

FEBRUARY

2024



The Mountain Top Messenger


ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: Feb. 4 John P Feb. 7 Darryl Feb. 11 Doug Feb. 14 John S Feb. 18 Randy Feb. 21 Andy Feb. 25 Scott Feb. 28 John S Mar. 3 John P Mar. 6 Doug				1	2	3
4 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	5 10:00am Bible Study Dartball 7pm vs. Good Shepherd	6	7 6:30pm Worship Service	8 9:00am Winkel Ashland	9	10
11 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm Mellen	12 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Council Mtg Dartball 7pm at Salem 1 <i>Pastor at conference and vacation -- Arizona</i>	13 1:00pm Sewing Circle	14 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	15	16	17
18 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Annual Mtg. 2:00pm LGP <i>Pastor at conference and vacation -- Arizona</i>	19 10:00am Bible Study Dartball Bye	20	21 1:00pm Hospice Group-Gathering 6:30pm Lenten Worship	22	23	24
25 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study <i>Pastor at conference and vacation -- Arizona</i>	26 10:00am Bible Study Dartball 7pm vs. Salem 2	27 1:00pm Sewing Circle	28 6:30pm Lenten Worship	29	10:15am Annual Mtg. February 18th	

Well, just waiting on the ground hog now, however I don't know if he could make it any milder, what a winter! We are now into February, just a couple short weeks from the start of the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday this year if you haven't noticed, falls on Valentine's Day, February 14th, with Easter on March 31st. They will be upon us before we know it. As we head into Lent, I have been working with the Evangelism committee and they are working on pulling together a couple of Wednesday evening soup and sandwich dinners. I believe the first being on February 28th and another on March 13th, so keep an eye out for further information on those. I am excited about getting those going again, I hope you will join us.



It's Here! There are lots of things going on and a number of events coming up. First, as you may have heard the new church directories are in and we will begin distributing those on Sunday, February 4th. The company we did the directories with didn't send us as many extras as the old company did, so for the moment every person or family group who either had their picture taken or submitted a photo will get a directory. For those who weren't in the directory pictorially, you will have the option to purchase a directory for cost of \$5, the actual cost for the additional directories is \$10 a copy so we are splitting the cost with you. The extra directories will not be here for a few weeks, but we will keep everyone updated. I feel it turned out very well and a big thank you to the directory committee for all their hard work.

Along with that subject, we have added a number of new members since we began the directory project. Because of this the Evangelism committee is working to create an update page that will include hopefully a picture and a little info to introduce the new members to everyone. On that note, we will be contacting you for some info. We are planning on having our new member welcome dinner on  April 21st following our worship service, so mark it down on your calendars.

Another upcoming event in the next several months, Liisa Eyerly will be having two presentations for the congregation. One will cover the trip that she and John took to Turkey to see the sights of the early Christian churches there, and then the other presentation will be a talk about her book "Obedient Unto Death". We do have copies of her book available in the church library and in the church office if you would like to read it before the presentation. Please check the newsletter for the exact dates of those presentations.

(continued on next page)

OFFICIAL ACTS

Transferred to Zion:
 Tony Williams 01-01-2024
 JoAnn Martikonis from Trinity Lutheran Church LCMS, Glidden, WI 11-01-2023
 11-13-2023 Frederick & Andrea Dollen, Andrew Dollen & Linda Dehnke: from Bethlehem Lutheran Church LCMS, Sun Prairie, WI

FEBRUARY

Altar Guild

Eleanor Munson 715-682-8155
 Janet Houle 715-779-5298

(continued from front page)

On another note, I wanted to let all of you know, and some of you know already, that June and I have become foster parents for our great granddaughter Lovell. Lovell is going to be living with June and I for a while and we are getting reaccustomed to having a toddler in the house, and a very active toddler at that. So if you haven't already, you will be seeing her around church. She is currently enrolled at Little Friends of Jesus. We thank the Lord that we were in a position to help out this amazing little girl and welcome her into our family, both our family at home and our church family here at Zion. She loves everyone, so be sure and say hello to when you have the opportunity. Every time I look at her little smiling face, I am reminded of Matthew 19:14 *But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."* She helps me to understand the innocence of a child, the innocence that we are to try and have. Trust in the Lord, have faith in the Lord, the same way a child has that innocent trust and faith in the ones who care for and love them. I know it is a truly important message, after all it must be important, it is in all three synoptic Gospels, Matthew 19:14, Mark 10:14, and Luke 18:16. And we know, when scripture repeats, it is indeed an important point. So again, welcome Lovell. If you have the opportunity keep June and I in your prayers as we care for this little child of God.

That's enough for this month, the Lord be with you as we enter the Lenten season.

And now; May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick



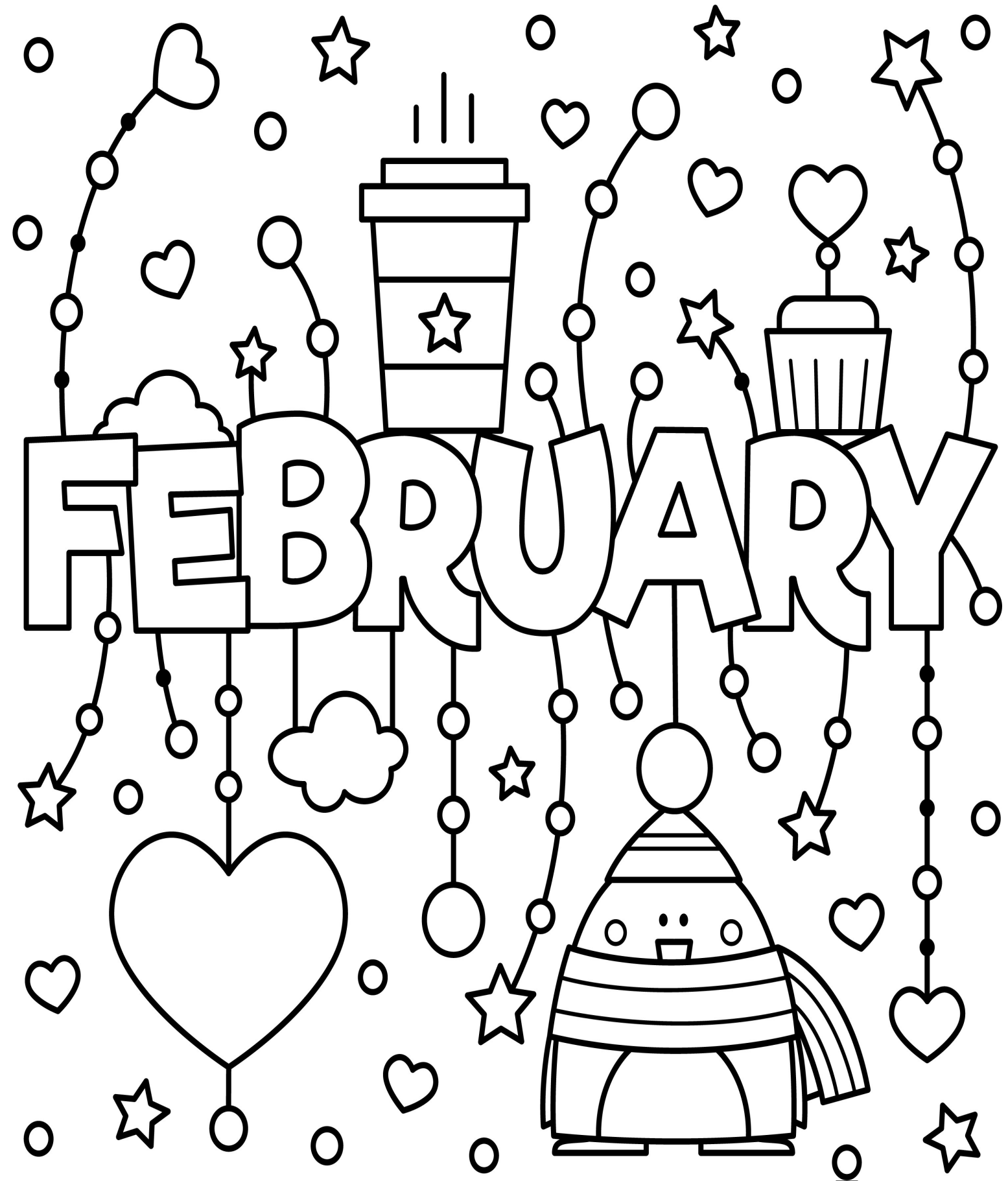
The Book of Exodus: Let My People Go!

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, February 14th, and so does our emphasis on Moses' most read book called Exodus. In it, Moses asks Pharaoh to let God's people go seven times (Exodus 5:1; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3) and Pharaoh finally does it! When he does, God's salvation is so amazing that the event becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament. Israel's Scriptures mention the exodus 125 times!

Throughout the book of Exodus God reveals who he is through his absence and his presence, through his silence and his speech, through his wrath and his mercy, and through his judgment and his amazing grace. In doing so, the book paints a beautiful portrait of *Jesus*.

Sermon plans are as follows:

- Ash Wednesday "**Big Things with Small Stuff**" (Exodus 2:1-10)
- Lent One "**How God Changes Us**" (Exodus 3:1-14)
- Lent Two "**Stop Trying and Start Trusting**" (Exodus 14:1-29)
- Lent Three "**Strike the Rock!**" (Exodus 17:1-7)
- Lent Four "**Mine!**" (Exodus 20:1-17)
- Lent Five "**Digging Ourselves into a Hole**" (Exodus 32:1-14)
- Palm Sunday "**A New Beginning!**" (Exodus 34:1-8)
- Maundy Thursday "**Access!**" (Exodus 24:1-11)
- Good Friday "**Agnus Dei**" (Exodus 12:1-13)
- Easter "**Against all Odds!**" (Exodus 15:1-18)



"There's a grassy slope not far away
Where thousands of Narcissus bloom,
And I catch my breath, as I watch them sway
Tossing their sweet perfume.

Gaily they nod their dear little heads
And smilingly welcome me,
As they spring up fresh from their winter beds,
Eager for company.

Their round white faces fair and clean
Are purer than frost or snow,
And I thank the hands, tho' now unseen;
That planted them, long ago."
- Nora McFarlane, *Hillside Narcissus*



"Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour." - John Boswell

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." - Anne Bradstreet

"Every mile is two in winter." - George Herbert

Leap Year Experts note that the Gregorian calculation of a solar year—365.2425 days—is still not perfect, and thus another correction will be necessary. Thankfully, the Gregorian calendar is only off by about one day every 3,030 years, so mankind has some time before this becomes a problem.

Contemporary Services - Anyone interested in participating during these services in any form of music, please speak with Pastor. Service is planned for March and then once a month.

January/February Mission - The New Day Shelter - info in the Narthex with suggested items to obtain. **OUR MISSION** - Established in January of 1983 Provide a safe haven and support services to victims of Family Violence and Sexual Abuse; and to provide Preventive Education which will challenge the cultural beliefs and attitudes about the use of abusive and controlling behaviors in our communities.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111-11TH AVE WEST
ASHLAND, WI 54806

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
Sunday School - 1st - 8th grade Sunday 8:45am
Bible Studies
Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479

Office Hours: M /T/Th 9-5 Wed. 12-8 Fri. off

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

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

Days and times may change.

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: JoAnn Martkonis 715-682-6075

Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

PRAYERS for Home-bound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

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

Ingrid Pocernich
Arlene Zimmerman
Violet Basina

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

David Wright
Jordan Thimm
Andrew Pruss

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

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



Brad Prill
Vi Basina
James Fletcher
Sheryl Hildebrandt
Harold Larson
Diane Beiersdorff
Linda Stenroos
Steve Key
Tim Erickson
Patty Hmielewski

Riley Bretting
Mike Trimble
Jamie Klema
Mike Ariens
Karen Piff
Molly Colgrove
Linda Parrish
Cory Nyara
Chuck Sandor
John Belany
and those in our hearts

Dear Lord, "We come to You today with heavy hearts, as we lift up those who are in need of prayer. We ask that You would bring healing and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit" Amen.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Ash Wednesday, February 21st, 6:30pm worship service.

Grief Support Gathering Wednesday, February 21st, 1:00pm at Zion. Regional Hospice grief support groups meet monthly and also have additional spring and fall six-week group meetings. Our grief support groups are open to anyone in the community that has lost a loved one and is looking for support in sharing with others who understand loss. They are offered at no charge and facilitated by our staff. Participants do not need to have received our hospice support. Questions – contact Suzanne Ballantyne 715-685-5151

Annual Voters' Meeting - Sunday, February 18th following the worship service.

Soup & Sandwich Dinner Wednesday, February 28th, 5:00-6:00pm. In the basement fellowship hall. If you would be available provide a food item and/or help with serving or clean-up, please peak with someone from Evangelism.

PowerPoint presentation. Sunday March 3rd, after church.(10:15-11:00) on Israel, Italy, and Greece are destinations Christians visit, but the country of Turkey is where much of the New Testament is centered. It's where John wrote the book of Revelation. Where the 7 Churches he addressed his letter to are located, it's where Paul fled from the riot of the silversmiths and where converts burned their books of pagan magic.

Join Liisa and John Eyerly as they share their tour/pilgrimage to this fascinating Muslim country. You'll learn about the famed Hagai Sophia cathedral turned into a mosque, the healing hot spring spa still visited after thousands of years, and visit the ruins of ancient cities that enjoyed many modern conveniences, heated floors, running water, and sidewalk cafes

Holy Week Maundy Thursday, March 28th, Good Friday, March 29th Easter March 31st.

Book Discussion - Liisa Eyerly has set her murder mystery book "Obedient unto Death" in the ancient city of Ephesus, Turkey date, Our church has copies of the book to check out. A "fun" book discussion is rescheduled for **April 28th**. Those who have already read it highly recommend it.

"Late February, and the air's so balmy snowdrops and crocuses might be fooled into early blooming. Then, the inevitable blizzard will come, blighting our harbingers of spring, and the numbed yards will go back undercover. In Florida, it's strawberry season— shortcake, waffles, berries and cream will be penciled on the coffeshop menus." - Gail Mazur, *The Idea of Florida During a Winter Thaw*

"There is a privacy about winter which no other season gives you ... Only in winter... can you have longer, quiet stretches when you can savor belonging to yourself."
- Ruth Stout, *How to Have a Green Thumb without an Aching Back*



The Group of Frogs (Encouragement)

As a group of frogs was traveling through the woods, two of them fell into a deep pit. When the other frogs crowded around the pit and saw how deep it was, they told the two frogs that there was no hope left for them. However, the two frogs decided to ignore what the others were saying and they proceeded to **try and jump out of the pit.**

Despite their efforts, the group of frogs at the top of the pit were still saying that they should just give up. That they would never make it out. Eventually, one of the frogs took heed to what the others were saying and he gave up, falling down to his death. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die.

He jumped even harder and finally made it out. When he got out, the other frogs said, "**Did you not hear us?**"

The frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought **they were encouraging him** the entire time.

Moral of the story:

People's words can have a big effect on other's lives. Think about what you say before it comes out of your mouth. It might just be the difference between a positive or negative outcome..

What Goes Up Must Come Down

A little boy was out in his backyard, throwing a ball up in the air. An elderly passerby, not accustomed to such youthful delights, asked the boy what he was doing. He replied, "I am playing a game of catch with God. I throw the ball up in the air and he throws it back."



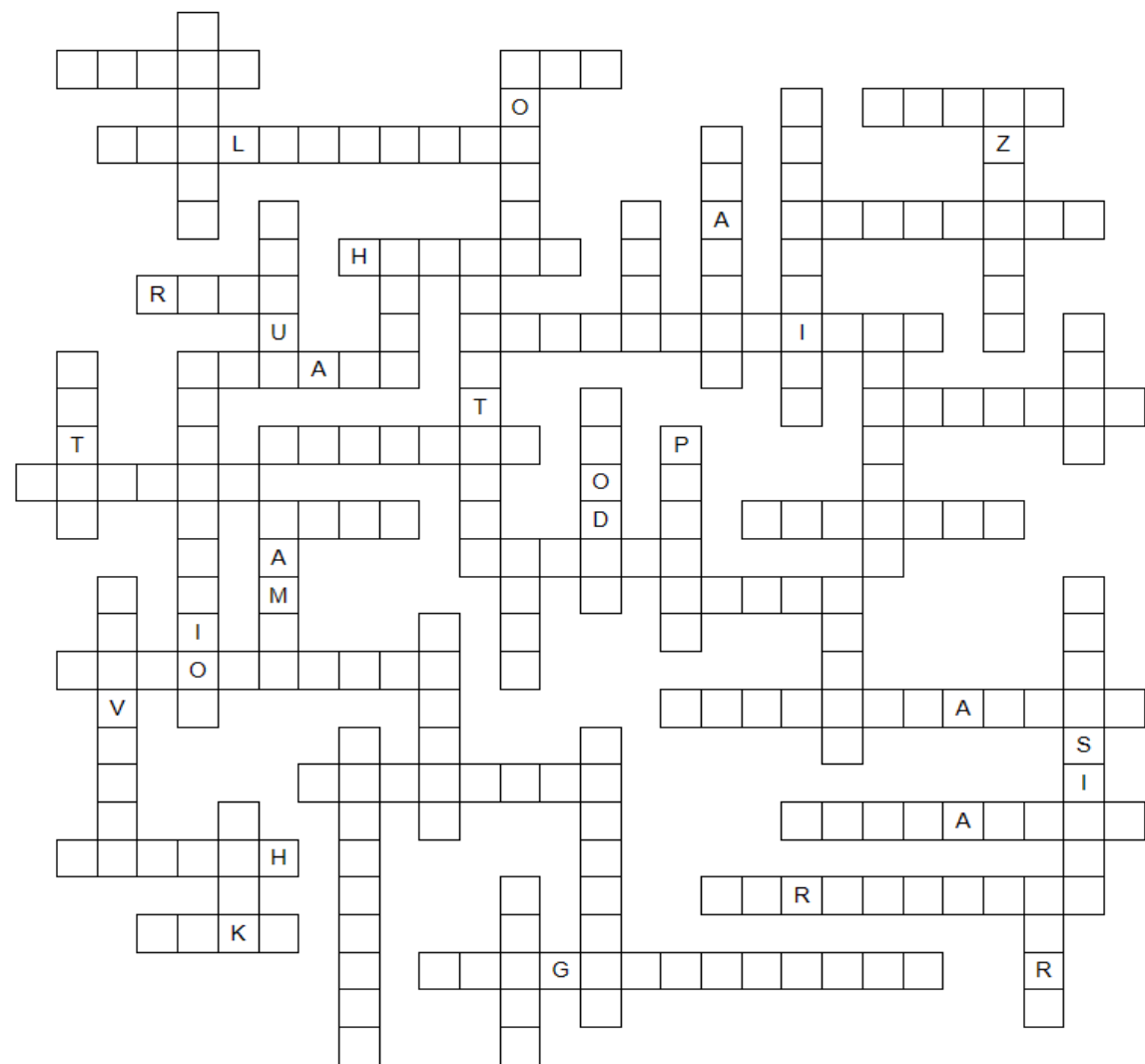
I am in no position to comment on God's ability to play ball, but I do know that whatever goes up must come down. There may be exceptions, such as Charlie Brown's kite! But as a rule, whatever goes up must come down. The process is so predictable that you could refer to it as a scientific law. The same process applies to our religious lives. It is a good thing to "go up" to a great experience with God, but we will become greatly disillusioned if we do not remember that eventually we have to "come down" again.

Healing Is a Mystery

Healing is a mystery. We don't understand it. All we can do is to prepare our bodies to receive it. That's what doctors do. They do it with surgery, with medicine, and therapy. They prepare our bodies to receive the gift of healing.

And that's all you can do too. You can prepare to receive the gift through faith, through prayer, and through openness to the power in creation that heals.

Mark Trotter, Collected Sermons



Zephaniah
 Esther
 Ephesians Mark
 Philippians John
 Micah Haggai
 Daniel Numbers
 Romans Job
 Obadiah Hosea
 James Galatians
 Samuel Hebrews
 Judges Jonah
 Peter Proverbs
 Jude Colossians
 Psalms
 Zechariah
 Ecclesiastes
 Kings Philemon
 Acts Habakkuk
 Luke Joshua
 Genesis
 Chronicles
 Matthew
 Ezekiel Ruth
 Jeremiah Amos
 Joel Exodus
 Lamentations
 Leviticus Titus
 Nahum
 Song of Solomon
 Isaiah Ezra
 Revelation

Things You May Not Know About Leap Day

It's the Woman's Turn

According to tradition, it's OK for a woman to propose to a man on Feb. 29. The custom has been attributed to various historical figures including St. Bridget, who is said to have complained to St. Patrick that women had to wait too long for their suitor to pop the question. The obliging Patrick



supposedly gave women one day to propose, *says the BBC*.



But There May Be a Fine for Not Accepting

There are other traditions that put a price on saying "no." If a man doesn't accept a leap year proposal, it will cost him. In Denmark, a man refusing a woman's Feb. 29 proposal must give her a dozen pairs of gloves, according to The Mirror. In Finland, an uninterested gentleman must give his spurned suitor enough fabric to make a skirt.

It's Bad for the Marriage Business

Not surprisingly, leap years can be bad for the nuptial business, too. One in five engaged couples in Greece avoid tying the knot in a leap year, reports The Telegraph. Why? Because they believe it's bad luck.

It's a Day That Doesn't Legally Exist

Another tale claims that Queen Margaret of Scotland (who would have been only 5 years old at the time, so take it with a grain of salt) enacted a law setting fines for men who turned down marriage proposals from women during a leap year. It's thought that the basis for the tradition likely goes back to the time when Feb. 29 wasn't recognized by English law; if the day had no legal status, it was OK to break with convention and a woman could propose.

There's a Leap Year Capital

The twin cities of Anthony, Texas, and Anthony, New Mexico, are the self-proclaimed Leap Year Capital of the World. They hold a four-day leap year festival that includes a huge birthday party for all leap year babies. (ID required.)

About Those Leap Year Babies

People born on leap day are often called "leaplings" or "leapers." Most of them don't wait every four years to celebrate their birthdays, but instead blow out the candles on Feb. 28 or March 1. According to History.com, about 4.1 million people around the world have been born on Feb. 29, and the chances of having a leap birthday are one in 1,461.

There's Even a Leap Year Club

The Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies is a club for people born on Feb. 29. More than 11,000 people worldwide are members. The goal of the group is to promote leap day awareness and to help leap day babies get in touch.



The Obstacle In Our Path (Opportunity)

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. He then hid himself and watched to see if anyone would move the boulder out of the way. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it.

Many people loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none of them did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

A peasant then came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to push the stone out of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant went back to pick up his vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been.

The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King explaining that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

Moral of the story:

Every obstacle we come across in life gives us an **opportunity to improve our circumstances**, and whilst the lazy complain, the others are creating opportunities through their kind hearts, generosity, and willingness to get things done.



Black History Month: A few Inspiring Black Americans You May Not of Known

Oseola McCarty was a Mississippi cleaning woman who saved more than \$150,000 in her life and donated it to the University of Southern Mississippi to fund a scholarship for deserving students who might not otherwise get a college education. She was also a Presidential Citizens Medal winner.

Phillis Wheatley was kidnapped from West Africa as a young child and enslaved to the Wheatley family. She learned to read and write while working as a servant and published her first poem when she was just 13 years old. Later, she would become the first African American woman, the first enslaved person and the third American woman in history to have a book of poetry published.

Duke Ellington is remembered as one of the most influential jazz musicians in history. His music completely defined the genre and as an artist, he transcended boundaries. He was a Pulitzer Prize winner with 13 GRAMMYS under his belt and, in 1969, he was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Richard Nixon.

Madam C. J. Walker was an activist, philanthropist and the first American woman to become a self-made millionaire thanks to her creation of a line of beauty care products for African American women. Not only did her business provide a needed service to the African American community, but Walker also made a point of hiring Black women, giving them the means to support themselves. She also founded philanthropies that included educational scholarships and donations to homes for the elderly, the NAACP and other programs focused on improving African American lives.

Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson and Mary Jackson were the groundbreaking mathematicians and human computers at NASA whose calculations helped put astronauts into space and land on the moon. They had their stories make it to the big screen in 2016 with the Academy Award-nominated film *Hidden Figures* starring *Guideposts* cover star Taraji P. Henson. Vaughan, Johnson and Jackson not only made it possible for astronauts to make it to space and the moon, they pushed boundaries, shattered glass ceilings and achieved their dreams despite the racism and sexism they encountered.

She Gave Up More of Herself as a Lenten Sacrifice _ELEANOR SASS

As a form of Lenten discipline, she decided to do something that would benefit others.

During my childhood, each Ash Wednesday brought with it the big question: "What are you giving up for Lent?" Most of the time it was candy, and the money saved by eliminating trips to Mrs. Squire's candy store went into my mite box. Being deprived of sweets was painful then, but what I remember now is the warm glow that flooded my heart as I carried my jingling mite box to Sunday school on Easter Sunday.

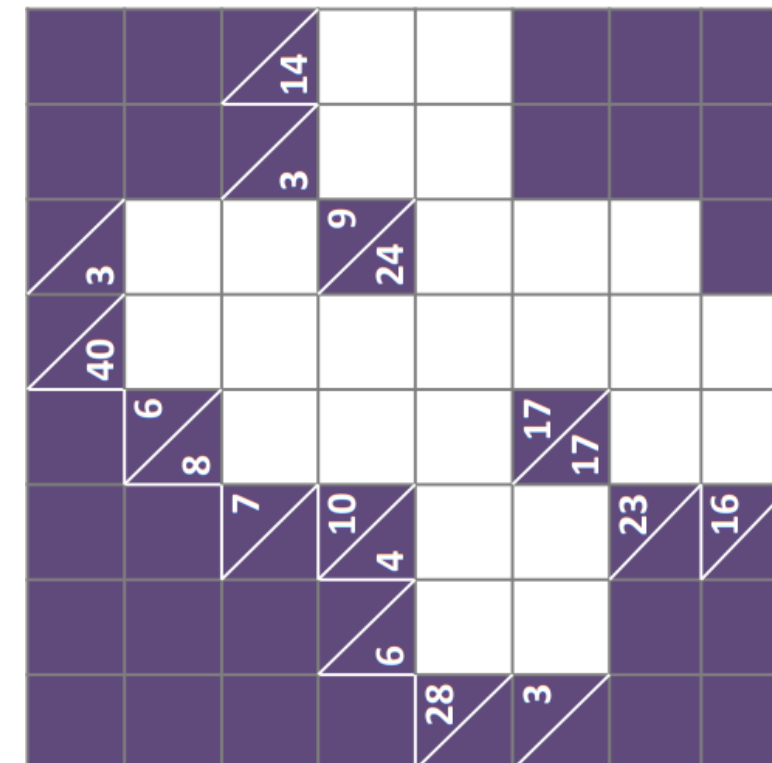
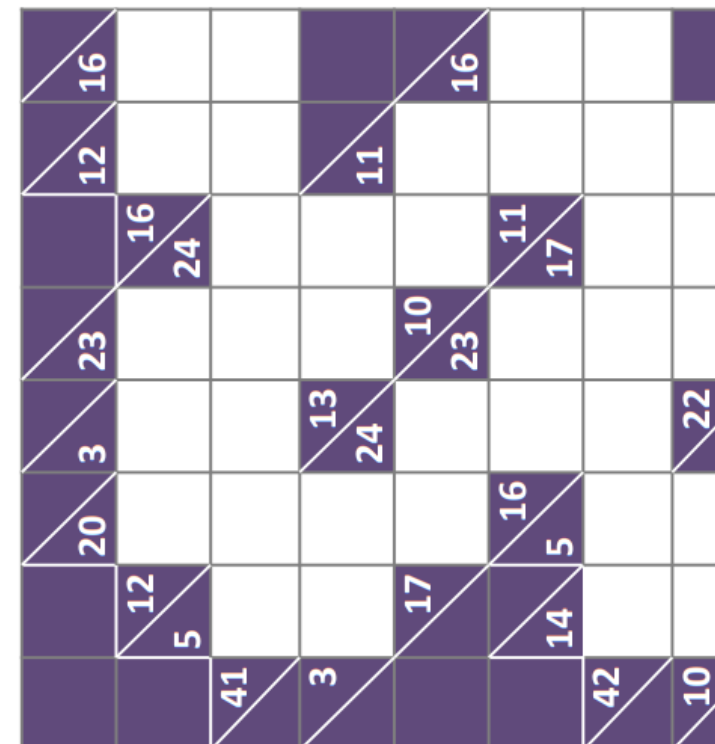


When I became an adult, however, giving up candy was no real sacrifice—and because I had a job and was earning a salary, parting with some of it for a Lenten offering was a fairly simple and painless gesture.

Thus one year I decided that in order to have a more adult type of Lenten discipline, I would try giving of myself, to do something that would benefit others.

The opportunity came soon when a friend asked me to volunteer one evening a week to visit patients at Bellevue Hospital. Sometimes it was difficult, especially during the cold winter months when the thought of curling up with a good book in my warm apartment was more inviting. But I would go to the hospital, and when I saw the smiles on the faces of the patients, many of whom never had any visitors at all, I'd realize how worthwhile this giving of myself could be. I learned more about the true meaning of Lent. And, once again, just as in my childhood, a warm glow flooded my heart.

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



FEBRUARY

- AQUARIUS
- KISS
- RED
- ROSES
- ARROW
- LEAPYEAR
- SPOUSE
- SUPERBOWL
- ASHWEDNESDAY
- LENT
- SWEETHEART
- BOUQUET
- LINCOLN
- VALENTINE
- CANDY
- MARDISGRAS
- WASHINGTON
- CARDS
- PINK
- PISCES
- CELEBRATE
- ILOVEYOU
- PRESIDENTSDAY
- CHOCOLATE
- KINDNESS

"Winter is a time of promise because there is so little to do, or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so."
- Stanley Crawford