

"Growing God's People"

A Monthly Newsletter of

St. Paul Lutheran Church - Havre, MT & Zion Lutheran Church - Chinook, MT

July 2025



The world has constructed a false image of Jesus. Many people think of Jesus as meek and mild. They believe that He is so gentle, so loving that He would never be involved in a fight. They think He would never scold anyone or even correct anyone. This gentle Jesus winks at sin. The Scripture belies this image. Instead, Jesus is portrayed as a dread warrior who rages against His enemies and protects His people. That is the confession of the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah, "But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore, my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten..." Jeremiah 20:11 (Emphasis added) Jeremiah was given a difficult Word to prophesy. He had to tell the people of Israel that, due to their unfaithfulness, they would be sent to captivity in Babylon. As a result, he was beaten and publicly humiliated by being put into stocks. When he was released, he wrote the lament that is included in chapter 20. He begins by complaining about the persecution. But the Holy Spirit of God is at work to turn the complaint into praise and confession that God is on His side fighting for him. Our persecution is probably a lot more subtle than that of Jeremiah. You probably haven't been beaten or put into stocks. Nonetheless, we do suffer for the faith. Perhaps, as a result of our faith, we don't get what we, from a worldly perspective, deserve. We may suffer the odd look, the cool glance, the

harsh word. The world does take note of the fact that we belong to Jesus. It does not like our message that there is only one way of salvation through faith in Jesus. We do suffer persecution. So, we whine and complain. Like Jeremiah we complain that we do not see God's Word coming to fruition. We are upset that we do not see the victory over our persecutors. Consequently, we forget that God is the warrior who fights on our side, and we take up arms of our own making. We seek our own victory. Worse we may give up the faith because we think we have to do our own fighting. Then comes Jesus. The meek, mild image of Jesus is not entirely accurate. In fact, the entire life of Jesus can be seen as one continuous war against the enemies of God. We see Jesus as a dread warrior battling sickness and disease. We see Him as a dread warrior when He battles the evil people who opposed. We see a mighty warrior stand against Satan. He wrestles with death and overcomes it with a Word. In the same way He is always fighting for us. The goal of the war all comes into focus on the cross. There Jesus fought no external enemy, but one that He had taken into Himself, our sin. For three days it looked like the battle...and the war were lost. But things are not always as they seem. Jesus rises in victory over all our enemies. The war is won. Our salvation is secure. You live in the victory your warrior has won. I am not suggesting that Christians are lazy or fatalistic. We don't sit back and wait to see what will happen. Christians act,

based on God's Word. However, we trust not in our actions, but the actions of the dread warrior who fights for us. A milquetoast Jesus can save no one. He can only stand idly by while people rush into hell, by their own hand, through the force of unrepentant sin. But you, dear people of God, you have a dread warrior on your side. Jesus has defeated all your enemies and continues to battle, even now, to bring you to Himself in heaven.

Rev. Terry Forke - Vacancy Pastor
MT Reflections July 2017

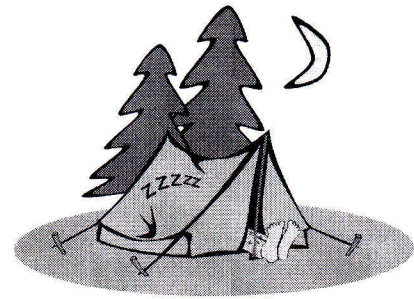
MONTHLY RESPONSIBILITIES

Elder Duty for July 2025
Dave Anderson

St. Paul Fellowship Hour for July 2025
Quilting Group

Zion Church Cleaning for July 2025
Lynette Nussbaum

St. Paul Church Cleaning for July 2025
Tom and Betty Rae Mowen
Fred Erickson



****Save the Date****
Annual Church Campout

Fireman's Campground
Bear Paw Mountains
August 15th through 17th, 2025

ZION SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING

June 1, 2025

Acting President Harold Miller called the meeting to order. He noted that this meeting has been called to elect 2 positions (Vice President and Elder).

Don Wilkins read the minutes of the Elders' Meeting held on April 24, 2025, which was their last meeting prior to Lee Miller's passing. The minutes noted sermon coverage on Sundays in May and June when Pastor Forke is not at Zion as well as Lee's indication that he plans to step down as Elder due to health issues and his recommendation that Dave Wilson be his replacement.

Discussion held regarding if an acting President should be voted in as the President. The consensus of those in attendance was that it would be best to vote. It was moved, seconded, and approved that Harold Miller will serve as President until the end of the current term.




Harold asked for nominations for Vice-President as this position is now vacant as Harold is now President. Sharmon Moxley nominated Eric Miller. Don Wilkins nominated Justin Elliot. Both nominations were seconded. Following vote by paper ballot, Justin was elected as Vice-President through the end of the current term.

As Justin has been elected as Vice-President, there is a trustee position open, Arlys Williams suggested

2025

JULY

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00 PM- @ St. Paul LCMS Mission Presentation by Ted Krey (Missionary in the Dominican Republic)	3 9:00 AM-Threads of Love Quilting Group	4 Independence Day 	5 6:30 pm – Bible Study w/ Pastor Terry Forke
6 Holy Communion	7	8	9	10 9:00 AM-Threads of Love Quilting Group ? 7:00 PM- St. Paul Elders Meeting (TBA)	11	12
13	14	15 6:30 pm – Zion Voters Meeting	16 	17 9:00 AM-Threads of Love Quilting Group	18	19 6:30 pm – Bible Study w/ Pastor Terry Forke
20 Holy Communion	21 <u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u>	22	23	24 9:00 AM-Threads of Love Quilting Group	25	26 
27 Mite Box Sunday Food Bank Sunday	28	29	30	31 9:00 AM-Threads of Love Quilting Group	St. Paul's Summer <u>Sunday Schedule:</u> 11:00 AM – Worship Zion's Summer <u>Sunday Schedule:</u> 9:00 AM – Worship	St. Paul <u>Elder of the Month</u> Dave Anderson St. Paul <u>Fellowship Hour</u> Quilting Group