



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI JANUARY 2021

Welcome to 2021, it seems strange to even say that. It seems not that long ago we were panicking about Y2K, now 21 years later we have a lot of other things on our plates. As we look to the new year, we also look for new beginnings. I believe in a lot of people's minds, 2020 will be a year they hope to put behind them and not repeat anytime soon. It has certainly been a year of change. I could probably write a whole newsletter article just about the things that have changed; church, school, shopping, social gathering, vaccines, elections, and list could go on and on. However, I think we have heard enough about those things, if we want to hear about those things all we have to do is turn on the TV, open a newspaper (if you can find one), or go on the internet. You can find all you would ever want to hear and more from those sources. So, as I write this, I have decided to speak of something different. I am going to speak about the one thing that never changes. Today I want to remind you, in the face of all that has changed and all that will continue to change we can plant ourselves firmly on the foundation, the rock, that never changes. That rock is of course the love that God, our creator, the creator of all that exists, has for us, for you and me, his beloved children. Over this past season of Advent and into Christmas we have talked about how, when the time was right God sent His Son into the world to save His people, His Children, you and I, from sin, death, and the power of the devil. We have heard how God created this plan of salvation from before he even created the world. Sometimes that is a little hard for our human minds to follow. God, in His omniscient way, even before He created the world knew how it would play out, from the sin of Adam and Eve, through the challenge of bringing up His people Israel, through the entrance of His Son into the world, through the power of the Holy Spirit and a young virgin in David's city. He knew how His Son must live and die for the forgiveness of sin of all people. From that first sin of Adam and Eve, right down to the sin that you and I fall into every day. And He knows how it will all come to its glorious conclusion, on that day He has determined that His Son will return, gather up His elect, all of us who have been baptized, who have our names written in

(continued on the next page)

the book of life, who have asked for the forgiveness of our sins and have faith in His Son Jesus Christ. On that glorious day we will see him face to face. For me, when I think of these things, when I think of what is to come, when I envision the glory and splendor of seeing my adoptive father, God, face to face I am in awe. I am in awe because God, the creator of this entire universe, cares about and wants me, lowly, sinful, me, to be with Him, in paradise forever. I am in awe. When I put all of that into perspective, it helps me to cope with the things of this world, all of those things we mentioned earlier, all of those things we see on TV, online, or in print, all of the things of this world that try to distract us from what is really important. All the things of this world which we must remember, are temporary. I'm not sure if everyone would agree with me, but I think of this world as kind of a proving ground, it is full of tasks and challenges. Our task and our challenge is to face this world to the best of our ability in the way our Lord asks us. I am going to paraphrase here a bit, in scripture Jesus is asked; teacher what must I do to inherit heaven? And Jesus basically breaks it down to two things which cover all the commandments; Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, all your mind, and all your soul, and love your neighbor as yourself. All ten commandments summed up, Love God, Love your neighbor. That's our task, love God, we do that by having faith in God and in His Son our savior Jesus Christ, recognize who Jesus is and what he has done for us, ask for forgiveness and strive to do better. The other half of the task; love out neighbor as ourselves, help our neighbor, do what is right for our neighbor, share the message of salvation with our neighbor. Those are daunting tasks to say the least, why are they daunting; several reasons, first we, by nature are sinful, we really don't want to do them if left to our own designs, we want to worry about numero uno, number one, ourselves. And what makes it challenging is the world is doing its best to encourage us to do just that, worry about number one, ourselves. Virtually everything that is going on in this world today can either be used to draw us into the world or draw us closer to God. I pray that we use all the tasks and challenges of this world to draw us closer to God. Remember, God has already chosen us as his sheep, we hear his voice, we are assured our place in his kingdom. But we also need to remember because of that, because we are chosen, God has created good works for us to do in his name. Let us go forth and do all that we can in His name.

Once again welcome to the new year. I am starting another online scripture reading, I am going to be reading the Book of Acts, a chapter a day. I am starting with an overview of the book on Sunday, January 3rd, and then daily reading of the book itself beginning Monday the 4th.

Also, I am considering live in person Wednesday evening Lenten services beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Let me know your thoughts.

My friends I thank you for all your support, especially during this time of separation and isolation and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

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

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 **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com **Facebook**

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.

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

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

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

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


*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

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:

*Linda Larson-Nelson Tim Smith
Bob Heggie Kevin Heggie
Kate Smith Alice Balmer
Brad Prill Mary Siefers
Mike Dimich Mary Bullis
Jim Bullis Angie Guski
Lloyd Koosmann Theresa Koosmann
Grace Turney Penny Mattson
Penny Larson Francis Balmer
Rebecca Gurske David Gustafson
LeAnn Billing Jim & Tina
Marvin Lathe Vi Basina
Andrea Gunderson Chico Chingo
Bill Young Lisa Landry-Thomson
Dan Schick Melanie Bush
James Fletcher Brad Campbell
Margaret Goodwin David Pearson
Colten Ledin and those in our hearts.*



Mustard Seed

Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

Living in Prayer

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

In the Word

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Psalm 150:6

Of the Word

It's morning, it's noon, it's evening — it's the right time to praise God. You're happy, you're sad, you're busy — it's the right time to praise God. You're a new Christian, you're a lifelong believer, you're a person of godly wisdom — it's the right time to praise God!

Praise God! You made me! *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14a).*

Praise God! You redeemed me! *Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine (Isaiah 43:1b).*

Praise God for Jesus! *My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior (Luke 1:46b-47).*

Walking with my Lord

Heavenly Father, Jesus has paid for my sins, my soul praises You. You have promised to always be there, my soul praises You. When times are dark and my way is treacherous, You guide and protect me. My soul praises You for Your love and faithfulness. Help me share my praise for You with others so they may also know You as their Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name. Amen.

History

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Founded in 1847

The roots of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod trace back to 1847, when Saxon and other German immigrants established a new church body in America, seeking the freedom to practice and follow confessional Lutheranism.

Initial members, which included 12 pastors representing 14 congregations from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, New York and Ohio, signed the church body's constitution on April 26, 1847, at First Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Chicago, Ill.

Originally named The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States, the name was shortened to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1947 on the occasion of our 100th anniversary.

Over the years, hundreds of books chronicling the Synod's rich history have been written. One of the most comprehensive is [*Zion on the Mississippi*](#).

The First President

The Rev. Dr. C.F.W. Walther (Oct. 25, 1811 – May 7, 1887) served as the first president of the church body. As a young pastor, Walther joined the Saxon Germans who immigrated to the United States in 1839, and, at only 27 years old, he was the leader of the group that settled in Perry County, Mo.

Dr. Walther played a key role in the founding of the LCMS in 1847, and he served as the church body's first president, holding office from 1847 to 1850 and again from 1864 to 1878.

Walther presided over the young Synod, leading its growth through the years of the great migration of German immigrants. He served as president of Concordia Seminary from 1850 to 1887, and he was editor of *Der Lutheraner*, a leading magazine of the day that reached Confessional Lutherans across the country.

Today, Walther is revered as the leading Lutheran theologian of his time, and he's fondly known as the "Father of the Missouri Synod."

Epiphany - Twelfth Night Word Search

Find the hidden words associated with January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany also known as Three Kings Day or Twelfth Night.

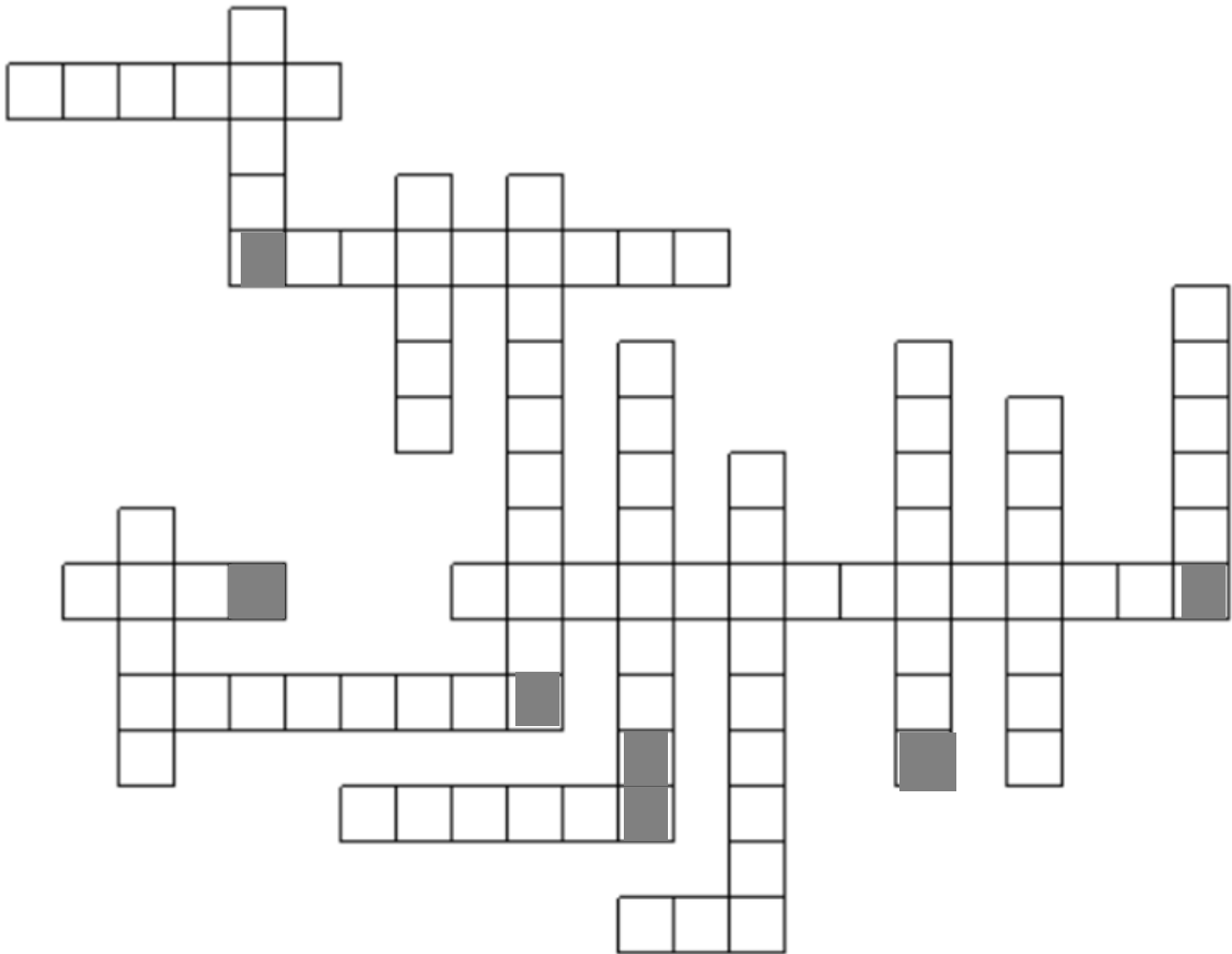
X P P B E P I P H A N Y T O T S A E F
 I U L Y Q B N H T M O V D L E V W N F
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 N A P M C L S V T L E N E G N V S L N
 U R P A C T N Y Y R O S G B I F E M I
 Y Y K T M H I U H U N G E E K X M J R
 M C Z T K A G T B E S T F A R M E L E
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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

BABYJESUS
 BALTHASAR
 BETHLEHEM
 CASPAR
 CHILD
 CHRISTMASTIDE
 EPIPHANY
 FEAST
 FRANKINCENSE
 GIFTS
 GOLD
 HOMAGE
 KING
 LABEFANA
 LOSREYES
 MAGI
 MANGER
 MARY
 MOTHER
 MELCHIOR
 MYRRH
 NIGHT
 OFFERING
 QUEEN
 STAR
 THREE
 TREASURE
 TWELFTH
 WISEMEN

1. I am a rock group with four members. All dead, one was assassinated. What am I?
2. What time is it when an elephant sits on a fence?
3. I saw a boat full of people, yet there wasn't a single person on the boat. How is that possible?
4. Why is Europe like a frying pan?
5. What has ten letters and starts with gas?
6. I start with a "p" and ends with "o-r-n," and I'm a major player in the film industry. What am I?
7. What goes up but never comes down?
8. A king, a queen, and two twins all lay in a large room. How are there no adults in the room?

Epiphany

The colored boxes are blank.



Words to fit

epiphany

day

holiday

kings

river

three

baptism

feast

january

magi

six

christian

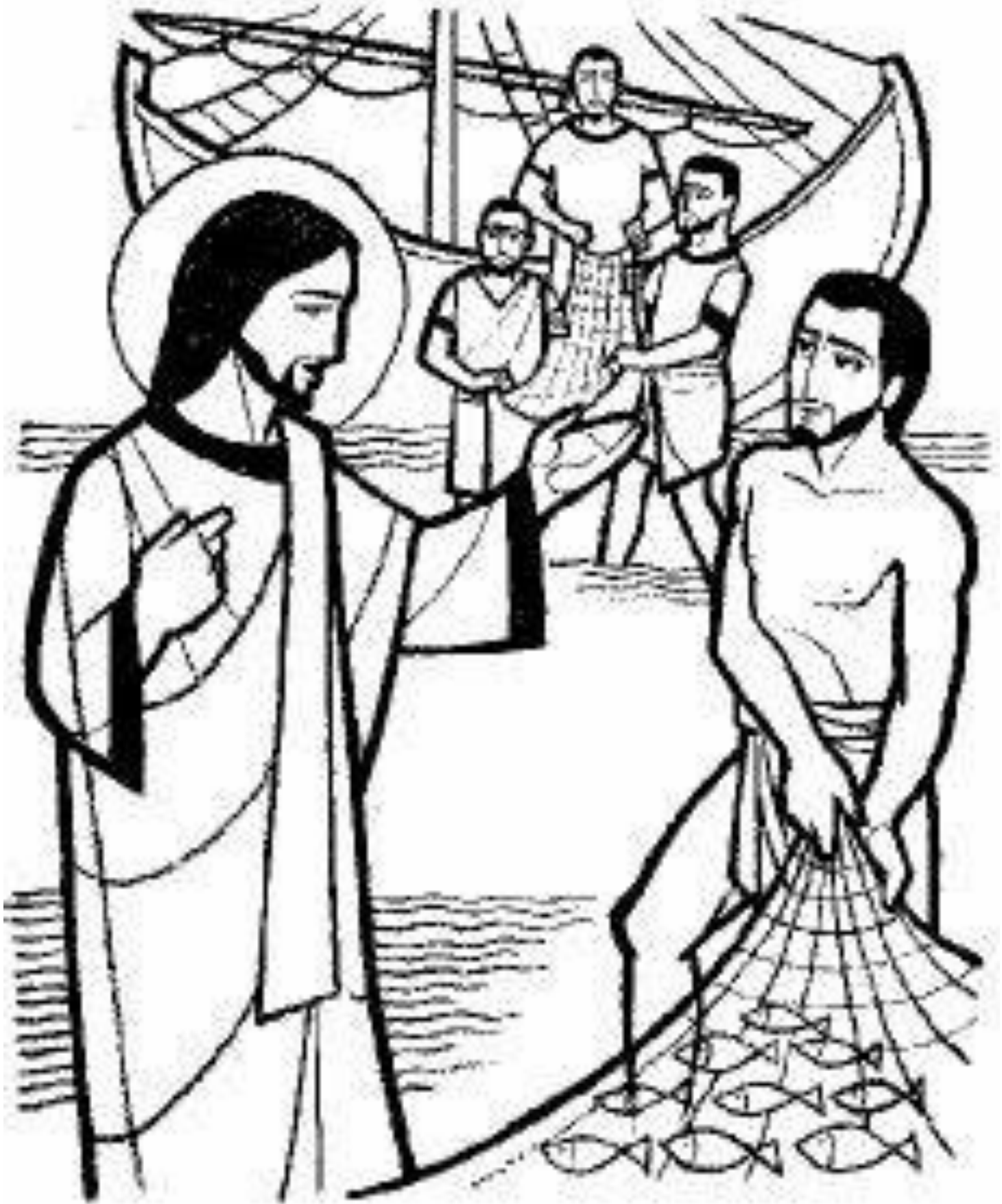
galilee

jordan

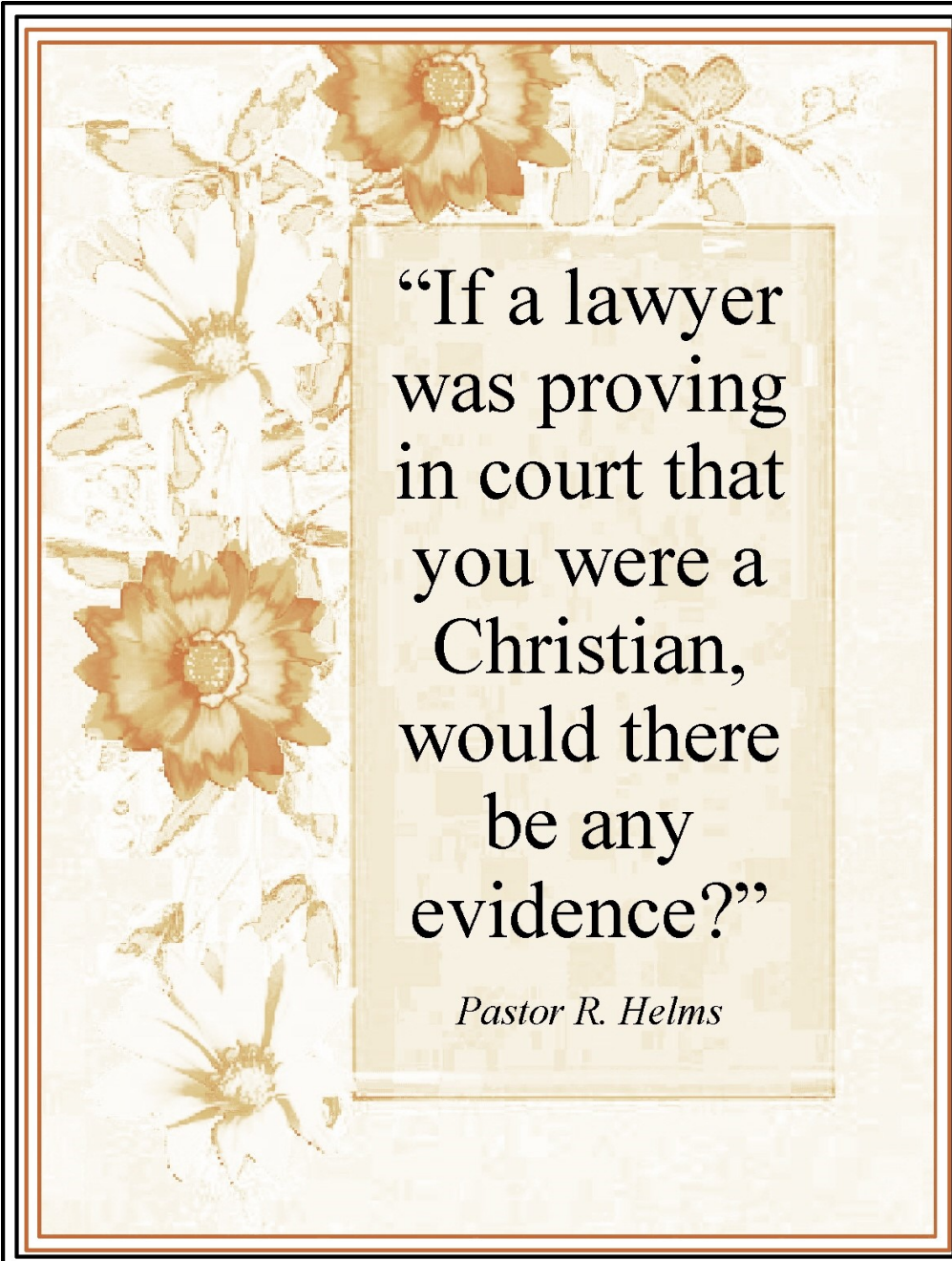
manifestation

theophany

-
9. Why can't we take a picture of a man with a wooden leg?
 10. How many letters are in the alphabet?
 11. All 5 sisters are busy. Ann is reading a book, Rose is cooking, Katy is playing chess, and Mary is doing the laundry. What is the 5th sister doing?
 12. How can you drop a raw egg on the concrete floor without cracking it?
 13. Two in a corner, 1 in a room, 0 in a house, but 1 in a shelter. What am I?



Sunday Mark 1:14-20 Fishers of Men



“If a lawyer
was proving
in court that
you were a
Christian,
would there
be any
evidence?”

Pastor R. Helms

Riddle Answers:

- 1 Mt. Rushmore.
- 2 It's time to fix the fence.
- 3 They were all married.
- 4 Because it has Greece at the bottom.
- 5 Automobile.
- 6 Popcorn.
- 7 Your age.
- 8 They're all beds!
- 9 The wooden leg is not a camera.
- 10 There are 11 letters in "the alphabet".
- 11 She's playing chess, of course!
- 12 The egg won't crack the concrete floor!
- 13 The letter "R"
- 14 It's the numbers from 1-9 in alphabetical order.
- 15 Jason is the killer. The numbers indicate months and the first letter of each month spells the name of the murderer, e.g. the 6th month is June and the first letter of June is J, the 4th month is April and the first letter of April is a, and so on.
- 16 Spring, summer, autumn and winter.
- 17 A right angle
- 18 Your word
- 19 An egg.

Pearl, the Forgetful Girl



There once was a girl by the name of Pearl who had trouble remembering things. *She would even forget to get up in the morning and was always late for school. Her teacher, Mrs. Pickwick, didn't know what to do.*

"Do you have an alarm clock?" Mrs. Pickwick asked.

"Yes, I do," said Pearl, the forgetful girl, "but I always forget to set it."

"Well," said Mrs. Pickwick, "I'll tie a little string around your finger. This will remind you to set your alarm clock when you go to bed tonight, and the alarm will get you up on time in the morning."

The next day, Pearl, the forgetful girl, was late for school.

"Did you remember to set your alarm clock?" asked Mrs. Pickwick.

"No," said Pearl, the forgetful girl. "I forgot why the string was tied around my finger."

"Very well," said Mrs. Pickwick. "Let's keep the string tied around your finger and pin a note to your blouse. The note will tell you why the string is tied around your finger. When you take off your blouse to go to bed tonight, you will see the note."

The next day, Pearl, the forgetful girl, was late for school again.

"Why are you late for school again?" asked Mrs. Pickwick.

"Oh," said Pearl, the forgetful girl, "I fell asleep listening to music, slept the whole night in my blouse, and didn't see the note."

Mrs. Pickwick was quite annoyed. "There must be something you remember to do every night before going to bed," she said.

"There is," replied Pearl, the forgetful girl. "I always remember to brush my teeth."

"Good," said Mrs. Pickwick. "I'll put a little red mark on your forehead. When you look into the mirror to brush your teeth, you will see the mark, and it will remind you to read the note on your blouse, which will tell you why the string is tied around your finger—and you'll remember to set your alarm clock."

That night, before going to bed, Pearl, the forgetful girl, stepped before the mirror to brush her teeth. She noticed the red mark on her forehead, and it reminded her to read the note attached to her blouse. The note told her that the string around her finger was to remind her to set her alarm clock for school in the morning. She was so happy to remember and quickly set the alarm for seven o'clock.

The next morning the alarm clock rang, and she was up on time. She had her breakfast and hurried off to school as fast as she could. Mrs. Pickwick was surely going to be surprised, she thought to herself. But, when she got to school, no one was there. Pearl, the forgetful girl, had forgotten it was Saturday!

Forgetfulness: Normal or Not?

Many people worry about becoming forgetful as they age. They think it is the first sign of Alzheimer's disease. But some forgetfulness can be a normal part of aging.

Share on Social Media

Copy and paste these messages into social media to help spread the word about forgetfulness:

How can you tell the difference between mild forgetfulness & serious memory problems?

Find out in this infographic: <https://bit.ly/2XzeiM3>

What's normal aging and what may be a sign of Alzheimer's? Check out this infographic to see what's typical: <https://bit.ly/2TxcYrL>

Read and share this infographic about normal memory problems vs Alzheimer's disease. <https://bit.ly/2ysZCFC>

Transcript

Many people can become more forgetful as they age. How can you tell the difference between mild forgetfulness and serious memory problems like Alzheimer's disease? See what's typical and what's not:

- Normal aging
 - Making a bad decision once in a while
 - Missing a monthly payment
 - Forgetting which day it is and remembering later
 - Sometimes forgetting which word to use
 - Losing things from time to time
 - Alzheimer's disease
 - Making poor judgments and decisions a lot of the time
 - Problems taking care of monthly bills
 - Losing track of the date or time of year
 - Trouble having a conversation
 - Misplacing things often and being unable to find them

Although some forgetfulness comes with age, don't ignore changes in memory or thinking that concern you. Talk with your doctor if you notice you have more serious memory problems than normal.

14. What is special about the number 854,917,632?

15. A man is found murdered in his office. The suspects are Peter, Julie, Jason, Molly, and Brian. In the office is a calendar with the numbers 6,4,9,10,11 written in blood. Who is the killer?

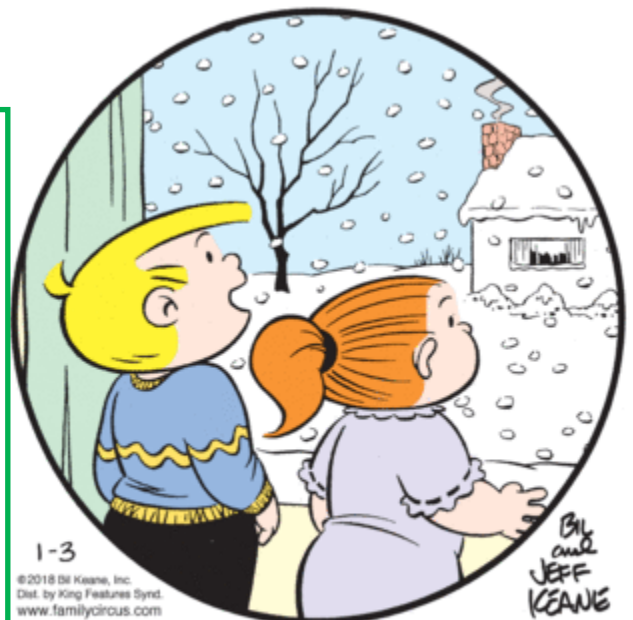
16. What four related words are merged here:

SWAS PURI UINM NTTU MGER MNER

17. What's right and never wrong?

18. You must keep it after giving it. What is it?

19. What can't be used until it's broken?



1-3
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"This year is gettin' better every day!"

Camp Luther Family,

Thank you for your support of Camp Luther. As I step into this role as Director of Maintenance & Improvements, I can see the dedication & service from the hard work of all our volunteers and supporters. Our volunteers are crucial to the ministry that happens here, now and into the future. If you haven't volunteered before, I'd like to invite you to serve in this important role.

First, I'd like to introduce myself. Then, I'd love to get to know each and every one of you! I am excited to learn your love for camp and what talents and strengths you have and enjoy while volunteering. Through this transition, know that your continued support through volunteering is critical to the operations at camp with many moving elements.

My name is Brian Scheid and I grew up in McFarland, just outside of Madison. My wife, Deana, and I have lived in Eagle River full time since 2016 as we were previously weekend cottage owners since 2007. She works at Marshfield Clinic as a project manager with oncology research. We have a son, Luke, who is married and attending graduate school at Baylor University. We have two golden retrievers, and we love to snowmobile and musky fish all over the area. My nickname "Snowcat" comes from my pure love to operate Snowcats. I am the volunteer Trail Boss for the Sno-Eagles Snowmobile Club. We use three Snowcats to keep the trails groomed during the season.

My first camping experience came through Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison. The church owns Bethel Horizons Camp & Retreat Center, just north of Dodgeville with over 500 acres of wilderness. I spent five years on staff which started as a junior counselor and led to a retreat host and cook. Much of my time was spent volunteering with my family and friends completing many needed projects. My love of camp started at Bethel Horizons and I am excited to bring that love and dedication to Camp Luther. There is a lot to learn from you as we work together in serving Christ through the mission of Camp. I will be asking lots of questions and listening to you as I learn more about this special place.

My process is to evaluate all areas of camp in which I'm assessing the overall property, buildings, bedrooms, roofs, landscaping, and equipment to gauge projects on what we can accomplish together. We have volunteer projects ready to go now in most areas. These projects are posted at campluther.com/volunteer and will be updated every so often so everyone can be involved and informed.

If you are at all interested in volunteering your time and talents to benefit the ministry that happens at Camp Luther, please complete this [short survey](#). Your information will help me gather data that I will use to organize and plan volunteer needs and those popular Workbee weekends. Workbees are so crucial to everyone here on staff to prepare for our seasonal changes in which we can accomplish so much in very little time.

Once again, I look forward to meeting you. Please know you can always contact me with questions regarding planning and projects as we progress into 2021.

Cell: 715-891-2332 (Call, Text, Facetime & Video Chat)

email: snowcat@campluther.com

Have a Merry Christmas & with much gratitude,





We recognize the future feels uncertain right now. You may be wondering, “Is this summer even going to happen at camp?” But we know how much kids and their families need the connection and encouragement of camp right now. We have a path forward and a plan to make camp happen even if the current situation remains largely the same for Summer 2021 - we just need you.

Registration for Summer 2021 opens on January 2021 1st at 8:00am!

To find out more details about this summer, including the steps we plan to take if necessary to safeguard the health and well-being of our campers during their time at Camp Luther, go to camluther.com/summer2021.

Program Changes:

We’re currently planning to limit the number of on-site campers each week to 60% of our normal capacity. This change means that we’ve reduced the number of specialty programs we plan to offer this summer. You can learn more about our Summer 2021 program schedule, including session dates and prices, on our website, [here](#). Some important changes we want everyone to be aware of:

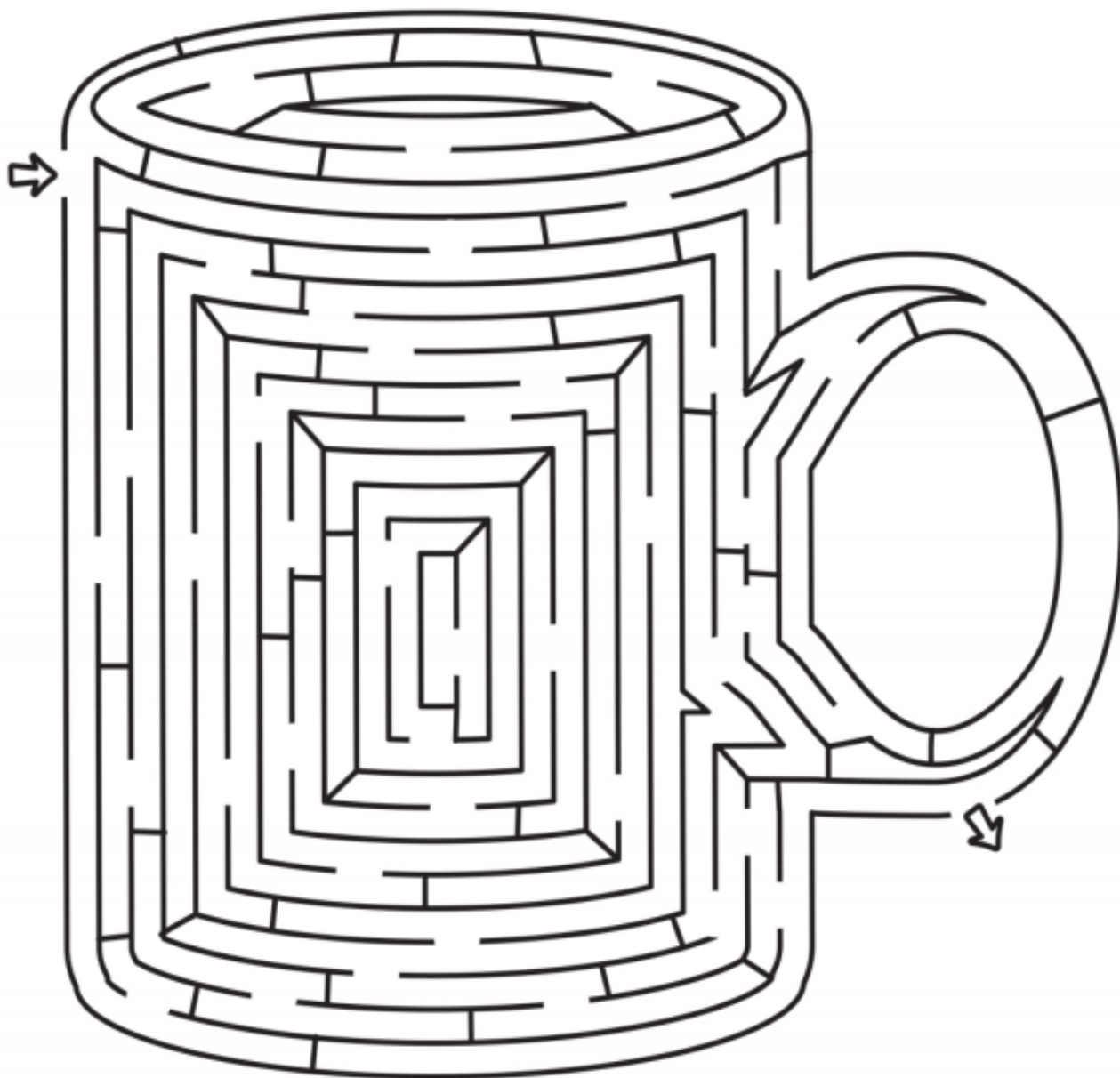
No Retreat Center weekend programs this summer (to accommodate additional cleaning requirements in between different weeks of camp). We still want to give the youngest campers an opportunity to come to camp, so check out our weekday [Explorer](#) sessions (Grades 1-3) and our weekend [Kindercamp Villages](#) program (ages 4-7).

No KBC camper programs, but high schoolers can check out our awesome [High School Week](#) for intentional community, crazy awesome activities, and deep faith talks.

- Village Glamping and Family Fun Days on various weekends throughout the summer, so the whole family can get in on the fun!
- Since the 4th of July is on a Sunday this year, we’re offering a special Monday-Friday Pathfinder session July 5-9. This could be a good option if your camper is testing the waters of a week-long camp for the first time.

The complete information sheet is on the bulletin board. And, once again I can forward their email to you if you are interested. Or, look up Camp Luther’s website with the address above.

Hot Cocoa Maze



Circle items you would like in your hot cocoa:





www.hiddenpicturepuzzles.com





LITTLE FRIENDS OF JESUS

Monthly Payment Winner

December's "Payment Winner" is the Mika family. Congratulations! Payments are due the Friday prior to the billing week by 9:00 a.m. Parents that pay on time will be placed in a drawing. Names are drawn monthly, and the winner receives a \$10 credit on their bill.

Many Thanks!

From all the staff at the center, thank you for your thoughtfulness at Christmas with your gifts, whether individual or for the center.

Thank you for your support through watching the Virtual LFOJ Christmas program and for supplying so many amazing treats. Thank you Pastor William for officiating and setting up the recording/streaming, Ms. Taylor for organizing and directing her first Christmas program, and to the LFOJ staff for their hard work preparing for the event.

Tax Statements

Tax statements for child care expenses for 2020 will be prepared and distributed to parents by the middle of January, 2021. Please remember that LFOJ can't itemize tax statements per child with the accounting program we use. If this is something your accountant requires from you, please start saving your 2021 invoices for your 2021 taxes. Sorry for the inconvenience.

All tax statements will be emailed to the email that we have on file for you. If you have any questions regarding your statements, please contact me at the church office, 715-682-6075.

Kangerootime

New year and new changes. The LFOJ board has voted toward the center implementing Kangerootime at the center. Each room will have a tablet to be able to communicate with the parents daily. Parents will sign their child in and out using their phones. All reports and forms will be sent to parents via this program.

We are looking forward to implementing this program. Administration will be here to help everyone setup and understand this new program. More program information coming soon.

We wish all of our families a new year filled with blessings. Thank you all for choosing Little Friends of Jesus to be your child's home away from home.

God Bless,
Karyn

Learner Lane

Happy New Year!

I pray that 2021 will be everyone's best year yet. Continue to have faith in God, nothing but good things coming to us all.

This month we will be exploring hibernation, arctic animals, snow owls, and winter sports. Our Jesus stories this month will be, "Shepherd's visit", "Simeon and Anna Meet Baby Jesus", "The Bright Star and Three Visitors", and "An Angry King".

Please remember to continue to bring snow pants, boots, hats, and gloves. Along with our outdoor clothes, extra clothes in cubbies are super helpful in case of accidents.

Have a great January and a new year!
God Bless,
Ms. Taylor

Totville News

Happy New Year from the Infant/
Toddler room!

I'm so happy we all made it through 2020 healthy and safe, let's hope 2021 goes easy on us.

With the new year, we will be reading about creation. We will also be talking about snow, snow animals, and all things winter.

As always, we will be doing a lot of projects and will most likely get messy. So please remember to keep extra clothes stocked in your child's cubbies.

Please make sure to have proper winter clothes everyday, we try to get out as much as possible.

We are going to make this the best year yet.
Happy 2021!

-Ms. Nikki



2021

Good people like those from Zion are God's reminder that there are angels who walk this earth. Thank you for the support that you have shown LFOJ, Zion is the base of our

School-Age Scoop

Happy New Year to our school age families!

I have no idea what this month will bring but hopefully we can keep our kids in school. No matter what happens, we will continue to be prepared to have the kiddos join us back to daycare.

This month we will be celebrating one birthday. Happy Birthday Emily S. We all hope you have an amazing birthday and this will be your best year yet.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

God Bless,
Ms. Taylor

Time to get happy. :) Caleb is!

Dear Friends & Family,

God's hand is all over this story! As most of you know, we have been looking high and low for a house to buy here in New York (per Dad's leading). It has been a bit discouraging—houses selling fast, over asking price, taxes are steep here, etc. We knew we needed the Lord to intervene for us. We started fasting for both our personal situation and for what is happening in the nations. We looked at more houses, but none of them were quite right. We had stopped checking zillow because our realtor daily sent us the new listings. About 5 weeks into our fast, Jordan decided to take a quick look at zillow and a new house showed up.

For sale by owner! *In Lima, NY!!*

A few blocks away from our company's campus!!!

We were excited, but trying not to be *too* excited. :) Our realtor hadn't seen the listing before, but after we asked him about it he reached out to the sellers and set up a showing. We loved it right away, put an offer in, and it was accepted! 7,000 less than asking price and on the last day of our 40 day fast, which was also election day. This is the Lord!



We closed on the house on December 23rd, literally just in time to spend Christmas in our new home! We cut a tree, put some presents under it, and picked up a rotisserie chicken from the grocery store. On the outside, our celebration of Emmanuel probably looked a bit shabby, but on the inside our hearts were bursting His goodness. It was glorious. :) He truly is with us—***Emmanuel.***

A year ago, we were celebrating Christmas and not expecting the year of surprises ahead of us. But this year, after living through all the unexpected twists and turns, we are so thankful for the faithfulness of our God and His steady hand on the nations. He has plans for all of us—surprising plans, but glorious plans full of His goodness beyond our wildest imaginings.

***Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!***

~the Kroll Family

Their entire email is posted on the bulletin board. If you would like me to forward their email to you, let me know.

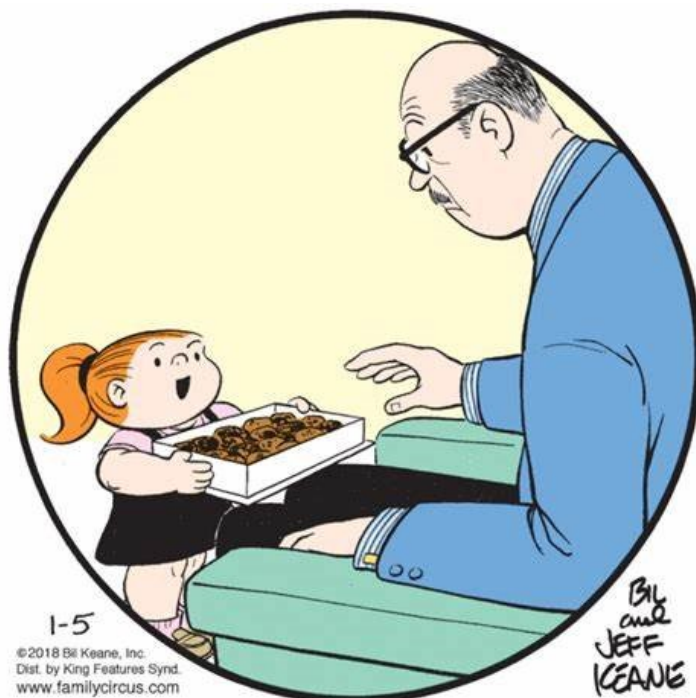


Winter Blast Family Retreats

Register now for Winter 2021 Family Retreats using the registration form linked below.

Bring your family to Camp Luther for an incredible weekend filled with faith building, memory making, and fun! Take a break from cooking and enjoy [the many fun activities](#) that camp has to offer, along with devotions and other activities led by Camp Luther staff members. It'll be a weekend your family will never forget! Available weekends are planned for when winter conditions are prime for fun in the Northwoods.

COVID-19 Winter Update: All programming and activities for this retreat are set up so that your family can stay separate from other groups on-site. The only indoor space at camp shared between different groups will be the dining hall in our Community Center, which will be set up so that physical distancing between different groups can be maintained during meals and other uses of this space.



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"You can see what's inside through the teeth holes."



1-25

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"Mommy, will you tell Billy to come closer? I can't hit him with my snowball from here."

JANUARY 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9:00am Service 2pm LGP	4	5	6 6:30pm Prayer Service	7 3:30-5:00pm confirmation	8	9
10 9:00am Service Drive-up Communion	11	12	13 6:30pm Prayer Service	14 3:30-5:00pm confirmation	15	16
17 9:00am Service 2pm LGP	18	19	20 6:30pm Prayer Service	21 3:30-5:00pm confirmation	22	
23 9:00am Service Drive-up Communion	24	25	26 6:30pm Prayer Service	27 3:30-5:00pm confirmation	28	
29 9:00am Service Drive-up Communion	30	31	1 February 6:30pm Prayer Service	2 3:30-5:00pm confirmation	3	

January 2021
 Shannon and Justin Esala
 715-292-0711
 Lori Landry 715-292-2122



OFFICIAL ACTS
Deaths:
 Myra Riemer 11-26-20
 Bonnie Friske 12-30-20
Baptism:
 Catherine Rick 12-24-20