



The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI MARCH 2021

I was watching the weather last night and the weatherman said that March 1st is considered meteorological spring. So, I am going to pretend this is our spring newsletter cover. I know that following the last two weeks of Arctic blast/Polar Vortex, I am ready for spring. I was able to check on my bees this past week, it appears they are alive and doing well. I am also certain that they are ready for spring as well. I am also aware of the fact that they were not particularly happy with me opening up the hive to check on them. Normally I would have used a little smoke to help calm them down, but I thought, "well it's still a little cool, they should be a little slow while I check on their food supply" Wrong! One or two of the more active ones decided to get under my loose shirt and leave me a remembrance of their displeasure.



On the bright side, there are lots of bees and they appear to be doing well.

Now you may ask what in the world do bees have to do with our message? Well, as I look at my bees, June thinks I may be a bit strange with this, but I like to sometimes just sit and watch them. Bees have an amazing society;

honey bees are called a superorganism. What is a superorganism you might ask? Well, the textbook answer goes like this: A social unit of eusocial animals, such as honey bees, which have highly organized division of labor, and where individual honey bees aren't able to survive by themselves for any length of time. I find bees as a remarkable indicator of God's



creativity. They have such a highly developed social structure and every bee works for the colony and knows what the needs are for the colony. In some

ways I look at people in the same way, as a sort of super colony. We all have a form and purpose in our colony, world, creation. Now an individual unlike a single bee can at a certain points in their life exist alone. But certainly not alone from birth, and we wouldn't want it at the end of life either. God has created us to be social. Even in His commandments the directive is to love your neighbor. He desire is not for us to be separated from one another, nor to not care about one another, but to love one another. Sometimes I think we forget that, sometimes I even feel our society today encourages us to isolation. With all of technology and social media it seems the encouragement of physical, social interaction is shunned, particularly now in the age of pandemic. I ran into a friend today at the restaurant. He and his wife stated that today was the first day they had eaten out since last March! She said that she felt insecure and almost sick to her stomach with apprehension. They are by no means alone; I know many people like them in varying degrees. We have unfortunately become socially isolated, and unfortunately the older you are the more isolated you are as your use of many of



the digital ways of interacting are limited. The couple I saw this morning said the only reason they were out is that they have now both received both of their vaccinations and were feeling slightly more comfortable in leaving the safety and sanctuary of their home. The reason I bring this up not to try and tell you to get out and mingle, or to go somewhere where you do not feel comfortable. The reason I mention this is to let you know that if you are feeling that way; alone, isolated, scared, unable to get out, you are not alone. Many people feel that way and there are things we can and should be doing. We should be communicating with those around us who we know may be feeling alone and isolated. We should be offering assistance to any of our friends and neighbors in need. It may be something as simple as a phone call, or even a letter. We need to let all of those in the superorganism that we call the church they are not forgotten. This response can work in two ways. One is the response of those of you who may feel alone and or forgotten; reach out, call a friend, call your pastor. The other for those of us who may be doing ok to reach out to those we haven't heard from in a

while, call your friends from church, write them a letter, leave something on their doorstep. I have been calling and checking on those I haven't seen in a while, and I know I haven't reached all of you, and I haven't seen some of you in quite a while. I was suffering with a cold and cough for all of January and most of February. I am doing better now, and hope to again start visiting those at home who would like a visit. If you are one of those, if I haven't reached out to you, please, please, call me. I have had people tell me; "oh I didn't call, I know how busy you are" I want you to know I am never too busy to take your call, or to visit you at home. So you are aware of it, I have received both of the COVID vaccinations. So now, as things begin to warm up, as people continue to be vaccinated, as the numbers continue to decline, I pray that you all stay well, and I hope to see you all very soon.

No matter how **"Busy"** a person is, if they really care, they will always find the time for you. ❤️

There will be donation box in the Narthex for those who would like to donate for lilies for Easter. You can also drop off or mail in a donation to the church.



²⁹ Jesus

answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.' ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31)

God Bless you all,

Pastor Rick



Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed
Wednesday Evening Lent Service 6:30pm in-church and live streamed
Sunday School - 3yrs.—5th grade At-home lessons
Bible Studies—currently cancelled.
Daily Scripture Reading on

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

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
Jordan Thimm
Andrew Pruss

Amen!


*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:

Bob Heggie	Alice Balmer
Brad Prill	Mary Siefers
Angie Guski	Penny Larson
Francis Balmer	David Gustafson
LeAnn Billing	Vi Basina
Andrea Gunderson	James Fletcher
Dave Pearson	Colton Ledin
Lynda Koppelman	Marion Russell
Brett Everman	Walt Schutte

and those in our hearts

Dear God, our hearts are burdened for our friends who are hurting right now. We ask that you would be their comforter, that you would cover them with your infinite **grace** and mercy, surrounding them in peace during this dark season. We pray for fresh grace, for renewed **strength**, for your goodness and mercy over their lives today.

Thank you God that you are with us always, that your presence is mighty, and you hear our prayers on behalf of those we **love**. We ask that you would show yourself strong on their behalf. Remind them that nothing is too difficult for you, and you are leading them through this difficult time, covering them in your care. We know and believe beyond any doubt, that your power and love will never fail. Amen.



Mustard Seed

Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

Begin with God He Gives Comfort

In the Word

Is God always ready to listen to me?

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life (Psalm 119:50).

Of the Word

Wouldn't it be fantastic to be comfortable all of the time? In our everyday lives we want to have comfortable shoes, comfortable beds, comfortable temperatures, comfortable friends. We even have our own special comfort foods. But, alas, being comfortable all of the time just isn't "real." Aches and pains come our way as do old age, job losses, broken-down communications, suffering, and even death. These are the times we can turn to God knowing that only He can comfort our innermost being. The comforting "things" of this world are only temporary fixes, but God's comfort lasts.

Praise be to ... the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God (2 Corinthians 1:3–4).

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life (Psalm 119:50).

Walking with my Lord

My dear Father, I sometimes come to You with a heavy heart and in need of Your comfort. I know that You love me and will never leave me, but at times I feel You are so far away. Lord, forgive my weakness and doubt. Help me in these times to lean on You and renew me with Your Holy Spirit. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Places of the **Passion**



The Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the halls of Pontius Pilate, the hills of Golgotha, and a garden tomb. These are the places we remember when we meditate on our Lord's passion.

“Places of the Passion”

In this worship series for Lent, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, contemplating what happened at each place our Savior stood along the path of his Passion for our sake. Written by theology professor Reed Lessing, each service explores the meaning, history and spiritual inspiration associated with the location highlighted. Parishioners will learn things they may not have known before as they grow to understand more deeply the hard road our Lord took that the way to heaven might be open to us.

Ash Wednesday: **The City of Jerusalem** • Matthew 26:1-5: Jerusalem is the place of the Passover, where Jesus gathers with the crowds.

Week 1: **Bethany** • Matthew 26:6-13: Jesus is anointed for burial by his friend Mary, at her home in this small town.

Week 2: **The Mount of Olives** • Matthew 26:30-35: The disciples sing a hymn with Jesus before they head out to this place of prayer.

Week 3: **The Garden of Gethsemane** • Matthew 26:47-56: Jesus is betrayed and arrested in this garden under cover of darkness.

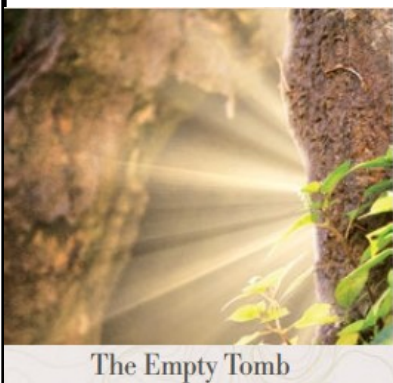
Week 4: **The Courtyard** • Matthew 26:57-69: While Jesus is put on trial before the high priest, Peter denies Jesus in this place.

Week 5: **Pilate's Judgment Hall** • Matthew 27:11-23: Pilate is positioned here to set Jesus free, but turns him over to be crucified instead.

Palm Sunday: **Bethphage** • Matthew 21:1-11—This place is where the ride into Jerusalem on a donkey begins for Jesus.



Bethany



The Empty Tomb

-Maundy Thursday: **The Upper Room** • Matthew 26:17-29—Climb the stairs to join the disciples in receiving the body and blood of Christ in bread and wine.

-Good Friday: **Golgotha** • Matthew 27:45-56—The Place of the Skull is where Jesus breathes his last.

-Easter Sunday: **The Garden Tomb** • Matthew 28:1-10—See the place where they laid him who is now arisen

Please join us during our Lenten Season: In-church and live-streamed Sundays - 9:00am

Wednesday Midweek Lenten Services - 6:30pm Mar. 3rd -24th

Maundy Thursday April 1st 6:30pm

Good Friday April 2nd 6:30pm

Easter Sunday April 4th 7:00am and 9:00am

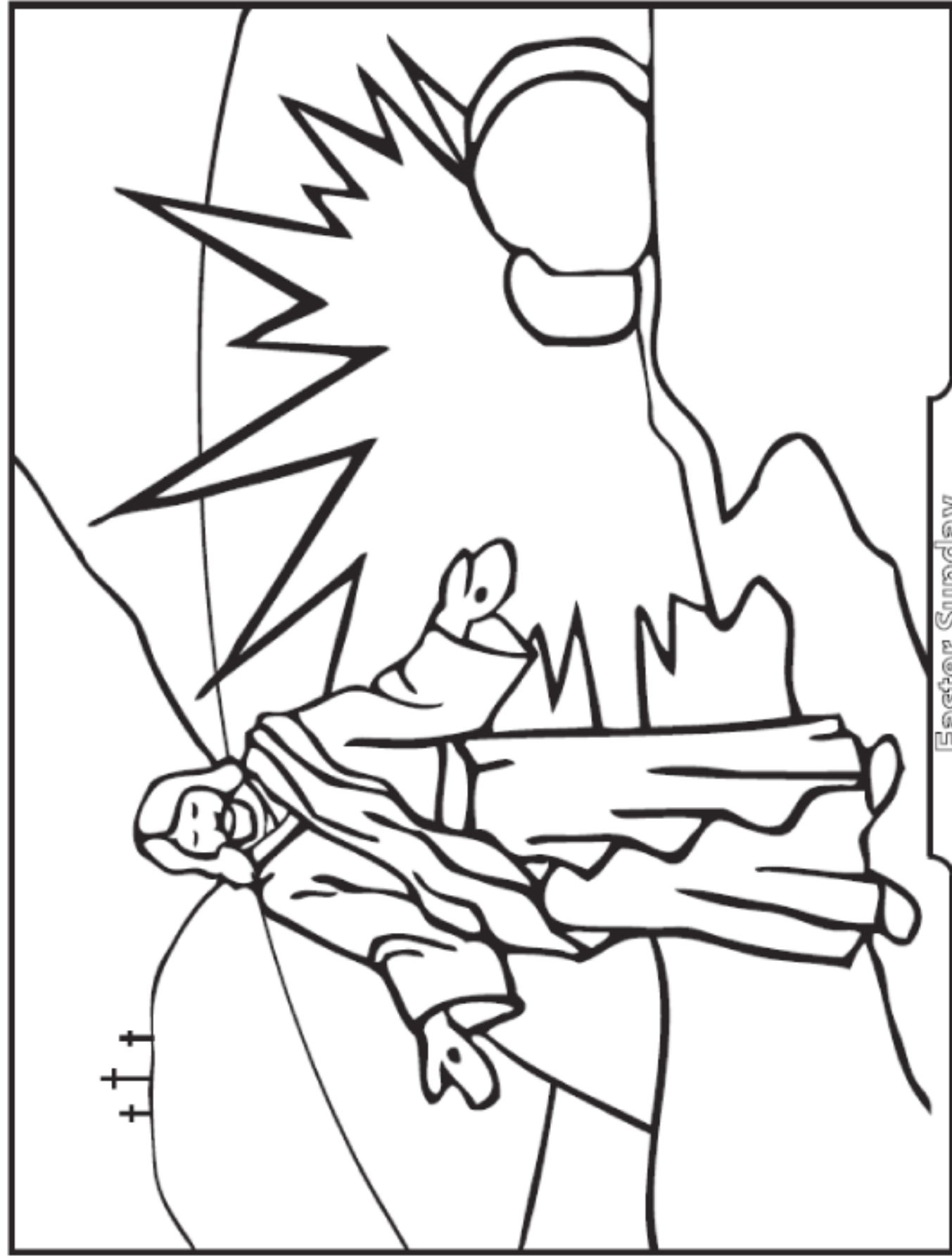
Jesus Enters Jerusalem





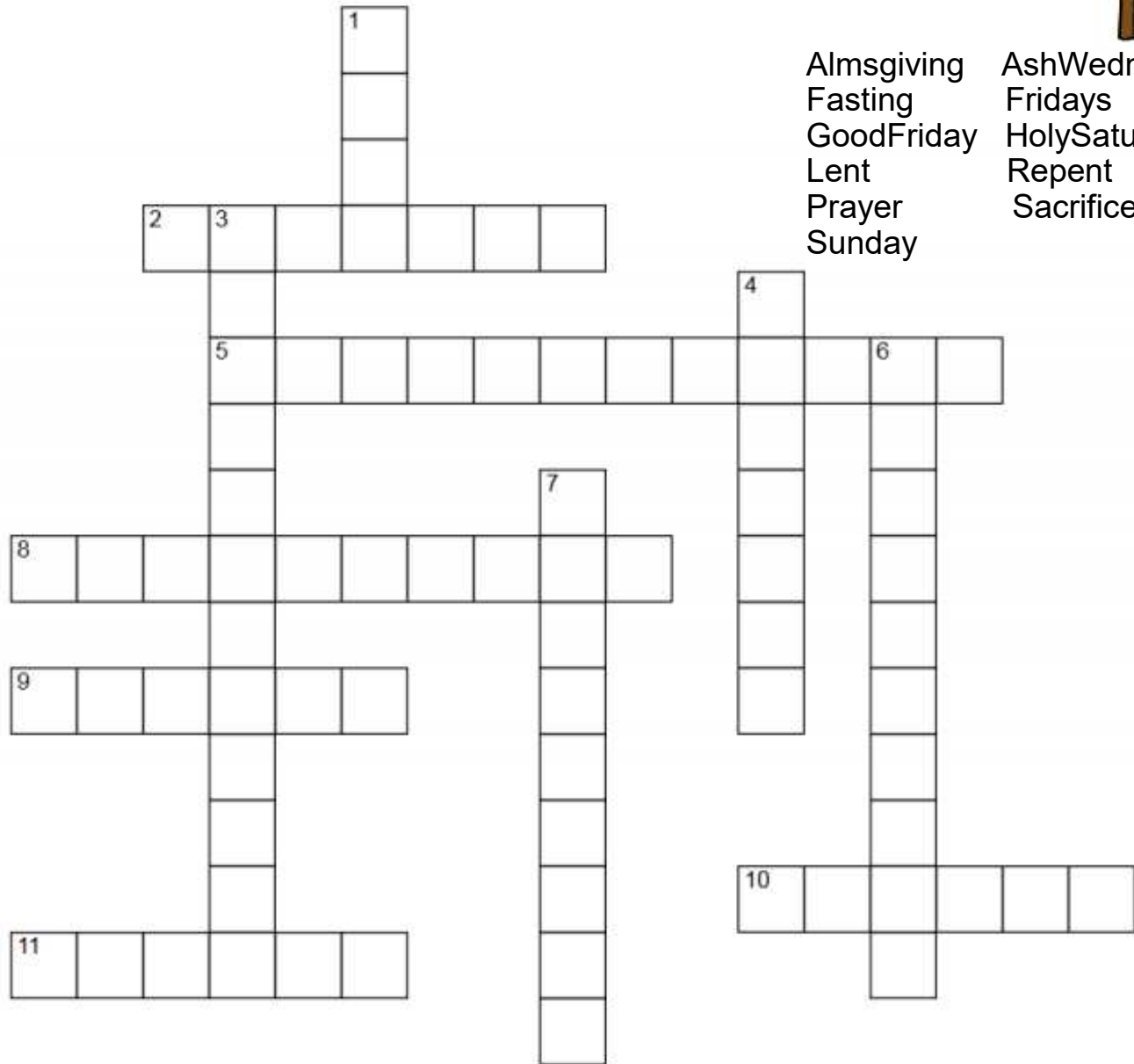
Jesus Carries His Cross

SaintAnnesHelper.com



Easter Sunday

Lenten Crossword



Almsgiving
Fasting
GoodFriday
Lent
Prayer
Sunday

AshWednesday
Fridays
HolySaturday
Repent
Sacrifice

LAUGHTER

A little old lady had just returned home from an evening church service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the midst of robbing her home, she yelled, "STOP! ACTS 2:38!" (That's the one that goes, "Repent and be baptized, in the name of the Lord, so that your sins may be forgiven.")

The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police to explain what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell scripture."

"Scripture?", replied the burglar, stunned. "She said she had an ax and two .38s!"



© Can Stock Photo - csp23412676

WORDS OF LENT

1. SDUAJ

2. RSOSC

3. SNAIL

4. CIFONNOESS

5. RRAEYP

6. FYROT

7. MLUHBE

8. BLUIAR

9. OIXNIUFRIC

10. ESRNI

11. RIVSCEE

12. GIVFOER

13. RCCUHH

14. DMUYAN

15. NISS

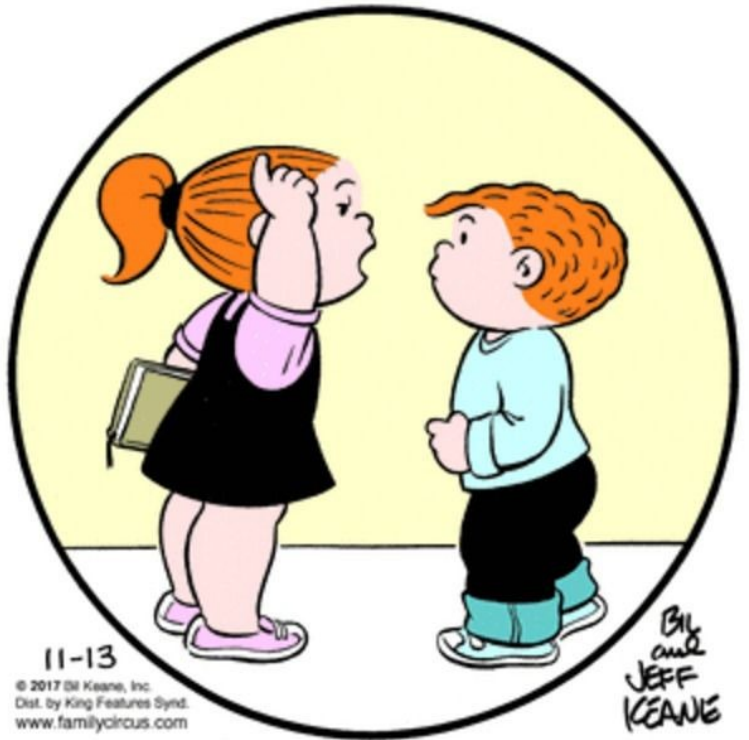
16. MPLAS

17. HLOY

18. RTEEP

19. SGFNATI

20. RTEESA



"God knows all our sins 'cause they're stored in His cloud."

The LENTEN PRAYER

LORD JESUS
YOU CALL US TO REPENT AND TO BELIEVE
FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND
YOU TEACH US TO DO GOD'S WILL
YOU INVITE US TO FOLLOW YOU
ON THE WAY TO THE CROSS.

LORD,
RENEW IN US THE GRACE OF OUR BAPTISM
TRANSFORM OUR THOUGHTS, WORDS AND
DEEDS SO THAT WE MIGHT TURN AWAY
FROM SIN AND LIVE THE GOSPEL.

AMEN

Trivia - Palm Sunday

This Palm Sunday trivia quiz features 12 multiple-choice questions. Answers can be found at the end of the newsletter. Enjoy and share these Palm Sunday facts with friends and family.

1. Why do we celebrate Palm Sunday?
a) To observe the resurrection of Jesus
b) To mark the ascension of Christ
c) To commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem

2. When do we celebrate Palm Sunday?
a) The first week of Lent
b) One week before Easter
c) One week after Easter

3. According to the Bible, Jesus was greeted by palm-waving crowds as he entered Jerusalem. What do palms represent?
a) Humility b) Triumph c) Majesty d) None of these

4. Palm leaves are distributed before masses on Palm Sunday. When palms are unavailable for the celebration, some churches use fronds from this tree/plant as a substitute.
a) Olive b) Willow c) Yew d) Any of these

5. Jesus rode which animal into Jerusalem?
a) Donkey b) Horse c) Sheep d) Lion

6. True or false. In the Philippines, Christian communities often re-enact the scene of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to celebrate Palm Sunday.

7. Although not part of the original celebration, palm fronds are sometimes folded to make this shape.
a) Heart b) Crown c) Cross d) Sword

8. Jerusalem was part of which jurisdiction during Jesus' time?
a) Galilee b) Perea c) Judea d) Decapolis

9. In Roman Catholic traditions, Palm Sunday is also called _____.
a) Passion Sunday b) Victory Sunday c) No other name

10. Palm Sunday is called Flower's Day in Bulgaria. In addition to being a religious celebration, it is also a celebration of which group of people?
a) People who are priests, nuns or members of the clergy
b) People who are named after a flower, plant or tree.
c) None of the above

11. The event of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is told in which of the four canonical gospels? Pick the best answer.
a) Matthew b) Mark c) Luke d) John e) All four gospels

12. True or false. Palm Sunday is the penultimate Sunday in the Lenten season.



Sunday, March 28th

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

ASHES
BETRAYAL
BURIAL
CHRIST
CHURCH
CONFESSION
CROSS
CRUCIFIXION
DENIAL
EASTER
EASTER
FASTING
FLOGGING
FOOTWASH-
ING

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

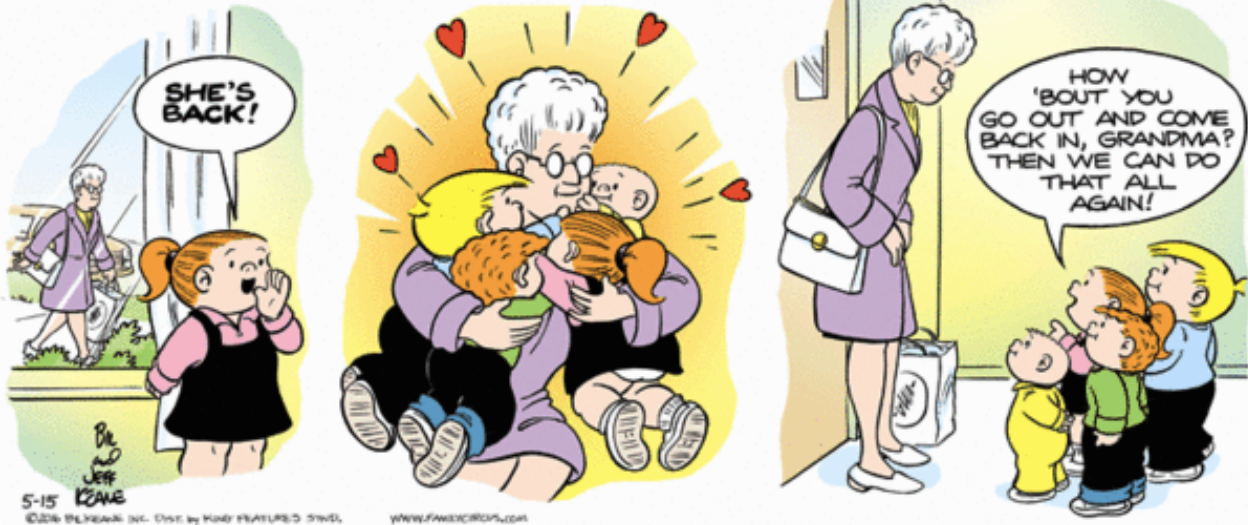
FORGIVE
FORTY
GRAVE
HOLY
HUMBLE
JESUS
JUDAS
LENT
MAUNDY
MOURN
NAILS
PALMS
PASSOVER
PENITENCE
PETER

“The higher up you go, the stronger the timber grows.” A group of mountain hikers came across an old woodsman with an axe on his shoulder. "Where are you going?" they asked him." "I'm headed up the mountain to get some wood to repair my cabin." "But why are you going up the mountain?" they asked incredulously. "There are plenty of trees all around us here." "I know," he said, "but I need strong timber and it grows only on the highest elevations, where the trees are tested and toughened by the weather around them. The higher up you go, the stronger the timber grows." And that is what God desires for us — that through the winds of trial and the storms of temptation we may grow strong and live on a higher level — strong to resist the devil's urging, strong to serve God, and strong as we stand together in faith and service to one another. Take my advice — stay close to each other, worship regularly and often, avoid temptation when it comes your way, and fill your hearts with God's word.



THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bill Keane



- 1) A farmer in California owns a beautiful pear tree. He supplies the fruit to a nearby grocery store. The store owner has called the farmer to see how much fruit is available for him to purchase. The farmer knows that the main trunk has 24 branches. Each branch has exactly 12 boughs and each bough has exactly 6 twigs. Since each twig bears one piece of fruit, how many plums will the farmer be able to deliver?
- 2) The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
- 3) What 8 letter word can have a letter taken away and it still makes a word. Take another letter away and it still makes a word. Keep on doing that until you have one letter left. What is the word?
- 4) Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?
- 5) A boy was at a carnival and went to a booth where a man said to the boy, "If I write your exact weight on this piece of paper then you have to give me \$50, but if I cannot, I will pay you \$50." The boy looked around and saw no scale so he agrees, thinking no matter what the carny writes he'll just say he weighs more or less. In the end the boy ended up paying the man \$50. How did the man win the bet?
- 6) What has six faces, but does not wear makeup, has twenty-one eyes, but cannot see? What is it?
- 7) A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him underwater for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?
- 8) I am not alive, but I grow; I don't have lungs, but I need air; I don't have a mouth, but water kills me. What am I?
- 9) Two fathers and two sons went fishing one day. They were there the whole day and only caught 3 fish. One father said, that is enough for all of us, we will have one each. How can this be possible?
- 10) I am something people love or hate. I change peoples appearances and thoughts. If a person takes care of them self I will go up even higher. To some people I will fool them. To others I am a mystery. Some people might want to try and hide me but I will show. No matter how hard people try I will Never go down. What am I?

Word of Lent : Plus extras

ASHES	BETRAYAL
BURIAL	CHRIST
CHURCH	CONFESSION
CROSS	CRUCIFIXION
EASTER	FASTING
FORGIVE	FORTY
GRAVE	HOLY
HUMBLE	JESUS
JUDAS	LENT
MAUNDY	MOURN
NAILS	PALMS
PASSOVER	PETER

Answers: ACROSS

2 fasting
5 HolySaturday
8 GoodFriday
9 repent
10 Sunday 1
1 prayer DOWN
1 Lent
3 AshWednesday
4 Fridays
6 almsgiving
7 sacrifice

Riddle Answers:

- 1) None. A pear tree does not bear plums.
- 2) Footsteps.
- 3) The word is starting! starting, staring, string, sting, sing, sin, in, I -- Cool,huh?
- 4) Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.
- 5) The man did exactly as he said he would and wrote "your exact weight" on the paper.
- 6) A die (dice).
- 7) The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry.
- 8) Fire.
- 9) There was the father, his son, and his son's son. This equals 2 fathers and 2 sons for a total of 3!
- 10) Age.

Answer Key:

- 1)c 2)b 3)b 4)d 5)a 6)T 7)c 8)c 9)a 10)b
11)e 12)f

March

2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Elders: Feb. 28 th Randy Wed. Mar. 10 th Randy Mar. 21 st Darryl Maundy Thursday Apr. 1 st Doug Easter Sunday Apr. 4th						
Wed. Mar. 3 rd Scott Mar. 14th Doug Wed. Mar. 24 th Scott Good Friday. Apr. 2 nd Scott 9:00am Darryl						
Mar. 7th John Wed. Mar. 17 th Andy Mar. 28th John						
Feb. 28 9:00am Service VOTERS'Mtg. After Service	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Lent Service 6:30pm	3:30-5:00pm confirmation		
7 9:00am Service 2pm LGP Drive-up Communion	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Altar Guild 6:00pm	Lent Service 6:30pm	3:30-5:00pm confirmation		
14 Daylight Savings Time 9:00am Service	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Lent Service 6:30pm			
21 9:00am Service 2pm LGP Drive-up Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Lent Service 6:30pm	3:30-5:00pm confirmation		
28 9:00am Service Palm Sunday	29	30	31	1	2	3
				Maundy Thursday 6:30pm	Good Friday 6:30pm	



March

Becky Sapper
715-682-8867

Paula Pruss
715-682-2387

Altar Guild

