

# Growing The Mountain Jop

### ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI JULY 2020

As I write this July newsletter cover, we are already a couple days into July with the 4<sup>th</sup> fast approaching. It has been unseasonably warm, that trend is expected to continue for at least another week. The Corona virus is running rampant, with many states seeing their highest numbers yet. And you are faced every day with decisions on what you should do, how you should handle it, and what is acceptable both publicly and privately. Should I wear a mask? Should I not give in to a government that is trying to force me too? Should I go out to eat? Should I go to the store? Should I socialize? Who would have thought six months ago that these and guestions like them would be at the forefront of our lives? It seems to be a troubling time; I have had many people ask is this the end? Or at least the beginning of the end? Is the Lord preparing to return? Should we be getting ready? How should we prepare? What should we do? I am going to answer the last 6 questions right now; Yes, Yes, Yes, Read your Bible, strengthen your faith, repent of your sins, whenever possible share in the Lord's Supper (all of those were for question 5) and then for question 6 what should we do? "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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28:19-20) Our task, as those who have been saved by the grace of God, is to share that message with those around us. Particularly and especially in the world today. In a study by Barna Research earlier this year (before Covid) it was found that in the last 30 years the number of practicing Christians (practicing Christian is one who feels faith is very important in their lives and has attended church in the last month) fell from 45% of the population to 25%. Of that 20% it was split evenly between either becoming non-practicing Christians or Non-Christians all together. According to the study today 43% of the people in the U.S.A. are non-practicing Christians, 32% are non-Christians, and 25% are practicing Christians. These are in my opinion startling numbers. If indeed the end is coming, which we know it is, we are one day closer each and every day. At the current rate the number of people looking forward to that day is growing smaller at an alarming rate. The world is doing its very best to turn people away from Biblical truth, the world does not want you to believe in truth, the world thinks you should all create your own truths and do what is best for yourselves. I am here to tell you unequivocally; the world is wrong. The world rejects the inerrant Word of God as truth, but we don't. We know the truth, and our job, the job that we received when we were called into that truth through our baptism and by the power of the Holy Spirit is to share that truth. No matter the cost. The last couple weeks in worship we have been talking about the cost of knowing the truth and sharing the truth. "21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, <sup>22</sup> and you will be hated by all for my name's sake." (Matt 10:21-22a) "35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup> And a person's enemies will be those of his own household." (Matt 10: 35-36) People in the world, of the world, people caught up in themselves do not want to hear God's message. They do not want to believe that they are sinners by nature. The world tries to teach them that man is inherently good. Nothing could be farther from the truth, God's truth. We are all sinners, but, and it is a very important but: "<sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) The world needs to know, that Christ did indeed die for us, for them, for all of us. I could quote John 3:16, however you all know it, you know and understand what (cont. on next page)



### ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 1111-11TH AVE WEST ASHLAND, WI 54806 715-682-6075

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 10:15am (Sept.-May)
Bible Studies—currently cancelled.

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: Mon. 8-5 Tues. off Wed. 12-8 Thurs. 8-5 Fri. 8-12 Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

**Office Secretary** Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M-W 8-3 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

(cont. from front page)

Christ did for us and why. And because you believe that, because you understand that you are by nature a sinner, because *you repent of your sins and truly believe by faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, those sins are forgiven and you have the promise of eternal life. Why, why wouldn't we want to share that Good News?* One of my favorite commentaries written by Paul *E. Kretzmann, reminds us of the following: "There is* no neutral ground; for every one the choice is only between confession and denial" he makes this statement while looking into the reading from a couple weeks ago; "<sup>32</sup> So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven." (Romans 10:32-33) In these trying times, when we wonder will today be the day? When we see the world falling apart around us, it should makes us feel like the disciples who were on the road to Emmaus; "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" (Luke 24:32b) My friends I do my best, at least twice a week, to open to you the scriptures, that hopefully your hearts burn within you, that you may be disciples, that you may share the Good News of Gospel. So that on that day when that final trumpet sounds, we stand together before the master as we hear him say; "Well done, good and faithful servant."

I wish you God's peace, I pray for you to stay healthy, I pray you find it in you to share the Love of Jesus that flows in you and through you by the power of the Holy Spirit with those around you. God bless you until we see each other again.

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

In His Service, Pastor Rick



### 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 David Kaarre Mary Siefers Mary Bullis Jim Bullis Mike Dimich Lloyd Koosmann Theresa Koosmann Marty Kaarre Penny Mattson Penny Larson Rebecca Gurske Angie Guski LeAnn Billing Ellen Hudgeson Francis Balmer Jennifer Rutter Clarence Osmak Chico Cichon Ernie Spangle and those in our hearts.

PRAYERS for Homebound, As-

### sisted 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

### 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

Here is a look at the photo riddle that has started trending online again.

# MINDYOURLOGIC

God called to out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." Then God said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

When it comes to walking on holy ground, I often think of Yellowstone National Park. Where the earth's crust is thin, and you can witness and feel the mantle heat of melted rocks. Even a skeptic is easily convinced that this place is unique when he/she sees geysers erupting, mud pots boil-



ing, hot springs steaming. Yellowstone goes out of its way to keep people safe with signs, boardwalks, barriers and more. But even then, an accident or carelessness may cause someone to get badly burned by the hot liquids, or even killed. Yes, Yellowstone carries the presence of earthly beauty and the heat of an earthly beast.

Aligning Yellowstone to our step-by-step journey of faith strips us down to the basics. Most steps steer us forward, but there are times we miss the signboards and realize that we are weak and fragile. And this is when God goes that extra mile. For God is God through the thick-and thin. For God is God when we are trapped in a "hot spot." For God is God when we are burned by tragedy and disasters. For God is God when we are blistered by the fire of death.

In Exodus, it was God who lit the fire and called out to Moses. It was God who informed Moses that his journey of faith was on Holy Ground. It was God who reminded Moses that He was the God for all ages. And it was God who gave Moses a fresh vision... and the promise of deliverance from the oppression of the Egyptians. The promise of new hope. Dear Friends, we don't live in Yellowstone. Some may get there once in a lifetime, and others may only see this beautiful park on television. But wherever we plant our feet, our hope, our dreams, as God's beloved children we are on **His Holy Ground.** And He is right there beside us. Be watching for His signposts: amazing grace, tender mercy, perfect love, comfort, shelter, hope, kindness...and more. God is God and that makes all the difference in Heaven and Earth. He is calling. Let us take off our weary shoes and come into His Holy presence!



# Light in the Darkness Opening Devotion



I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth (Psalm 121:1-2).

The hill behind my house, not grand by mountain standards, is a challenge for my legs and lungs. One very dreary fall morning when my mood matched the weather, I was sitting at my kitchen table staring out into the backyard. Suddenly I was awed by "fire" in the treetops on the hill. The sun had broken through the clouds and its rays turned the trees to a brilliant orange that blazed against the black sky. It lasted only a few minutes, but what joy filled my heart as my eyes feasted on the beauty!

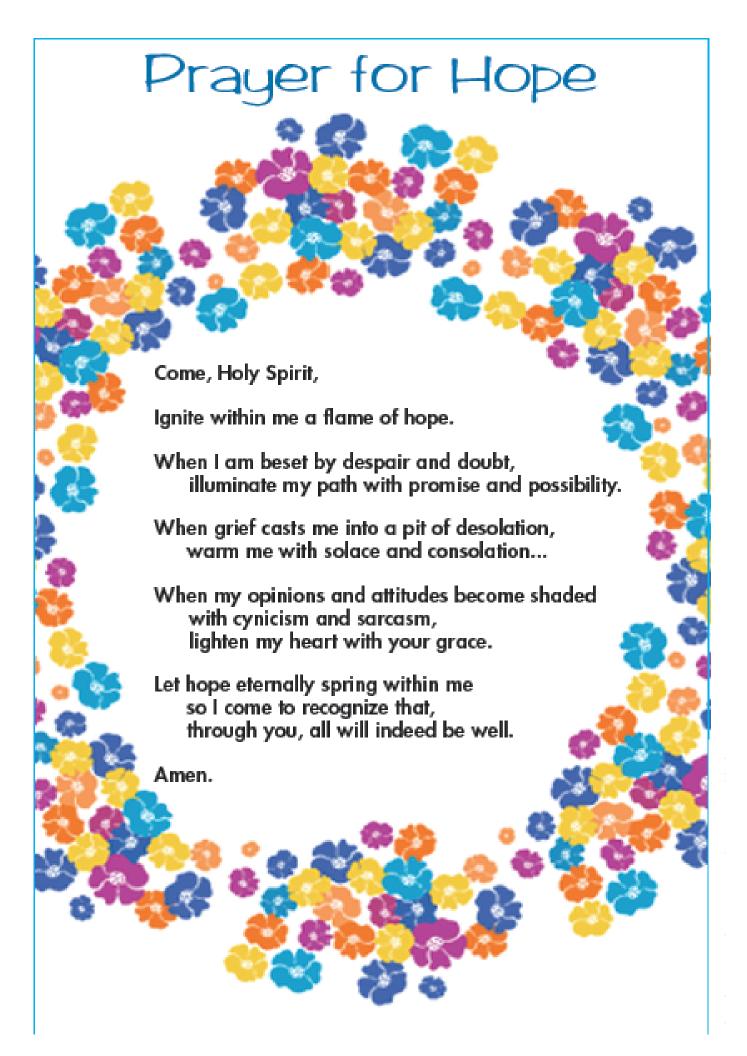
A greater joy came from remembering the One who made the hill, the trees, and the dark gloomy morning with its spark of beauty. Our merciful God is still in charge. The touch of His love turns darkness into light.

Time spent praying, praising God, and reading His Word helps me remember that though my days are not always sunny and fun, God is with me. His beauty, love, and mercy surround me. When my spirits start to sag, I look to my hill – or better yet, climb it. I find myself praising God for this bit of creation He has given me.

**Prayer:** Creator God, help us look for the beauty in the world and in the people You put into our lives. Let the joy of hope shine in us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The picture is a cartoon of a woman sanding front of a wooden door and a brick wall. There are curtains in the background, and she's holding a broom. There's also a bucket at her feet. It's quite fiendishly tricky and has left many players stumped. And somewhere in there, there's a cat.







Masks are available on the table if you forgot yours. They are highly recommended. A sheet with guidelines during this time of distancing is available on the table.

These were emailed and put on Facebook and our Website.

Please check in for attendance. Thank you. Visitor? May we get your name and address?

The table, along with guideline sheets, masks, hand-sanitizer is at the entrance. Someone takes names of people attending.

Bulletins are spread out on the table in the Sanctuary, along with hand-sanitizer. A basket for offerings is on the table.

Every other pew is blocked off and people sit at the ends of each row, usually one or two at each end. A family group can take entire pew.

Communion: Three people go up at a time, unless it's a family unit. Communion is done at the very end of the service. Once you have been blessed you exit out of the church Pastor uses hand sanitizer and will give you your wafer and individual cup. You throw the cup away at the end of the railing. You get your stuff and leave. If you want, you can distance yourself outside and talk with others. Many do. Keep patient, safe and healthy.









### An easy way for your offering:



# Simply Giving

endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank and provided through VANCO

### **Direct Debit for Offerings**

VANCO Services is providing Zion with direct deposit of offerings from members. It is a convenient, secure and easy method for contributions. We will be using Direct Debit e.service®

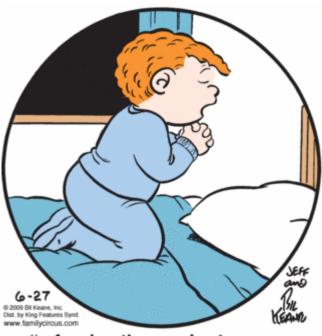
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) provides a secure elec-

tronic transfer of an authorized donation/payment from an individual's checking or savings account into the Church's bank account. Vanco processes recurring, variable and one-time transactions.

**About Vanco Services, LLC** Vanco Services, LLC is a PCI (Payment Card Industry) Level 1 Compliant Service Provider specializing in electronic payment solutions. They provide secure and reliable processing for both recurring and one-time transactions. Vanco works with over 19,000 organizations in a variety of industries nationwide. With more than 20 years of experience in Automated Clearing House (ACH) processing, cash management and risk management, Vanco has earned its reputation as a trusted industry leader.

**Security** Vanco provides the highest level of security and confidentiality in processing their clients' electronic transactions. It is their expertise in risk management and an unwavering commitment to security and confidentiality that has helped them become a market leader with a reputation for providing timely, accurate and secure processing services. To remain a market leader and to maintain a high level of service, they utilize the latest technology and incorporate risk management into every facet of their business.

If this is something you would like to look further into, please contact Lynn in the office. Application forms are available in the office.



"...forgive those who trespass against us. And leave us ninety-two temptations..."



### 195. PARABLES OF THE TREASURE & THE PEARL

(MATTHEW 13:44-46)

FYI -Activity pages (coloring pages, word search, etc.) go along with the scriptures for July

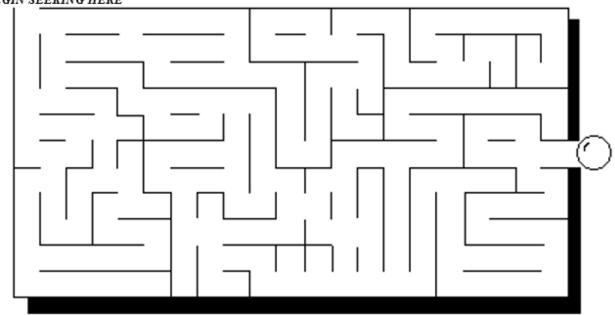
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FOUND GREAT PRICE HIDDEN

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MAN

SELLS TREASURE

### BEGIN SEEKING HERE



### **Easy Riddles Answers**

- 3 All of them 4 A sponge 5 Are you asleep yet? An egg 2 A candle 6 The future
- There aren't any—it's a one-story house. 8 A promise 9 Your age 10 He was bald
- 11 A towel 12 Your word 13 A barber 14 All the people on the boat are married.
- 16 He was born on February 29. 17 A bank 15 The match 18 An echo 19 Darkness

### Harder Riddles? Answers on another page

- 86. Riddle: What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?
- **87. Riddle:** What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?
- **88. Riddle:** Speaking of rivers, a man calls his dog from the opposite side of the river. The dog crosses the river without getting wet, and without using a bridge or boat. How?
- 89. Riddle: What can fill a room but takes up no space?
- **90. Riddle:** If you drop me I'm sure to crack, but give me a smile and I'll always smile back. What am I?
- 91. Riddle: The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?
- **92. Riddle:** I turn once, what is out will not get in. I turn again, what is in will not get out. What am I?
- 93. Riddle: People make me, save me, change me, raise me. What am I?
- 94. Riddle: What breaks yet never falls, and what falls yet never breaks?
- 95. Riddle: What goes through cities and fields, but never moves?
- **96.** Riddle: I am always hungry and will die if not fed, but whatever I touch will soon turn red. What am I?
- **97. Riddle:** The person who makes it has no need of it; the person who buys it has no use for it. The person who uses it can neither see nor feel it. What is it?
- **98. Riddle:** A man looks at a painting in a museum and says, "Brothers and sisters I have none, but that man's father is my father's son." Who is in the painting?
- **99. Riddle:** With pointed fangs I sit and wait; with piercing force I crunch out fate; grabbing victims, proclaiming might; physically joining with a single bite. What am I?
- **100. Riddle:** I have lakes with no water, mountains with no stone and cities with no buildings. What am I?
- **101. Riddle:** What does man love more than life, hate more than death or mortal strife; that which contented men desire; the poor have, the rich require; the miser spends, the spendthrift saves, and all men carry to their graves?

## **PEPSI has five letters, spell that in 4 letters.** – Not that tricky, but has stumped many. Work out your answer before you read the correct answer below

At first glance, that looks tricky, eh? How on earth can you spell Pepsi with four letters when it clearly has five?

As always, with these riddles, there were some enterprising but woefully wrong guesses.

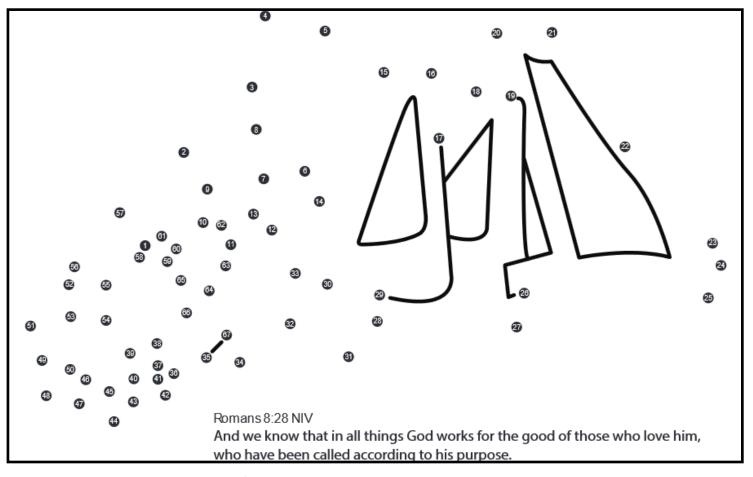
A lot of folks have answered with "Pepc." This kind of makes sense, because "Pepc" would be pronounced the same as Pepsi.

Another enterprising genius suggested "soda," which is not a bad guess but unfortunately is not correct. Another thought that it could be spelled as "Coke."

Another opinion thought that it was asking us to spell 'five.' But that's incorrect too.

Maybe take a minute to focus on the wording of the riddle. What's the correct answer to the Pepsi riddle then? To solve this brain teaser, you need to pay attention to the wording and focus on the second part of the riddle. If you ignore or remove "Pepsi has five letters," what are you left with?

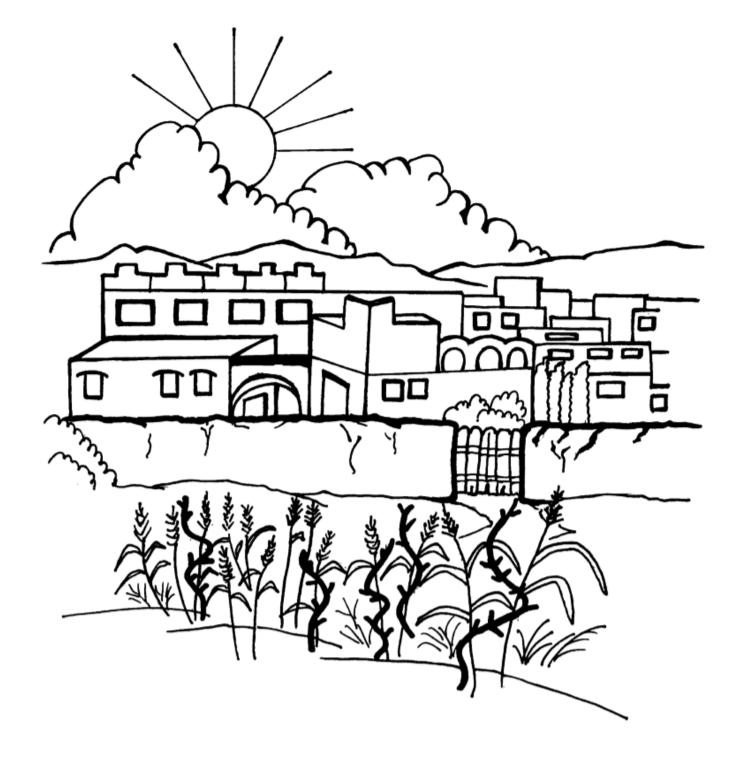
The second part says "spell that in four letters." So spell "THAT" in four letters. Are you kicking yourself?



### Easy Riddles? Answers another page

- 1. **Riddle:** What has to be broken before you can use it?
  - 2. Riddle: I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?
  - **3. Riddle:** What month of the year has 28 days?
  - **4. Riddle:** What is full of holes but still holds water?
  - **5. Riddle**: What question can you never answer yes to?
  - **6. Riddle:** What is always in front of you but can't be seen?
  - 7. Riddle: There's a one-story house in which everything is yellow. Yellow walls, yellow doors, yellow furniture. What color are the stairs?
  - 8. Riddle. What can you break, even if you never pick it up or touch it?
  - **9. Riddle:** What goes up but never comes down?
  - **10. Riddle:** A man who was outside in the rain without an umbrella or hat didn't get a single hair on his head wet. Why?
  - 11. Riddle: What gets wet while drying?
  - **12. Riddle:** What can you keep after giving to someone?
  - **13. Riddle:** I shave every day, but my beard stays the same. What am I?
  - **14. Riddle:** You see a boat filled with people, yet there isn't a single person on board. How is that possible?
  - **15. Riddle:** You walk into a room that contains a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle and a fireplace. What would you light first?
  - **16. Riddle:** A man dies of old age on his 25 birthday. How is this possible?
  - 17. Riddle: I have branches, but no fruit, trunk or leaves. What am I?
  - 18. Riddle: What can't talk but will reply when spoken to?
  - **19. Riddle:** The more of this there is, the less you see. What is it?

Answer to the man on London bridge riddle The man's name is Andrew!



"Jesus told His disciples a parable about wheat and tares."

Matthew 13:24 – 30, 36 – 43

So, the first thing people see are three items in each row and the numerical total that they represent.

So, the three clocks equal 21. The three calculators equal 30. The three light bulbs equal 15.

Then, it is time to solve the "clock calculator bulb" riddle. How much do the clock, calculator, and light bulbs equal?

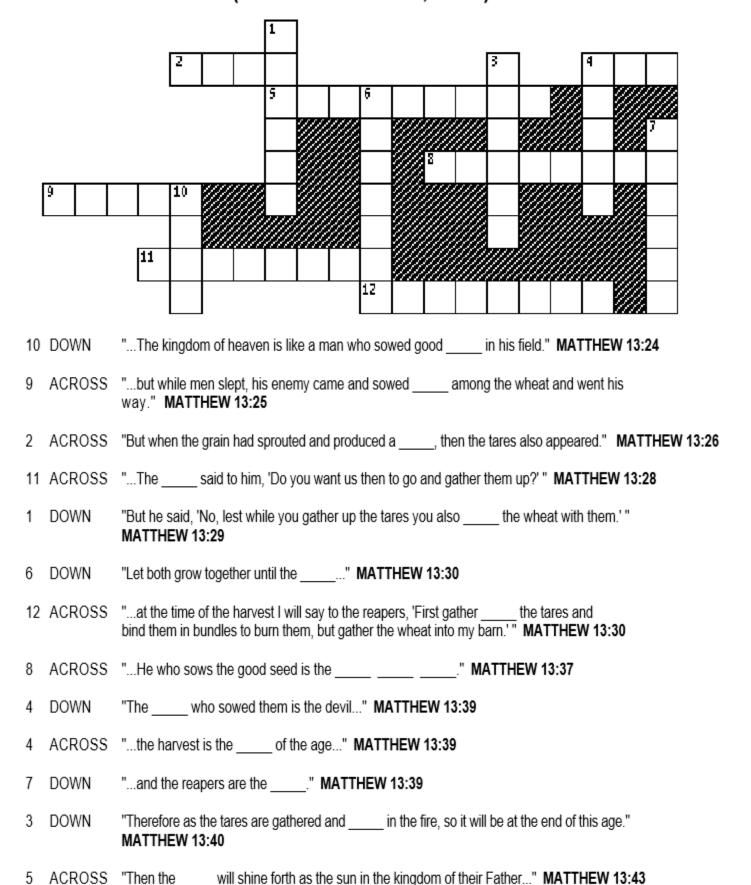
Someone who just looks quickly might think the clocks are seven each, the calculators are 10 each and the bulbs are five each and the answer, therefore, is 22. That is incorrect.

There are others who see there are three lightbulbs there, so that must be 15 and that makes the answer 32. That is also incorrect. The "clock calculator bulb" riddle answer is actually 30.

Look at the picture again. The first photo has three clocks. Two are set at 9:00 and the third is 3:00.9+9+3=21. The calculators have the same numbers — "1234." Those added together are 10 and that means  $10\times3=30$ . Finally, the lightbulbs have five lines above them to display light and  $5\times3=15$ . That is where the original answers came from. Now, look at the last photo. It is 9:00 on the clock. The calculated changed the numbers to "1224" and that adds up to 9. Finally, the three lightbulbs only have four lines above them so the answer for those three changes to 12. Therefore, the last problem is 9+9+12=30.

### 194. PARABLE OF WHEAT & TARES

(MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43)





"I met an old man on London bridge. As the sunset on the ridge, he tipped his hat and drew his name and cheated at the guessing game. What was the man's name?"

Maybe take a minute to think about it. The guy's name is right there in the riddle. Here's a clue: join two words together. Still no? OK, this is a tricky one so let's get it solved.

Missouri Synod Northland and This is the Life on Sunday, July 26th, has been moved to 8:00am

Answers to riddles 86 Silence 87 A river 88 The river was frozen. 89 Light 90 A mirror 91 Footsteps 92 A key 93 Money 94 Day, and night 95 A road 96 Fire 97 A coffin 98 The man's son 99 A stapler 100 A map 101 Nothing



# 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Sunday's - Regular in-house service with communion along with live-stream.			1	2	3	4
9:00am Service LGP 2:00pm	6	7	8 LFOJ Chapel 10:30 1:30	9	10	11
9:00am Service Drive-up Communion LGP 2:00pm	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00am service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:00am Service Drive-up communion	27	28	29	30	31	

Elders: July 5 John July 12 Doug July 19 Doug July 26 Randy



July Altar Guild: Lisa Warren 715-209-8547 Michelle Vyskocil 715-682-2498

### **Attendance:**

June 7 -18 June 14 - 25 June 21 -18 June 28 -20

"Giving" budget per week \$3262 Bi-weekly \$6524

May 17<sup>th</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup> \$4435 June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup> \$6345 June 15<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup> \$5490 We will evaluate something during the middle of the month if we would start Wednesday night services again. We have had a few people who have already told us their wishes about attending church or to continue watching the live-stream services. If you would like to let us know of your thoughts at this point of time you can give us a call or send an email.