



# The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI FEBRUARY 2021

Sometimes, the hardest part of writing a newsletter cover is figuring out how to start. What message do I want to convey this month? How best to get that message across? Do I beat around the bush and then reveal my chosen topic at the end? Or do I jump right in? Usually once I get words flowing on paper the thought process kicks in. As I started this one, I began to realize how that reminds me of the apostle Paul and the challenge he faced as he shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people of so many different backgrounds around the world. To those of the Jewish faith he looked to the law and the prophets, to the gentiles he spoke of the world and creation and of the God that in their hearts they knew existed, but yet, they never understood. Much like Paul speaking at the Areopagus as he let the learned Greeks know who the unknown God they were worshiping was; the God, the God of Creation, the God that had created all things and all of them. As I contemplated these things, I realized that in our world today our challenge isn't that different from Paul's. We have the same mission as Paul, the mission given to us by Christ himself in the last chapter of Matthew; ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"*** (Matt 28:19). If you have a red-letter Bible you will see these are the words of Jesus, it is not a suggestion, he's not saying maybe you should consider this, it is a command! As Christians, because of what our Lord and Savior did for us, our charge is to share that message with the world. If you have been following my readings in Acts you will see that the Apostles were doing that very thing. And guess what? Not everyone who heard that message welcomed it. So, it shouldn't surprise us when not everyone one in our world welcomes it. I might even go so far to say that some parts of our world welcome it even less today. Heck, I might even go so far as to say that people in this country welcome it less. To hear and welcome the message that we deliver, people have to give up something of themselves. They have to give up the idea that they are the most important thing in their lives. They have to admit that they are sinful by nature and are in need of forgiveness. They have to give up the idea that they determine what is right and wrong. They have to admit that there is something, someone, out there who is bigger than they are. God. They also must come to an understanding that while they do indeed have to give things up, the things that they will receive far exceed any and all of the earthly things they have clung to. Now I

the idea that they determine what is right and wrong. They have to admit that there is something, someone, out there who is bigger than they are. God. They also must come to an understanding that while they do indeed have to give things up, the things that they will receive far exceed any and all of the earthly things they have clung to. Now I will be the first to admit our task of sharing the message of salvation is not an easy one, if you don't believe me, ask Paul, or any other of the countless martyrs who have perished sharing that word. But that doesn't mean we stop trying, or even that we get to slow down. Now more than ever sharing the word is more important. Everyday is a day closer to Christ's return and the final judgement. We must share the Gospel message. Now you might ask what can I do? I don't know my scripture as well as I should, I feel uncomfortable talking to people, I am scared. First and foremost, you need not be scared! As one of my favorite Christian song says, "The God of angel Armies is on my side", or as Paul says "If God is for us, who can be against us". Christ himself tells the apostles and us, that when the time comes, do not be worried about what to say, for the Holy Spirit will speak for you and through you (paraphrase). Besides, we don't all have to all preach scripture, we don't all have to stand on a soapbox and spread the word. We can share God's word simply by the way we live our lives. How we reflect God's love in our everyday words and actions. So, stand tall, know that the Lord stands with you and share His love with those around you. Believe me, you all know that his world and this country need all of His love that they can get. So be like Paul, share the message in the best way that you can and then when all is said and done you too can say; *"<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."*

I pray that God watches over each and every one of you and that you are all safe and well. I pray that soon we can all worship again in His presence in His Church. In the meantime, if you can't make it to church please watch online, and share His message of salvation with everyone you know. I thank you for all of your support and stewardship and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

God Bless! Pastor Rick



Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed  
Wednesday Evening Service - live streamed 6:30pm  
(a more in-depth look at Sunday's service)  
Sunday School - 3yrs.—5th grade At-home lessons  
Bible Studies—currently cancelled.

**Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479**

**Office Hours: M/T/TH 8:30-4:30 W 12-8 F Off**

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

**Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M-W 8:30-2:30**

Days and times may change upon need of work.

**Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488**

**Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185**

**LFOJ Administrator: Karyn Leino 715-682-6075**

**Website** [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org) **E-mail** [secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com) **Facebook**

**PRAYERS for Home-  
bound, Assisted Living,  
Nursing Home**

Those who aren't able  
to attend common wor-  
ship that they would  
find comfort knowing  
that the Lord is with  
them.

*Walt Schutte  
Arlene Zimmerman  
Violet Basina  
Madge Houle  
Nancy Zehe*

**PRAYERS FOR PRO-  
TECTION**

For our full-time  
troops and public serv-  
ants, for travel, mis-  
sionaries, and for peace  
and protection for  
families.

*David Wright  
Emily Melecha  
Tucker Melecha  
Jordan Thimm  
Andrew Pruss*



**PRAYERS FOR  
HEALTH AND HEALING**

For good test results, treatment,  
positive thinking, healing, and com-  
fort during cancer treatments, for  
those suffering from addiction,  
mental illness and for healing,  
strength, comfort, and peace for  
family we pray for:

*Bob Heggie Alice Balmer  
Brad Prill Mary Siefers  
Angie Guski Penny Larson  
Francis Balmer David Gustafson  
LeAnn Billing Jim & Teena  
Vi Basina Bill Young  
Andrea Gunderson  
James Fletcher Dave Pearson  
Colton Ledin Linda Coppland  
MaryAnn  
and those in our hearts*





# Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

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## Living in the Spirit Is God's Choice for Me

### In the Word

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last."* John 15:16a

### Of the Word

Life is filled with choices — what car to drive, what clothes to buy, which TV channels to watch, which foods to eat. Sometimes the choices bring satisfaction, and sometimes they bring great disappointment.

In and of ourselves, there is one choice we cannot make. We cannot choose God. Instead, Jesus assures us, *I chose you* ... It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to hear God's call.

And what is our response? We know how to handle life's other choices: we drive the car, we wear the clothes, we laugh and learn from TV, we get nourishment from foods. Our response to God's choice is to follow His direction, ... *go and bear fruit* ...

The fruit may be as simple as smiling at the harried supermarket clerk or helping the toddler get his shoes on the right feet. It may be as difficult as "parenting" an aged parent or working in a special church or community ministry. These are fruits that will last because they are responses to God's gifts to us.

### Walking with my Lord

Dear Lord, thank You for choosing me. I know that I could never have chosen You on my own. Thank You for the gifts You have given to me. Help me to use them to bear lasting fruit for You. In Jesus' name.  
Amen.

## Are you giving up already?

A little five-year-old girl was watching her mother in fascination as she was rubbing cold cream on her face. She said, "Mother, why are you doing that?" The mother replied, "To make myself beautiful." Well, to the little girl's amazement, in just a minute the mother took a tissue and began removing the cream she had just put on. The girl said, "What's the matter, giving up already?"

Are you giving up already? No more distancing?. No more exercising? Whatever it is, maybe this is just the time not to give up. You'll be the better because of it.



## Parable of A Kitten

A minister had just brought home a kitten for his family when it climbed up a tree in his yard and was afraid to come down. The tree was small and not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided to throw a rope over the upper branches, tie it to his car bumper and carefully bend the tree down so he could then reach up and grab the kitten. Well, it was working until he drove a bit too far, and the rope broke. The tree went **"boing"** and the kitten shot through the air like a slingshot clear across the block. The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood trying to find the kitten but couldn't, so he finally prayed, "Lord, I commit that cat to Your care."

A few days later he was at the grocery store and met one of his members. "Pastor," she said, "the strangest thing happened. My little girl has been begging me for a cat, but I kept saying no. She begged and begged and one day she asked me that if God gave her a cat, could she keep it? I said, 'yes' to that, thinking I was safe. Then I watched her go out in the backyard, get down on her knees to pray, and pastor, a kitten came flying out of the sky and landed right in front of her! Only thing is, whenever the kitten sees a tree, it runs and hides."

## A TRIBUTE TO BONNIE FRISKE

We, The Sewing Circle would to make a tribute in memory of Bonnie Friske who lead our Sewing Circle for many years.

She was a very dedicated servant that served her Lord with the talents she processed. She sewed many quilts at home

and brought them to the Sewers and also would cut fabric to size and match the materials to make it very easy and simple for us to assemble. Each year that Bonnie was in our Sewing Circle we were able to sent off over 100 quilts and

one year 206 quilts for the third world countries. Also quilts were done for fire and disaster victims. These were all done in the name of Zion Lutheran Church as a mission project. Also, we have received a very warm thank-you from the Friske



## Riddle Me This



What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?  
What do you find at the end of the line?  
What kind of room has no doors or windows?  
How can a man go seven days without sleep?  
What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?  
What fruit is always sad?  
What is it that has a bottom at the top of them?  
What gets sharper the more you use it?  
What can make an octopus laugh?  
What did the beach say when the tide came in?  
What's black and white and read all over?  
What has 13 hearts, but no other organs?  
What has a head and a tail, but no body?  
What is so delicate that saying its name breaks it?  
What has to be broken before you can use it?  
What has 13 hearts, but no other organs?  
What is the sweetest and most romantic fruit?  
What kind of food do mummies like to eat?  
Why is 6 afraid of 7?  
What can you hear but not touch or see?  
What is full of holes but still holds water?  
Which weighs more, a pound of feathers or pound of bricks?  
What did English say to Algebra when they were arguing?  
During which month do people sleep the least?

### The Language of Love!

Years ago Rev. H. B. London, Jr. wrote the following article in *The Pastor's Weekly Briefly*.

I know many of you will not celebrate Valentine's Day as such, but the day does bring into focus the importance of those we love and who love us. I'm not real big on valentines, but I am a huge fan of my wife, Beverly, and I want her to know it. But sometimes there is a language barrier. Do you know what I mean? Consider the following (just having some fun) - when your wife says:

**"FINE"** - This is a word women use to end an argument when they are right, and you should not say anything more.

**"NOTHING"** - This is the calm before the storm. This means "something" and you should be on your toes. Discussions that begin with "nothing" usually end in "fine."

**"WE NEED TO TALK"** - What that means is that as a husband you probably will not be saying anything for a long time.

**"OH, GO AHEAD"** - This one is tricky. It may be a dare, not really permission.

**"JUST 5 MINUTES MORE"** - If she's getting dressed, this could mean "I'll be down in 30 minutes."

**"THANKS"** - If you are thanked, do not question or faint. Just say, "You're welcome."

Hey, colleague, make a big deal out of the 14th. Express your love genuinely. "Husbands, love your wives" (Col. 3:19).









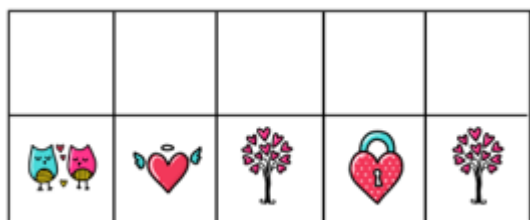
### A witty saying

The devil whispered in my ear, "You're not strong enough to withstand the storm."

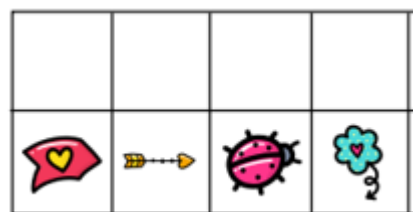
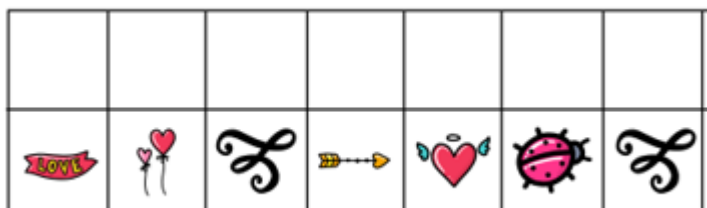
Today I whispered in the devil's ear, "I am a child of God, a warrior of Christ, I am the storm."

## Can You Crack This Valentine's Code?

1.

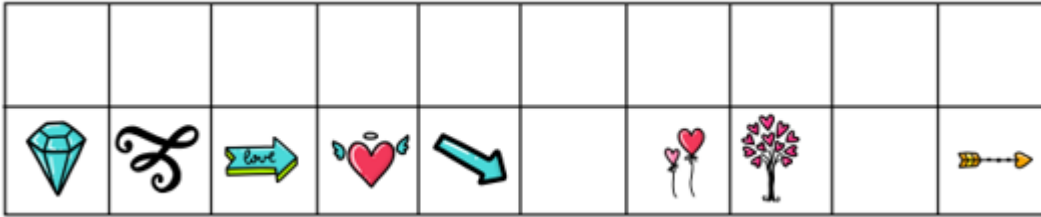
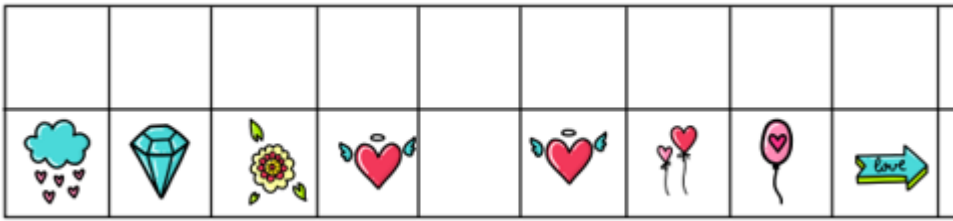


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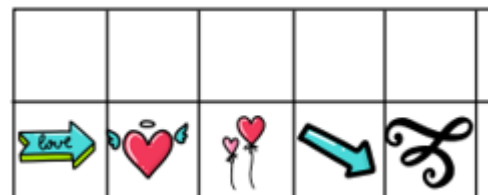
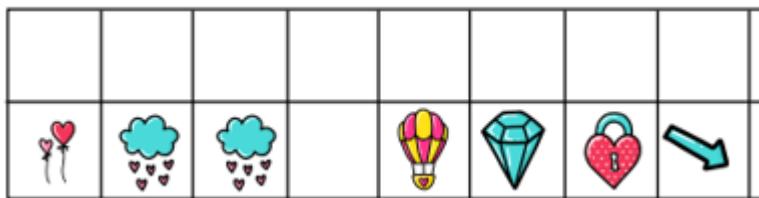
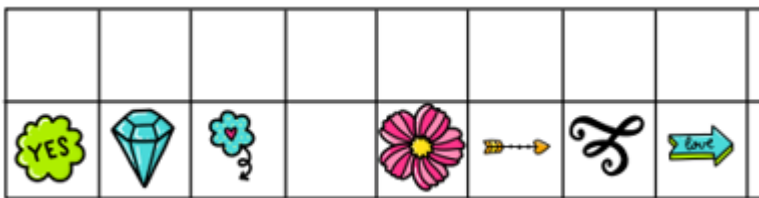
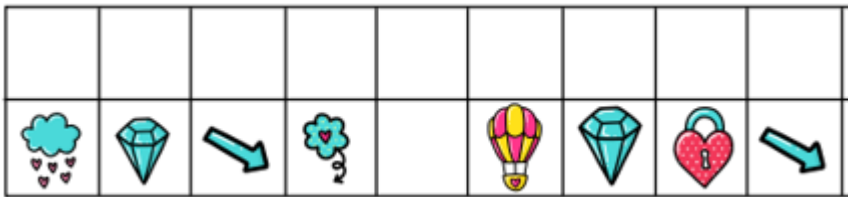




3.



4.



Hints only if you need it: 1 Corinthians 13:4a

John 15:12

Deuteronomy 6:5a

# Valentine's Day



# Word Search



K S Q S J I V R T D S R Q G K  
R Q Q T D M A B X U F N Q J J  
K G D A S N L Y E U S F S N S  
S V E E M B E R I G C E V O L  
Q W Q R Q Q N I A W R A O C G  
T Z E T G R T Z R E Y I N Q T  
D Q I E E O I K Z F D R E D J  
H O B N T P N W N O E F T G Y  
X U T H C H E H V X E A L A T  
N A G B P R E E Y B M T C B H  
F O M G T U S A R L R K U T Q  
I M T M Q S K U R A U N P E H  
C A R D S K A A E T W I I G U  
M C D I R R M H H X E P D P N  
W Q K L Y S R E W O L F J O J

CANDY  
CARDS  
CUPID  
DEAR  
DOVES  
FEBRUARY  
FLOWERS  
FRIENDS  
HEART

TREATS  
VALENTINE  
SWEETHEART  
RED  
LOVE  
KISS  
PINK  
HUG



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Words

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# My Love Letter To God

Dear God,

I am thankful for your love because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

I love you because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Your love makes me \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Because you love me I will \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Yours truly,

\_\_\_\_\_  
/ /



Name:

## ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash

Wednesday

Sacrifice

Almsgiving

Prayer

Fasting

Lent

Holy Week

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter

Palm Sunday

Purple

Palm Branch

Forty Days

Jesus

Passover

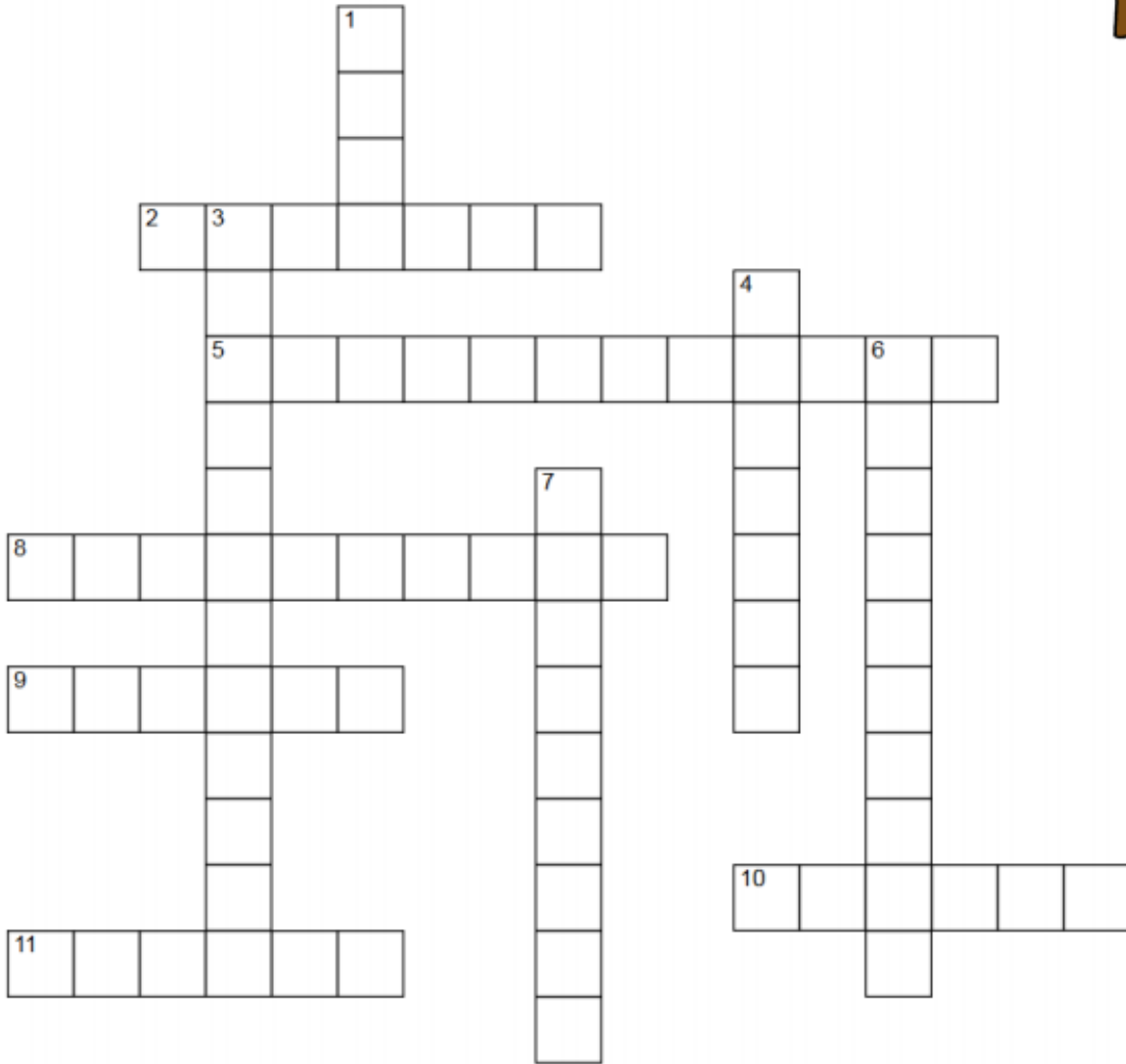
Foot Washing

Resurrection

Love



# Lenten Crossword



## ACROSS

- 2 Restricting the food that we eat
- 5 The last day of Lent
- 8 The day Jesus was crucified
- 9 On Ash Wednesday when you get your ashes: " \_\_\_\_\_ and know the Gospel"
- 10 Mini-feast days or days you do not have to fast or sacrifice during Lent
- 11 Talking to God or the saints

## DOWN

- 1 The 40 Day period of preparation before Easter
- 3 The first day of Lent
- 4 One day a week during Lent when we fast and pray extra
- 6 Giving of ourselves, money, time, or materials for those less fortunate
- 7 Offering/ giving up something 'good' on earth to focus on our relationship with God

- A towel
- The letter E
- A mushroom
- He only sleeps at night.
- A palm
- Blueberry
- Your legs
- Your brain
- Ten tickles (tentacles)
- Long time, no sea
- A newspaper
- A deck of playing cards
- A coin
- Silence
- An egg
- A deck of playing cards
- Honeydew
- Wraps
- Because 7 8 9
- Your voice
- A sponge
- Neither, they both weigh one pound
- Don't change the subject.
- February (There are fewer nights in February.)



Clothe yourselves with

**compassion,  
kindness,  
humility,  
gentleness**  
and **patience.**

COLOSSIANS 3:12

# PRAYER FOR LENT

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**LORD AND SAVIOR**, as we undertake this Lenten journey, we seek to know your merciful love in all that you have done for us. May we face our sins squarely, assured that you know and love us as we are. May we always be confident that your mercy is far more powerful than our miserable sins and that you draw all people to yourself. Help us to turn to you in sorrow and to praise you in joy, knowing that you hold all things in your hand. **AMEN.**

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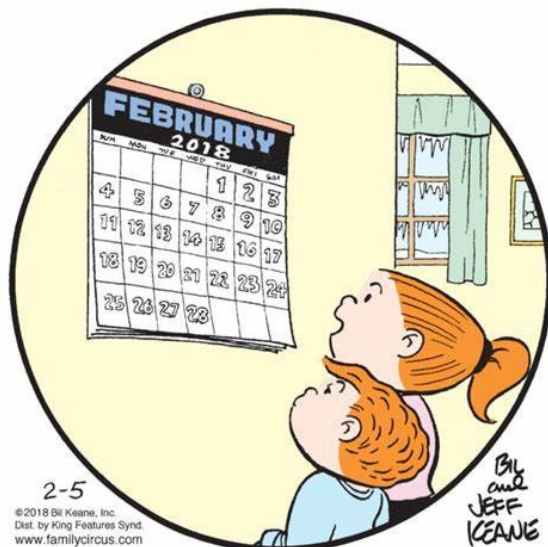
**SPOT THE DIFFERENCES - 10**



# February

# 2021

| SUN  | MON            | TUES   | WED  | THURS   | FRI       | SAT       |
|--|----------------|--|--|---|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Elders:</b> Feb. 7 <sup>th</sup> Scott<br>Wed. Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup> Darryl |                | Feb. 14 <sup>th</sup> Randy<br>Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup> Randy | Wed. Feb. 17 <sup>th</sup> Doug<br>Wed. Mar. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Scott | Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup> Andy<br>Mar. 7 <sup>th</sup> John |           |           |
|  | <b>1</b>       | <b>2</b><br>LFOJ<br>Chapel<br>11:00pm                      | <b>3</b><br>6:30pm<br>Prayer Service                               | <b>4</b><br>3:30-5:00pm<br>confirmation                 | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>7</b> 9:00am<br>Service<br>2pm LGP<br><b>Drive-up<br/>Communion</b>         | <b>8</b>       | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b><br>6:30pm<br>Prayer Service                              | <b>11</b><br>3:30-5:00pm<br>confirmation                | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> |
| <b>14</b><br>9:00am<br>Service   | <b>15</b>      | <b>16</b>  | <b>17 *</b><br><b>Ash<br/>Wednesday</b><br>6:30pm                  | <b>18</b><br>3:30-5:00pm<br>confirmation                | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> |
| <b>21</b> 9:00am<br>Service<br>2pm LGP<br><b>Drive-up<br/>Communion</b>        | <b>22</b>      | <b>23</b>  | <b>24*</b><br><b>Lent<br/>Service</b><br>6:30pm                    | <b>25</b><br>3:30-5:00pm<br>confirmation                | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> |
| <b>28</b><br>9:00am<br>Service   | <b>1 March</b> | <b>2</b>   | <b>3 *</b><br><b>Lent<br/>Service</b><br>6:30pm                    | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  |



2-5  
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"They made February a short month so spring can come sooner."

Feb. 17 to Mar. 24  
\* There will be  
Wednesday  
night Lent  
services in-  
church and  
live-streamed  
including  
communion.

## OFFICIAL ACTS

Accepted Membership  
1-18-2021

James Solberg  
01-18-2021 Profession of Faith

## February

Kathy Osmak  
715-292-6207  
Sandy Nutt  
715-6641110

