

# March 2023



# The Mountain Top Messenger

March 2023

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, LCMS ASHLAND, WI

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>Elders:</b> March 1 <sup>st</sup> Darryl 5 <sup>th</sup> Doug 8 <sup>th</sup> Andy 12 <sup>th</sup> Scott 15 <sup>th</sup> JohnP 19 <sup>th</sup> JohnS 22 <sup>nd</sup> Darryl 26 <sup>th</sup> JohnS 29 <sup>th</sup> Doug <b>April</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Scott Maundy Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> JohnS Andy Good Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Andy Easter 9 <sup>th</sup> 7:00am Doug Andy 9:00am Scott Darryl 12 <sup>th</sup> JohnP						
		<b>March 12th</b>	<b>1</b> 6:30pm Lent Service	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:45am SS 9:00am Service 9:45am Conf. 10:00am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	<b>6</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Lent Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12 ****</b> 8:45am SS 9:00am Service 9:45am Conf. 10:00am Bible Study 2:00pm Mellen	<b>13</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>14</b> 1:00pm Sewing Circle	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Lent Service	<b>16</b> 9:00am Winkel  6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:45am SS 9:00am Service 9:45am Conf. 10:00am Bible Study 2:00pm LGP	<b>20</b> 10:00am Bible Study  5:30pm Council mtg.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Lent Service	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:45am SS 9:00am Service 9:45am Conf. 10:00am Bible Study	<b>27</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>28</b> 1:00pm Sewing Circle	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Lent Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

Welcome to Lent, as I looked at the calendar, I had thought Lent was really early this year, but then I looked at next year's calendar and it is even earlier. Anyway, we are now into the second week of Lent already. It seems to me that this year is flying by, even with all the snow. As you know we have been finishing up our series of the Beatitudes and have started a Wednesday evening and Holy Week series called "Places of the Passion". This will continue through Easter Sunday.

As most of you know, June and I spent almost 10 days in Phoenix toward the end of last month. We attended the Best Practices Ministry conference sponsored by Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix. I know I have spoken about this conference before, but I have cannot say enough about Christ Church and their members. The Conference is put on without cost to the participants and includes everything except lodging. All of the presenters donate their time as well. This year it is estimated that there were over 3,100 participants at the conference which lasted for three days. The goal of Christ Church is to uplift all of those who attend, both clergy and laypeople and let them know they are not alone. They do a wonderful job. We look forward to this conference every year, partly because it is a great way to help revitalize and refresh ourselves in our ministry and partly to get away from the snow for a few days. We are fortunate in that we have friends in Phoenix who have a place for us to stay while we are there and even provide us with a car to use for our local travels, we are truly blessed.

There are many different areas of ministry that can be focused on during the conference, this year I sat in on number of different sessions on a fairly wide variety of topics. Some of the sessions I attended were;

- How do dinosaurs fit in the Bible
- Demonic Activity in the USA and Africa and what you can do about it
- The 6 week "New Member Class" repenting of this sin
- Speaking with confidence, clarity, and humor
- Best Practices for Live Streaming
- Put your oxygen mask on first

I am planning on incorporating some of these sessions into upcoming Bible studies, beginning with the topic of Demonic Activity starting on Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>. I am thinking it should last for a couple of Sundays at least. Well anyway, enough about the conference for now.

**ALTAR Guild**  
**March Altar Guild**  
 Becky Sapper 715-682-8867  
 Paula Pruss 715-292-1898



I did want to mention that on March 12<sup>th</sup>, following worship I am planning on meeting with those who signed up for the prayer team for the first time, I hope all of you who have signed up can make it. If you haven't signed up but would be interested in hearing more please join us, you really don't have to sign up to attend. We will be talking about things like notification and communications as well as talking about prayer in general and sharing some common prayers for different callings. I hope to see you there.

I would also like to put some thank you's out there. First to Pastor Scott for filling in both here at Zion and at Little Girls' Point in my absence, also a thank you to Darryl Warren and John Pruss for filling in on the two Wednesdays when I was gone.

A huge thank you to all of you for your condolences on the passing of my mother and my aunt. June and I cannot express how much all of your prayers have meant to us both during this time of loss. Thank you to all of you who have sent cards and or letters, I will be responding to each of you individually as time allows. I just wanted to mention that my mother's funeral will be held here at Zion on Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>, with visitation from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, funeral at 11:00 am with interment at Mount Hope to follow and then a luncheon to follow back here at Zion. Again thank you all for all of your support.

That's enough for now, I am going to close simply by saying how blessed I am to be able to serve you. I thank God in my prayers for all of you each and every day. May the peace of God, that surpasses all human understanding keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen  
Pastor Rick

**She Took On a Spiritual Discipline for Lent**  
AMY EDDINGS  
**Daily phone calls with her mom proved to be the perfect Lenten practice.**

I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts.—Ezekiel 36:26 (NAB)

"Hi, Mom. What's up?" I said, answering my cell phone with an exasperated sigh.

"Hi, honey. We haven't talked in a while, and I just wanted to hear your voice! You sound distracted. Did I catch you in the middle of something?"

"Mom, I'm always in the middle of something," I snapped.

Something in me opened, and I noticed the meanness of my tone. "Mom, I'm sorry," I blurted.

Lent was about to begin, and I had been thinking

about a spiritual discipline to take on. I found it in that phone call.

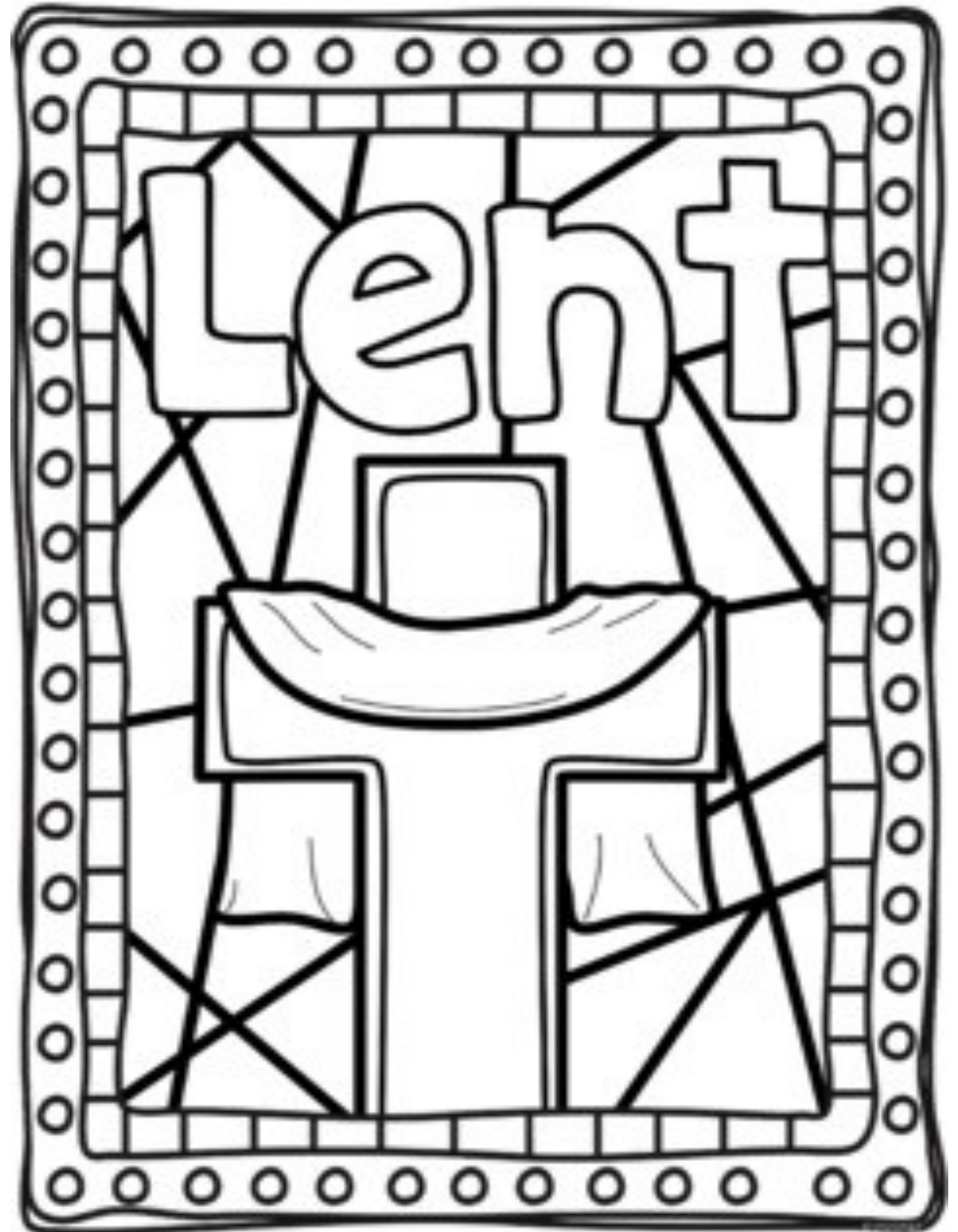
"Tell you what, Mom," I said. "For Lent, I'm going to call you every day. It can just be for five minutes. But I'm going to call you. Every day."

And I did. I called Mom in the evening as I drove home after work. We talked, as such daily contact leads you to do, about what she and Dad had for dinner, how loud my husband snored the night before, the funny snippet of conversation she heard in the grocery store. I appreciated her insights and her wit. I relaxed into our talks and shared more deeply.

A few weeks into this practice, my husband and I visited my parents. My dad pulled me aside.

"Those calls to your mother," he said, "keep them up. She really enjoys them. They make her day!" I smiled. They had already started to make mine too.

*Thank You*  
for your words  
of sympathy,  
Your voice of *Concern*  
your gesture of Caring,  
and the *Support*  
you offer.



**When We Feel Forgotten**  
**By Martin Luther (Faith Alone - 365 Devotional Readings)**

Nevertheless, the chief cupbearer didn't remember Joseph. He forgot about Him..  
 Genesis 40:23

After being forgotten by the cupbearer, Joseph struggled with the temptation of becoming impatient and complaining. When the devil saw this, he attacked Joseph with even more fiery arrows. Christ Himself felt these arrows when the devil tempted Him: "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread" (Matthew 43). In the same way, the devil might have said to Joseph, "Go ahead and continue your miserable struggle. You know that your prayers are useless. You cry to God and that God would free you and restore your honor because you interpreted the chief cupbearer's dream. Well, let God save you if he feels like it." The devil continued to torment Joseph with his fiery arrows, even though Joseph was already weak and wounded.

When faithful people are happy and when they sing, "The Lord is my strength and song" (Psalm 118:14), the devil stays far away from them. All complaining and impatience soon end. As long as believers praise and thank God, then temptation, sadness, and unbelief disappear. Heaven is opened wide and hell is shut with words like these: "I will thank the Lord at all times. My mouth will always praise him" (Psalm 34:1).

But as soon as we stop praising God, miserable, lonely, sad thoughts return. That's what happened to Joseph when he remembered how his brothers had sold him. They were at home having a good time while he was lying in prison, tied up and miserable. This is how the devil works. When the water becomes troubled, he likes to fish. He uses these opportunities to tempt people to abandon their faith and give up in despair.

**Friends in Christ –**

We know that our member congregations and the entire faith community are our strongest supporters because we share the same values to serve through Christ's love. Would you please help us tap into the many people in your congregation who share these values as well?

Here's our request for the month of March:

The BRICK's Food Shelf Program focuses on providing a wide variety of food options in a range of forms (canned, frozen, fresh) to program participants; yet we want to offer more than food. Hair care products are essential to so many of our pantry shoppers. Throughout March, The BRICK is asking for donations of shampoo, conditioner, etc. These are all items that our pantry shoppers need. Since most toiletries don't expire, The BRICK isn't able to "rescue" them from local retailers. Thank you for your support!

Many thanks for your partnership to serve through Christ's love -

**Liz**  
 Liz Seefeldt  
 The BRICK Ministries, Inc.



**PLACES of the PASSION**



ASH WEDNESDAY  
**The City of Jerusalem**



FIRST WEEK IN LENT  
**Bethany**



SECOND WEEK IN LENT  
**The Mount of Olives**



THIRD WEEK IN LENT  
**The Garden of Gethsemane**



FOURTH WEEK IN LENT  
**The High Priest's Courtyard**



FIFTH WEEK IN LENT  
**Pilate's Judgment Hall**

The places where the Passion of our Lord took place have special meaning to Christians the world over. They remind us that Jesus walked this earth and stood in locations we can still find today to carry out his mission of salvation. This was no sightseeing trip for our Savior. There was a serious reason he came to be at certain places and at particular times to suffer and die and rise again. He was fulfilling the will of his Father who desired that we be forgiven and given a place in heaven with him forever.

**Wednesdays**  
**March 1-29**  
 6:30pm  
**April 6th**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
 6:30pm,  
**April 7th**  
**Good Friday**  
 6:30pm  
**April 9th**  
**Easter Sunday**  
 7:00am  
 9:00am



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1111-11TH AVE WEST**

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am in-church service and live streamed  
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm  
Sunday School - 1st - 7th grade Sunday 8:45am  
Confirmation Sunday 9:45am  
Bible Studies— Sundays 10:15am Mondays 10:00am  
Women’s Bible Study 6:30pm 1st & 3rd Thursdays

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

**Office Hours: M-T-TR 9-5 W 12-8 F off**

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.

**Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075** Office Hours Typically M-W 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: Autumn Heidrick 715-682-6075**



**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

- |                    |                |              |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Riley Bretting     | Cindy Lazorik  |              |
| Doug Preuter       | Mike Trimble   |              |
| Brad Prill         | Jamie Klema    | Mike Ariens  |
| Penny Larson       | Frances Balmer | Alice Balmer |
| Vi Basina          | Randy Spangle  |              |
| Dave Pearson       |                |              |
| Harold Larson      |                |              |
| James Fletcher     |                |              |
| Sheryl Hildebrandt |                |              |
| Diane Beiersdorff  |                |              |
| Linda Stenroos     |                |              |



**For Homebound, 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.

- Arlene Zimmerman
- Violet Basina
- Alice Balmer
- Francis Balmer



For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.  
David Wright  
Jordan Thimm  
Andrew Pruss

**Let it Snow!**

Oh, the weather outside is frightful  
But the fire is so delightful  
And since we've no place to go  
Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

*(from "Let It Snow!" - written by lyricist Sammy Cahn and composer Jule Styne)*



It is snowing outside! Beautiful! It is the day after Ash Wednesday. The office is closed. Schools are closed. Some called off Ash Wednesday worship because of the snow. Everything is white!

"Let it snow!" According to Google, this song was written in July 1945 in California as they hoped for cooler conditions during a heat wave. Snow is reality here in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. The truth is – most of us don't mind it since we grew up with and know how to deal with snow. "The fire IS delightful." Plenty of snow also means snowmobile trails are open and people are skiing, which is good for the Northwoods economy.

Something else good is getting into God's Word – reading it and allowing it to speak to us. Nothing new. Getting into the Word was the focus of the District Board of Directors' meeting in early February. The board is reading *Built on the Rock* (BOTR) by Ted Kober. Ted has worked with conflicted congregations and has learned that the healthiest congregations are ones in the Word.

He stated: *"The healthy churches I encounter benefit from larger percentages of people in regular Bible study. Their leaders demonstrate scriptural knowledge and trust in Christ as they practice repentance through confession and forgiveness"* (p13 BOTR). He learned that in many conflicted situations the leaders were not in the Word. As St. Paul wrote: **"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God"** (1 Corinthians 1:18).

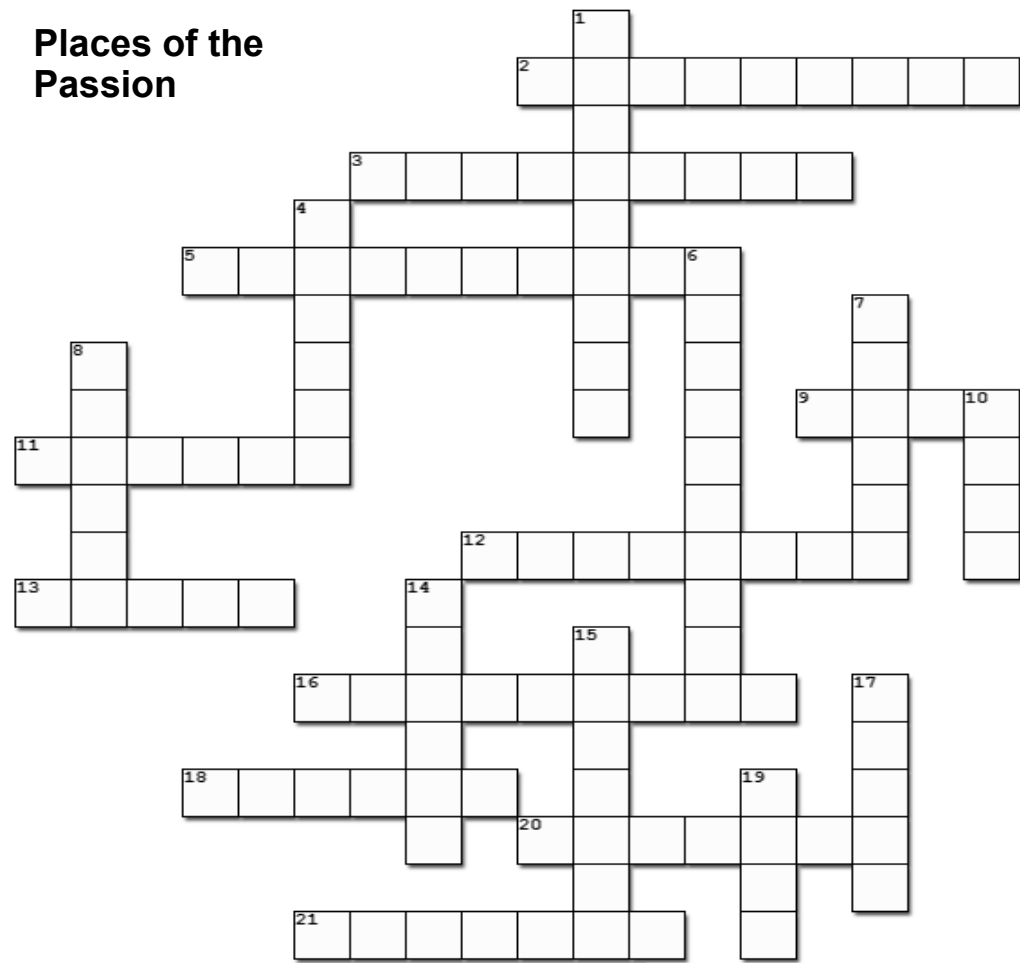
It is the season of Lent. People are asked: "What are you giving up for Lent?" Maybe we should turn that around and ask: "What are you doing for Lent?" May I be so bold to suggest that you take time at home to get into God's Word. Read the Bible on your own. Read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Read about the life of Jesus and what HE said and did. Read about his journey to the cross for you and me to redeem us from our sins. Lent has begun but you still have all of March and early April to get four books read.

Our faith and our confessions are based on the Bible. Unfortunately, we often take God's Word for granted, but it is the basis of what we believe and hold onto in 2023. The Bible speaks to us and our situations bringing comfort and hope, as we often recite Psalm 23. Psalm 1:2-3 tells us: **"His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither."** Our daily strength as a Christian is strong when we are connected to God's Word.

During Lent we hear the Passion story and what Jesus went through to forgive us through His suffering and death on the cross. He did it out of love for you and me. By the time you read this maybe the snow will be gone. Spring break is around the corner. They are playing baseball in Arizona and Florida where it is warm. March Madness will be starting. Before you know it – it will be Holy Week and Easter. Don't forget God's Word – read it and believe it!

*Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, District President*

## Places of the Passion



BETHANY  
COURTYARD  
CITY  
FULFILLING  
GARDEN  
GETHSEMANE  
HALL  
HIGH  
JERUSALEM  
JESUS  
JUDGMENT  
LOCATIONS  
MISSION  
MOUNT  
OLIVES  
PASSION  
PILATE  
PLACES  
PRIEST  
SALVATION  
WALKED

Created using the Crossword Maker on This

### From "Church Press" - Pastor Ginkel

#### "An Atheist

is one who believes he has absolute knowledge that there is no one who has absolute knowledge." - Frederick Copelson

#### Sunday School Dear God Letters:

Dear God - If we come back as - something - please don't let me be Jennifer Horton. I don't like her. - Denise

Dear God - Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy - Joyce

Dear God - I bet it is very hard to love all of every body in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. - Nan

#### It is crucial to listen to our bodies.

When we are feeling tired or drained, we need to recognize that we need rest. So often we pile things on our plate until we collapse of fatigue or become so overwhelmed that we can't handle our duties. Listen to your body. Know when you've taken on more than you can handle, and delegate what you can or ask for help. - Dustin Neeley

Project Night Night donates over tens of thousands of Night Night Packages each year to over tens of thousands of Night Night Packages each year to homeless children 12 and under who need our childhood essentials to have a concrete and predictable source of security

## Project Night Night



and an increased exposure to high-quality literacy materials during their time of upheaval. Each Night Night Package contains a new security blanket, an age-appropriate children's book, and a stuffed animal — all nestled inside of a new canvas tote bag. By providing objects of reliable comfort, Project Night Night reduces trauma and advances the emotional and cognitive well-being of the children we serve.

Every child who receives one of our Night Night Packages leaves the shelter owning a book which encourages reading and family bonding, a security blanket which can be cuddled, and a stuffed animal which can become a cherished friend. We have one objective – to deliver our Night Night Packages to every homeless child in the country who needs one.

### Lent: A Time to Recharge, Renew & Draw Closer to God SABRA CIANCANELLI Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day routine of life and forget how blessed you truly are.

This morning my husband and I drove through our old town, past our old house that I'd loved and nurtured for almost a decade. We inched forward slowly, but not slowly enough, to catch up to all the memories.

Then we passed the local grocery store, where I shopped every day for years. I loved the man who worked there stocking shelves. Brian always greeted me with a heartfelt "Hello there!" as if he hadn't seen me in months. I learned from a friend he'd had a car accident in high school. He spent a long time in a coma and was lucky to be alive.

And though he'd made a miraculous recovery, he never fully regained all of his abilities. Once I had an awful day at work. I was exhausted and starving as I snaked through the aisles, picking up something for dinner. When I reached

for a jar of spaghetti sauce, I lost my grip and it shattered on the shiny linoleum floor. Looking at the mess, I broke down and cried. Brian ran over. "It's okay. Accidents happen." I noticed his forehead had a smudge of something as he got a mop. "Rough day," I sighed.

"Ash Wednesday," he said. I had totally forgotten. Brian went on. "Beginning of Lent. Forty days to get ready. Jesus saved me, you know. He saves me every day." As he mopped up the broken jar, I took his words to heart.

*Dear Lord, it's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day of my life and forget what a blessing it truly is. Help me to use this special time to recharge and renew and draw closer to You.*

# WINTER SPORTS

Find the words in the grid. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

YOUANOLHTAIBREGO  
 INGLABDNAHGTEOE  
 GNSNOWSHOENDYGUP  
 NSBEINSGSIFDIUTS  
 INSBGYDKLKNOILNN  
 LOLGNAGWIAALLOOT  
 IWAYIOOYBJLTFWS  
 BSLELBSNMAOBIROL  
 OKOKRWSHBNORENOE  
 MAMCUEITGAASINGD  
 WTGOCGEARNTSNDD  
 OEIHTKNDHLIITNGI  
 NKTHSAIIITIHSIWN  
 SHYAANLNIOTOSFCG  
 PEBOGPGLEKDOIITS  
 BOBSLEDBLTSLYMFP

By Jimmy and Evelyn Johnson - www.qets.com

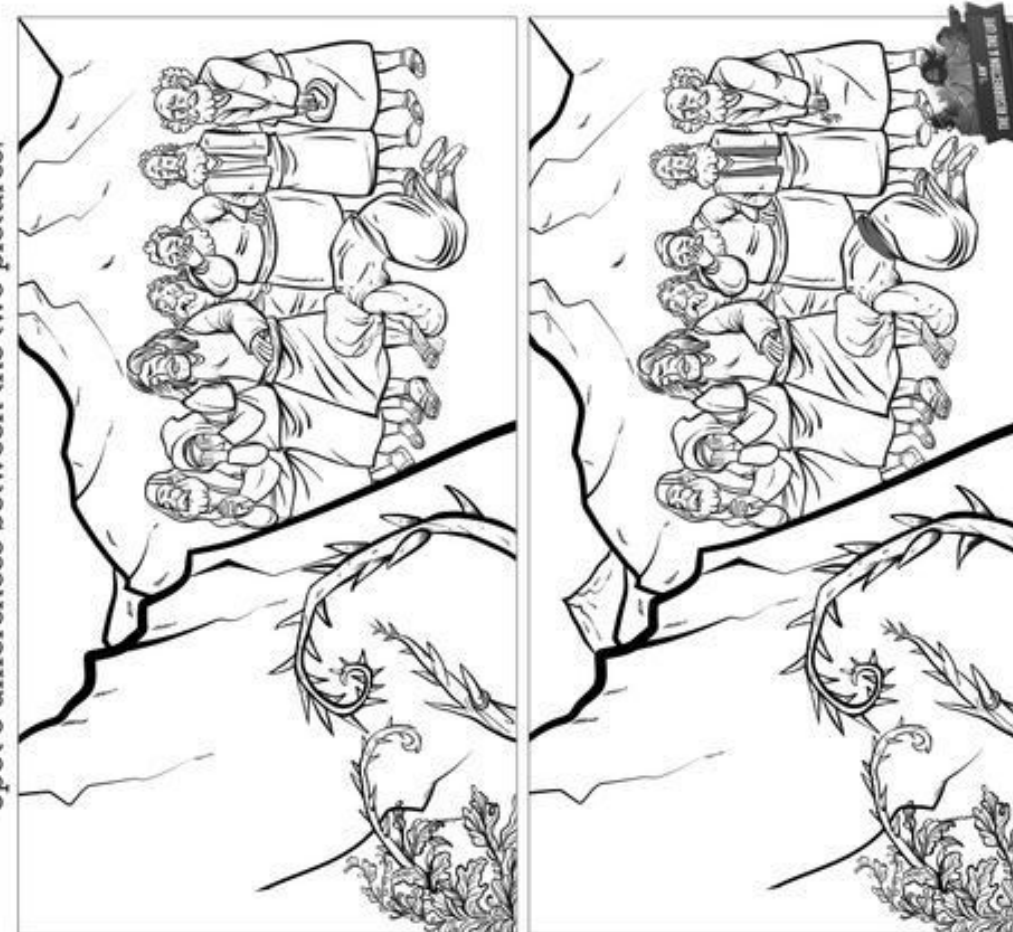
Bandy  
 Basketball  
 Biathlon  
 Bobsled  
 Bowling  
 Curling  
 Fishing

Gymnastics  
 Handball  
 Hockey  
 Luge  
 Skating  
 Skiing  
 Skijoring

Slalom  
 Sledding  
 Snowboarding  
 Snowmobiling  
 Snowshoe  
 Snowskate  
 Wrestling

## "I AM" THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE

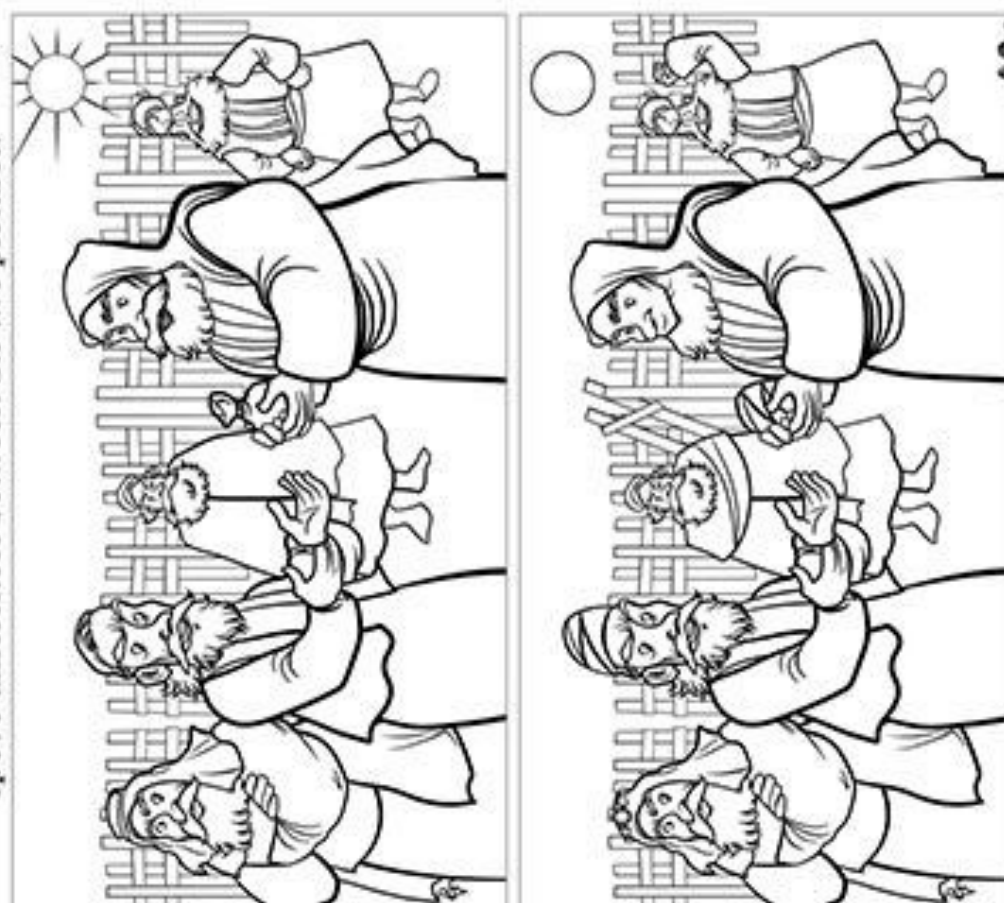
Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



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## JESUS IS BETRAYED

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



Spot 8 Differences

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