place winner in the girls division was Jaime Vanessa Huiting, daughter of Jim Huiting and Pam Dose of Downs. Little Mr. and Solomon Valley was Seth Jade Nonamaker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Nonamaker of Osborne.

Carolyn Kirgis, who was crowned Miss Kansas 1985 at Pratt recently, made her first public appearance since being crowned here Friday night. She was crowned Miss Solomon Valley here in 1979, then went on the win other pageants. She was escorted by Terry Steinshouer.

The 39th annual Osborne County Fair starts this Saturday and runs through Aug. 8. These are six days of special events planned, in addition to the exhibits by the 4-Hers and open class.

20 Years Ago
July 28, 2005


Members of Heartland SERVE enjoyed a Ranch Rodeo on the white way, Downs, last Monday night after a long hot day of missionary work.

Rose Valley United Methodist Church is again planning their fish fry for the public Aug. 4 at the church northwest of Downs. This year's concert will be by Anita Hancock, formerly of Downs and Cawker City.

Nina Goheen, poses with her daughter Juanita Huiting; and family, Brian Huiting, Nancy Wilfahrt, Jim Huiting, Jared Wilfahrt, Stan Huiting, and Lexis Huiting.

The state's ethanol promotion vehicle, a Chevy Tahoe that runs on a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline, will be at the Osborne County Fair Aug. 1.

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