Church Notes

Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday Aug. 3 church attendance was 37 in church, 8 in adult Bible study.

Children's Sermon: 3

Sermon: Pastor Stenson's sermon topic was on "Richness Toward God" today. Instead, Solomon writes, we should be thankful for the blessings God provides to us which sustain us and challenge us: Our daily bread, and the work He would have us do. We are told that those who reject the righteousness God provides will struggle and strive to gather things of this world, only to have them taken away in death. True riches, however—wisdom, and knowledge, and joy are given by God to those who please Him. But how to do that, one wonders?

St. Paul, writing to the Colossian church, echoes Solomon's words. Focus on things above, Paul tells us, not on earthly things. Christ is your riches; His glory is your eternal prize. All those things of the flesh, things that money can buy to give you worldly satisfaction, are simply a form of idolatry.

But God gave, and gives, and gives still more, until He's given you everything. All of it revolving around the most important giving of all: The giving of His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, and what He gave, will not perish like the things of this earth, but will receive the gift of eternal life. And that's quite the treasure, isn't it?

Dispatch Christian Reformed Church

After a stint away for family reasons, I am happy to return to writing the Dispatch Weekly Summary of our church service and events.

Dispatch supports the Knights Club and is thankful for community members who lead and guide this youth organization.

Please pray for Maria Hebert as she leaves on Thursday for her trip to Africa, where she will serve through medical care and ministry.

Weekly Scriptures: Revelation 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Psalm 25:6-7; Romans 5:1-2; 1:17; Matthew 28:16-20

Pastor Will finished up the Glorify section of our Purpose Series a few weeks ago, and we had three weeks of guest speakers, including the return of Pastor Tom Dykman for a couple of Sundays.

This week, Pastor Will continues the Purpose Series by moving onto the last section: Disciple.

Our scripture today is called 'The Great Commission' and many people consider this the purpose or job of the pastors, elders, and other 'called' leaders in our churches. Being given a 'commission' is to be given a task, to have a function or a purpose, and this Great Commission was given to every believer. This is not just something for others... EVERYONE IS CALLED TO DISCIPLE.

Maybe your version of discipling looks different then the person next to you, but it is the job of every believer to disciple. And we don't do the best job at completing this task. Most of the time, we don't even see the results of all our efforts, which makes wanting to disciple even more challenging, because we as humans want that affirmation that we are doing it 'right.'

But discipling is not an option. It is a command given to us by our God and Savior. The last instructions Jesus gave were to disciple, baptize, and teach. He gave us His authority to complete this task; we should not fear completing it. Jesus will never leave or forsake us, so as we go out to make disciples, He goes with us with all His authority.

It is important to note that the disciples who were with Jesus as he ascended received this commission without squabbling, questioning, or asking for more

details; they accepted the directive and went.

So, who are YOU going to disciple this week?

Weekly Songs: "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

"Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer"

"When We Walk with the Lord"

"Be Still, for the Pres-

"Behold the Lamb" August Usher: Ethan Schlatter

Next Week: Greeters west - Dennis & Mary Rotman; east - David Herredsberg Family; Nursery - Lynn Koops; Coffee Dennis & Mary Rotman; Children's Message Mike Nyhoff

Services can be viewed on Facebook or our website dispatchere.org.

Downs United Methodist Church

On Sunday, August 10th, we were blessed by the musical talents of Kathy McCrary as we praised the Lord singing "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," "Faith of Our Fathers," and "Take Time to Be Holy." Our Scripture lessons were from Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 and Luke 12:32-40. Pastor Stacy's message was titled "Faith and Meaning."

This week's sermon explored the enduring message of Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, focusing on the meaning and power of faith as portrayed in Scripture. Pastor Stacy reminded the congregation that Hebrews serves as a bridge connecting the stories of the Old Testament with the New Covenant re-

alized in Jesus Christ. The passage calls us to examine the foundations of our faith and consider what it means to trust in God's promises, especially when the road ahead appears uncertain.

Drawing from the lives of Abraham and other heroes of faith, the sermon emphasized that biblical faith is not merely an intellectual agreement, but a dynamic trust that motivates action and perseverance. Abraham, for instance, stepped into the unknown, leaving his homeland solely because he believed in God's word. Despite encountering numerous challenges, his faith gave his journey profound meaning and purpose. In their willingness to confess themselves as "strangers and foreigners on earth," Abraham and the other faithful demonstrated a hope beyond immediate circumstances, empowered to endure and look forward with expecta-

tion. The message highlighted the opening verses of Hebrews 11: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." This assurance gives believers resilience during times of confusion or when understanding is limited. Faith acts as a link to God's love and promises, enabling us to move forward even when we cannot see the full picture.

Ultimately, Hebrews 11 challenges us to go beyond superficial knowledge and embrace a faith that shapes our lives, priorities, and

sense of destiny. Like Abraham and those who "desired a better country, that is, a heavenly one,' we too are invited to live with conviction, finding true meaning not in what the world offers but in the steadfast promises of God. The sermon concluded with an encouragement to embrace the adventure of faith, trusting God to guide and provide a lasting home

through Jesus Christ. Pastor Stacy concluded the message with this prayer: "Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of faith, which allows us to see beyond the visible and grasp the eternal. Strengthen our hearts, Lord, that we may walk confidently in your promises, even when the path is unclear. Please help us to find our true meaning through lives that are lived for you, trusting that you indeed offer love and mercy to those who seek you. May your Holy Spirit •See Church, Page 6

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ORDINANCE NO. 1019 SUMMARY

AN ORDINANCE INCORPORATING THE UNIFORM PUBLIC OFFENSE CODE BY REFERENCE.

(Published in the *Downs News & Times* August 14, 2025)

On August 4, 2025, the City of Downs, Kansas adopted Ordinance No 1019 incorporating by reference the "Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas Cities," edition of 2025, with certain omissions, changes and additions specifically allowing the discharge of a firearm in the slaughter of an animal in a USDA regulated facility: prescribing additional regulations; providing certain penalties and repealing ordinance numbered 1017. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at city hall at 715 Railroad Avenue, Downs, Kansas. This summary certified by Bruce Berkley, City Attorney.

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ORDINANCE NO. 1020 SUMMARY

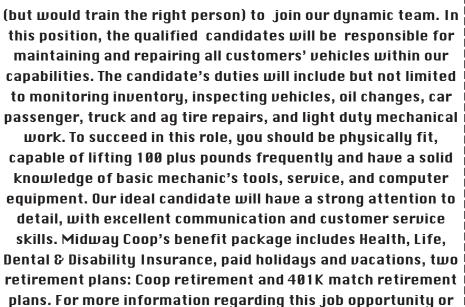
AN ORDINANCE INCORPORATING THE STANDARD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE BY REFERENCE.

(Published in the *Downs News & Times* August 14, 2025)

On August 4, 2025, the City of Downs, Kansas adopted Ordinance No 1020 incorporating by reference the "Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities," Edition of 2025, with certain omissions, changes and additions specifically allowing the operation of special use vehicles: prescribing additional regulations; providing certain penalties and repealing ordinance numbered 1018. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at city hall at 715 Railroad Avenue, Downs, Kansas. This summary certified by Bruce Berkley, City Attorney.

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ORDINANCE NO. 1021 SUMMARY

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO WATER S ERVICE AND SEWER SERVICE OF THE CITY OF DOWNS, KANSAS AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN **CONFLICT THEREOF**

(Published in the *Downs News & Times* August 14, 2025)

On August 4, 2025, the City of Downs, Kansas adopted Ordinance No. 1021 increasing minimum water service rates by 50 cents and minimum sewer service rates by 50 cents effective for the month of January 1, 2026. A complete copy of this ordinance is available at WWW.DownsKS.net or at city hall at 715 Railroad Avenue, Downs, Kansas. This summary is certified by Bruce Berkley, City Attorney.

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